



North Yorkshire Bowls League

Rules and Constitution

Updated at the 2017 A.G.M.

1. The League shall be called the 'North Yorkshire Bowls League'.
2. **AFFILIATION.**
The League shall be affiliated to Bowls England and subject to its laws.
3. **OBJECTS.**
The objects of the League shall be:
 - a) to promote, foster and safeguard the amateur flat green game of bowls;
 - b) to hold League matches according to the fixture chart;
 - c) to hold League Championships annually in single-handed, pairs, triples and fours competitions, and any other competitions constitutionally agreed to by any Annual or Special General Meeting;
 - d) to interpret, when called upon by Affiliated Clubs or members thereof, difficult or doubtful questions of law and practice, and arbitrate in all differences referred to the League between and among Affiliated Clubs;
 - e) to exercise its duty of care to protect all persons less than 18 years of age and vulnerable adults involved in League organised activities.
4. **MEMBERSHIP.**
 - a) Membership of the League shall be open to all Clubs in North Yorkshire that play the flat green game, either on private greens, on greens attached to public premises, or on other public greens; provided that such clubs use a green at least 40 yards square with ditches and banks, except that the absence of banks shall not in itself preclude any Club from membership. The Management Committee may authorise a modification of the normal requirements in special cases and subject to appropriate conditions.
 - b) In the event of a green being declared unfit for play either before the commencement of, or during a season, the Club affected may, with the approval of the Management Committee, be allowed to play on any green of their choice provided that the green so chosen conforms to this Rule.
 - c) Applications for membership must be made to the Honorary Secretary of the League and should be accompanied by a list of office bearers of the Club, the address of the Honorary Secretary and the location of the green.
 - d) Clubs proposing to join the League must either be affiliated to the Yorkshire Bowling Association (from here on referred to as the Y.B.A.) or be prepared to affiliate on acceptance.
A Club affiliated to the Y.B.A. but not accepted by the League may become affiliated to the League for a nominal fee of £5 to retain the membership proposal on the table. During this period of affiliation to the League and providing that a Club is eligible to play Y.B.A. competitions on its own green, then such a Club will be able to enter League competitions and play rounds both Home and Away.
If this provision does not apply, the Club will be able to enter League competitions but will play all rounds away from home on greens which are accepted by the Y.B.A. until such times as it fulfils the previously stated Y.B.A. competitions requirement.
The approval or otherwise of applications shall be at the discretion of the Annual General Meeting of the League (from here on referred to as the A.G.M.) after considering the recommendations of the Management Committee.
 - e) Clubs playing on municipal or other public greens must have permission from the appropriate Authority allowing them the use of a rink or rinks for competitive matches.
Clubs already affiliated to the League or Clubs intending to apply for affiliation to the League who propose to be playing on municipal or other public greens upon which another affiliated Club is currently playing, shall not be affiliated to the League until such other Club has been informed of the application and has not, in the opinion of the League, offered any bona fide objection to the affiliation.
 - f) Life Members of the League may be elected at the A.G.M. in recognition of outstanding service to the League provided that there shall not be more than ten (10) such members at one time. Written nominations for Life Membership shall be submitted to the Honorary Secretary not less than twenty eight (28) days before the next A.G.M. The Management Committee shall consider these nominations and make recommendations to the A.G.M.
 - g) There shall be no age limit, either for League matches or Competitions.

5. SUBSCRIPTIONS.

All Clubs affiliated to the League shall pay an annual subscription, which shall be fixed by the A.G.M. The annual subscription shall be paid not later than 1st April of the following year. Any Club failing to pay the subscription by the due date shall forfeit all rights and privileges of membership until the whole of the arrears owing by them have been discharged. In this event the Management Committee may take such disciplinary action as it considers necessary.

Any Club desiring to withdraw from membership of the League shall give notice in writing to the Honorary Secretary.

6. GENERAL MEETINGS.

a) Annual General Meetings. (Referred to in the rules as A.G.M.)

The A.G.M. of the League shall be held in December (or at such other time as the Management Committee may fix if in its opinion special circumstances warrant such a change) at a place to be determined by the Management Committee for the appointment of Officers and for the transaction of such other business as may be properly done at an A.G.M.

b) Special General Meeting.

A Special General Meeting of the League may called;

1. at any time on the instructions of the Management Committee.

