

BOWLS DERBYSHIRE OPEN LEAGUE

RULES AND CONSTITUTION – Proposed from Meeting 10/6/17

1. *The League shall be called The Bowls Derbyshire Open League.*
2. The League shall comprise of one or more Divisions. The Champion in each Division will be promoted to the next higher Division and the bottom club relegated to the next lower Division. The promotions and relegations at the end of the playing season will be such as to bring Divisions 1 and 2 within the Constitution, i.e. that these Divisions contain “a maximum number of teams” as agreed by the League Committee before the start of the current season. **The absolute maximum number of teams per division will be 10.**
3. Each club shall pay an Annual Subscription **to be set at the League AGM** to be forwarded to the **treasurer** not later than **31st January** of the current year. Non-BE affiliated clubs are also allowed to join the league along with the annual subscription payment. All clubs must have a minimum of a squad of players (men/women) +2 “**registered**” with the league secretary before the start of the season. Any new players can be added to a clubs list of registered players at any time during the season with prior notification to the league secretary, and before the new player actually plays for the team – (please also refer to rule 14i).
4. The **League** Committee shall consist of the Chairman, League Secretary (**both of these positions to be elected at the League AGM**) and one **voting** representative from each participating club.
5. League Prize money to be set at the beginning of the new season by the league committee as defined by the number of teams in the league/divisions.
6. The Annual General Meeting of the Bowls Derbyshire Open League shall be held each year. Each League Club shall be entitled to send two (2) representatives to all General Meetings of the League. **There will be a minimum of two League meetings each year including the AGM.**
7. **In all matches 3 x 4 player rinks shall form a team.** As nobody is allowed to play for more than one team during a league season in clubs where two (2) teams are entered into the League, once a club member has played for a team, either (A) or (B), he/she can only play for that team for the remainder of the season. A team rink win to count two (2) points, a team rink tie one (1) point and an additional two (2) points will be awarded to the side with the highest aggregate shot score. In the event of the shot score being equal the 2 rink points will be shared equally i.e. 1 point per side. Therefore, the highest winning score per game is **2 times number of rink wins + 2 points**. Should there be a tie affecting promotion, or relegation, the League position shall be determined by initially the highest shot difference, or if equal then by a play-off on a neutral green, on a date acceptable to the clubs concerned and the Committee.
8. i) Any alteration of the date of a fixture shall be made prior to 1st May, excepting when a green of a club is not available for a sufficiently good reason. In such case the matter will be referred to the League Secretary for submission to the League Committee for their decision. Any agreement to a change of date, or venue, of a fixture must be sent, in writing or email, to the League Secretary within seven (7) days of the agreement. All games to be arranged by mutual agreement if they clash with other fixtures before the start of the season.
ii) A club may postpone a **league match only in exceptional circumstances agreed between the clubs (and league secretary) and where clubs can mutually agree to a rearranged date for the game to be played.**
9. Time for commencement of matches is 18h30 and two (2) trial ends shall be allowed unless mutually agreed to go straight off. A match will consist of 18 ends plus the 2 trial ends. In the event of inclement weather the match may be curtailed from 18 ends, subject to **mutual** agreement by the Captains before the 10th and 12th ends. The minimum number of ends overall shall be a combination of thirty-three **(33)** ends played.

10. For the purpose of acquainting the League Secretary with the result and the players participating in matches special result sheets, to be filled in and signed by opposing Captains, will be supplied to clubs. The HOME CLUB to provide the completed said sheet to the League Secretary after the game.
11. In the event of a match being postponed through weather conditions the replay, shall be mutually agreed to be played, by the two clubs concerned, preferably within twenty-eight (28) days of the original date and before the final scheduled league week of the season. Notification of such postponement to be forwarded to the League Secretary within seven (7) days. IN THE ABSENCE OF MUTUAL AGREEMENT THE HOME CLUB SHALL, WITHIN SEVEN (7) DAYS OF THE POSTPONEMENT OFFER, IN WRITING OR EMAIL, THEIR OPPONENTS THREE (3) REASONABLE DATES COVERING A PERIOD NOT EXCEEDING TWENTY-ONE (21) DAYS.
12. Any club not fulfilling a fixture shall forfeit maximum points and plus five (5) shots per rink to the opposing club. Any club failing to fulfil more than one (1) League fixture, to be censured and warned that any further cancellation in the current season could, at the League Committee's discretion, lead to expulsion from the League.
13. In the event of any club playing less than the required number of players in any League Match, where one (1) player is short on a rink, the defaulting rink will play with only six bowls and without a number 2 in the rink. Therefore, the minimum number of players in a League match per rink is three (3). Any club who continues to field 'short-rinks' may be sanctioned further. Any sanctions will be determined by the League Committee
14. i) All players participating in a League match must be bona fide members of their respective clubs. Any club playing an ineligible player in a League match shall lose all the points per game from its aggregate total of points. The result of the match to stand. Dress for all League Matches shall be: - White tops and GREY trousers or shorts for men and *White tops and GREY trousers/shorts or skirt for women*.
ii) Coloured shirts and/or Tops as Approved by the County Association may be worn. There shall be NO MIXTURE of coloured and White Shirts or Tops. Braces, if worn, shall not be visible. Shoes may be Brown, Grey or White. Waterproofs, if worn, shall be White. Coloured waterproofs approved by the County Association may be worn. There shall be NO MIXTURE of coloured and White waterproofs.
iii) Any differences to the above Dress Code should be mutually agreed by both clubs prior to the match starting.
15. **Any matters arising, not covered by these rules, will be decided by the League Committee. The decision of the League Committee on the interpretation of any rules shall be binding on all parties.**
16. All games to be played under the national Bowls England rules except for the number of ends being 18.
17. Notices of Motion in relation to league matters must be forwarded, in writing, to the Bowls Derbyshire Open League Secretary at least fourteen (14) days prior to the Bowls Derbyshire League Annual General Meeting. Any notice of motion will be added to the agenda for resolution at the League AGM.
18. Clubs desirous of making application for membership or withdrawing from the league, are required to communicate with the League Secretary, in writing, at least fourteen (14) days prior to the Annual General Meeting.
19. In the event of a club having to change their Captains or Hon Secretary, notification of the same is to be immediately forwarded to the League Secretary.
20. All players MUST be registered with the Bowls Derbyshire Open League Secretary.

The Annual General Meeting of the Derbyshire Open League will be held in the second week of October annually.