

## **KINGSWINFORD AND BRIERLEY HILL MONDAY NIGHT BOWLING LEAGUE**

### **CONSTITUTION AND RULES FOR THE LEAGUE AND LEAGUE COMPETITIONS**

**(LAST AMENDED AT THE 42<sup>nd</sup> AGM HELD ON FEBRUARY 26<sup>TH</sup>, 2024 - AMENDMENTS IN RED)**

- 1a. The name of the League shall be the Kingswinford and Brierley Hill Monday Night Bowling League and shall operate within a 4-mile radius of Dudley Sports & Social (aka DMBEC), High Ercal Avenue, Brierley Hill, with exceptions as decided at any General Meeting.
- b. The object of the League is to promote Bowls Competition in Kingswinford, Brierley Hill, and the surrounding area and to encourage social intercourse between Clubs and their respective members.
- c. All games shall be governed by the rules of the British Crown Green Bowling Association and any local Association to which a member club may be affiliated.
- 2a. The League shall be governed by a General Committee consisting of Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and one representative from each member club.
- b. From the Officers and elected representatives to the General Committee, a Management Committee shall be formed consisting of the Officers and at least one representative from each division.
- c. Seven members (inc. Officers) of the General Committee shall form a quorum. Five members (inc. Officers) shall form a quorum of the Management Committee.
- d. Any member (or his/her proxy) failing to attend a properly convened meeting shall be fined £5.
- 3a. The AGM shall normally be held in February each year when the Treasurer shall present a Financial Statement for the preceding season.
- b. The Officers and Management Committee members shall retire at the AGM and if they have duly intimated their willingness to stand, shall be eligible for re-election.
- c. Sub Committees as deemed necessary shall be elected by the Management Committee from the Officers and members of the General Sub-Committees as deemed necessary shall be elected Committee.
4. Any proposals for alteration to Rules shall be submitted, in writing, to the Secretary not later than the day of any General Meeting. Any such proposal, duly seconded, shall be put to the next General Meeting and if carried by the majority of members entitled to vote, shall be adopted forthwith.
5. The Secretary shall convene a Special General Meeting of the General Committee within 14 days of receiving a written request from at least two teams. Each request shall set out in details the reason for calling the meeting and shall be signed by the respective representative of each team.
6. Each team shall be furnished with a copy of the League rules to be bound thereby. Any cases of infringements of the rules shall be dealt with by the Management Committee whose decision will be final.
7. Any team wishing to resign from the League shall give notice, in writing, to the Secretary not later than 7 days before the AGM. Failure to do so will render the team liable for all fees for the coming season.
8. Any team wishing to join the League shall submit a formal written application to the Secretary not later than 7 days before the AGM and any such application shall be considered at the first General Meeting prior to the commencement of the season. Any team making an application will be invited to attend this meeting but will not be entitled to vote on any matter until they have been accepted by the League.
9. At any properly convened meeting each team shall be entitled to one vote only.