2. on receipt of a request to the Honorary Secretary from an affiliated Club, signed by the Office holders of that Club and supported in writing and signed by the Office holders of at least seven (7) other affiliated Clubs. Such a meeting must convene within six (6) weeks of the Honorary Secretary's receipt of the request.

c) A proposal intended for inclusion in the agenda of an A.G.M. must be submitted in writing to the Honorary Secretary not less than six (6) weeks before the date of the meeting. Changes to the Constitution and Rules may only be made at an A.G.M.

d) At least twenty one (21) days before an A.G.M. a notice to attend the meeting, specifying the business to be transacted thereat and signed by the Honorary Secretary shall be sent to every Club, and to all other persons entitled to be present; provided that want of service of the notice in any case shall not affect the validity of the meeting.

7. ATTENDANCE AND VOTING PROCEDURES AT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS.

a) Each affiliated Club shall appoint one (1) Voting Representative to attend and speak and cast one (1) vote as directed by his Club.

b) A Management Committee member may attend and speak in the capacity and cast one (1) vote only, no matter that he hold more than one (1) position on the Committee. He shall not also act as his Club's Voting Representative.

c) Life Members and the three immediate Past Presidents may, providing they are not present as a Voting Representative or a Management Committee member, attend, speak and cast one (1) vote.

d) Any member of an affiliated Club who is not represented in the above categories may attend and speak but not vote.

e) A proposal to change the Rules and Constitution will require a two thirds majority to be carried. Any other proposal will require a simple majority.

f) Voting shall be by show of hands unless the Meeting determines otherwise.

8. ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

a) At each A.G.M. there shall be elected such Officers as may then be determined including a) a President; b) a Senior Vice-President; c) a Junior Vice-President; d) an Honorary Secretary; e) an Honorary Treasurer; f) an Honorary Assistant Secretary.

The offices of Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer may be held by the same person if so determined.

b) If a vacancy occurs prior to the next A.G.M. in any of the offices foresaid, the Management Committee shall have the power to fill such a vacancy and the person so appointed shall hold office until the next A.G.M. or Special General Meeting convened and held for the purpose of filling the vacancy.

9. MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE. (Referred to as the 'Committee')

a) The Committee shall comprise:-

Officers of the League, and six members elected by the affiliated Clubs.

b) The Committee shall, subject to these rules, be responsible for the general control and management of the affairs of the League and shall have the power to appoint sub-committees for such purposes and with such powers as they may from time to time determine. It may make suggestions on planning and policy.

c) It shall be responsible for all administration of the Team Tournament in accordance with the rules agreed (by simple majority) at the A.G.M. and appoint a Secretary for the competition. It may also make

recommendations on changes in or additions to League Rules and Competitions.

d) **Disputes or interpretation of Rules.**

The Committee shall initially adjudicate on any dispute whether arising from or in connection with League fixtures or Competitions, clarification of Rules or any other matters requiring early or immediate decision. However, excepting those occasions when the Committee's decision is challenged under Rule 12, a Club in membership or an individual from such a club, and a party to such adjudication may, providing written notice is given to the Secretary within 21 days of advice of the decision, appeal against the Committee's findings. The dispute shall then be referred to the Appeals Committee whose judgement shall be final.

e) **Voting.**

The President shall have only a casting vote. All other members shall have only one vote even though they may hold a plurality of positions. A simple majority shall carry any proposal.

10. APPEALS COMMITTEE.

The Committee shall comprise three members who shall be chosen from amongst the current Life Members and the three most recent Past Presidents by the Honorary Secretary as the occasion demands.

The Appeals Committee shall;

- 1) Deal with appeals against Management Committee decisions and with other matters which have been referred to them regarding the Constitution and Rules, Bowls regulations, and disputes which cannot be resolved by the Management Committee.
- 2) Have the authority to call witnesses and acquire such documents as may be necessary.
- 3) Maintain their minutes of meetings.

11. QUORUM.

The quorum for the transaction of business shall be.

General Meetings – ten (10) clubs in membership.

Management Committee and Sub-Committees – At least 50% of Committee members,

Appeals Committee – all three (3) members.

12. SEVERANCE OF MEMBERSHIP.

Upon any breach of these Rules, it shall be competent for the Management Committee after due investigation of the facts and, if need be, the examination of witnesses and relevant documentary evidence, to suspend or determine the membership of any Club. But such Club shall have a right of appeal to the A.G.M. or a Special General Meeting convened for that purpose, against an adverse decision, provided that the appeal, signed by the office bearers of the Club and stating the ground or grounds upon which it is made, is lodged with the Honorary Secretary of the League within twenty one (21) days of the Committee's decision.

