



**PORTSMOUTH AND DISTRICT BOWLING ASSOCIATION**

**Founded 1925**

**MIDWEEK TRIPLES LEAGUE RULES**

*(As Approved at the P&D 2026 AGM, held 29th January 2026*

*All Changes are in Red)*

## **Midweek Triples League Rules**

### **Revision Information**

<b>Approval Date</b>	<b>Amendments</b>
07/01/2014	The Following Amendments were Approved at the 2014 AGM: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Perennial Trophies no longer awarded, Plaques instead.</li> <li>• Clubs can now enter more than 2 teams.</li> </ul>
13/01/2015	The Following Amendments were Approved at the 2015 AGM: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clarification of the Penalty for playing a Non-Registered Player.</li> <li>• Clarification of when the Home Club should inform their Opponent that their green is Closed due to Adverse Weather.</li> <li>• Clarification that Electronic copies of score cards are acceptable.</li> <li>• Clarification that Both Legs of the Play Off Finals are to be played in Whites.</li> </ul>
10/01/2017	The Following Amendments were Approved at the 2017 AGM: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clarification on Postponing a game.</li> <li>• Clarification of when Midweek League Secretary MUST be Informed of the match result.</li> <li>• Clarification of when Midweek League Secretary MUST Receive Match Score Cards.</li> <li>• Clarification that the Names on BOTH sets of Score Cards are the same.</li> </ul>
09/01/2018	The Following Amendments were Approved at the 2018 AGM: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clarification that Scorecards have to be received within 4 Working Days.</li> <li>• Clarification on Players Attire and the Bowls they can use.</li> </ul>
16/01/2020	The Following Amendments were Approved at the 2020 AGM: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clarification on the use of Substitutes.</li> <li>• Clarification with regards to Abandoned Games.</li> </ul>
13/01/2022	The following amendments were made following the 2022 AGM: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The replacement of the Combination MWT League with extra Divisions in the District East &amp; West Leagues.</li> <li>• Clarification about when Clubs have to inform the MWT Secretary of a change to their Home Play Day.</li> <li>• Clarification on How &amp; When the Winners of the Town &amp; District Sections would be achieved.</li> <li>• Clarification on who would be receiving Trophies.</li> </ul>
26/01/2023	The Following Amendments were Approved at the 2023 AGM: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Shots awarded in the event of a Side NOT be able to field a Full Triple Decreased to 5 (instead of 10)</li> <li>• The Penalties for a Side Conceding a Game were amended.</li> </ul>
08/02/2024	The following amendment was approved at the 2024 AGM: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Change to Time Match Result had to be Reported</li> </ul>
30/01/2025	The Following Amendments were Approved at the 2025 AGM: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rule 3.1: Renaming of MWT Divisions</li> <li>• Rule 11.1: Reasons for Postponing a Game in Line with League Rules</li> <li>• Removing Old Rule 14 which covered Section Champions</li> <li>• Rule 15: Update on how Trophies are Awarded</li> </ul>
<b>29/01/2026</b>	<b>The Following Amendments were Approved at the 2026 AGM:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Rule 5.5 (Match Start Times) – Rewritten</b></li> <li>• <b>Rule 8.2 (Sides Arriving Short of Players) – Rewritten</b></li> <li>• <b>Rule 8.4 (Player Regulations) – Amended in Line with New P&amp;D Regulation on Player Dress Code</b></li> </ul>

### **Midweek Triples League Rules**

<b>Approval Date</b>	<b>Amendments</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Rule 8.5 (Player Substitution) – Amended to Cater for Player having Serious Medical Emergency</b></li><li>• <b>Rule 9 (Score Card Responsibilities) - No Need to Record End Time</b></li><li>• <b>Rule 10 (Adverse Weather) – Renamed as “Inclement Weather” and Amended to Include Extreme High Temperatures</b></li><li>• <b>Rule 12 (Match Results) Rewritten:</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ <b>Includes Use of new Match Result Pro-Forma</b></li><li>○ <b>Updated Responsibilities of Home &amp; Away Sides</b></li><li>○ <b>New Match Outcome Appeal Process</b></li></ul></li><li>• <b>New Rule 15 Added Covering Use of Groundsheets</b></li><li>• <b>New Rule 16 Added Covering Mid Game Breaks</b></li></ul>

## ***Midweek Triples League Rules***

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## ***Midweek Triples League Rules***

### **1 Midweek Triples (MWT) Management**

- 1.1 The Entire Control of the MWT shall be Vested in the Management Committee of the Portsmouth & District Bowling Association (P&D)
- 1.2 Entry to the MWT is Open to ALL Clubs Affiliated to the P&D