## **RULES TO GOVERN COMPETITIONS ORGANISED BY THE LEAGUE**

- 1.** The League will be divided into 4 divisions viz 1, 2, 3 and 4 made up a number of teams as decided at the AGM. At the end of the season, promotion and relegation will be decided on a 2 up and 2 down bases, unless it is necessary to amend the divisions due to teams joining or leaving the League. The League Winners trophies will be called the Kingswinford and Brierley Hill Monday Night Bowling League Winners, Division 1, 2 etc and shall be presented to the Club obtaining the highest number of points in league matches played during the season and will be held by the winning Club until the end of September of the following year. If two or more Clubs have an equal number of points, the winner shall be decided by the Club with the best average. The individual average winner of each division's prize will be the player with the greatest number of wins and in the event of two or more players having the same number of wins the winner shall be the player with the best average. In the event of two or more players having the same number of wins and the same aggregate, the winner shall be decided on the player having the most away wins.
- 2a.** Matches will be played in accordance with the Fixture List on Monday Evenings. See Rule 2b.
- b.** Every effort should be made to fulfil the fixtures in accordance with 2a above. In the event that any team is prevented from fulfilling a fixture due to, for example, holidays, the Secretary of that team shall contact the Secretary of the opposing team not less than 7 days before the date of the fixture with a view to rearranging the match on a mutually agreed between the Secretaries concerned. The 7-day rule shall not apply in cases of the bereavement of a bowler where clubs should accommodate a postponement at short notice. Teams shall have 28 days to rearrange any cancelled fixture. Failure to reach an agreement will result in a date being stipulated by the League Secretary. All outstanding matches must be played prior to the last league match of the season.
- c.** All games will be singles and the competitors will be chosen by ballot. Each game will be 21 up.
- d.** Matches will commence not later than 6-45PM. The exception to this is at the start and finish of the season when teams will be expected to co-operate with an earlier start in relation to the prevailing weather conditions i.e., light. A full draw of all players will be made not later than 6-40PM. All cards shall be numbered 1 to 8 and played in that order. A player shall be deemed absent when 10 minutes has elapsed after his/her name has been called. A substitute can be used up and including the tenth minute. The absent player will take no further part in the fixture. If Home players are practising on the green prior to the start of a match irrespective of weather conditions, the draw will be made at 6.40PM and the match will commence at 6.45pm from the players present. Where player/players are selected for County Representation on the date of a League match, a full draw shall be made as above and the relevant players shall be entered in such draw and, if not available, shall play these ends not later than 5 days from the original date of the match.
- e.** The number of ends to be played on each green shall be as decided by the League and as indicated by that relevant green in the Club detail.
- f.** The result of each match shall be taken on the aggregate score. 2 points will be awarded for a win and 1 point for a home tie and 2 points for an away tie. In addition, 1 extra point will be awarded for an away win, and 1 point will be awarded for each game won by either team.
- g.** Results shall be inputted onto the scoring system no later than 6-45pm on the Tuesday immediately following the match. Where any match is not played on the original fixture date, 24 hours shall be given from the start time of the rearranged match. Failure to comply with this rule will result in a £5 fine.
- 3a.** A list of playing members must be sent to the Secretary not later than 31<sup>st</sup> March of each year together with a registration fee as decided at the Annual General Meeting for each player to be registered. Thereafter, additional registrations may be made but the player/s so registered will not be allowed to play in a match until 24 hours have elapsed after the registration has been made. This must be in writing to the Secretary. No registrations will be allowed after 31<sup>st</sup> July in any year.
- b.** Clubs may submit a list of players who can play in either team where Clubs have more than one team. However, players cannot play for more than one team in any match or in a re-arranged fixture for whatever reason where they have already played for the other team.

