WHITCHURCH & DISTRICT BOWLING LEAGUE

COMPETITION RULES 2025

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1. Annual Competitions

The following competitions shall be promoted annually by the League Council:

(a) League Inter-Club Competition.
(b) Singles Competition.
(c) Novice Singles Competition.
(d) Over 60's Singles Competition.
(e) Pairs Competition.
(f) Triples Competition.
(g) Brookhouse Cup Competition.
(h) Mixed pairs Competition.
(i) Aussie Pairs Competition.
(j) Fantastic Fives Competition.

Together with any further competitions that may be deemed necessary by the League Council

2. Registration of Players

a. Each club shall keep a register of bowlers for each team that is entered in the league.

b. Any player may be used as a substitute in another team from the same club when a team is depleted due to illness, holiday, injury etc at any time during the season irrespective of how many times they have played for their registered team.

c. The maximum number of substitutions allowed per team on any one occasion is three.

3. League Inter-Club Competition

a. Each triples team shall consist of 3 rinks of 3 players each.
b. The game shall be played over 18 ends.
c. Points shall be awarded as follows:
   - Two point for the winning team on each rink.
   - One additional points for the side with the higher aggregate.
   - In the event of a tie on any rink, or on aggregate, the point(s) appertaining to that tie shall be equally divided.

d. The winners of each league shall be awarded to the team with the highest points score at the end of the season. In the event of a tie, the winner shall be the team having the best average of shots, for and against.

e. In the event of more than ten teams wishing to enter the Inter-Club Competition the teams shall be placed into two or more divisions with as near as possible an equal number of teams in each division and no division containing more than 10 teams. Should an unequal number of teams wish to enter the League, the lower division(s) shall include the extra team. The teams in each division to play each other on a home and away basis. The League shall be run on a divisional

basis with two teams promoted and two teams relegated annually, unless there is an imbalance due to teams dropping out or new teams entering the league. When the league is depleted, 3 teams may be relegated from the higher divisions and when the league expands only 1 team may be relegated from the higher divisions but at all times two teams shall be promoted.

f. Games shall be played on the Wednesday stipulated in the fixture list approved by the League Council at the commencement of the season.

g. Fixtures may be postponed other than for adverse weather conditions, greens being unplayable or unavailable due to National or County team matches and Club Bowls Tours (which should be notified to the League Secretary by 1st Jan in the relevant season). One further match per season may be postponed due to a shortage of available players caused by a fixture clash with a fixed date round of a national or county knock-out competition. No subsequent matches maybe postponed due to a shortage of players although rule 3(j) paragraph 2 (the 6 player rule) maybe applied. In any event the League Secretary must be informed within 3 days of any change. Should an away team cancel a match on the day it is to be played, they must recompense the home team for any 'out-of-pocket expenses' upon receipt of the necessary invoices.

If a match or rink(s) needs to be abandoned due to weather conditions or any other circumstances, then providing 9 ends have been played by each triple, the result shall be as at the time of abandonment. If less than 9 ends have been played, then the match shall be replayed. In the case of a rink having to be abandoned due to medical reasons when less than 5 ends have been played, then a reserve may be used to complete the match.

In the event of the fore-going situation of less than 9 ends having been played, arising at the end of the season, the teams may mutually agree to share the points providing no relegation, promotion or championship issues are involved for the clubs (not teams) involved. The League Council reserves the right to order a match to be replayed if they consider such issues are involved.

Postponed or abandoned games under this rule must be played before the last League fixture of the season, except the last two games, which must be played within 14 days of the last planned fixture. The home team must offer three dates for the games to be played under this rule and notify the League Secretary of the date the game is to be played. Failure to play a match before the abovementioned period, the non-defaulting team will receive seven points as consolation for the loss of the match. When two teams from the same club are involved, the match must be replayed.

h. All fixtures shall commence at 6.15 p.m. There should be no trial ends and one shot only to count on the first two ends. Should the light be acceptable to both captains, or floodlights being available, trial ends may be played rather than the one-shot rule. In all cases, the toss of a coin shall decide who starts the game (i.e. choice of mat) and subsequent ends shall go to the winners of the previous end.

i. A maximum of 15 minutes waiting time will be allowed for the late arrival of a team or player. After this time the match may be played in accordance with rule 3j.

j. If within a period of 15 minutes from the time fixed for the game a single player is absent from one or more teams in a side game of 3 players in each rink, the game shall proceed but when playing against a pair, the triple lead will put up the first wood every end before normal order of play. The winners of the coin toss at the start of the game and the winners of the previous end shall cast the jack. The pair will play with 4 woods each and will lose 25% (raised to the next whole number) of their final score. The triple shall remain with 3 woods each. The team winning the end shall cast the jack on the next end.

