

Rules of the South Cotswold Bowls League

1 Object

To promote competitive bowls for male club members in the area. The league is open to teams from any club endorsed by member clubs at the AGM

2 Management

Day to day management will be by a committee consisting of Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and Fixture/Results Secretary. The preference would be to form this committee with no more than one representative from any club

3 Meetings

An Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held in October of each year. The league secretary will give 28 days' notice by letter of this meeting to the Officers and to each member club. At this AGM all reports and the balance sheet will be presented for approval and all Officers will be elected.

Each club will send at least one representative to the AGM (only one representative will be allowed to vote). Six points may be deducted at the start of the next season from all teams from any club that fails to send a representative

4 League Composition

- a) The league will consist of divisions with a maximum of eight teams in a division
- b) If more than one team is entered by a member club, the teams shall be suffixed, A, B etc., and this will define the ranking of these teams within the club
- c) Each team will consist of three rinks of four players
- d) A club 'B' team who are unable to field three full rinks may field a team of two full rinks
- e) The League structure will be decided each year at the AGM along with the necessary promotions and relegations to achieve this. The aim should be wherever possible, the promotion of two teams from each division
- f) Any club that is a member of the league may only withdraw teams by starting with its lowest ranked team
- g) A new team entering the league, or a team re-entering after withdrawal, will play in the lowest division
- h) Any changes to the league structure will be voted on by the clubs at the AGM of the league.

5 Competition

- a) Each division will play on a league basis. All games will be played on the designated Tuesday evening, with an unfit green being the principal condition for postponing a match. However, where a club has at least three players involved in the final stages of a competition at Leamington Spa and that date conflicts with a league date, the game can be rearranged. In addition, where a club is providing the County President and the President's tour date conflicts with a league date, the club can rearrange the league date. In both these circumstances, any rearranged game must be played within two weeks before or after the given date and the team seeking the change must offer three dates for the game. If the game in question is the final game of the season, it must be played no later than seven days after the season's end. In addition, at least one week's notice of the proposed change must be given to the affected club. Any date change must be given to the fixture secretary
- b) If games have to be postponed due to weather, the home team must offer a choice of three alternative dates for the re-arranged game. These dates must be within 28 days of the published date, and not more than seven days after the last published league fixture date. The dates should be offered within three days of the original fixture date and one of the offered dates must be accepted by the away team within three days of receiving the new dates. Both captains are responsible for advising the results secretary of the re-arranged date immediately that it is agreed

- c) All games will commence at 18.30, except for the first two weeks of the season and in August when they will commence at 18.00. Games will consist of 21 ends, with two trial ends. If the weather is likely to shorten the game, both captains can agree that no trial ends be played, with only one shot be awarded to the winning side for the first two ends
- d) Clubs will be required to keep the score cards for each game until the end of the season. Rink score boards must be left out until all rinks have finished
- e) Rinks will not be pre-allocated. The scorecards will be placed face down on a table, shuffled and the away captain will number the rinks
- f) If a team starts with a rink of only three players a fourth player may join the game only up to and including the second end. At the end of the game one shot will be deducted from the final score for that rink for each end where only three players were present.
- g) However if the whole game is played with only three players the rink will forfeit 25% of its final shot score (rounded up to the nearest whole number) instead of losing one shot per end. When playing as a triple, lead and two shall bowls three woods, the skip two woods
- h) The points awarded will be two points for each winning rink (one to each side if the score is tied), and four points to the team with the highest aggregate of shots (two points to each team if the aggregate score is tied)
- i) In the event of rain or other unavoidable cause stopping a game, the points will be shared, unless 15 ends have been played on all rinks, when the result will stand as that on all three rinks at the end of 15th ends
- j) The home captain is required to e-mail the results to the fixture secretary before 18:00 on the day following the match. Failure will result in the offending team being deducted two points
- k) If a team is withdrawn during the playing season, the results of all matches against that team will be deleted
- l) At the end of the season the position of teams in a division is determined by the total number of points won by each team. In the event of two or more sides having the same number of points, the position of the clubs is decided by shot difference. If the shot difference is the same, then the higher number of shots scored will decide the higher placed side
- m) In the event of a team being unable to field a side they will forfeit the game. Their opponents will be awarded all 10 points and 10 shots for the game. Where a club 'B' team fields only two rinks, their opponents are to be given two points and 20 shots for the third rink
- n) Matches will be played in greys and white shirts or club shirts provided that all members of the team wear the same style of garment. Club coloured wind jackets, sweaters and rainwear are also permitted. All shirts and other external wear must be County approved.
- o) The League does not restrict movement between teams within a club and relies on clubs not to deliberately move players to gain an advantage. Where there is a suggestion that this has happened, the matter should be reported to the League Secretary. He will ask the club concerned to provide all of their league cards for the season for all its teams and, in conjunction with the Fixture Secretary and the club, review the club's selections. The two secretaries will then report to the executive committee on whether there seems to be unusual player movement to gain an advantage and the full committee will decide the matter. Where a club has been found to breach this rule, all of the club's teams will have 10 points deducted from their total.

6 League Fees

The fees for the subsequent season will be agreed at the AGM. These fees should be sent to the league treasurer by April 30th (before the start of the league programme).

7 Eligibility

Participation in the league is confined to bona fide members of the affiliated clubs.

Amended October 2018