

# **WEALD BOWLS LEAGUE**

## **BYE-LAWS RELATING TO THE WEALD LEAGUE**

**Amended at the AGM, Monday, 17<sup>th</sup> November 2025**

### **1 League Fixtures**

- 1.1 The Fixture Secretary will endeavour to have fixtures available by 31st December each year for the following season.
- 1.2 Each Bowls Club will seek to honour their fixtures on the dates provided by the League Fixture Secretary.
- 1.3 Teams will play all other teams in their division, once at home and once away.
- 1.4 Where County or National games restrict Green capacity at the Home club and prevent the playing of scheduled league games:  
Matches may be 'switched' from the Green of the Home Club to the Away club  
or  
Clubs may arrange to play the match at a later date, but not later than 31<sup>st</sup> August.  
The Fixture Secretary shall be informed.
- 1.5 When in the opinion of the Home club, adverse weather conditions has made their green unplayable, the Home club shall cancel the game, where-ever possible by giving at least 2 hours notice from the agreed start time, to the Away Club. This will give both clubs time to inform players of a cancellation. Each club shall then share the points, 3 points to each club, with no shots awarded. No replay is required.
- 1.6 If before a match commences, conditions are such that there is doubt that a full game may not be completed, the two Captains may agree that the game is reduced to 12 ends, which will be recognised by the league as a game completed.
- 1.7 A match abandoned before 12 ends have been completed will be null and void. 3 points to each club with no shots awarded. No replay required.
- 1.8 In other circumstances when a club is unable to fulfil its League fixture obligation, such as shortage of players, then the match will be conceded and the non-defaulting team awarded all 6 points plus 15 shots. The defaulting team will incur a 5 point penalty.

### **2 Playing format**

- 2.1 Teams will comprise of 2 x mixed triples from each club.
- 2.2 Matches will be played over 18 ends.
- 2.3 Any team failing to turn up with a full complement of 6 players on the pre-determined date and time of a Weald League fixture will result in the result in the match being conceded to the opposing team which will be awarded the maximum 6 points plus 15 shots. The defaulting team will incur a 5 point penalty.
- 2.4 At least two lady players must be included in each side of six players with a minimum of one player of each gender in each Triple. Failure to include at least 1 lady in each Triple will result in the result in the match being conceded to the opposing team which will be awarded the maximum 6 points plus 15 shots. The defaulting team will incur a 5 point penalty.

- 2.5 Matches will normally commence with 2 trial ends. However, when both managers agree on an individual match basis to forgo trial ends, then the scoring system will be revised to allow for one shot counting on each of the first 2 ends.

### **3 Playing rules**

- 3.1 Matches will be scheduled to commence at 6.00 pm, latest start time 6.30 pm. If all players are present before 6.00pm, then the game can commence.
- 3.2 Matches may start at an earlier time on an individual match by match basis, when this is previously agreed by both team managers.
- 3.3 Each club will prepare their own scorecards. The HOME Captain will shuffle his scorecards and lay them face down, the visiting Captain will lay his own scorecards on top, marking the cards with the rink numbers given by the home club in any order of his choice.
- 3.4 If a player is absent 30 minutes after the agreed start of the game, then the match will be conceded by the defaulting team. The non defaulting team will be awarded the maximum 6 points plus 15 shots. The defaulting team will incur a 5 point penalty.
- 3.5 Once a League game has started with both sides having a full complement, no substitutions are allowed, other than for player injury or illness.
- 3.6 Players shall not practice on the same rink on the same day on which they are later playing in a Weald League match.
- 3.7 Any dispute that may arise during play shall, if possible, be settled by the participating Captains. Failing this it shall be referred to the Emergency Panel whose decision shall be final. Notice in writing of such a dispute must be made to the Chairman of the Weald League within FOURTEEN DAYS, and if found necessary, the Chairman will convene a Disputes Procedure Panel where all aspects of the game in dispute, either in its entirety or part, will be discussed. The result of a hearing under the Dispute Procedure will be final.

### **4 Scoring System**

- 4.1 The scoring system provides that 6 points will be available for each game played.
- 4.2 2 points will be awarded for each individual triple game won. If any triple game is tied, then the points will be shared equally, one point each.
- 4.3 In addition, 2 Points will be awarded to the team that wins overall on shots, over both rinks. If the overall result is a tie, then the 2 additional points will be shared equally, one point to each team.
- 4.4 The Club gaining the most points on the completion of their matches will receive a trophy as decided by the committee, this will apply to all divisions.
- 4.5 After the match the Captains will be responsible for checking that the scorecards have been signed by the skips as being correct and that the Result sheet, provided by the Home club, is completed and signed by both Captains and forwarded to the Fixture Secretary, by post, to arrive no later than Friday a.m. Results can also be phoned in or emailed same day to ensure inclusion in the Weald League Tables of the current week.

## **5 Dress Code**

- 5.1 The wearing of grey trousers/tailored shorts/skirts and white above the waist will be mandatory for all players, except in cases where club colours may be worn.
- 5.2 Correct bowls footwear must also be worn.

## **6 Other rules**

- 6.1 The Home club may at its discretion charge Green fees to their own players, but no Green fees will be charged to Away teams.
- 6.2 All bowls must conform to the standards of the World/International Bowls Board.
- 6.3 Only bona-fide members of a club are eligible to participate in League fixtures. The League reserves the right to inspect any club's records should the rights of a league player be in dispute. Such disputes must be made, in writing, to the League Chairman within 14 DAYS of the match being played.
- 6.4 Any club wishing to withdraw a team after playing in the League for a year or beyond shall inform the League Fixture Secretary directly after the league programme has ended for the current year and no later than 31st August so that amendments can be made when arranging new divisions. The team withdrawn will be the lowest placed team over the entire divisions.