   The defaulting team if away shall recompense the home team for food if requested. In the event that a team knows in advance that cannot field 9 players on a match night and can give their opponents a minimum of 24 hours' notice they may play with 2 rinks only and forfeit 3 points and play with 6 players as above. This concession may only be used twice in any one season.

k. Result of final scores and points to be forwarded to the Fixtures and Results Secretary by the home team, by electronic means as soon as practical after completion of the match.
   Results will be accepted using the a score card, or a scan/photocopy of the scorecard, by email or a photograph of the scorecard sent by email or mobile phone.

   Results/League tables will then usually be issued by noon on the Friday following the matches.

l. The League Championship Trophy, Divisional Winners Trophies, and competition winners' trophies shall be presented during the 'Presidents Presentation match', at the League Presidents Club, at a date to be advised at the start of the season. This match is usually two weeks after the last matches have been played to allow enough time for trophy engraving.

m. Bowls England rules apply to all eventualities not specifically mentioned in the Whitchurch and District Bowling League Competition Rules.

4.Singles, Pairs and Triples Competitions

a. Each player competing must be a member of a club that is a member of the Whitchurch and District Bowling League and must enter from the club he or she are representing in the League. Initial entries shall include all competitor's names or, where the competitors have not finalised their entry in a Pairs or Triples entry, ANO may be used in the initial round for other than the first named player. Following submittal of the first score card for the initial round of a competition, that team shall then be the nominated entered team. In addition, participation in Novice Singles Competition shall be restricted to bowlers with less than 3 years' experience in any bowls match format including indoors and crown green and who have not previously won this competition.

b. The entrance fee shall be decided by the League Council.

c. Game formats shall consist of:

- Singles - Each game shall be played to 21 shots, each player delivering four bowls.
- Pairs - Each game shall consist of 18 ends, each player delivering four bowls.
- Aussie Pairs - Each game shall consist of 18 ends, each player delivering four bowls
- Triples - Each game shall consist of 18 ends, each player delivering three bowls.

In the event of a draw in pairs and triples games, an extra end shall be played. A coin toss shall be used to select who as the option to select the mat for the deciding end.

d. The draw for the competitions shall be made by the League Council or their representatives. All games must be completed within the time allotted by the League Council and the result forwarded to the Competition Secretary not later than midday on the day following the closing date of the round otherwise, both teams may be disqualified, this will be adhered to strictly.

e. The first named player/s in each tie shall be the challenger and be responsible for all match arrangements. The challenger must offer his opponent at least three dates including one weekend day, not all in the same week or on Wednesday League nights within 5 days of the publication of the round. If no challenge has been made from either Challengers within 10 days, both will be eliminated from the competition. The opponent must accept one of the dates offered within three days or concede the tie. The challenger will make all match arrangements. The Challenger to provide one rink, that is in a playable condition and fit for play. Opponents are not allowed to request an alternative rink.
The time for commencing a tie shall be mutually agreed but no player/s shall be compelled to accept a time earlier than 6.00 p.m. on Mondays to Fridays or 10.00 a.m. on Saturdays or Sundays, nor after 6.30 p.m. on any day.
Afternoon matches are allowed by mutual consent.
In the event of the opponent not receiving a challenge within 5 days of the publication of the round, he/she will assume the role of the challenger and offer the opponent three dates, including one weekend day but not a Wednesday League night. The opponent then must accept one of the three dates offered or concede the tie. The challenger (formally the Opponent) will make all match arrangements i.e. their home green rink booking, marker where necessary.
No alteration of an accepted date shall be made unless mutually agreed upon. Failing such an agreement, the player desiring such alteration must play on the accepted date or give his opponent a 'walk over'.
If no challenge has been made from either Challengers within 10 days, both will be eliminated from competition.
The start date for all competitions is the last Wednesday in April, so all challenges for preliminary/first round ties made before the start of the competition must be within 5 days of that date.

