

**BRISTOL LADIES LEAGUE**  
**CONSTITUTION AND RULES 2026**

**1. ADMINISTRATION**

- a) Where the term "the League" appears in these rules, it shall be taken to mean the Bristol Ladies League.
- b) The object of the League shall be to promote and develop the game of bowls and to compete annually for the League Challenge Cups.
- c) This is a competitive league and all games must be played in a competitive spirit.
- d) The winners and second placed Clubs of each Division will receive monetary prizes.
- e) The management of the League shall be vested in a Committee, comprising of Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and a number of other members, all to be elected at the AGM.
- f) All officers and committee to retire annually but be eligible for re-election.
- g) The AGM shall be held during the closed season.
- h) Each affiliated Club shall be entitled to have one vote on any matter or subject where a ballot is necessary.
- i) Any proposed alteration or addition to these rules must be sent to the League Secretary not later than 3 weeks prior to the AGM of that year.
- j) The annual subscription for each affiliated team will be reviewed annually
- k) Application for affiliation of a new team must be made before the AGM of that year
- l) In the event of a Club resigning from the League during the playing season, all results relating to matches played against the resigning club will be deleted without exception.
- m) Should there be no covering rule in this Constitution and Rules then the usual accepted rules and regulations of Bowls England should apply.

**2. LEAGUE MATCHES**

- a) A League player must only play League matches for one club during any one season.
- b) Any club can play an affiliated member in their league team as long as that member belongs to a club with no league team of their own. Where a club has more than one team in the League, only the team in the lowest division can use a player from another club and a maximum of one visiting player per rink. They should not play as skip. Their name and club should be written on the score card so the League Manager is informed. This information will be shown on the weekly results table
- c) Any player having played in the "A" team, or the team in the highest division, three times cannot then play in the "B" team, or the team in the lower division, for the remainder of the season. This also applies to players playing in the "C" team; if they play three times in either the 'A' or 'B' team or the teams in the higher divisions, they cannot then play in the "C" team, or the team in the lowest division. This applies similarly to the "D" team.
- d) Where a club has two or more teams in the same division, the 'A' team is the highest, the 'B' team and the 'C' team the lowest. This applies similarly to "D" team. The above rule will apply accordingly.
- e) All League matches MUST be played on or between the dates specified. These dates can be found on your Order of Play sheet. If for any reason you need to change the day the match is played within that week - it must be by mutual agreement and played on or between the specified dates on the Order of Play sheet. It can be played at any time of day. Any change of day to be confirmed in writing, or e-mail, between the two clubs concerned and the Division Manager notified.
- f) The committee has the sole right to resolve any **problems** relating to unplayed games. Should a Club be found not abiding by the rules then a forfeiture of four points and ten shots will be deducted from their final score at the end of the season.
- g) League games shall consist of two trial ends followed by seventeen ends.
- h) League match teams shall consist of 2 rinks each of four players.

- i) Any rink composing of 3 players will play as follows: Lead and Two to play with three woods each; skip to play with two woods as normal. 25% of the total score on the rink that is a player short will be deducted.
- j) The trial ends, for a match must start no later than 6.30pm or before provided there are at least 3 players on each rink. If there are late arrivals they must join before the first end is completed, then the game can continue. However, this can only happen if each captain is kept informed as to when the missing members of the team hope to arrive. Once the captains of each team are aware of the situation then they can discuss when the game can start. If the member(s) of the team are going to be so late that they will not get there at all or are very late, then the points are to be shared equally.
- k) Players arriving late may be permitted to join the game only after the first end is played, prior to commencement of the second end.
- l) Captains of teams shall toss for play.
- m) Home scorecards should be placed face down, away scorecards should be placed on top randomly. The away captain chooses rink number for each set of cards, then cards can be turned over.
- n) A rolled jack shall be delivered for all League games.
- o) Dead ends to be replayed.
- p) The only player allowed to visit the head is the skip who may do so once per end only,
- q) Each home Club shall be responsible for green fees
- r) Grey skirts/trousers/shorts with club tops to be worn on the green or Club coloured trousers if applicable. All players must wear the same colours, other than a visiting player from another Club. Hats optional. Waterproof skirts/trousers when wet.
- s) Electronic devices / mobile phones not to be used during a game. It was agreed that any offender(s) should be reported to the Division League Manager who will record names and issue a first warning. If the offender(s) persist and are reported for a second time they will be banned from playing in the league for the rest of the season.
- t) If a Coach is present and being used during a game, they MUST inform the opposing Captain and adhere to Rule 44 in the Laws of Sport of Bowls (as per addendum attached). So far as filming or photos of the game is concerned, this must not take place without the prior consent of those concerned.

