

Nottinghamshire Federation Bowls League

LEAGUE RULES

1. DEFINITIONS

The League Rules (known as the 'Rules') shall apply to those Leagues managed by the Nottinghamshire Federation Bowls League (known as the 'League') and shall form part of the League Constitution (known as the 'Constitution'). Each Club/Team shall be bound by these Rules and by the English Bowling Federation Laws of the Game (known as the 'Laws'). Alteration or amendment of these Rules may only be made in accordance with Rule 10 of the Constitution.

2. OBJECT

The object of these Rules is to provide guidance to competitors by establishing a framework whereby the leagues may be promoted and successfully completed within the spirit of the game of bowls.

3. LEAGUE FORMATS

Saturday 4 x 3 League matches: -

Four rinks of three players, two bowls each, Twenty five ends (with tea after 15 ends).

Saturday 3 x 3 League matches:-

Three rinks of three players, three bowls each, Twenty-one ends.

Midweek 4 x 3 League matches: -

Four rinks of three players, two bowls each, Twenty-five ends.

Midweek 3 x 3 League matches:-

Three rinks of three players, three bowls each, Eighteen ends.

Afternoon 2 x 3 League matches:-

Two rinks of three players, three bowls each, eighteen ends.

Two bowl TRIAL ENDS must be played for all games, unless both Captains agree to the contrary.

League games may not be foreshortened unless due to inclement weather or with the prior permission of the Divisional Secretary.

4. ORGANISATION OF FIXTURES

Saturday 25 end and Saturday 3 x 3 League matches will be assumed to be played at 2.30 p.m. on the Saturday scheduled. Any Club needing to rearrange a Saturday or Saturday 3 x 3 match must gain permission from the Divisional Secretary. Any rearranged Saturday or Saturday 3 x 3 League match must be played on a Saturday unless specifically approved by the Divisional Secretary before the fixture is rearranged. Midweek and Midweek 3 x 3 League fixture lists will be published to be played on Mondays. These matches may be played on evenings mutually agreed between Clubs, but must be completed by Friday of that week, and must not be carried over to the next week.

Afternoon League fixtures may be played on any day mutually agreed between the clubs and should commence at 1.30 pm (preferably Mondays and Fridays).

FIXTURE LISTS MUST BE SENT TO THE DIVISIONAL SECRETARIES, TO ARRIVE BY THE END OF MARCH OF EACH SEASON.

The times for commencement of matches are, EVENINGS no later than 6.30 p.m. All midweek matches in the months of August and September to start at 6.00 pm to avoid

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any misunderstanding with Clubs, SATURDAYS no later than 2.30 p.m. and SUNDAYS no later than 2.30 p.m.

5. MANAGEMENT OF LEAGUES

The Leagues shall be managed by the League's Executive Committee (known as the 'Committee') who will nominate Divisional Secretaries for each Division, from within the Committee, to receive results.

For the purpose of acquainting the Divisional Secretaries with the results of matches, special result cards will be supplied to each Club. Such cards to be agreed and signed by the TWO CAPTAINS. For each match the Home team will be responsible for supplying the card and the winning team will be responsible for IMMEDIATELY posting the card to the Divisional Secretary. If the Divisional Secretary does not receive the result card from the winning team within 14 days of the game being played, that team lose the points for that game. If no results card is received and no rink cards can be produced no points will be awarded.

Any dispute arising during the course of the season must be referred to the relevant Divisional Secretary within 72 hours of the dispute arising. The Committee will decide any dispute not resolved by the Divisional Secretary, their decision will be final.

The Committee will decide any matters arising not covered by these rules, and any penalties for contravention of any of these Rules, their decision will be final.

6. TWO TEAMS FROM ONE CLUB

A Club may enter more than one team in a League, but no individual player may play for more than one team, in the same League, in any one year. Rule 7 of the Constitution fully covers player registration.

7. UNREGISTERED PLAYERS

In the Saturday, Saturday 3 x 3, Midweek 4 x 3, Midweek 3 x 3 and Afternoon league if a team plays an unregistered player, on the first occasion, they shall be given a written warning (either by letter or email). Thereafter future occasions of playing an unregistered player in the same season will warrant a 4 points deduction from their season's total.

8. DECIDING THE RESULT OF A MATCH

For Saturday 4 x 3, Saturday 3 x 3, Midweek 4 x 3 and Midweek 3 x 3 League matches, points will decide the result of a match after being awarded as follows: -

One point for each winning rink (half point for a drawn rink) PLUS Three points for the team with the greatest total shots (one and a half points to each team where the shots are equal)

For the Afternoon League the points will be 2 points for a win and 1 for each winning rink = 4 points in total for each match.

9. DECIDING LEAGUE POSITIONS

For Saturday 4 x 3, Saturday 3 x 3, Midweek 4 x 3, Midweek 3 x 3 and Afternoon League

The total points will be used; in the event of a tie, shot difference will be used.

