



West Somerset Bowls League

West Somerset Bowls League Constitution and Rules- Updated March 2024

1. **Name-** West Somerset Bowls League. Herein known as the League.
2. **Playing Rules-** All games to be played under the laws of the sport of bowls except where varied under our own rules.
3. **Constitution-** The league will consist of two divisions. Division 1 and Division 2 Each division may have a maximum of fourteen (14) teams. Where the league is below 28 if an existing or previous member club wishes to re-join or add a team then this can be agreed without the need for an AGM vote. Each season 2 teams will be promoted from Division 2 to Division 1 and 2 teams relegated from Division 1 to Division 2.
4. **Club Teams-** Each team shall consist of three Open triples.
5. **Time of games-** Matches will be played on Thursday evenings commencing no later than 6.30pm and after trial ends have been played (see rule 15). The date of the first match will be as shown on the fixtures list provided by the League Secretary. -Exceptionally and only where both clubs agree matches may be played on any other afternoon or evening.
6. **Registration-** Clubs will register their teams by sending their entry form and subscription to the Treasurer during the month of March.
7. **Entry Fee-** The Fee for each team will be £30 or as agreed at the AGM.
8. **Fixtures-** The Secretary will provide all fixtures for the following season by the second week in November.
9. **Results-** Each side is responsible for emailing the results of the match or matches to the League Secretary (enquiries@wsbl.org.uk) by midday Friday. The results details should include the score on each rink, the total number of shots and match points for each team. The preferred method is for a photograph of the three scorecards to be sent by email. Scorecards signed by each skip will be kept by each club for 6 months. It is essential club representatives check their teams' results are entered correctly each week.
10. **Points awarded-** The winning team will be awarded 6 points plus 2points for each winning rink. In a drawn game each team will be awarded 3 points plus 2points for each winning rink. A losing team will be awarded 2 points for each winning rink. Tied rinks will be awarded 1 point.
11. **League tables-** The Secretary will email a copy of the league table to each club every weekend following the Thursday matches. A copy will also appear on the league website and [here](#).
12. **Cancellation-** Cancellation will only be permitted if the green is unfit for play. Cancelled matches must be rearranged as soon as possible but in any event; all matches must be played before the scheduled last match of the season. In the event of a cancellation on the last Thursday then this match must be replayed as soon as possible. Clubs to inform the Secretary of the re-arranged date which does not have to be tied to a Thursday evening.
13. **Abandonment-** Provided all rinks have played a minimum of 10 ends the result will be taken at the time of abandonment. If one or more rinks have not completed 10 ends, then the match will be replayed in accordance with rule 12.
14. **Prize money-** Prize money will be divided as follows; Division 1 champion £300 plus trophy Division 1 runner up £100 plus trophy Division 2 champion £150 plus trophy Division 2 runner up £50 plus trophy Presentation made at the AGM.

15. Play- a. Matches will be played over 18 ends with two trial ends.

b. Rinks shall be drawn by captains. Adjacent rinks must be used or at least no play takes place on any rink between the match rinks.

c. **Updated (temporary until voted on at next AGM)-** If a player must leave the green due to illness a substitute can be used. Where no substitute is available or where a full team is not fielded a team may play with one player short on up to 2 rinks. However, with only 2 players present in one team each side will play 6 bowls per end. The team of 2 players will incur a penalty of one third of their shots scored which will be rounded up/down as below. The first numbers are total shots gained with two players; the second numbers are the total shots that will be entered as the final score.

1/2=1, 3=2, 4/5=3, 6=4, 7/8=5, 9=6, 10/11=7, 12=8, 13/14=9, 15=10, 16/17=11, 18=12, 19/20=13, 21=14, 22/23=15, 24=16, 25/26=17, 27=18, 28/29=19, 30=20, 31/32=21, 33=22, 34/35=23, 36=24, 37/38=25, 39=26, 40/41=27.

So, for example, if a team are playing with two players and their total score is 20 shots, then 13 shots will be entered on the scorecard as their final shot total for that rink.

Another example would be a team starting with three players, but a player leaves the green after, say 9 ends, due to illness. If no substitute is available, the remaining shots gained by the team of two will be reduced as above and then added to the total number gained before their player left the green. So, if for example after 9 ends 12 shots have been won, and in the remaining 9 ends a further 16 shots are won, the 16 shots are reduced to 11, giving a total number of shots for that team of 23. This is broadly in line with current practice, just we are not using fractions.

d. A team of less than 7 players before or during the match shall be deemed to have failed to fulfil the fixture and rule 15 e will apply.

e. A team failing to fulfil a fixture shall be deemed to have lost by 12 points to nil and a shot difference of 10. The opposing team shall be awarded 12 points and 10 shots.

Where a delayed start occurs the captains can mutually agree to reduce the number of ends to 16 and/or taking 1 shot max on the first two ends instead of playing trial ends.

16. AGM votes- At the league AGM each member club is entitled to one vote. If a member club's official league representative is unavailable, then another member of the same club may cast that club's vote.

17. Administration and Election of Officers- Administration of the WSBL will be undertaken by an Executive Committee (EC) of four individuals: A Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary and a Treasurer. Elections to these posts will take place annually at the AGM. In the event of an executive position becoming vacant during the term of office the remaining members of the EC may co-opt a replacement to serve the remainder of the term. In addition to the four executive officers a non-executive Assistant Secretary shall also be elected annually at the AGM. The Assistant Secretary will not sit on the Executive Committee unless the Secretary is not available.

18. Treasurer and Accounts- The Treasurer will have the responsibility of managing the financial activities of the WSBL. The League shall have one bank account residing with, for the time being, Lloyds Bank plc. At least two members of the EC will be signatories to the account. Payments from the account may be authorised by any one of these signatories.

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