### **2 Joining or Withdrawing from MWT**

- 2.1 Applications to Enter the MWT MUST Be Forwarded to the P&D Secretary Not Later than the 31st October Each Season
- 2.2 Applications to Withdraw a Side MUST be Notified to the P&D Secretary at the Conclusion of the Current Season

### **3 MWT League Composition**

- 3.1 The MWT consists of following Leagues:
  - 3.1.1 City Blue & Red Divisions
  - 3.1.2 One (1) or More East Divisions
  - 3.1.3 One (1) or More West Divisions
- 3.2 For those Clubs who have Entered MORE than 1 Side in a MWT League, a Player is NOT Allowed to Play Skip in Different Sides
  - 3.2.1 **The Penalty** for Infringing this Rule is the **Deduction Of 6(Six) Points**

### **4 Divisional Composition**

No Division Shall Consist of More Than 10 Sides, Playing One "Home" or "Away" Afternoon Match Per Week, throughout the Bowling Season

### **5 MWT Fixtures**

- 5.1 Competing Clubs MUST Nominate their Day (or Days) of the Week, for the playing of Home Fixtures, which can be any WeekDay Excluding Friday
- 5.2 Any Club Wishing to Alter their Nominated Day(s) for the Following Season MUST Inform the Relevant MWT League Secretary by 1st December of Current Season
- 5.3 Fixtures will be Arranged by the Relevant MWT League Secretary
- 5.4 Each Match will Consist of 18 Ends and, as per P & D League Rules, Reciprocal Green Fee Arrangements MUST Be Approved

## **Midweek Triples League Rules**

### **5.5 Match Start Times**

#### **5.5.1 City League**

##### **5.5.1.1 Match Start Time is 2pm**

##### **5.5.1.2 By Mutual Consent, Sides Can Agree to Start Earlier**

#### **5.5.2 East & West Leagues**

##### **5.5.2.1 Match Start Time is 1pm**

##### **5.5.2.2 By Mutual Consent, Sides Can Agree to Start Earlier or No Later than 2pm**

##### **5.5.2.3 If No Consent Has Been Asked For or Agreed To, then if a Side Arrives for the Game at the Default Start Time for their League (i.e. 2pm for City MWT; 1pm for East & West MWT) and their Opponent Has Not Arrived within ½ Hour of that Start Time (i.e. 2:30 for City MWT; 1:30pm for East & West MWT), they can Claim the Game, which is to be Treated as a Match Concession i.e.**

##### **5.5.2.4 Awarded:**

- **15-Nil Shot Victory**
- **10 Match Points**

##### **5.5.2.5 Their Opponent Will Receive a Deduction of 4 Match Points**

### **6 Side Format**

6.1 A Side Consists of 9 Players who Play as 3 Triples

6.2 Every Player MUST be a Bona-Fide Member of the Club for Whom he Plays AND be Registered to Play in any P&D Run Competition (i.e. a Capitation Fee Paid)

6.2.1 **The Penalty** for Playing a Non-Registered Player is the **Deduction of 6(Six) Points**

### **7 Match Points**

Points are awarded as follows:

- Points for Each Winning Triple;
- 6 Points to the Side having the Highest Aggregate Shots at the End of the Match;
- 1 Point Each for Drawn Triples; 3 Points Each for Tied Aggregate Shots

### **8 Playing Rules**

8.1 All Games Shall Be Played in Accordance with the Current Laws of the Sport of Bowls, Adopted by World Bowls, the Bowls England (BE) Variations (Bowls Laws)

8.1.1 **NOTE:** There are Local P&D Amendments to these Bowls Laws which are shown in the Rules that follow (Ref: Rule 11.6)

#### **8.2 Side(s) Short Of Player(s) at Start Time**

8.2.1 **If a Triple(s) is a Player(s) Short, that Triple MUST Wait Until they Have a Full Complement before Starting Play (all other Triples Must Start Play)**

8.2.2 **If Player(s) has NOT Arrived Half an Hour After Scheduled Start Time (i.e. 2:30 for City MWT; 1:30pm for East & West MWT) then:**

- **Either Substitute(s) Can Take their Place(s) who:**
  - **Are Then the Named Player(s) for that Triple**

## **Midweek Triples League Rules**

- **Can Play as Skip**
    - **Both Score Cards to Be Amended Accordingly**
  - **Another Substitute Can Be Used if Required during the Game**
    - **Otherwise Match Score Will Be a 5-0 Win to their Opponent**
- 8.2.3 **Player CANNOT Take Part in the Game if they Arrive after the ½ Hour Delay BUT Can be Used as a Substitute if Required**
- 8.3 It is NOT Permissible for a MWT Match to be Played with Less than 6 Players in Any One Side

