



## Bowls Wiltshire Men League Rules .....2024 season onwards

- 1. The League** shall be called '**The Bowls Wiltshire Men's League**' and shall be open to all affiliated Clubs. Games to be played under 'World Bowls Laws (WBL) of the Sport' and under the management of the 'Bowls Wiltshire Men's Committee' (BWMC) and the Emergency Committee, **whose decision on any matter will be final.** The annual entrance fee shall be as determined by the BWMC, and payment is requested on a yearly invoice. Failure to pay fees in a timely manner may lead to exclusion from the League.
- 2. There will be two separate Leagues.**  
A **4 Rink League** with three divisions, Division 1, Division 2 North, and Division 2 South  
At the end of each season the top club from the 4RL Division 1 will be the 4RL Division 1 Champion and will be awarded the 4RL Division 1 Cup. There will also be a Runners-up cup. The lowest ranked team from the South and the lowest ranked team from the North will be relegated and replaced with the Winners of the North & South 2<sup>nd</sup> Divisions.  
Winners of the two 2<sup>nd</sup> Divisions will also be awarded trophies.

At the conclusion of the season there will be a 4RL competition known as:

### **The 4 Rink League Cup Competition:**

Participants:

- 4 top teams from Division 1
- 2 top teams from Division 2 North
- 2 top teams from Division 2 South

Structure:

- All 8 teams enter a random draw at the February Delegates Meeting to select the QF matches. The first team of each pair drawn will determine the venue for that game, etc.
- The Quarter Final will be played on the Wednesday of week 35.
- The Semi-finals will be played at a single venue selected yearly by Bowls Wiltshire Men on the Wednesday of week 36.
- The Final will be played at Bowls Wiltshire "Finals" Weekend.
- Game format will be the same as League Rules.
- A Trophy, "The Watson Cup" to be presented to the winner.

There will also be a **3 Rink League** of one division with no promotion or relegation. Trophies will be awarded to the 3RL winner and runner up.

- 3. A player may play for one Club only in each League, 3 Rink & 4 Rink, in any one season, (the Clubs may be different for each League).** In the case of 4RL a player may not cross Divisions in any one season. The 'League' Clubs may be different from the Club at which he is registered for Bowls England National Championships and Competitions.

Every player must:

- a. Hold full bowling membership in each one of the Clubs he enters/plays for.
- b. Have paid all the affiliation fees (BE, BW) for each club he plays for.
- c. Be registered on the County Membership Register for each of the clubs he plays for.

**Should a Club field an ineligible player then they will forfeit the game and the points for any League match will be awarded to their opponents.**



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4. **3 rink league & 4 rink league fixtures** will be issued to clubs by the BWMC. Each game to consist of 18 ends. The home club shall allocate the rinks to be used. The draw for the rinks to be played on shall then be made by the two Captains or their representatives. All evening matches up to the end of May to commence at 6.15pm. Matches from June 1<sup>st</sup> onwards to commence at 6.30pm. After the end of July start times will revert back to 6:15pm. Clubs may mutually agree to play at a different time.
  - a. It is the responsibility of the HOME CLUB to advise the League/Area Secretary of the Match result within 24 hours of the Match being played. Failure by the HOME CLUB to provide the result within 24 hours will result in all points being awarded to the away club.
  - b. 3 & 4 rink league matches should be played within the 7-day period indicated by the start date shown in the fixture list.

In the event that it proves not possible to arrange to play within the scheduled 7-day period then clubs may extend this period for **up to 14 days**. On no account will a rearranged match be played beyond this date. {e.g., If a match is scheduled to take place on Wednesday **3<sup>rd</sup> July 2024**, then it must be played on any date from Monday **1<sup>st</sup> July until Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> July** latest}

The HOME club must then advise the appropriate League Secretary of the new date immediately, together with the reason for the change. If agreement cannot be reached, in line with the above parameters, the appropriate League Secretary must be informed and the result, plus any associated penalty, will be decided by the BWMC Panel.
  - c. The final league games must be played by end of week 34, regardless of the 14-day rule. Rule 11 applies.
5. **Absentee players:** – the current 'WBL Laws of the Sport' apply, i.e.

If within 30 minutes after the scheduled start time for a game, one player is absent from one or more teams in a side, the game should continue but the number of Bowls played by each defaulting team should be made up by the Lead and Second both playing three Bowls. One quarter of the total shots scored (including fractions) by each defaulting team should be deducted from their score after the game has finished.
6. **Bowl Displacement:** - the current BE Rules & Regulations apply, i.e.

To alleviate the situation of a player stopping one of their own team's bowls from disturbing the head and gaining an advantage either by lifting a bowl at rest or stopping their bowl in its original course two new laws were approved and included within the "World Bowls Laws of the Sport" V4 (Law 37.1).  
These are:  
**Law 37.1.3** If a player deliberately stops or displaces one of their own team's bowls in its original course; or  
**Law 37.1.5.3** if a player deliberately lifted a bowl at rest to allow their own bowl to continue on its original course.  
**The penalty is:**  
**3RL** - Rink conceded, 2 points and 25 shots awarded to the opposing side  
**4RL** - Rink conceded, 2 points and 35 shots awarded to the opposing side.
7. **Dress:** Grey trousers/shorts to be worn (not jeans) - unless Clubs mutually agree to play in WHITE trousers/shorts, with predominantly white clothing above the waist, or alternatively clubs may wear their County approved coloured clothing.  
**Note.... all members of the side must dress in the same colour code.**
8. **Floodlights:** May be used by mutual agreement between the two Team Captains.



