

**COMPETITION AND LEAGUE BYE-LAWS**  
**(Version June 2017)**

**1. CONDITIONS**

Except where varied by these Bye-laws, the Laws of Bowls England shall apply to the League and Competitions.

**The Association shall**

- (i) Run competitions as set out in and in accordance with Bye- Laws 2,3 and 4 below, and
- (ii) Organise and run a league in accordance Bye-Law 5 below.

**2. COMPETITION RULES**

The Competitions shall consist of: -

- (a) Singles Championship** - Four bowls each player. The game shall be won by the first player to score twenty-one shots.
- (b) Under 25's Singles Championship** - Four bowls each player. The game shall be won by the first player to score twenty-one shots. Open to all players who have not attained their twenty fifth birthday on the 1<sup>st</sup> April in the year of the competition.
- (c) Pairs Championship** - Four bowls each player. The score after twenty-one ends shall decide the winners.
- (d) Triples Championship** - Three bowls each player. The score after eighteen ends shall decide the winners.
- (e) Fours Championship** - Two bowls each player. The score after twenty-one ends shall decide the winners.
- (f) Secretaries Singles** - Four bowls each player. The game shall be won by the first player to score twenty-one shots. Open to all Club Secretaries, Assistant Club Secretaries, Men's Secretaries, Match Secretaries and Competition Secretaries but restricted to one entrant per club. In addition, The Association Secretaries and the previous year's winner of the competition may enter as of right and shall not be required to pay a fee.
- (g) Champion of Champions Singles** - Four bowls each player. The game shall be won by the first player to score twenty-one shots. Open to the winner of the men's singles competition of the club of the previous season. A person who would otherwise be eligible but who has joined another affiliated club shall be eligible provided he has entered another competition of the Association. Rule 3(a) applies.

In addition the winners of both the Association's Singles Championship and the Champion of Champions singles from the previous season may be entered as of right and shall not be required to pay a fee. Should a club cease to exist prior to the last date for entering competitions the Singles Champion of that club shall be eligible to enter the Champion of Champions competition under the name of his previous club.

- (h) Two Wood Triples** – Two bowls each player. The score after twenty -one ends shall decide the winners .
- (i) The Coventry Cup** – A two fours team match, one entry each club. The higher aggregate shots of a team shall decide the winners.

**3. COMPETITION ELIGIBILITY**

- (a)** Players shall be members of Affiliated Clubs but may only enter Association competitions from one club.
- (b)** Club secretaries shall supply, by the date advised by the Competition Secretary, a list of the members of their club who desire to enter the competitions showing their names, their addresses and telephone numbers, together with the appropriate fees. Only the contact shall be named in an entry.
- (c)** The Competition Secretary shall advise the date of, and arrange for, the draw of all competitions to take place at an open meeting. The result of the draw shall be circulated to all clubs. A list of competitors who are to be contacted together with their telephone number shall also be circulated.
- (d)** The Competition finals (with the exception of the Coventry Cup) shall, where possible, be held on one day, the date to be promulgated with the issue of the competition entry forms.

**4. COMPETITION DRAW, CHALLENGERS AND OPPONENTS**

- (a)** The first named in any game in a competition is the Challenger who will, except for the semi-finals, have the choice of green and rink and in the case of Singles shall provide a marker. The Challenger shall, except for the semi-finals, not later than two days after the commencement of the round (or in the case of the preliminary round or if a preliminary round is not played, the First round, fourteen days prior to the completion date for that round), provide his opponent with three dates and times for the game to be played.

At least two dates shall be a weekday and the times shall not be earlier than 6.00pm. If he fails to do so his opponent may, by notifying the Competition Secretary that he wishes to do so, become the Challenger. He shall then provide his opponent with the requisite dates and times within two days. The opponent shall, within three days of receipt of the challenge, reply accepting one of the dates offered.

Where a Challenger has been unable to contact an opponent within the two days, he shall immediately inform the Competition Secretary. No challenger shall offer Sundays, Bank Holidays, Aldershot and District League or Coventry Cup evenings but the game may be played on these days and times earlier than 6.00pm by mutual consent. If either challenger or opponent fails to comply, he shall be struck from the competition upon successful application of the opposing competitor, and, failing such application before the last date for playing the game, both competitors shall be struck from the competition.

- (b) The result of all ties in competitions must be communicated to the Competition Secretary immediately after the game if possible and in any case within twenty-four hours. Except in the case of singles competitions, the scorecard or scanned copy is to be sent by post or email to the Competition Secretary to arrive within three days of the tie being played and the onus is on the winner(s). The scorecard must bear the name(s) and initials of those taking part and signed by either players or skips. Skips are reminded that they are certifying not only the accuracy of the score but also the names of those taking part. Failure to comply with these Bye-laws may result in the defaulting player(s) or team(s) being struck from the competition.
- (c) If a game cannot be played due to inclement weather and due to this it cannot be played by the "end date" of the round, the Competition Secretary may, on application from the players or teams, extend the "end date" of the round. If it is not played by the revised "end date" both players/teams shall be struck from the Competition.
- (d) Dress for all competitions – white or approved coloured shirts (in accordance with Bowls England and County guidelines) with grey trousers, except for the Semi-finals and Finals for which white trousers shall be worn.
- (e) The Semi-finals and Finals shall be played on greens selected by the Competition Secretary who shall, as far as possible, avoid playing matches on player's home greens. Markers and Umpires shall be provided by the Association. The Semi-finals of each competition shall, where possible, each be played on one day as advised by the Competition Secretary when circulating the result of the draws.
- (f) Constitution and Substitutes:
  - (i) In the Pairs, Triples, Fours and Two Wood Triples the players taking part in the first game of the respective competition shall constitute 'the team' for the remainder of the competition.
  - (ii) Any player included in the original entry, but not taking part, shall not play in any other entry in that competition.
  - (iii) In each competition, a team may use one (and only one) substitute provided that the substitute has not played or been included in any other entry in the same competition. The substitute is eligible to play in all future rounds of the competition (including the final)
  - (iv) A substitute may play in any position (other than substitutes under WBB Laws).
- (g) When in Pairs, Triples, Fours or two wood Triples, the scores are level after the requisite number of ends have been played, an extra end shall be played to determine the winner.
- (h) Coventry Cup:

Before commencing the games, the Captains shall draw to decide which one of the rinks will play an extra end should the scores be level after twenty-one ends.

## 5. LEAGUE RULES

### (a) Divisions and Teams

Clubs may only play members of their own club. Any individual may only play for one club.

League games shall be played with club teams of three Fours in divisions as required by the number of teams entered.

The divisions shall be titled The Premier and Divisions 1, 2, 3 etc.

### (b) New Team Applications

An application to enter a team into the League shall be made to the General Secretary. Applications must normally be made before the meeting of the Executive Council for approval at the Annual General Meeting. Any application made after the meeting of the Executive Council but before the start of the League season is subject to the approval of the Management Committee.

### (c) Game Date and Time, Missing Players

The league shall be played at the stipulated times on Tuesday evenings or such other evenings as deemed necessary by the League Secretary. Where possible each team shall play all other teams in its division at least once at home and once away

The team playing in a lower league cannot play with more players in their team than the number playing in the higher league. This does not apply if the team from the higher league has no game on the same day.

The Fours of each team to play on a particular rink shall be decided by a random draw before the game. It is not permitted for either team to decide otherwise but the home team may decide which three rinks shall be used.

A team may not play with only 2 players in a rink and players shall not be permitted to join the game after the third end has started. A rink playing with only three players shall lose 25% of the shots scored and fractions shall be taken into account to determine points obtained or shots difference.

In a rink playing with only three players then after two ends have been played the Lead and Two shall play with three bowls and the Skip with two.

If a player retires from a game underway and a substitute does not immediately replace him, the shots scored after the retirement shall be reduced by 25%.

**(d) Scoring**

One point shall be awarded to a winning rink and two points for the higher aggregate of shots scored by the 3 rinks. When the total score of a rink or the aggregate of shots scored is tied the relevant points will be shared.

When a team fails to turn out or fails to field three rinks, five points and fifteen shots shall be awarded to their opponents.

A team playing with only three players on one or more rinks shall be deemed to have played three rinks. The results card must indicate which rinks (if any) played with only three players for either the whole or part of the game. The scores for a rink playing with only three players shall have 25% deducted and that score put on the results card.

**(e) League Positions**

League positions shall be calculated on the basis of points gained. In the event of two or more teams being equal, the team with the better shot differences between shots won and lost shall take the higher place.

If a game has not been played and other provisions of this bye-law do not apply, and the League Secretary determines that one of the teams is at fault, five points and fifteen shots shall be awarded to their opponents. If the League Secretary determines that both teams are at fault, no points or shots shall be awarded to either team.

**(f) Communication of Results**

The League Secretary shall be advised by email or text immediately after the game by the home team captain of the result of a match. Both teams must also send, by post or email, their result card, signed by both captains, to the League Secretary to arrive no later than 7 days after the commencement of any League game. Any team defaulting on the seven-day rule shall have the game recorded but shall forfeit their match points and shots.

**(g) Weather Related and Other Postponed or Abandoned Games**

A game may be postponed or abandoned due to inclement weather or because of other exceptional circumstances. The League Secretary shall be immediately informed by the two captains who shall, within seven days, arrange and inform the League Secretary of the new date for the game to be played.

If the game is abandoned after a total of at least 42 ends have been completed, then the score stands as a result. If a game is abandoned after a total of more than 15 but less than 42 ends have been played the game shall be resumed at the number of ends played before the abandonment (any incomplete ends being ignored). Where original players are not available a club may apply to the League Secretary for dispensation to play more than one substitute per rink. Substitutes may not play as skip and one of the original players will take over the position. Players may not move between rinks.

If less than 15 ends have been played the game shall be replayed.

The replay or resumed date shall be on a date before the scheduled end of the league season, only in matches postponed or abandoned in the final two weeks of the league season shall the League Secretary be empowered to extend the league season by a maximum of one week.

**(h) Team Withdrawal**

The results of all matches played by a team who withdraw from the league before the end of the season shall be void.

The results of any matches played by a team, who still have two matches not played at the end of the season, shall also be void.

Any team who has withdrawn from the league may apply for re-admission as a new team.

**(i) Withdrawal from the League after AGM**

A fee as approved by the Annual General Meeting, and notified to clubs prior to the start of the league season, shall be forfeit from any club that withdraws a league team after the AGM and prior to the last match of the following season,