

# **BOWLS NOTTINGHAMSHIRE ASSOCIATION**

## **LEAGUE RULES AND CONSTITUTION**

(Approved by the League A.G.M. on 4<sup>th</sup> December 2023)

1. The League shall be called the **BOWLS NOTTINGHAMSHIRE LEAGUE**.

### **2. MEMBERSHIP AND REGISTRATION**

- a) All member clubs must be affiliated to the Bowls Nottinghamshire Association. All **new** clubs will be required to declare their intention to play in any particular section(s), (see paragraph 3a), in writing to the Secretary by 30th September each year. Existing clubs will be required to declare their intention to resign from or transfer to any particular section(s), (see paragraph 3a), in writing to the Secretary by 30th September each year. Clubs intending to enter more than one team in any one of the league sections shall register such teams 'A' and 'B'.
- b) Applications will be considered by the Annual General Meeting.
- c) Member clubs will be required to register each year by 1st November, for membership of specific sections (as declared under rule 2b). All annual membership fees must accompany such registration. Clubs failing to register may forfeit their membership.
- d) The League reserves the right to terminate the membership of any club. Termination of membership will be subject to confirmation by a General Meeting.

### **3. THE STRUCTURE OF THE LEAGUE**

- a) The league will be composed of the following sections :
  - i) Open Mansfield Saturday 3 x 4 Section (3 rinks of 4 players)
  - ii) Open Midweek (Tuesday) 3 x 4 Section (3 rinks of 4 players)
  - iii) Open Mansfield Midweek (Tuesday) Top Club Format (12 players)
  - iv)** Thursday 4 x 3 Section – Open Format (4 rinks of 3 players)
- b) Where there are more than eleven clubs in a section, divisions of not more than eleven teams will be formed.
- c) Promotion and Relegation  
At the end of each season, the top two teams in each division (except the top divisions) will be promoted and the bottom two teams in each division (except the bottom divisions) will be relegated. If a vacancy occurs in any division other than the bottom division, it will be filled by reducing the number of clubs relegated rather than increasing the number of clubs promoted.
- d) Any club applying to join a section for the first time will be allocated a place in the bottom division of that section, subject to there being a vacancy. In order to accommodate new teams wishing to join the league, any section may be restructured by the Annual General Meeting, such restructuring to be operative from the start of the following season.
- e) In the Mixed League, individual rinks must be made up of either 2 men and 1 lady OR 1 man and 2 ladies. In the event of player shortage, rinks of 1 man and 1 lady are permitted. However, if there are only 3 men or 3 ladies present, one rink only may consist of 2 men or 2 ladies.

### **4. MANAGEMENT OF THE LEAGUE**

- a) The affairs of the League will be managed by an Executive Committee whose membership will be as follows - Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary, Divisional Secretaries and 2 honorary members nominated by the County Association. All of the above, with the exception of the honorary members, to be elected each year at the League AGM. In the event of one or more members holding more than one of the above positions, additional members, with full voting powers, will be elected to serve on the committee.  
Meetings of the committee will be called at the discretion of the Chairman or Secretary or at the request of 7 committee members.
- b) All financial business will be done through a bank and the signatures of the Treasurer, Secretary and Chairman - for the time being - be given, any two signatures to be honoured by the bank.
- c) Any matter not covered by these rules will be decided by the committee, which shall have the power to set up sub-committees to deal with specific questions.

5. **THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

- a) The Annual General Meeting will be held on the earliest convenient date in November.
- b) At least ten days written notice of the Annual General Meeting must be given to all member clubs.
- c) Each club will be entitled to send two representatives to all General meetings.
- d) Notices of motion must be forwarded in writing to the Secretary at least 14 days prior to the Annual General Meeting.

6. **SPECIAL GENERAL MEETINGS**

- a) A special general meeting may be convened at any time by the Executive Committee, or on receipt of a requisition, signed by not less than 10 accredited delegates of different clubs, specifying clearly the matters at issue and any proposition to be submitted.
- b) No less than 7 days notice shall be given of any special general meeting called.
- c) The notice calling a special general meeting shall state the purpose for which said meeting has been summoned and no other business shall be transacted at the meeting.
- d) Thirty members shall form a quorum.

7. **FIXTURES**

- a) The Secretary will send to all clubs a list of relevant fixtures by the end of January each year.
- b) League fixtures as notified will take precedence over all other matches, with the exception of the final of the Portland Bowl.
- c) All midweek section fixtures must be completed by 31<sup>st</sup> August and all Saturday section fixtures must be completed by 30<sup>th</sup> September.
- d) A club may postpone a fixture only if one of the following conditions is satisfied :-
  - i) its green is not available for sufficiently good reason
  - ii) the intention to postpone is conveyed to the opponents by 31st March
- e) In the event of a match being postponed, the replay will be arranged to suit the mutual convenience of the two clubs concerned. In the absence of mutual agreement, the home club will, within 7 days of the postponement, offer in writing, or by e-mail, to their opponents three reasonable dates covering a period not exceeding 21 days. The Secretary must be informed immediately of any postponed fixture and must be informed of the re-arranged date within 7 days.
- f) If it becomes necessary to abandon a fixture before it has been completed, it must be re-arranged in accordance with paragraph 7e above (also see paragraph 9c below). Following the abandonment of a fixture, the rearranged match will start afresh.
- g) Any club cancelling a fixture (outside of rule 7d) shall receive no points for that fixture. Their opponents, at the end of the season, shall be awarded points equal to the average number of home points achieved or away points achieved, depending on the cancelled fixture, in matches played during the season. The minimum number of points awarded in each case shall be 3. If any club withdraws from the league at any time during the season, all its results will be expunged from the league tables. Any club failing to fulfil more than one league fixture in a season will be censured and warned that any further cancellation in that season could, at the committee's discretion, result in expulsion from the league division.

