

Men's County League Rules – Amended 7th July 2024

1. Eligibility

The Men's Club County League Championships are open to all affiliated and associate affiliated clubs with four or more rinks with no age restriction on male members eligible to play in any of the club teams. County League entries on the Official Form to be sent to the Hon. County League Secretary **by 31st March** each year.

2. General Playing Conditions

All matches are to be played under regulation 10 CONDITIONS OF PLAY, Rule 3 - Dress and Rule 4 - League Playing Conditions as set out below. All the team's bowls shall be identified by the official club sticker.

3. Dress

- 1.1. Plain white shirt with tailored collar, club necktie or EIBA registered coloured shirt, grey trousers, EIBA registered coloured trousers or EIBA / Bowls Manufacturer shorts and any coloured flat soled regulation bowling shoes **(subject to the rules of the Club where the game is being played, at the start of the season clubs will be provided with details of Club's dress codes).**
- 1.2. All players should wear the same shirt design and teams can wear a mix of shorts and trousers, but where any EIBA registered shorts and/or trousers are worn all players must wear the same design.
- 1.3. With the exception of registered shirts or trousers no advertising or promotional material may be displayed other than the Bowls Manufacturers' label.
- 1.4. White bowls jackets with coloured piping may be worn or registered coloured jacket.

4. League Playing Conditions

a. Format

- i. The men's league teams to consist of four rinks.
- ii. All County League games will be 21 ends or a maximum of 4 hours; whichever is the shorter. An end where the jack has been cast before the 4 hours must be played to a finish – should the cast not be "legal" then the opposition shall place the jack.
- iii. If a jack in motion passes completely outside the boundaries of the rink of play or rebounds to a distance of less than 20 metres from the mat line, the jack shall be re-spotted. If the jack passes outside the side boundary of the rink it should be placed on a pre-arranged spot on the rink which is 2 metres from the front ditch and a minimum of 1 metre and maximum of 1.5 metres to the left or right of the centre line, being positioned the same distance on both sides of the centre line, on the side that it left the rink of play.

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Note: This rule ONLY applies to an end in play and not in relation to a jack being cast to start an end where the Laws of Sport rules 9 & 10 will apply.

- iv. If a bowl is on the re-spot, the jack will be placed as near as possible to the bowl without touching it, between the spot and the centre of the rink. If any other bowls are in the way the jack will be placed as near to that without touching it and the centre of the rink. In other words, directly between the 2 spots without touching a bowl.
- v. No Trial Ends
- vi. At the start of a match where a team is up to four players short rinks shall be formed with a minimum of three players. Where the number of players short on a rink is greater than 1 that rink shall incur a penalty of one point and 10 shots. Law 39.2.2 of the Laws of the Sport of Bowls Crystal Mark Fourth Edition shall apply as per the extract below

39.2.2 If, 30 minutes after the scheduled start time for a game, or sooner if the Controlling Body decides, one player is absent from one or more teams in a side, the game must continue but:

39.2.2.1 the number of bowls played by each defaulting team must be made up by the lead and second, both playing three bowls singly and in turn; and

39.2.2.2 For each defaulting team one fourth of the total shots scored (including decimal places), in each of the ends where the defaulting team is playing one player short, by each defaulting team must be deducted from their score after the game has finished.
- vii. The format of the Men's County League together with the number of Divisions, number of teams within those Divisions and promotion and relegation to / from Divisions will be decided annually and will be presented by the Hon. League Secretary to the County Executive February meeting for formal agreement. This may vary from year to year.
- viii. League positions will be determined by 1) the highest number of points, 2) the highest shot difference and 3) the highest number of shots scored.
- ix. Teams in each division to play each other on a home and away basis.
- x. Where two or more teams from the same club play in the same division those teams must play each other twice by 28th February .
- xi. Scoring - A total of seven points for each game. One point for each winning rink with half point for each drawing rink - Three points for a team win with one and a half points for a team draw.

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- xii. If a team fails to turn up for a match the County Executive Committee shall be authorised to impose a maximum £20 fine on the offending team who shall also be responsible for any loss incurred in respect of rink fees.
- xiii. At the time of making league match fixtures, it should be mutually agreed in writing if after match refreshments are to be provided for any of the club's league teams and the cost shared equally between both teams – no agreement – no refreshments.
- xiv. The payment of the rink fees is to be the responsibility of the home team.
- xv. Entrance fee(s) per team to be determined at the Annual General Meeting, payable at the time of entry and sent by 20th November to the Hon. Treasurer.

b. Player Eligibility Rules

- i. Clubs with more than one team in the County League must register at least 16 players for each team. The registered players must be registered with the Hon. League Secretary by 1st October in the year the season starts. Clubs with only one team in the County League do not need to register their players.
- ii. Any player not registered with any of his Club's teams automatically becomes registered for the team he first plays for and is then governed by the following rules for a "registered" player.
- iii. Movement between teams:

a) Clubs with 2 teams:

Applies unless a club has more than one team in the same division in which case rule viii will apply.