f. No time extensions to competition closing dates shall be granted unless under exceptional circumstances. This will be managed and adhered to strictly by the competition secretary. If a match has not been completed by the closing date of that round, the competition secretary will disqualify offending competitors and award a walkover to the next round opponents.

g. Semi-Final rounds shall be played on a green, mutually agreed upon by the players concerned. Once agreed the challenger should approach the host club for availability. A rink fee charge is allowable by the host club.
When a Finals day has been arranged, it will be held at the Whitchurch DBL Presidents club if available. If no Finals Day arrangements the Finals will be played on a neutral venue with agreement by the finalists.

h. Substitutes are allowed in pairs and triples competitions after the first round providing, they have not previously played or been part of any team in the competition. They may play in any position, however if a substitution is made after a match has commenced, due to illness, then the substitute may not play as skip.

i. All competitors must be available for Finals Day if arranged, if they are not, they must not enter competitions or if during the competitions, competitors become aware of not being available they must withdraw immediately.

j. The Competition Secretary has the deciding say in all disputes and this will be adhered to by all competitors.

5. Brookhouse Cup Competition

a. Two nominated players from each affiliated club shall take part. Where possible the representative should be the current Club Men's and/or Ladies Singles Champion or both.

b. The competition shall be played as a knock-out singles competition throughout the normal playing season, each round being played as one game of 21 shots.

6. Fantastic Fives Competition

a. "Fantastic 5s". (12 ends) of Singles and (8 ends) of Fours are played simultaneously; followed by (10 ends) of 3 Wood Pairs and (10 ends) of 2 Wood Triples. 2 points for a win 1 point for a draw in each discipline.
b. Entry per team is set at equivalent to 5 single entry fees.
c. First round games will start in late May or early June to allow National and County games to proceed.
d. WDBL competition rule 4e details the offering of game dates. i.e.
'The first named player/s in each tie shall be the challenger and be responsible for all match arrangements. The challenger must offer his opponent at least three dates including one weekend day, not all in the same week or on Wednesday League nights, within 5 days of the publication of the round.'
e. Teams can comprise of any number of Club Members, from which 5 will be selected to play each round, teams must be mixed, two of one gender and three of another. Pairs and Triples can be played by a one gender or a mixed gender team, it is down to the Team Captain to decide who plays in which discipline.
f. Clubs are permitted unlimited entries, but Team Members are not allowed to move between teams.
g. Entries shall detail/nominate a Team Captain for each team who will be the point of contact for match arrangements.
h. If a team cannot fulfil their fixture or fails to provide a team of 5 Team Members as above, the match will result in a walk over to the opposing team.
i. The failure of a Team Member/s to appear after a maximum waiting period of 30 minutes (except in exceptional circumstances) from the time fixed for the start of the game, shall cause the Team to forfeit the whole game to the opponent.
j. Teams for each discipline to be named before the start of the game.

k. If during the course of a game a Team Member has to leave the green owing to illness or other reasonable course their place maybe filled by a substitute (as per Law 33 World Bowls Crystal Mark Laws of the Sport of Bowls Third Edition).
l. The home Team Captain shall offer the two rinks to the opposing Team Captain who shall nominate the rinks to be used by marking the reverse of the team score cards.
m. The Team Captains shall toss a coin to decide which team has control of the mat in all disciplines.
n. There shall be no trial ends and one shot only to count on the first two ends. Should the light be acceptable to both captains, or floodlights being available, trial ends may be played rather than the one-shot rule.
o. Only one visit to the head per team per end. If the third is up in the fours or the second in the triples that is the one visit. No Team Member may follow their bowl up to the head except in the normal course of changing ends. This will allow to conclude within an evening's daylight hours.
p. If, at the end of all disciplines being played, it results in a draw on points (see rule 6a above). The Triples discipline shall play a deciding end. A coin toss shall be used to select who as the option to select the mat for the deciding end.
q. On completion of the game, score cards shall be signed by both teams and emailed to the Competitions Secretary. Score cards shall clearly show the full name of each player.

7. League Representative Games

These games shall be open to all members of the Whitchurch and District Bowling League. The League Match Secretary shall advise all clubs at the beginning of the season, with dates when each club will be expected to provide a rink.

Dated: December 2025