

Nottinghamshire Federation Bowls League

COMPETITION RULES

1 DEFINITIONS

The Competition Rules (known as the 'Rules') shall apply to those competitions managed by the Nottinghamshire Federation Bowls League (known as the 'League') and shall form part of the League Constitution (known as the 'Constitution'). Each entrant/competitor 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 9 of the Constitution.

2 OBJECT

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

3 COMPETITION FORMATS

There will be five competitions each year: -

The GLOVER TROPHY - being an open team competition played on the following format: -

One rink singles, four woods, 25 ends

One rink pairs, two woods, 25 ends

One rink triples, two wood, 21 ends

One rink fours, two wood, 16 ends

The 'home' team will be responsible for providing the Marker for the singles rink.

The STEEL TROPHY - being an open team competition comprising four rinks of two wood triples, to be played over 25 ends.

The ELVIN TROPHY - being a single rink, open, three wood triples competition, to be played over 18 ends.

The WARREN TROPHY - being a single rink, mixed pairs, two wood competition, to be played over 21 ends.

The GROVES TROPHY - being an open four wood singles competition, 21 shots up.

The 'home' competitor will be responsible for providing the Marker.

In all rounds of all competitions trial ends shall be played, unless both competitors agree to the contrary. The 'home' competitor shall be responsible for meeting all green fees etc. associated with the match.

That all rounds prior to the final of the Steel Trophy consist of 21 ends, with the final remaining at 25 ends..

All rounds up to the Finals will be played on club greens according to the draw.

4 MANAGEMENT OF COMPETITIONS

The competitions shall be managed by the League's Executive Committee (known as the 'Committee') who will nominate Competition Secretaries for each competition, from within the Committee, to receive results from competition rounds and to advise competitors of their next opponents.

Any dispute arising during the course of the competitions must be referred to the relevant Competition Secretary within 72 hours of the dispute arising. A dispute not resolved by the Competition Secretary may be determined by the League Secretary,

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whose decision will be final. Transgressors of these Rules may be referred to the Committee who will have the power to impose penalties.

5 ENTRY TO COMPETITIONS

Applications for entry into the competitions shall only be received from Clubs and will only be open to those Clubs who are members of the League for the current year. Competitors in all competitions must be members of that Club. No applications for entry into the competitions will be accepted after the due date. No competitor may enter or play in the same competition from more than one Club. Entry fees for the competitions will be approved at the League Annual General Meeting. No competitor will be allowed to play unless all appropriate fees have been paid by the Club.

6 ORGANISATION OF ROUNDS AND NOTIFICATION OF RESULTS

All competitions will be on a knock-out basis to be played in rounds as determined by the Committee.

Where two clubs with a bye in the first round are drawn against each other in the second round, they **MUST USE THE FIRST ROUND PLAY-ON DATE FOR THE SECOND ROUND MATCH**. If by mutual agreement and the consent of the Competition Secretary games may be played at a date earlier than the play-on date. In the case of inclement weather on either of these fixed dates then the games must be played before the next round is due to be played.

All other rounds must be completed by the appropriate play-by date, which must be strictly observed.

The 'home' competitor will be responsible for contacting their opponent as soon as the round is open, (the day after the previous round has closed, apart from the first round, or earlier if the opponents are known) and in any case within 72 hours, when at least three dates shall be offered. The dates shall not all be in the same week (the week to commence on Sunday for these purposes) and shall not be on consecutive dates. The opponent will accept one of the dates offered within 72 hours. The dates offered must be during mid-week evenings and/or daytime or evenings at weekends.

If the "away" competitor has not been contacted within the 72 hours, they should immediately contact the Competition Secretary. The Competition Secretary will then contact the "home" competitor and give them a further 48 hours to make contact. If no contact is made within this time, the "away" competitor will be awarded the match.

The winner of the round will be responsible for notifying the Competition Secretary of the result, (no contact should be made after 10pm) and shall provide the Competition Secretary with fully completed rink score cards, which must include the names of all competitors, within 72 hours of playing the match. Failure by either the 'home' or the 'away' competitor to notify the result by the close of the round may result in the disqualification of both competitors.

The finals of each competition will be played on the fixed Finals Day with a reserve date available to be used in case of inclement weather. Clubs and individuals should only enter the competitions if they are available to play on both the finals day and reserve date. If during the course of the competitions circumstances change and a club or individual gets to the quarter final stage they should withdraw if they are unavailable for the Finals Day and reserve date.

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Substitutions will be allowed for all competitions, with the exception of the Groves Trophy (singles). (See Competition Rule 8)

7 TWO TEAMS FROM ONE CLUB, IN TEAM COMPETITIONS

A Club may enter more than one team in the team competitions, but no individual player may play for more than one team, in the same competition.