13. DUTIES OF HONORARY SECRETARY AND HONORARY TREASURER.

- a) The Honorary Secretary shall keep a record of all business transacted at all General Meetings and at all meetings of the Management Committee and at any other Committee or Sub-Committee that may be appointed other than the Appeals Committee and shall submit to the A.G.M. a report of the proceedings of the League since the previous A.G.M.
- b) The financial year of the League shall commence on the 1st December. The funds of the League shall be deposited at a bank approved by the Management Committee. All authorities to withdraw shall be signed by any two (2) of the following: The Honorary Treasurer, the Honorary Secretary, the President, the Senior Vice-President or the Honorary Assistant Secretary.

14. CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

The League fully accepts its legal and moral obligations to exercise its duty of care and to protect all children and vulnerable adults participating in its activities, and to safeguard their welfare. It is committed to doing this by acknowledging that:

- The welfare of the child is paramount.
- Each child/vulnerable adult has the right to protection from abuse.
- Each child/vulnerable adult has the right to be safe, and to be treated with respect and dignity.

It shall use its best endeavours to ensure that:

- All allegations of abuse are taken seriously.
- The response to them is swift and appropriate.
- Its policies shall be reviewed regularly.
- A Child Protection Officer to whom members can address any concerns is appointed.



North Yorkshire Bowls League

Rules of match play

Updated at 2017 A.G.M.

(Items 15 and 16 governed by Constitution and changed only at Annual General Meetings)

LEAGUE MATCHES

Item 15 of rules and constitution

- (a) All League matches shall be played by teams consisting of four rinks of four players on each side, each playing two bowls and called respectively: first or lead, second player, third player and skip. There will be no trial ends. One shot only to be scored on the first two ends.
- (b) All League matches shall start at 6.30pm and consist of 21 ends except for April, August and September games which will start at 6pm. If time or weather conditions render this impracticable the number of ends to be played shall be agreed by the respective captains before play commences, or in default of agreement by the toss of a coin. Once play has commenced, however, and the number of ends so determined cannot be played for any reason whatsoever the winners shall be team with the highest total score when play ceases, irrespective of the number of ends played provided that in no case shall the duration of a game be less than fifteen (15) ends and that any decision to end play before the requisite number of ends (15) have been played shall be the subject of agreement between the respective captains.
- (c) When a match has to be abandoned because of the conditions prevailing and the requisite number of ends (15) have not been completed then the match shall be replayed in its entirety, with both teams being able to select its team from all available members.
- (d) If a club fails to put its full team on the green within 15 minutes of the start time the game shall be allowed to proceed, by the first and second players in the incomplete four or fours each being allowed on extra bowl per end. At the conclusion of the game 25% of the score of the incomplete four or fours shall be deducted.
- (e) It shall be the duty of the Club Secretaries to retain signed rink score cards until the completion of the League season and these should be available for scrutiny in the event of any dispute in match results
- (f) For the deciding of the League Championship, points shall be awarded as follows:-
Four points to the winning team, in the event of a tie two points to each team.
Plus one point per winning rink to each team and half a point each per rink draw.
This gives total score of eight points per game.
In the event of two or more teams tying for any position in a League table, shots aggregate (shots for divided by shots against) will decide relative positions. If positions still not resolved, then the result of the matches between the teams shall be the decider.
- (g) All players shall wear either white shirts or their Club's coloured shirts (provided that all players are dressed alike) in all League and competition matches.

Item 16 of rules and constitution

DISPUTES; NON-FULFILMENT OF FIXTURES

- (a) Any dispute concerning the non-fulfilment of League Fixtures shall be referred to the Management Committee whose decision thereon shall be final.
- (b) All League matches to be played on the date shown on the fixture list, unless due to ground or weather conditions they are called off at the time of playing by mutual agreement of both captains or by the greenkeeper. If a match is postponed owing to a shortage of players, then there shall be a deduction of 4 points to the club postponing the match and it then must be re-arranged within 14 days of the original fixture date. If the match is not played within allotted 14 days, then the opposing team may claim all 8 points
- (c) Any match postponed because of inclement weather must be played within 28 days. The onus of making arrangements is with the home club who shall offer at least three possible dates to their opposition, the last to be not later than 14 days of the last League match fixture date.

- (d) The Management Committee shall have plenary powers to impose penalties and award points to the injured parties, as deemed fit. In addition to the foregoing and subject to the right of appeal provided by rule 12, the Management Committee shall also have power to expel from membership of the League any Club persistently failing to fulfil its fixtures.