### **8.4 Player Regulations**

- 8.4.1 **ALL Members of a Midweek Triples League Side MUST Ensure that the Bowls they Use and their Dress Code are in Accordance with P&D League Rule 13 - Player Regulations**
- 8.4.2 **Clubs MUST Ensure their Members Are Aware of this Rule and Adhere to It**
- 8.4.3 **If an Opposing Side Note that a Player is Not Wearing Approved Shirts or Shorts, their Captain MUST bring it to the Attention of His Opposing Captain and also Inform the Relevant MWT League Secretary who will also remind that Club of their Dress Code Responsibilities**
- 8.4.4 **If Despite these Warnings a Club is Repeatedly Ignoring this Rule, they are Liable to be Penalised with a Deduction of Two (2) Points per Game after their Second (2nd) and Final Warning**

### **8.5 Player Substitution**

- 8.5.1 **If a Player has to leave a Game Due to a Serious Medical Emergency Requiring Professional Assistance, then:**
- 8.5.1.1 **Match is to be Abandoned Immediately**
  - 8.5.1.2 **Relevant MWT League Secretary Informed**
  - 8.5.1.3 **When Match is Restarted, Abandoned Games Restart Rules Apply (Ref: Rule 0)**
- 8.5.2 **If a Player has to leave a Game for any Other Reasonable Cause and Cannot Return Within 10 Minutes, then if BOTH Captains Agree, a Player Substitution Can Be Made**
- 8.5.2.1 **The Substitute MUST Play In Any Position Other than Skip, and the Other Members of the Triple can Rearrange Their Positions as Necessary (as per Bowls Law 33.4)**
  - 8.5.2.2 **The Name of the Substitute MUST be Shown On Both Scorecards**
- 8.5.3 **If an Eligible Substitute is Not Available, then their Opponents will be Awarded Either a 5-0 win, Or the Score at the Point the Player Left the Game, Whichever is Greater**
- 8.5.4 **NOTE: If it comes to the Attention of the Midweek Secretary that this Has Been Broken, then He Will call a Council In Appeals Meeting to Adjudicate On The Matter**

### **8.6 Conceding Matches**

- 8.6.1 **If a Side Concedes a Game to their Opponent because they CANNOT Field the Minimum Number Of Players Permissible (Ref: Rule 8.3), then the Following Match Result will Apply:**

## **Midweek Triples League Rules**

8.6.1.1 The Side who have received the Concession will be awarded:

- A 15 Shots to Zero Victory
- 8 Match Points

8.6.1.2 The Side who have Conceded the game will receive:

- A Deduction of 4 Match Points

8.6.1.3 i.e. Match Points will be 8 for the "Winner"; Minus 4 for the "Loser"

8.6.2 **NOTE:** Either Side does have the Right Of Appeal to the Council In Appeals Committee

### **9 Score Card Responsibilities**

9.1 After the Rinks have been Drawn and the Names of Each Side have been Entered, Both Side Captains MUST Ensure that the Names on ALL the Cards are the Same on BOTH Sets of Cards Before the Games Commences, as per Bowls Law 40.1.7.1

9.1.1 **The Penalty** for Failing To Do So is the **Deduction of 4 (Four) Points from Both Sides**

9.2 The Skip of Each Triple is Responsible for Keeping the Score

- **NOTE:** This CANNOT Be Delegated

9.3 During the Game, they MUST Ensure their Card and their Opponents Match

9.4 At the End of Their Match, Each Skip MUST Ensure that Both Cards Show the Same Result and then Sign Both Cards, thereby showing they have performed this check

**9.5 Finally, once ALL Score Cards have been Completed and Signed, it is the Responsibility of Each Side Captain to:**

9.5.1 **Ensure that they Agree the Results of the Match in Terms of Rink Scores, Total Score and Match Points**

9.5.2 **Complete and Sign the Match Result Pro-Forma (Ref: Rule 12.1.2)**

9.5.3 **The Penalty** for Failing To Do So is the **Deduction of 1 (One) Point for Each Incorrect Scorecard from Both Sides**

## **Midweek Triples League Rules**

### **10 Inclement Weather**

**Inclement Weather includes Adverse (Bad) Weather (i.e. Heavy Rain, Thunder & Lighting, Hail) and Extreme High Temperatures or Any Combination, by Virtue of Which it is Either Not Reasonable Or Possible to Play. In Either Case, the Following Applies**

