

GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNTY BOWLS LEAGUE

League Rules

1. NAME.

- a) The League shall be known as the Gloucestershire County Bowls League.
- b) Divisions within the League shall be known as Division's with numbers, the highest division as Division 1, and pro-rata.
- c) The winners of Division 1 will hold the 'Gloucester Bowls Club' League Cup. Winners of Division 2 the Dan Knight Cup and Division 3 the Ken Griffin Shield. Division Four the Dave Evans Shield.

2. ADMINISTRATION.

- a) The affairs of the League shall be conducted by a League Committee consisting of a Chairman, League Secretary and Treasurer and one delegate from each registered Club in full membership with the League.
- b) The Chairman, League Secretary and Treasurer shall be elected annually at the League's Annual General Meeting to be held in October of each year. All shall have power to vote.

3. ENTRIES.

- a) The League will be open to clubs affiliated to the Gloucestershire Bowling Association.
- b) Annual team subscription shall be set by the League Committee.
- c) Players must be fully paid up members of the affiliated club.
- d) Clubs wishing to enter team(s) shall apply by 30th September.
- e) Continuing membership thereafter shall be assumed. Annual subscription (non refundable) shall be paid by 31st March each year.
- f) Clubs wishing their team/teams to resign shall advise the League Secretary in writing as soon as they have resolved to do so, stating clearly when such resignation is to take effect.

4. STRUCTURE.

- a) The number of teams per division shall be no greater than 9. The number of Divisions will depend on the number of entries in the league.
- b) Each team shall play each other within the same division at least once. Each team shall play the same number of home and away fixtures (as far as possible) and regulated by the reversing table method in the following season.
- c) The top two placed teams in the mid and lower full divisions (divisions of 7, 8 or 9 teams) will be promoted and two lowest placed teams in the top and mid divisions will be relegated at the end of the season. In a division where there are less than 7 teams only the top placed team will be promoted and only the lowest placed team in the division above will be relegated at the end of the season.
- d) Where changes in the number of teams entered to play (dictated by numbers) that fails to meet the requirements of Rule 4a a restructuring of the lowest division may be varied as determined by the League Committee.

5. REGISTRATION of PLAYERS.

- a) All Players shall be deemed registered players for a team when their names have been recorded on the team's scorecard prior to the commencement of a game in which they play. The date of registration shall be the day the player plays his first game.

Clubs with two or more teams:-

- (i) Player(s) can play once for the team in the higher division are permitted to return to the lower division team in the same season.
- (ii) Player(s) who play more than once for the higher division team are not permitted to return to the lower division team in the same season.

Any club that has two or more teams in the League is deemed to have separate teams.

- b) Any team playing an ineligible player shall be deducted six points.

6. FIXTURES.

- a) All fixtures should be played on set dates.
All matches shall commence at 10.30am unless mutually agreed by both teams.
In the event of a team(s) being unable to play on the set date that fixture shall be played prior to the date that has been set or may be played seven days after the set date.
Any notification of a date change, the League Secretary must be informed in writing.
In the event of a club(s) being unable to play a fixture within the set dates then that club will have six points deducted and the opposing club shall be awarded six points.
The decision of the League Secretary will be final.
- b) In the event of a fixture being curtailed or abandoned due to weather a total of 22 ends must have been completed to allow the result of the match on each rink to stand. In the event of 22 ends not being played, the match shall be declared null and void and rearranged by the teams with notification to the League Secretary, in writing, within 7 days of the abandonment.

7.PLAY.

- a) All matches must be played under Bowls England Rules and the Joint Laws of the Game. Matches shall be played over 21 ends, with two trial ends by mutual agreement of both team captains.
- b) Rinks shall be drawn by the Captains.
- c) If a player has to leave the green through illness, a substitute who is a Club member and not played for any other team can be used in any position except Skip. Where no substitute or where a full team is not fielded, the team may play with one player short in both rinks, subject to Rule 59(b) 'Laws of the Game'. A team with less than 6 players (before or during the match) shall be deemed to have failed to fulfil the fixture according to Rule 7. Players arriving late cannot play except as substitutes in accordance with the Laws of the Game.
- d) Greys shall be worn for all matches. (In situations where it would courteous to wear whites, it should be done as a whole team by prior agreement)
- e) Visiting teams should be respectful of the host club's hospitality.

8.RESULTS.

- a) Each winning rink per team shall be awarded 2 points, drawing rinks 1 point each.
- b) Each winning team shall be awarded 2 points, drawing teams 1 point each.
- c) The home club must keep a record of the match before sending the two match result cards by first class post to the League Secretary to arrive within 4 days of the match. The away club must retain their match result cards until the end of the season.
- d) Final league positions, promotions and relegations will be decided on points, with shot difference being a tie decider. In the event of two teams being equal on points and shot difference the result of their respective game decide their final position. In the event that this game ended in a tie the result of the last end count of both rinks shall decide the final position.
- e) Prize money will be awarded to the top and second placed teams in each division.
- f) All division's prize amounts shall be announced before the start of the league season.
- g) In the event that a team resigns from the league during the course of the playing season, all matches completed by that team shall be considered void and any points obtained by the team's opposition in matches already played shall be forfeited. The resigning team will also forfeit its subscription.

9. CHANGE TO LEAGUE RULES.

- a) Request for rule changes must be submitted in writing to the League Secretary, from one proposing club with at least two supporting clubs.
- b) Request received by 1st September each year shall be considered by the League Committee for acceptance at the League's Annual General Meeting.
- c) Any agreed changes shall be implemented for that year.

10. CONDUCT of the LEAGUE.

- a) The league will be administered from day to day by the League Secretary.

LEAGUE RULES AMENDED 24 October 2010