- c. No player may be registered for more than one Club in the League at any time and any player or Club infringing this rule shall have its registration cancelled and no application or re-appointment to the League shall ever be considered. Any monies due from such Club or individual player would remain due to the League.
  - d. All Clubs and male registered players shall be registered with the Warwickshire & Worcestershire County Bowling Association. All registered ladies shall be registered with the Dudley & District Ladies County Bowling Association. In addition, all players must be in possession of a BCGBA Membership Card and be able to produce this on request. Failure to do so will render them liable to disqualification from any game held under the auspices of Crown Green Bowling.
4. In the event of any Club not playing the full numbers of players, names are to be omitted from the scorecard and W/O inserted. The defaulting team shall allow their opponents to count 21-0 for each missing player, the same to be added to the aggregate score. The player/s shall count 21-10 to their individual average. The Club whose team is short shall be fined £2 for every absent player. Clubs who add false scores to missing players and it is brought to the League's attention by whatever means, then both Clubs involved, because both clubs have signed the match card as a 'true record' shall be fined £5 each and each will have 5pts deducted. An unregistered player is not allowed to count any score in the game and shall forfeit the game 21-0 to their opponent (21-10 for individual averages) and the match result adjusted accordingly. A fine of £5 for each unregistered player will be made irrespective of whether the player wins or loses.
  5. In the event of a Club changing its name and moving green due to no fault of their own, i.e the green or Club facilities no longer available, providing a minimum of 50% of its players move to the new venue, they shall retain their League status.
  6. In the event of a match having commenced and in the case of it being unfinished, the remaining games or ends unplayed shall be played within the following 10 days at a time to be mutually arranged and if not so re-arranged the Management Committee shall fix the date. This only applies to matches that are affected by rain or other adverse weather conditions.
  7. The home team shall provide Crown Green Jacks (Standard Association) which have been properly tested and stamped, and these shall be used throughout the whole of the match.
  8. If the green on which the match is to be played shall be deemed by the respective Captains to be 'unplayable' owing to water following the "woods", they shall have the authority to abandon the match. The match so abandoned shall be mutually re-arranged within the next 10 days and if not so arranged, the Management Committee shall fix the date.
  9. Games to be 'straight-off'. The minimum cast of the jack shall be 19 Metres. One cast of the jack is allowed. If the distance is deemed 'not to be a mark' the jack reverts to the opponent. Objection to the mark must be made verbally by the opponent only, after the first wood has come to rest and if, after measurement, it is proved to be a mark, the jack and bowl shall remain. The 'mat/footer' must not be moved more than 1 metre radius from the jack after each end.
  10. The Captain/Secretary of the home team shall after each match complete the scorecard, sign it, and have it counter-signed by the Captain/Secretary of the visiting team. The scorecard shall then be forwarded to the League Secretary not later than the day after the match. A fine of £5 will be levied for late cards. Any team playing players under an assumed name will be summarily dismissed from the League with the same action as at Rule 3d. Any Clubs playing unregistered players will be fined £1 for each offending player.
  11. There will be League Challenge and Consolation Cup Knockout Competitions, and all Clubs must enter. A full draw for the Challenge Cup and Consolation Cup shall be made following the AGM. In all games up to and including the semi-final 4 players from each team will play at Home and 4 players Away. All games will be 21up. The team with the highest total aggregate score will be the winner. In the event of a tie the game will be awarded to the team with the most winners. If the winners are equal, then the team with the best winner will be awarded the match; if best winners are equal then the team with the next best winner and so on until a winner is found will be awarded the match. If a Club fails to notify their opponents that they will not be turning up for a Cup match they will be fined £10. If a club fails to notify the League Secretary of this non-attendance, they will be fined £10. Fees for all Competitions will be decided annually at the AGM. Before the start of a Cup Final, both Captains are to nominate one player, who, in the event of an aggregate tie, will play each other 21 up. **To qualify for selection, Players must**

have played 2 League games before the Quarter Finals, 4 League games before the Semi Finals and 6 League games before the Cup Finals.

In all Cup and Merit finals the BCGBA dress code will apply and anyone not abiding to these will not be allowed to play in the match until they are wearing appropriate wear.

**12.** All member clubs shall make their green available at any reasonable time when required by the League.

**13.** Any club, team or player winning any trophy, the property of the League, shall return same to the League Secretary not later than 30<sup>th</sup> September in any year. Any club, team or player failing to comply with this rule shall be liable to a fine of £20 or such sum determined by the Management Committee. Each club shall be responsible for any trophies won by any player from that club.

**14.** Any question arising, not provided for in these rules, shall be brought before the Management Committee whose decision will be final.

**15.** As from the start of the 2005 season, the BCGBA has passed a new rule stating that smoking is banned at all times on the green. Any player smoking will lose the match by the relevant score at the time the offence occurs, and his opponent will be awarded the game. In 2014, BCGBA extended this rule to encompass any electronic cigarette device. In 2015, BCGBA asserted that these rules applied to bowlers participating in the game. In other words, leaving the green whilst playing a game in order to smoke is banned with the rule as stated above to be applied.

**16.** A player may transfer from one Club to another provided that fees have been paid to their original Club. A player shall also be responsible for paying any fees due to their new Club. Such requests should be made in writing to the League Secretary accompanied by a fee of £5 made payable to the League. A player shall become available to their new Club 24 Hours after receipt by the League Secretary. In common with rule 3b, no transfer shall be allowed after 31<sup>st</sup> July in any season.

**17.** A player may wear shorts in League and Cup matches but these MUST BE OF AT LEAST KNEE LENGTH. The only exceptions to this are the Challenge and Consolation Cup Finals where BCGBA Dress Code will apply.