#### **10.1 Adverse Weather**

**10.1.1 In the Event of Adverse Weather on Match Day, the Home Club Should Check their Green and/or Weather Forecast at Least 2 Hours Before the Scheduled Match Start Time and make a Decision on Whether Play Can or Cannot Take Place and Inform their Opposing Captain (by Telephone NOT Email) IF the Game Has to be Postponed**

**10.1.1.1 This Deadline is to give BOTH Captains Sufficient Time to inform their players that the Match Has Been Postponed, thereby preventing Unnecessary Travel**

**10.1.2 The Home Side MUST Also Inform the Relevant MWT League Secretary When a Game has been Postponed**

#### **10.2 Extreme High Temperatures**

**10.2.1 If, On Match Day, an Amber or Red Warning has been Issued for the P&D Area by the Met Office and the UK Health Security Agency, then Either Match Day Captain Can**

**10.2.1.1 Either Request an Earlier Start Time**

**10.2.1.2 Or Request Match to be Postponed, which CANNOT be Refused**

**10.2.2 If the Match has been Postponed, then the Home Side MUST inform the Relevant MWT League Secretary**

**10.2.3 Home Club MUST Provide Plenty of Cool Drinking Water for each Triple**

**10.2.4 Players Should Ensure They Wear Hats and Apply a High Factor Sun Cream for their Own Health and Safety**

### **11 Match Postponements/Abandonments**

#### **11.1 Postponing A Match**

**11.1.1 Once the Season has Started, Games can ONLY be Postponed under the following Conditions:**

**11.1.1.1 An Unfit Green**

**11.1.1.2 A National Club Competition**

- In this Case, the Match MUST BE Against a Non P&D Club
  - They MUST also Inform the Relevant MWT League Secretary of their Need to Postpone for this Reason

**11.1.2 If a Club wishes to Postpone a Game for Any Other Reason, they MUST First get the Agreement of the Relevant MWT League Secretary**

- **NOTE:** In the Event that the Relevant MWT League Secretary is a Member of the Club Requesting the Postponement, then the Matter HAS to be passed to the Competition Committee

**11.1.2.1 ONLY on His/Their Say So can the Match then be Postponed**

## **Midweek Triples League Rules**

### **11.2 Abandoned Matches**

An Abandoned Match is one that has started and at Least One End has been Completed on each Triple when the Decision is made by Both Captains that the Weather now makes the Game Unsafe for ALL Bowlers

11.2.1 If Not All Triples have Completed the 1st End at the Time of Abandonment, then the Match is Deemed Postponed

11.2.2 When the match is Re-Arranged, each Triple will Restart at the End following the One that had been Completed when the Match was Abandoned e.g.:

- Triple A had played 5 Complete Ends, thus Restart at End 6
- Triple B had played 4 Complete Ends, thus Restart at End 5
- Etc.

11.2.3 The Signed Scorecards for Abandoned Matches MUST be Forwarded to the Midweek Secretary, with Copies kept by Both Sides which are then Used for the Continuation of the Match

### **11.3 Home Side Responsibilities**

In the event of a Match being either Postponed or Abandoned Due to Weather Conditions, it is the Responsibility of the HOME Side to:

11.3.1 Inform the Relevant MWT League Secretary within 24Hours

11.3.2 Offer Suitable Dates to the Opposition and Rearrange the Fixture

11.3.3 The Relevant MWT League Secretary MUST be Informed of the New Date within 14 Days of the Postponement/ Abandonment

11.3.4 **The Penalty** for Not Adhering to this is the **Deduction of 4(Four) Points from Both Clubs**

### **11.4 Rearranged Dates**

11.4.1 All Rearranged Matches MUST Be Played Before the Official Last Week of Games in a Division

11.4.1.1 This is to ensure that when Winning Division/Promotion/Relegation is at Stake, Clubs Do Not Get an Unfair Advantage

11.5 The Council in Appeals Shall Be the Governing Body to Award/Deduct Points for any Unfulfilled Fixture(s) And/Or Take Any Further Appropriate Action

### **11.6 Restarting Abandoned Matches**

11.6.1 When an Abandoned Match is Restarted, the Remaining Ends are to be Played in Accordance with the Bowls Laws, with the following Local Amendments:

11.6.1.1 A Maximum of 3 (Three) Substitutes may be Allowed, with No More than 2 in Any One Triple

11.6.1.2 A Substitute is NOT Allowed to Skip (as per Bowls Law 33.4)

11.6.1.3 Should a Club Break this Rule, then their Opposing Side Will Be Awarded the Triple Win, with a Match Score of Either that as it was when the Match Was Abandoned or a 10-0 Win, Whichever Is Greater (as per Bowls Laws 32.4.2 & 33.8)

