

# BIRMINGHAM BOWLING ASSOCIATION

## RULES for the LEAGUE COMPETITIONS

These adapted rules are for the 2026 season where a triples format is to be trialled. At the end of the season this will be evaluated and a decision taken at the 2026 AGM on whether to continue with triples or revert to fours.

### General

1. The League is formed of two Divisions, 'Division A' and 'Division B', each consisting of the same number of teams. If there are an odd number of teams, the adjustment to be made will result in the smaller number of teams (by one team) in Division 'B'.

If the number of teams within the league falls to less than 10, the Executive Committee reserves the right to alter the league format to one division.

2. Each team will play all other teams in their Division twice (Home and Away) in each season. In addition, separate home/away games may be included in the league schedule, to be determined by the League secretary/ Executive Committee.

The League Programme showing dates of all matches will be issued by the League Secretary following confirmation (including any agreed changes) of the draft schedule by the Fixture Secretaries of the clubs involved.

3. All matches played during April, May, June and July will commence at 6.15 p.m. Matches played on or after 1st of August will commence at 6.00 p.m. By mutual agreement between the teams an earlier start time may be arranged.
- 3a Within the Laws of the Sport there is an allowance of 30 minutes after the scheduled time to commence the match. Any further delay after this time will mean that the team not present will forfeit the game and Rule 6 below will apply.

*It is felt that teams should be prepared to give some latitude to opponents if there is a justifiable and unavoidable reason for their delayed arrival, e.g. a road accident delay or medical emergency.*

4. Matches cannot be postponed for any reason other than weather conditions making the green unplayable, or where members of a team are involved in County or National Competitions.
5. The League Programme is to be completed by the end of the second week of September.
6. Where a team fails to play a match, a result will be imposed by the Executive, to the effect that the innocent team has won by their average number of 'shots for' in their previous matches.

The defaulting team will be given a minus 10 point penalty and their 'shots against' will be increased by the same average number of 'shots for' awarded to their opponents.

7. Dress shall be grey trousers/ shorts and white shirts with recognized bowling shoes. Where a club has County approved dress, these may be worn for League matches.
8. Although precedence should be given to any male member who is available to play, up to one lady member of the club can play in a league match.

Where a club has more than 1 league team, 1 lady member may play for each league team. But precedence should be given to the A team (and then B team and so on, in sequence) for male club members. So, a female player would not play for the A team if the B team had a full complement of male players.

*Clubs should be aware of any related BDWBA League Rules covering the availability of players.*

9. The Home Team will be responsible for providing / supplying food for all players, unless it is agreed beforehand that food will not be provided.

### **Matches**

10. All matches to be played in accordance with the current Laws of the Sport, as prescribed by World Bowls, and where applicable under Competition Regulations of the Birmingham Bowling Association.
11. The format is Two Triples (unless rule 13 is applied) i.e. each team will have two rinks of three players, played over 16 ends, three bowls each player. The trail ends will be 2 wood.
12. Both rinks will be played on the same green. The draw for rinks to be played on shall be made in accordance with the current Laws of the Sport. The two rinks to be used in a League Match will be nominated by the Home Team, following which the Away Team will draw to determine the rink numbers to be played upon for each game.

For 'home/ away' games, one rink will play on each of the league teams green. Two rinks will be nominated for use by the home rink, to be drawn by the away rink.

13. A match can be played if a team has only four or five players available. The affected team will
  - play with two players on one rink (if five players) or on both rinks (if they have only four players), with the number of bowls played made up by the lead and skip, both playing four bowls.
  - have 33% of their total shots scored (including decimal places) on the ends where they have played with two players deducted from the score of each defaulting rink after the game has finished.
  - The opposition triple(s) will play lead 2 woods, the number two 3 woods and the skip 3 woods.
14. Each match will have six points to be allocated. Two points will be available for each rink, and two points will be available for the overall aggregate score.
  - Each winning Rink will receive two points. If a rink is tied, the teams will receive one point each.
  - The team winning on aggregate score across the two rinks will receive two points. If the aggregate score is tied, the teams will receive one point each.

15. Both teams will send the match result (rink scores, aggregate score, points) to the League Secretary or their representative within 48 hours of the fixture being played by either email or WhatsApp/Messages

### **Match interruptions and re-arrangements**

16. A match can be considered complete once both rinks reach seven ends if the green is considered to be unplayable due to severe weather conditions during the match.
17. If a match does not start or is halted before seven ends have been completed due to severe weather conditions, the teams involved must agree to play the match within 35 days (see Rule 18 below) of the original fixture date. The Home Team must notify the League Secretary within 48 hours of the need to re-arrange the fixture.
18. The new date of any fixture that has to be re-arranged must be agreed by both teams and notified to the League Secretary within seven days of the original date of the fixture. The fixture must be played within a further 28 days (making a maximum period of 35 days). Re-arranged fixtures can be played on any day of the week, including week-ends, and teams can field as few as four Bowlers.
19. If the League Secretary does not receive notice of the date of the re-arranged fixture within the specified time (seven days of the original date), he will set the date for the fixture to be played as the next available Tuesday or Thursday, taking into account County and National Competitions.
20. If either or both teams fail to be available to fulfil the fixture on the date set by the League Secretary, Rule 6 will be applied, with both teams being penalised if appropriate.

### **Team regulations**

21. Clubs with more than one team in the League shall nominate the top four players as the 'A' team. Only bona fide members of the affiliated club can be nominated to play in the 'A' team, players so nominated cannot play in any other team in the League.

Clubs with 3 or more league teams must nominate four players for each team except for the lowest classified team.

Nominated players can move up to higher classified teams e.g. B team nominated player to the A team

Nominated players should be notified to the League Secretary by the 1st league game of the season.

Changes to nominated players can be made by notification to the League Secretary before the 1st league game of the season. After this, any change may only be made in exceptional circumstances and by agreement of the Executive Committee. Their decision will be final

22. The Regulation on substitution shall apply. As many substitutes as required shall be allowed in League matches. However, no player shall represent nor allow their name to be submitted for more than one club in any one playing year.

### **End of Season Results**

24. At the end of the season, the team with the most points in Division A will be declared as League Champions, and the team with the most points in Division B will be declared as Division B Champions. The team with the next greatest number of points in each Division will be declared as the Runner-up, with all other positions in the Divisions based on the same criteria of points scored.
25. If two or more teams finish with level points, shots difference will apply. The team with the larger plus difference (or with the smaller minus difference) will be declared the higher placed team.
26. If two or more teams finish level on points and shots difference, the team having scored the greater number of shots will be declared the higher placed team.

### **Promotion and Relegation**

27. Normally, the bottom two teams in 'Division A' will be relegated to 'Division B', and the top two teams in 'Division B' will be promoted to 'Division A', subject to Rule 28.
28. In the case of teams withdrawing from the league or new teams being accepted into 'Division B',
  - any number of teams may be promoted or relegated in order to meet the criteria in Rule 1.
  - the size of each Division will be decided by the Executive Committee whose decision will be final.
29. Any new team entering the League must join in 'Division B' and pay the usual League fee (as prescribed by the Association), for each team of six players.

### **Rule Changes and Disputes**

30. Any alterations to the Rules of the League shall be made at the AGM or an EGM of the Association.
31. All disputes shall be referred to the League Secretary, who will adjudicate. Any appeal made against the decision, should be made in writing and will be considered by the Executive Committee of the Association. Their decision will be final.