

CLEVELAND BOWLS

LEAGUE FOUNDED 1921

LEAGUE RULES



Updated following AGM – 15 November 2023

1. This amalgamation of clubs shall be called the **Cleveland Bowls League** and shall consist of clubs in the Cleveland district. **There is no Constitution for the League, only these set of League Rules.**
2. General Meetings may be held when necessary. The Annual General Meeting (AGM) shall be held during November, when the President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer for the year shall be elected. With the AGM being held in November each year, any proposals should be received to the Secretary **by 30th September**. This will then allow Clubs to get a copy of them all and discuss ready for their AGMs or Committee Meetings that may be held in October.
3. The President shall have the casting vote. The three other Officers elected at the AGM, together with other representatives from various clubs shall constitute a Management Committee to manage the League business. This Committee shall therefore consist of at least **seven** people in addition to the President, with a quorum for a meeting consisting of at least 5 people.
4. The Secretary shall convene Committee Meetings at any time it is deemed necessary. The Committee shall have the power to deal with any offending Club(s) or Player(s) as it thinks fit and shall also have the power to deal with all matters arising out of competitions connected with the League not provided in the rules.
5. An entrance fee of £10.00 shall be paid by a Club on admission to the League. The Annual subscription payable by each Club shall then be **£10.00 for the Evening League** and **£10.00 for the Afternoon League**, payable preferably by BACS on line or at the pre-season meeting.
6. For the League Championship, match points shall be awarded as follows:
 - 2 points for each rink win
 - 1 point for each rink draw
 - 2 points for the long game
 - 1 point for each team for the long game being drawn
7. Clubs to play home and away matches.

8. In the case of a tie for the top position involving two or more clubs, the team with the higher shot difference will win.

9. EVENING LEAGUE

- **Evening League is played on Tuesday and Friday**, and shall consist of 4 rinks of 3 players with **3 Woods** (with teams being Men, Ladies or Mixed)

All leagues shall be **one shot on the first 2 ends** (No practice), a centered jack, no touchers and **18 ends**. No recognized dead ends - other than driving the **jack** over the rink boundary, these ends are to be replayed. A jack driven in to the ditch and remaining within the rink boundary shall remain **“live”** in position for the rest of the end and be played to.

The lead player in the first and each subsequent end shall place the Mat on the Centre line of the rink with the front end in a position between **2 metres and 6 metres** forward of the rear edge of the rink.

The lead Player of the team which is first to play shall bowl the jack from the mat.

If the jack travels in to the ditch, stops outside the boundary of the rink, or is less than **23 metres** from the front end of the mat after being straightened, then the opposing side shall bowl the jack anew. But, **shall not** bowl first.

After both teams have attempted to cast the jack, the jack will be placed on the spot 2 metres from the edge of the ditch.

If any rink or rinks field only 2 players, then the both players will play 4 woods. In this situation, when playing against a 2-man team who are bowling with 4 woods each, **the skip of the three-man team may decide which one of his team only bowl with 2 woods with the other two players bowling 3 woods each. The skip does not have to be the player with the 2 woods.**

Thereby each team will deliver a total of **8 woods** on an end but the team with only 2 players shall forfeit **25%** of their score at the **end** of the match (from the time they played as only 2 players).

10. Players may play for two different clubs in a season (one in the afternoon league and another different team in the evening league) but no player is to play for more than one team in any league in that one season.

11. AFTERNOON LEAGUE:

- Afternoon League (Played on Monday and Wednesday) – shall consist of 2 rinks of 3 players with **3 Woods** played over **18 ends**. Team entries are open to members of Clubs affiliated to the Cleveland Bowls League.

- Entries for the Afternoon League are **ONE team per Club**. However, if a Club also has a team entered in the Evening League, they will then be permitted to enter another (second) Afternoon team, limited to a maximum of 2 teams per club.
- Each team shall consist of 6 players, comprising of 2 rinks of 3 players (Men, Ladies or Mixed). Rinks must compete with 3 players, each bowling 3 woods. If a rink fields only two players, that rink shall revert to Cleveland Bowls League Rule 9. ie. 2 players play 3 woods each, but in this case shall forfeit **a third** of its shot score.
- Matches will be on a home and away basis, played as afternoon games.
- Games will be played **over 18 ends**. Match points shall be as follows:
 - 2 points for each rink win
 - 1 point for each rink draw
 - 2 points for the long game
 - 1 point for each team for the long game being drawn
- With the above exceptions, Cleveland Bowl League rules apply.

12. **ALL LEAGUES**

- All games shall be played as arranged on the fixture list. If by reason of weather a fixture is not completed but 15 ends have been played, the score at 15 ends on all rinks shall constitute a game. If **15 ends** have not been completed, then the match shall be classed as 'void' and replayed.
- Any match which by reason of Bad weather, Ground condition or other serious problems, cannot be played on the date fixed, it should be re-arranged, with both teams making every effort to re-arrange the game **as soon as possible** and it not be left until the end of the Season.
- If a team fails to re-arrange the game by the end of the season, the opponents will receive an average for the date of the cancelled game.

13. **POSTPONED GAMES:** – Both teams **must** notify the Fixtures Secretary of the postponement through the Cleveland League website. If the Fixtures Secretary is not advised of a postponed match within 7 days of the scheduled fixture date, then the team will incur a **3-point** penalty and will be considered to have failed to play the match.

Cleveland League Website: **bit.ly/clev2024**

Any disputes relating to postponed matches must be submitted in writing/email to the Fixtures Secretary, who will review the matter in consultation with the Committee.

14. Customary Dress for all Cleveland League games and Competitions is **grey** below the waist, with predominantly white above the waist or coloured Club team shirts may be worn provided these are identical and worn by **ALL** Members of the team. Ladies may wear either grey skirts or grey trousers/shorts.
15. A match result card is to be completed by each team and signed by both captains.
 - Rink score cards are to be filled in by the **2nd** Wood in each rink or if they are unable to do so, by a mutually agreed player by the skips.
 - To avoid delay, return match results should be added by **both teams**, to the Cleveland League website by the **SATURDAY** evening following that weeks' Mon – Fri games (so League tables can be updated as soon as possible).

Website link: **bit.ly/clev2024**

Any query or dispute arising in relation to Cleveland League games and not covered by Cleveland League Rules, shall, if possible, be dealt with and settled by skips / team captains. Otherwise, guidance should be sought by reference to Bowls England – Domestic Regulations.

16. **POLITE REMINDER**: Players are advised they should **NOT** travel to clubs in their bowling shoes, but should change into them once they are in the clubs changing room. This is to avoid contamination and damage to the bowling green.
17. **VOTING** - At the Annual General Meeting (AGM), any voting that is required specifically, regarding the Afternoon or Evening League, can **only be made** by those **Clubs** (*not teams*) who have participated in that league ie Clubs who only play in the Afternoon League **cannot vote** on Evening League proposals and vice versa. (If a Club has 2 teams in a league, they get **ONE vote as a Club**)
18. No alterations shall be made to these Cleveland League Rules except via agreement from an Annual General Meeting.
19. **A Final Reminder** ... Any proposed alteration/proposal should be received by the Secretary **IN WRITING ONLY** no later than **30th September** before the **AGM to be held in November**.

Secretary: **clevelandleague.sec@gmail.com**