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### 9. Fixture dates:

3 Rink League Matches scheduled to be played on a Tuesday.

4 Rink League Matches scheduled to be played on a Wednesday.

—These days form the basis for the Fixture Lists. Fixtures may be played on any day of the week, and in line with Rule 10a by mutual agreement between participating teams. All changes to be notified, in writing, to the League Secretary.

**Note: Clubs must be aware that by entering the League and agreeing their fixture lists (as above), they are OBLIGATED to complete those fixtures and NOT to over-ride them by accepting other matches/competitions which would make it impossible to complete the League fixture.**

### 10. Fixture Priorities:

Matches must be played on the dates originally agreed by the Clubs unless:

a. BOTH Clubs mutually agree to re-arrange the fixture within the same 14-day period that the fixture date falls and in line with Rule 4b.

OR

b. The Green is declared unfit for play.

**Under no circumstances shall matches be conceded, nor shall clubs agree to share points, nor shall they re-arrange any fixture after the League fixture completion date. Contravention of this rule will result in:**

**4 Rink League a 14-point penalty to both clubs,**

**3 Rink League a 10-point penalty to both clubs.**

**Note: ALL Clubs should be aware when offering dates for ANY Competitions that:**

- Tuesday nights are normally 3RL League nights.
- Wednesday nights are normally 4RL League nights.
- Monday and Friday nights are mostly set aside for National Championship Rounds
- Some Saturdays / Sundays have Middleton Cup / County events (all published in advance to ALL Clubs)
- Wiltshire League matches are to be given priority over any 'District' League matches
- 'District' League fixture clashes are not accepted as a valid reason for interference with Bowls Wiltshire Matches.

### 11. Match guidance:

#### a. Home Club failure to advise cancellation:

The cost contribution to a travelling Club for failure to advise cancellation / postponement by the 'Home' Club shall be the 'Return mileage costs of three (3RL)/four (4RL) cars at the mileage rate used by BW (Men). To be published by the County annually.

#### b. Away Club failure to advise cancellation:

The cost contribution towards 'Home' Club for failure to give more than 48 hours' notice of cancellation / postponement by the 'Away' Club shall be as published by the BWMC at the start of the season.

#### c. Failure to pay costs:

If the League Secretary is advised that a Club has failed to pay any costs by the end of the season (September 30th), then, following verification of the facts, they will be refused league entry for the following season.

#### d. League Position Publication:

The League Secretary to publish the League position as of Monday each week of the playing season until August for 4 rink and September for 3 Rink. Every effort will be made to keep the web-site tables up to date.

#### e. Withdrawal from League / Uncompleted Fixtures:

Should a club withdraw from any League during the course of the season, or should they fail to complete fixtures that could affect the winners of the League, then all results from matches in which that club has been involved shall be expunged and the League positions re-calculated accordingly.



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### **12. Club Contact(s) for any League match fixture problems:**

Prior to the end of March in each year, each Member Club must notify the BWM Secretary of their League contact for the coming season, a telephone number AND email address is advisable

### **13. League Dates:**

- a. 3 rink league matches must be completed by end of week 36. Any matches not played by this date will be ruled upon by the Emergency Committee.
- b. 4 rink league matches will start in week 17.
- c. 4 rink league matches must be completed by end of week 34.

### **14. 4 Rink League Matches:**

- a. Fourteen (14) points will be available for each game. Six points for the highest shot total and Two points for each winning rink. Points are halved for tied scores.
- b. In the event of inclement weather which rules out further play on that day, if an average of 10 ends per rink have been played (40 ends or more in total), then the result at the time of cessation of the match shall stand. If less than an average of 5 ends per rink have been played at the time of the cessation of the match (less than 20 ends in total), the result shall be 'null and void' and the match shall be rearranged as per rule 4. In matches where the total number of ends played is less than 40 but more than 20, the scores from the completed ends shall stand and the match rearranged for completion as per rule 4.

### **15. 3 Rink League Matches**

- a. Ten (10) points will be available for each game. Four points for the highest shot total and Two points for each winning rink. Points are halved for tied scores.
- b. In the event of inclement weather which rules out further play on that day, if an average of 10 ends per rink have been played (30 ends or more in total), then the result at the time of cessation of the match shall stand. If less than an average of 5 ends per rink have been played at the time of the cessation of the match (less than 15 ends in total), the result shall be null and void and the match shall be rearranged as per rule 4. In matches where the total number of ends played is less than 30 but more than 15, the scores from the completed ends shall stand and the match rearranged as per rule 4.

### **16. Changes to League structure**

- a. Any proposals to change the league structure must be sent to the BWM Secretary. Any proposals will be considered by the BWMC and, if considered appropriate, a revised structure will be presented to the BWM Delegates meeting in November. Implementation of a structure change may need to be delayed for one season to allow fixtures to be arranged.
- b. In the event that emergency measures are introduced by either Local or National Government, in response to a Pandemic or similar crisis, which restrict the ability of Bowls Wiltshire Leagues to operate in the manner described above, then the Men's Committee will determine what actions may be taken to allow play to take place in some revised format. This will be dependent upon guidelines published by Bowls England in response to particular legislation, ether Local or National.