8. **PLAYER REGISTRATION**

- a) Each club must submit to the Secretary, by **12th APRIL EACH YEAR**, a list of eligible players for registration. Clubs with more than one team entered in any one of the leagues sections shall also submit a copy of the list of eligible players to the respective divisional secretary.
- b) **NO PLAYER, AFTER THE PRIMARY REGISTRATION, SHALL BE PERMITTED TO PLAY IN A LEAGUE MATCH UNLESS HE HAS BEEN REGISTERED WITH THE SECRETARY FOR A PERIOD OF THREE DAYS.**
- c) A player registered by one club to play in a Saturday Section may also be registered by a second club to play in a Midweek Section, provided that he is a bona fide member of both clubs. No player may be registered by more than two clubs.
- d) If a club plays an unregistered player in a league match, the result of the match will not be changed, but the club will have 4 points deducted from its total for the season.
- e) Clubs with more than one team entered in any one of the league sections shall register them as "A" and "B". Any player who has played 4 or more games for the "A" team cannot play for the "B" team for the remainder of the season.

9. **MATCH ARRANGEMENTS**

- a) League matches will start at the following times - Midweek Sections - 6:30pm - No trial ends - Saturday Sections - 2.30pm - Two trial ends.  
From 1<sup>st</sup> August, league matches will start at 6.00pm unless otherwise agreed by both clubs.  
All midweek matches will be played over 18 ends.
- b) All matches will be played under W.B.B. rules but local rules may apply.
- c) No Bowls Nottinghamshire league matches shall be played indoors.
- d) **SATURDAY** Matches will normally consist of 21 ends. In the event of inclement weather or failing light, a match may be curtailed to 15 or 18 ends, subject to agreement being reached by the captains before the 8<sup>th</sup> or 11<sup>th</sup> ends respectively. In the case of 18 end midweek matches, a match may be curtailed to 13 or 15 ends, subject to agreement by the captains before the 8<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> ends respectively.
- e) In the event of any club playing less than the required number of players in any league match, local rules will apply. If, within a period of 30 minutes from the time fixed for a league match, a single player is absent from one or both teams, the game shall proceed, with the defaulting team playing 6 bowls against eight bowls. There will be no reduction in shots. The minimum number of players in any league match rink will be three. A player may not join a defaulting rink(s) once the 30 minute period has expired.

When a team is 1 player short, then the order of play will be as follows; assuming Team B is one player short.

If team A has the jack, the order is Team A lead, Team B lead, Team A no. 2. This procedure is then repeated.

If team B has the jack, the order is Team B lead, Team A lead, Team A no. 2. This procedure is then repeated.

The skip in a triples game and the no. 3 & skip in a fours game will then play as normal

- f) Each winning rink will score 1 point (½ point each in the event of a tie). The team with the greater aggregate of shots will be deemed to have won the match and will score 3 additional points (1½ points each in the event of a tie).
- g) Match results will be recorded on cards supplied by the Secretary. Result cards may be sent in electronically. Both captains will sign the result card and the winning club will be responsible for posting it. Persistent failure to post result cards promptly will render a club liable to expulsion from the league. If the divisional secretary does not receive the result card from the winning team within 10 days of the match being played, then that team shall forfeit the points for that game.
- h) League positions shall be decided by aggregating points scored and, if necessary, by calculation of shot difference. Should there still be a tie affecting promotion or relegation, the league positions will be determined by a play-off on a neutral green.

10. **MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS**

- a) Each club is required to notify the League Secretary immediately of the appointment of a new club secretary.
- b) All meetings will be conducted according to the standing orders of the Bowls Nottinghamshire Association.
- c) These rules may be amended only at a properly convened General Meeting.

11. **MATTERS RELATING TO DISCIPLINE AND MISCONDUCT**

In all matters relating to discipline and allegations of misconduct, the current Bowls England Regulation 9 will apply (or whichever number regulation applies at the time, should that number change).

12. **DRESS CODE**

Men - Dress will be grey (midweek matches), white (Saturday matches) or club registered trousers and white, club or county registered shirts with brown, white or grey flat soled shoes.

Ladies - Dress will be grey (midweek matches), white (Saturday matches) or club registered regulation skirt, culottes and tailored trousers or tailored cropped trousers; white, club or county shirt, brown, white or grey flat soled shoes.

Men & Ladies - tailored shorts may be worn provided that all members of a side wear the same colour above and/or below the waist.