RULES OF COMPETITIONS (governed by A.G.M. and other official meetings)

1. ELIGIBILITY

- (a) The Competitions shall be confined to members of such Clubs as are in membership and have paid their subscription for the current year. A player shall not represent or allow his name to be submitted for more than one Club in any one year in the League Competitions.
- (b) A named player changing Clubs between seasons shall retain his named entry to play from his new Club if the League Secretary is informed before May. He loses named rinks entries at his old Club; these entries may be played with a new named player if the League Secretary is informed before May. He may join rinks in other names at his new Club. Rinks entered in his name at his previous Club may remain in the Competition providing that they supply the Competition Secretary with new contact names before May of the Competition year.

2. RULES AND CONDITIONS

Every Competition shall be played under the rules of Bowls England and shall be controlled by the Management Committee.

3. ENTRANCE FEES

The entrance fees for all Competitions held under the auspices of the League shall be determined at each A.G.M.

4. PRIZES

The prizes, if any, to be awarded to the winners and runners up in each Competition shall be determined at each A.G.M.

5. COMPETITIONS

- (a) Single-handed Competition. The game shall consist of twenty one points, four bowls each player
- (b) Pairs Competition. The game shall consist of twenty-one ends, four bowls each player. In the event of a tie, an extra end must be played, the points in this end to count in the final score.
- (c) Triples Competition. The game shall consist of eighteen ends, three players on each side and three bowls each player. In the event of a tie an extra end must be played, the points in this end to count in the final score.
- (d) Fours Competition. The game shall consist of twenty -one ends, four players on each side and two bowls each player. In the event of a tie, an extra end must be played, the points in this end to count in the final score.

6. STAGES OF COMPETITION

All entries in all Competitions shall be drawn together and played off in rounds according to the draw.

7. ANNOUNCEMENT OF DRAW

The result of the draws shall be communicated to Club Secretaries as soon as practicable.

8. PERIODS OF ROUNDS

The dates on which the various rounds must be played will be clearly stated in the draw in each case. These dates must be strictly adhered to unless allowed for in Rule 9.

9. CHALLENGER AND OPPONENT - THEIR DUTIES

- (a) The first drawn of each singles, pairs, triples and fours shall be termed 'the Challenger' and the second 'the Opponent'.
- (b) The rounds may be played before the date shown by mutual agreement. If this agreement is not forthcoming, the round must be played on the date shown or the match forfeited by the defaulter. Rounds not played because of inclement weather must be played during the following weekend. Named competitors whose teams do not appear for their rounds in open League competitions, and who have made no valid representations for their apparent lack of courtesy which are acceptable to the Management Committee, shall be banned from all open League competitions the following year
- (c) The Challenger in singles must provide a marker or forfeit the game
- (d) Nominal starting time for rounds is 6.30pm.
Competitors should, however, realise that as the Competition progresses the time should get

progressively earlier. The Challenger should contact the Opponent to suggest a starting time. If a party arrives more than half an hour after the time fixed for the tie, the other party may claim 'a walk-over'. Any postponement because of weather should be communicated to the Competitions Secretary by personal contact or phone immediately. Such contact should be confirmed in writing to furnish evidence in the event of a dispute.

- (e) The ties in all rounds of the Competitions up to the finals shall be played on the green of the Challenger, the finals on the green nominated by the President.
- (f) Where a green is not in a reasonable playable condition the Opponent shall have the right of playing on his own green on appeal to the Honorary Secretary or other designated Officer, whose decision shall be final. Should neither green be in a reasonable condition, then the Honorary Secretary or other designated Officer shall fix a neutral green for the tie to be played.
- (g) All participants in Competition finals must be played in whites but their Club's coloured shirts may be worn provided that all players of that pair triple or four are dressed alike.
In the event of a clash between a League final and a National final, the League final should be played before the scheduled date: this date is to be with the agreement of the Competition Secretary.

10 NOTIFICATION OF RESULTS

The results of all ties in all Competitions shall be submitted to the Honorary Secretary or other designated Officer immediately after the ties are played. The onus on making such returns rests with the winners.

All score cards must be signed by the loser before being submitted to the Honorary Secretary or other designated Officer.

DOUGLASS CUP (most improved team trophy)

This is decided by the number of points Clubs gain over the previous season. In the event of a tie, the most improved League position of the tied Clubs will be the next decider and if not decided by these positions the final decider will be the result of the match between the teams.

CHAMPION OF CHAMPION TROPHIES

Two players from each Club, four bowls each player, thirteen ends each round except semi-finals and final which should be 15 ends, time and weather permitting over one day.

The winner and runner-up of the previous year be included in the draw as two extra players in their own right.

Named competitors in the Champion of Champions who do not notify their opponents and the League Secretary that they will not be present for the Competition shall be excluded from the event the following year.