West Somerset Bowls League

West Somerset Bowls League Constitution and Rules- Updated September 2026

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**- From 2027 the league will consist of four divisions. Each division may have a maximum of eight teams and a minimum of six. The maximum number of teams in the league is thirty-two; where the league is below 32 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, 3 and 4 to the next division up and 2 teams relegated from Division 1, 2 and 3. See annex A which describes how teams will be allocated to each division depending on the number of teams in the league as of the September Annual General Meeting.

4. **Club Teams**- Each team shall consist of three Open triples.

5. **Team Lettering and Hierarchy-** Where a club enters more than one team in the League, each team shall be designated by an alphabet letter. The A team shall be the senior team, followed in descending order by B, C, D, and so on. For the purpose of this Rule, a higher team is the team with the earlier alphabet letter, irrespective of whether two or more teams from the same club compete in the same division. Where circumstances arise in which a club's lower-lettered team is placed in a higher division than one of its higher-lettered teams, the teams shall exchange letters prior to the start of the next season. This is to ensure that a club's team lettering always reflects the correct hierarchy, such that earlier letters correspond to teams competing in higher or equal divisions.

6. **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.

7. **Registration**- Clubs will register their teams by sending their entry form and subscription to the Treasurer during the month of March.

8. **Entry Fee**- The Fee for each team will be £30 or as agreed at the AGM.

9. **Fixtures**- The Secretary will provide all fixtures for the following season by the second week in November.

10. **Results**-The home team will enter the score onto the results website here at the end of each match. If the home team is unable to do this then the away team can do it, if neither is able, please let the League Secretary know when forwarding the scorecards. Please note just the scores are

needed on the results website, not the names of team players. Each side is responsible for emailing the results of the match or matches to the League Secretary (enquiries@wsbl.org.uk) as soon as possible after the match and, at the latest, 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.

11. **Points awarded**- The winning team will be awarded 6 points plus 2 points for each winning rink. In a drawn game each team will be awarded 3 points plus 2 points for each winning rink. A losing team will be awarded 2 points for each winning rink. Tied rinks will be awarded 1 point.

12. **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.

13. **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. If a match is cancelled due to one of the teams not being able to raise a team, then 12 points and 10 shots will be awarded to the non-defaulting team. There is no option to replay the match on another date. Where a club is hosting county or national matches and do not have enough rink space for all matches, in the first instance they should try to convert one of the home fixtures into an away fixture. If that is not possible then an attempt can be made to rearrange the fixture, if both teams cannot agree then the matter will be referred to the Executive Committee for resolution.

14. **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.

15. **Prize money**- Prize money will be divided as follows; Division 1 champion £250 plus shield Division 1 runner up £100 plus shield Division 2 champion £150 plus shield Division 2 runner up £50 plus shield. Division 3 champion £75 plus shield. Division 4 champion £50 plus shield. Presentation made at the AGM.

16. **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. 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 two rinks. However, with only two players present in one team each side will play six bowls per end. The team of 2 players will incur a penalty of one third of their shots scored which will be rounded up or down to the nearest whole number.
    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 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.

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.
f. Both skips must leave the head at the same time. Skips may only revisit the head after they have delivered two bowls.

17. Post-Match Hospitality It is a condition of league membership that host clubs provide a light post-match snack for both teams.

18. 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.

19. Administration and Election of Officers- Administration of the WSBL will be undertaken by an Executive Committee (EC) of five individuals: A Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, Assistant 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.

20. 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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Annex A

The league will have four divisions made up of 6 to 8 teams playing each other home and away. The number of teams in each division will be divided as follows based on the total number of teams entering (shown in the left-hand column)

Number of teams	Division One	Division Two	Division Three	Division Four
32	8	8	8	8
31	8	8	8	7
30	8	8	7	7
29	8	7	7	7
28	7	7	7	7
27	7	7	7	6
26	7	7	6	6
25	7	6	6	6
24	8	8	8	-

Divisions of 8: teams will play fourteen games over 14 weeks.
Divisions of 7: teams will play twelve games over 14 weeks.
Divisions of 6: teams will play ten games over 10 weeks (though this could be extended into other league weeks)