### **3.MODE OF SCORING**

- a) Player 2 to keep the cards during the game
- b) Each team to take or share a maximum of eight points. Two points for each winning rink, one point for each drawing rink, and four points for the winning score. If the match is drawn overall each team get four points.
- c) Eight points plus five shots are given away by a defaulting Club if they are unable to play the fixture. They will also lose two points from their points total making a total of 10 points defaulted.
- d) Teams can play fourteen ends if the weather is, or likely to become bad, but this must be agreed and adhered to before the game starts. When a game is abandoned before fourteen ends have been played, due to inclement weather, each team shall score four points.
- e) Points won decides who is the top team, if these are level then shot difference counts. If these are the same then the team which has won the most games, but if these are level a play-off will be arranged.
- f) Should teams be unable to agree on whether to play 14 or 17 ends, then a coin is to be tossed, the away captain to call.
- g) Team captains must agree the score, then email a copy of the signed cards to the league manager the evening of the match making sure that the names of the players are clearly written on the cards.
- h) If any league captain cannot Scan, Email or WhatsApp, then the results can be telephoned to the League manager the next morning and the signed cards must be posted that day.

### **4. SEVERE WEATHER CONDITIONS**

- a) Should a greenkeeper close a green for a number of days prior to a league game, the home league captain must contact her opposing captain immediately and either reverse the fixture, arrange to play on a neutral green or re-arrange the game for a later date.
- b) **In the event of extreme weather conditions** on the day of a league game, the home captain must contact a member of her club's greens committee to determine if the green is fit for play. If it is not fit for play, the home captain must contact her opposition and the game must be re-arranged for a later date.
- c) No game can be cancelled before 3.30pm.
- d) **All rearranged games must be played within 4 weeks of the cancelled fixture. If the fixture in question is within 4 weeks of the end of the League season it must be played by the end of the League season.**
- e) A minimum of 4 dates must be offered for the rearranged game
- f) Both teams must make every effort to mutually agree a time and date for the rearranged game.
- g) Failure to play the re-arranged fixture will result in both teams being awarded 4 points and 2 shots.
- h) The league managers must be kept informed of any changes to the league fixtures.
- i) The severe weather rule can only be used when the game has been cancelled in advance and neither team has travelled.
- j) Should no contact be made by the home captain, then teams must travel. If the weather has deteriorated by the time the travelling team arrives and the green is deemed unplayable, then each team shall have four points and two shots.
- k) If the weather has been hot i.e above 25 degrees, the captains of each team must check the weather forecast for that day and contact each other to discuss whether the game should be rearranged to either take place later in the day or that week.

## **WORLD OF BOWLS** **LAW OF THE SPORT OF BOWLS**

### **Rule 44**

#### **44 The Coach**

**Either the coach of a player, team or side or, in their absence, the coach's delegated deputy, can give advice to a player during the course of play as long as:**

**44.1 the umpire is given the names of the coach or the coach's delegated deputy as appropriate before the game starts.**

**44.2 only one person is present at the rink to give advice at any one time.**

**44.3 only one person giving the advice does so when their team or side is in possession of the rink.**

**44.4 if, in the umpire's opinion, this law has been broken, the umpire must ask the coach or delegated deputy concerned to stay within the law. If they do not stay within the law, the umpire must ask the Controlling Body to take immediate action to make sure that the offender stops breaking the law.**