Players registered in a Club's 'A' team can play for that Club's 'B' team in a maximum of 2 games. Only two 'A' team players can be used in any one 'B' team game.

Players registered in a Club's 'B' team can play for that Club's 'A' team with no limitation on the number of games they are allowed to play. There is no limitation on the number of 'B' teams players that can be used in any one 'A' team game.

b) Clubs with 3 teams:

Applies unless a club has more than one team in the same division in which case rule viii will apply.

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Players registered in a Club's 'A' team can play for that Club's 'B' team in a maximum of 2 games. Only two 'A' team players can be used in any one 'B' team game. However no 'A' team player can play for that Club's 'C' team.

Players registered in a Club's 'B' team can play for that Club's 'A' team with no limitation on the number of games they are allowed to play. There is no limitation on the number of 'B' teams players that can be used in any one 'A' team game.

Players registered in a Club's 'B' team can play for that Club's 'C' team in a maximum of 2 games. Only two 'B' team players can be used in any one 'C' team game.

Players registered in a Club's 'C' team can play for that Club's 'A' or 'B' team with no limitation on the number of games they are allowed to play. There is no limitation on the number of 'C' teams players that can be used in any one 'A' or 'B' team game.

- iv. Any team found to have broken this rule shall have 7 points deducted for each occasion they have defaulted. In addition for each game in which this rule has been broken the offending team will lose any points won in that game and all points for that game will be awarded to the opposing team.
- v. In exceptional circumstances a member of the originally registered 16 players may be de-registered from that team in order that he may play for a lower team. An approach must be made to the Hon. League Secretary in writing or by e-mail giving the reason for the request to have that player de-registered.
- vi. Clubs with more than one team in the league shall designate their strongest side their 'A' team, their second strongest side their 'B' team and their third strongest their 'C' team.
- vii. No player can play for more than one club in the Men's County League's.
- viii. Clubs with more than one team in the same division will be allowed to use players registered within the second (e.g., 'B') team in that division in their first (e.g. 'A') team in that division, with no restriction on the number of players that can be used or number of games they can play.

c. Notification of League Results

The **HOME** team shall e-mail the match result form **immediately after the completion of the game via the Norfolk CIBA website (www.nciba.org.uk) and within 24 hours after the completion of the game.**

d. Withdrawal From League

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- i. Any team whether due to being expunged or due to club cessation will be regarded as a relegated team where applicable.
- ii. Should a Club withdraw a team, their remaining team(s) will stay in their current division(s) if they so wish.

e. Scheduling of Fixtures

Matches will normally be played on Saturday afternoon on dates laid down by the Hon. League Secretary, however by mutual consent matches may be played on any day of the week at a time mutually agreed by the clubs concerned.

The last date for the scheduled finish of each division on which County League matches will be played will be advised to the clubs by the Hon. League Secretary when he informs them of that season's proposed fixtures.

Other than bringing a game forward no changes will be permitted to the final weeks scheduled matches.

Teams must complete their League programme. No provision has been made for matches to be cancelled.

County League fixtures can only be postponed due to adverse weather conditions and / or for unforeseen circumstances.

If the fixture schedule requires it some County League games will be arranged for dates when the later stages of National Team Competitions such as the Liberty Trophy and Denny Cup / Plate are due to be played. Postponement of County League games on these dates will be allowed if Clubs have more than 4 players representing the County in the Liberty Trophy or the Club is still participating in the Denny Cup / Plate.

No postponement for any other reason will be allowed.

f. Postponement of Matches

Details of any postponement and re-arrangement of any fixture must be notified to the League Secretary immediately.

In all circumstances the re-arranged fixture **must be played before** the scheduled final weekend of the respective division.

No postponement for any other reason will be allowed.

If a team fails to fulfill a County League Match their opponents will be awarded 7 points and have 50 shots added to their "shots for" total – the offending team will be awarded no points and have 50 shots added to their "shots against" total.

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If a club is unable to fulfill an away game and it causes the home club any loss of revenue such as rink fees then the away team will be responsible for reimbursing any such loss of revenue.

Any game postponed **must be played before** the scheduled final weekend of the respective division (see above).

g. Failure To Complete League Programme

In the event of any club withdrawing from the League the results of the matches played by the withdrawing team will be deleted from both their record and the records of any team they have played in the league.

The County Executive also has the power to suspend the offending team from the League for up to a period of two years.

In the event of the cessation of the bowls operation of any club the County League record of their team(s) to date and those of the teams already played will be deleted. Those players of a team(s) affected will be eligible to play in the County League for another club from the date of cessation.

h. Championship Trophies

The Champions of the respective Divisions / Regions within the County League will receive the appropriate trophy for the Division / Region together with a pennant.

Cups to be returned to the Hon. League Secretary by 1st March.

Engraving will be the responsibility of the Association.

5. Breaches of County League Rules

Any breaches of the above County League rules may be referred to the County Executive Committee, who shall be authorised to impose a maximum £20 fine on the offending club or team or any other penalty as deemed appropriate.