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10. PROMOTION AND RELEGATION

The champions and runners up in each Division will be promoted to the next higher Division, the two bottom Clubs will be similarly relegated to the next lower Division, except where any re-organisation of Divisions is necessary.

11. IN THE EVENT OF INCLEMENT WEATHER

A match will only be regarded as a completed match where the following number of ends has been played: -

Saturday 25 end 4 x 3 League matches	fifteen ends.
Saturday 3 x 3 League matches	twelve ends.
Midweek 4 x 3 League matches	fifteen ends.
Midweek 3 x 3 League matches	twelve ends.
Afternoon 2 x 3 League matches	twelve ends.

Any game postponed or abandoned due to inclement weather, with less than the above number of ends completed must be re-arranged in accordance with Rule 14.

12. MINIMUM NUMBER OF PLAYERS FOR A LEAGUE MATCH

A match must be played if a team can provide the minimum of 2 players per rink, meaning:-

4 x 3 league = 8 players

3 x 3 league = 6 players

2 x 3 league = 4 players

In the event that a team play with one player short on a rink, then the sequence of play shall be as follows:

Lead, Lead, 2 for the 4 x 3, 3 x 3 and afternoon leagues.

No extra woods to be played by the team playing one player short.

13. IN THE EVENT OF A CLUB BEING UNABLE TO FULFIL A FIXTURE

At least 48 HOURS notice of postponement must be given to the opponents AND the Divisional Secretary. The Reason for the postponement must be clearly stated and must be reasonable.

If the Divisional Secretary agrees the postponement, it must be re-arranged in accordance with Rule 14.

In the event that the Divisional Secretary considers the postponement unreasonable, the match will be regarded as an unfulfilled fixture and dealt with under Rule 15 below.

Except in VERY EXCEPTIONAL circumstances, a postponement within 48 hours of a fixture will be considered UNREASONABLE, and dealt with under Rule 15 below.

14. REARRANGEMENT OF A POSTPONED OR ABANDONED FIXTURE

Within one week of a postponement or abandonment, the Divisional Secretary must be informed of the rearranged date for the fixture. This must be within one calendar month of the date of the original fixture, unless otherwise agreed by the Divisional Secretary.

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15. FAILURE TO PROPERLY MEET A LEAGUE FIXTURE

- (a) Any Club that fails to properly meet a league fixture on any occasion will be referred to the Committee. The Committee shall have the power to subject any offending Club to penalties which may include any of, reprimand, points deduction, points awarded to opponents, relegation by at least one Division, expulsion from the League. The Committee may also direct that the match be played/replayed on a specific date if necessary.
- (b) If a Club notified the Honorary Secretary they are withdrawing from a league at any stage of the season, all points and shots relating to the withdrawn Club and gained by opponents will be deleted.
- (c) If a club fails to fulfil a fixture and is not the offending party they shall receive the average points per game achieved over the whole season. This calculation will be made exactly and then rounded up or down to the nearest half point.

16. FAILURE TO APPEAR AT THE AGREED TIME

For any player, or team, failing to appear at the time fixed for the start of play, a maximum waiting period of 15 minutes shall be allowed, upon the expiry of which: -

If a relevant substitute is not fielded, the match shall proceed in accordance with EBF Law VII.3 i.e. lead, lead, second (repeated as necessary), to be followed by the skips. (No deduction to shots when filling in the result card.)

Any missing player arriving after the match has commenced will not be allowed to take part in the match nor will the match be recommenced. For the purpose of this rule, trial ends do not constitute part of the match.

17. PLAYER INJURED OR FALLING ILL DURING A MATCH

In the event that a player is injured or falls ill during a match, a substitute may be fielded.

If a relevant substitute is not fielded, the match shall proceed in accordance with EBF Law VII.3 i.e. lead, lead, second (repeated as necessary), to be followed by the skips. (No deduction to shots when filling in the result card)

18 DRESS

In all League matches players must wear the correct dress, which will be 'Greys or club colours'.

'Greys' shall consist: -

White shirt/blouse; grey trousers/grey tailored cropped trousers/culottes/skirt/tailored shorts; Flat soled manufactured for lawn bowls.

"Club colours" shall consist:- Club shirts and jackets which bear club coloured panels and club badges or logos. Where clubs elect to wear club coloured registered tops for matches, all the team must wear the same top.

And if worn: -

Grey or white socks, or brown/beige tights/stockings; white pullover, cardigan or jacket; white cap or hat.

Club ties or cravats may be worn.

Waterproof clothing (including hats) if worn, shall be white or club colours.

For the purposes of this Rule, white shall also include cream.

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Latest Amendments: -

- 2017 15(c) Average points for unfulfilled fixture
- 5 No points awarded if no results card or rink card produced

- 2018 12 No extra woods to be played
- 3 All references to 31 end Saturday league replaced with 25 end
- 3 All references to Mixed League removed.
- 8 Amendment to match points in Afternoon League matches
- 18 Tailored shorts
- 15(b) Unfulfilled fixture – average points.
- 15(c)