8 DEFINITION OF ENTRANT AND SUBSTITUTES IN THE ELVIN AND WARREN TROPHY COMPETITIONS

The competitors taking part in the first round shall constitute the entrant.

Only one substitute is allowed in any match, that one substitute is only allowed when an entrant is unable to play owing to illness or other reasonable cause. The substitute must not have played previously in the same competition for any other entrant. The playing of a substitute must be identified to both the opponents and the Competition Secretary.

9 DEFINITION OF WINNER AND DECIDING A TIE

The winner of a match shall be the competitor having the highest shot total aggregated over all rinks (with the exception of the singles competition which will be 21 shots up). In the event of a tie after the prescribed number of ends an extra end will be played on all rinks, and if necessary repeated to determine the victor. The captains, in the case of team competitions, or otherwise the skips shall toss a coin for the choice of jack on the extra end(s) which will be played from where the last end ceased.

10 POSTPONEMENT, AND ABANDONMENT

- a) Should the start of a match not be possible on account of adverse weather conditions, an unfit green or other unforeseen circumstances, after waiting 45 minutes from the commencing time originally agreed, the 'home' competitor may elect to postpone the match to another date. In these circumstances the 'home' competitor shall offer new dates in the same manner as detailed in Rule 6.
- b) In the event of a match being abandoned owing to adverse weather conditions, an unfit green or other unforeseen circumstances, the match shall be replayed in its entirety unless the minimum ends (see below) have been completed. If this score is a tie, then the match shall be replayed. In these circumstances the 'home' competitor shall offer new dates in the same manner as detailed in Rule 6.

Steel (25 ends) Minimum ends = 15

Glover 4 (16 ends) minimum ends = 10
 3 (21 ends) minimum ends = 13
 2 (25 ends) minimum ends = 15
 1 (25 ends) minimum ends = 15

Elvin (18 ends) minimum ends = 12

Warren (21 ends) minimum ends = 13

Groves (1st to 21) If not completed due to inclement weather – match to be replayed.

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- c) In the event that a competitor, or team, is unable to fulfil an agreed match, a minimum of 48 hours notice of postponement must be given. The competitor requiring the postponement must accept one of at least three new dates provided by the opponent in the manner detailed in Rule 6.

For the purpose of this Rule, adverse weather conditions shall mean those where play is either impossible and/or where damage may be caused to the green. The number of ends to be played in a competition shall not be reduced for any other reason than expressed in this Rule.

11 FAILURE TO APPEAR AT THE AGREED TIME

For any player 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: -

- i) A singles match shall be awarded to the player present.
- ii) If a relevant substitute for a pairs match is not fielded, the match shall be awarded to the pair present.
- iii) If a relevant substitute for a triples match 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 in shots when deciding the result.). Otherwise the match shall be awarded to the triple present.
- iv) A team match shall be awarded to the team present if the other team is unable to field sufficient players for the match to be played.

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.

12 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.) If this is not possible, i.e. in the case of a singles or pairs match, the match shall be postponed and the matter immediately referred to the Competition Secretary for a ruling.

13 DRESS

In all rounds of all competitions players must wear the correct dress which will be "greys" or "club colours" except in the finals which will be in "creams/whites" or "club colours". If any player from either team does not wear "creams" or "club colours" for the finals, then the offending team will be disqualified from the competition and the opponents put through.

'Greys' shall consist: -

White shirt/blouse; grey trousers/grey tailored cropped trousers/tailored shorts/culottes/skirt; Flat soled, no heeled shoes 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.

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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.

“whites/creams” shall consist:-

White shirt/blouse with collar, white trousers/tailored shorts/culottes/tailored cropped trousers/skirt.

Flat soled, no heeled shoes manufactured for lawn bowls.

And if worn:-

White socks, pullover, cardigan or jacket, cap or hat.

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

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

14 PRIZES

For all competitions the winners, runners-up and semi-finalists will receive cash prizes which shall be determined at the League Annual General Meeting.

15 MANAGEMENT OF FINALS

The finals for the competitions will be played on a venue decided upon by the Committee which will be announced before the competitors closing date for entry. All competitors should make themselves available for the finals day and the reserve day (which will only be used in cases of inclement weather on finals day or if a competitor(s) is in several finals). A qualified E.B.U.F umpire (if possible) and a marker will be supplied by the Committee.

Latest Amendments: -

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| 2024 | 3 | All rounds of the Steel Trophy will be 21 ends with the final being 25 ends. |
| | 5 | Applications for entry into the competitions shall only be accepted from clubs registered with the NFBL and those clubs who play in any of its leagues for the current year. |