## **Midweek Triples League Rules**

### **12 Match Results**

#### **12.1 Match Result**

**12.1.1 The Result is Decided on the Score AFTER the Maximum Number of Ends (Ref: Rule 5.4) has been Completed on ALL Rinks**

**12.1.1.1 NOTE: A Match CANNOT be Conceded Before that Point**

**12.1.2 Must be Recorded on the New Match Result Pro-Forma and Signed by Both Captains as a True Record**

**12.1.2.1 A Copy of the Form can be Downloaded from the P&D's Website**

#### **12.2 Home Side Responsibilities**

**12.2.1 MUST Send Electronically to the Relevant MWT League Secretary BOTH the Match Result Pro-Forma AND Copies of their Signed Score Cards by, at the latest, 6pm of the Day Following the Completion of the Match**

**12.2.2 The Penalty for Failing to Meet this Deadline is the Deduction of 4(Four) Points**

#### **12.3 Away Side Responsibilities**

**12.3.1 MUST Send Electronically to the Relevant MWT League Secretary Copies of their Signed Score Cards by, at the latest, 6pm of the Day Following the Completion of the Match**

**12.3.2 The Penalty for Failing to Meet this Deadline is the Deduction of 4(Four) Points**

#### **12.4 Appeal Against Match Outcome**

**12.4.1 12.4.1 If an Appeal is to be Made about the Outcome of a Match, then:**

**12.4.1.1 Their Opponent Must Be Informed that an Appeal Will Be Made**

**12.4.1.2 Appeal MUST be Made to the Relevant MWT League Secretary by 6pm the Day After the Match Was Completed**

### **13 Division Positions**

**13.1 In the Event of Two Or More Sides Completing their Season with the Same Number Of Points, the Side Gaining More Rink Points will be Adjudged to have the Better Division Record**

**13.2 If this Fails to Determine the Division Positions, Shot Difference will Decide**

### **14 Trophies**

The Winners & Runners-Up of each Division will Receive an Engraved Commemorative Plaque to Keep

### **15 Use of Groundsheets**

**The Use of Groundsheets is Covered in Bowls Laws C12 (Definition of a Groundsheet) and 6.1.5 (Use of Groundsheets)**

**At the 2026 P&D AGM it was Unanimously Agreed that Groundsheets Could be Used for ALL P&D League & Competition Matches, as follows**

**15.1 A Club May make Use of Ground Sheets if they Wish to Protect their Green**

## **Midweek Triples League Rules**

**15.1.1 Only Recognised Bowls Ground Sheets Can Be Used**

**15.1.2 One or More Ground Sheets May be Used**

**15.1.3 Can be Used Either from Start of Play Or At Any Time During Play**

**15.1.4 They are to Stay in the Same Position Until the End of Game**

**15.2 If None Available, Match Can Be Abandoned if Wear on Green is Getting Worse**

**15.3 Positioning of Ground Sheet**

**Please refer to the "Positioning of Ground Sheet" PDF that can be Downloaded from the P&D Website.**

- **It is recommended that Club Secretary's Download and Print Off a Copy and Pin it to their Club's Notice Board for Easy Reference and Use**

## **16 Mid Game Break**

**Bowls Law 32 is Quite Specific in this Area:**

- **"No Player must Delay Play by Leaving the Rink of Play Or Their Team Unless Their Opponent Agrees, and then Only for No More Than 10 Minutes"**

**At the 2026 P&D AGM it was Agreed that this Rule was to be Applied to ALL P&D League & Competition Matches, as follows**

**16.1 If a Club wishes to Supply Refreshments for a MWT Match, then Only if BOTH Captains Have Agreed Can a Mid Game Break Be Taken**

**16.1.1 Maximum Time a Triple Can Leave the Rink for is 10minutes**

**16.1.2 Play MUST Start Immediately Afterwards**

**16.1.3 If the Opposing Triple is NOT Ready to Play 15Minutes After Mid Game Break was taken, their Opponent Can Claim Victory on that Rink, with a Match Score of Either What it Was When the Break Was Taken Or a 5-0 Win, Whichever is Greater (as per Bowls Laws 32.4.2 & 33.8 & MWT Rule 8.5.3)**

**16.2 Otherwise Refreshments Can**

**16.2.1 Either be Taken Post Match**

**16.2.2 Or Supplied at the End of Each Rink so that Players can take them on "the hoof" (i.e. No Stop in Play)**

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