PETERBOROUGH BOWLS LEAGUE CONSTITUTION and RULES - 2026

1. ORGANISATION

1. 1 The organisation shall be called the Peterborough & District Bowls League (The League).

1. 2 The organisation shall be a members non profit organisation.

2. AIM

2. 1 To foster the game of outdoor bowls.

3. MEMBERSHIP

3. 1 Membership of the League shall be open to all clubs in the Peterborough and surrounding area. A club is assumed to comprise all teams playing on the same green and having a common secretary.

3. 2 There shall be no minimum age limit for registered bowlers, except for the Club 55 League [9.3] and Mick Lewin Trophy [8.3].

3. 3 That the League shall be composed of one or more divisions, depending on the number of teams entered or requiring admission.

3. 4 All Clubs are required to give a commitment in writing on the number of teams they wish to enter for the following year's programme on or before the date specified by the Fixture Secretary - if not received it will be assumed they do not wish to participate.

3. 5 Clubs seeking admission to the League must do so in writing to the Administration Secretary at least 28 days before the Annual General Meeting. The motion to approve entry to the League will require a simple majority (51%) at the AGM, in accordance with 5.3

4. FINANCE

4. 1 All clubs in the League will pay an annual subscription per team (£20) in Midweek, Weekend , Club 55 and Sixes Leagues, plus a fee (£1) for each player registered. Level of these charges to be determined annually at the AGM.

4. 2 Annual subscriptions to be paid by 31st January and all other accounts, i.e. Registration Fees, Fines, etc. must be paid to the League Treasurer before the 1st day of the second month following the date of the invoice. Failure to do so will incur a fine of £10.

5. MANAGEMENT ADMINISTRATION

5. 1 The Annual General Meeting shall be held in December. Extraordinary General Meetings or Special Meetings may be called at any time by the Management Committee or on request of a motion signed by not less than 50% of League Clubs. All notices of such meetings to be made in writing to all League Clubs fourteen days prior to the date of any meeting.

5. 2 The Council Meeting will be held in October. **All clubs are required to attend.** Proposals for amendment to rules or any other proposals must be sent to the administration secretary before 31st July, to be collated and circulated to the clubs. for consideration, by 21st August. Only motions and amendments proposed and seconded at the council meeting will be taken to the AGM.

5. 3 All clubs should attend the AGM. **Only motions that have been proposed and seconded at the Council Meeting will be discussed and voted on at the AGM.** Adoptions of motions will be passed by a simple majority (51%).

5. 4 Clubs will only be allowed one vote at the AGM, EGM or Special Meeting.

5. 5 The officers and members of the Management Committee shall be elected annually at the Annual General Meeting.

5. 6 The nomination forms for the League Officials to be circulated, showing existing officials and their willingness to continue in their present position and asking for further nominations.

5. 7 The League shall be governed by a Management Committee which shall include Chairman, Treasurer, Administration Secretary, Fixture Secretary, and a maximum of six committee members. The Vice Chairman to be elected from committee members at the first meeting following the Annual General Meeting.

5. 8 The committee shall have power to fill any vacancy arising as a result of death, resignation or lack of attendance by any committee member, i.e. three consecutive meetings without any reasonable apology.

5. 9 The Management Committee will meet monthly or as necessary. Five members at a Management Committee Meeting will form a quorum. All serving committee members must be registered league members. Life members may attend all meetings and be able to vote.

5. 10 All cases of protest and any other complaint on League matters be lodged in writing with the Administration Secretary within 7 days of the incident and the complainants will be offered the opportunity to present their case at a properly convened meeting of the Executive Committee, who will have the power to deal with that complaint.

5. 11 If the conduct of any club or member of a club in the League be objectionable in League Matches, the Management Committee shall have power to deal with any complaint.

5. 12 The Management Committee has power to deal with any matter not provided for in these rules.

6. PLAYER REGISTRATION

6. 1 A list of members of each team be forwarded to the Fixture Secretary by a date determined by the Fixture Secretary, with each club to register which players are to play in a particular division on one form for each League. Other players may be registered, before playing, either by letter, e-mail or phone (followed up by an e-mail) up to and including the last club match date of the season. Fees to be invoiced at a later date.

6. 2 All transfers of players between clubs and teams within clubs must be made in writing to the League rep and cc in writing or by e-mail to Fixture Secretary. In the case of a player transferring from one club to another, the consent of the secretary of the club from which the players wishes to transfer must accompany the request for such transfer **and consent by letter or e-mail must be granted by League rep or Fixture secretary.**

6. 3 Clubs having more than one team in the League **MAY NOT TRANSFER A PLAYER** from one team to another team within the club **AFTER 31 JULY** each year. Such transfers are permitted on a **ONCE ONLY BASIS** before 31 July.

6. 4 A player leaving a club in debt will not be eligible to play for another club until he has discharged his liabilities to his previous club. Secretaries of clubs will report to the Fixture Secretary any defaulting members.

6. 5 A player is ineligible if any of the following conditions apply. (a) The player is too young to make the age qualification of the league. (b) The player is currently registered for another team/club which is not prepared to accept the transfer.(This would have to be for a good reason e.g. owing money) (c) The player has been banned by the league. (d) The player has already represented another team/club in a cup competition.

7. PLAYING REGULATIONS

7. 1 Smoking on the green and within one metre of the dyke, including E-cigarettes, is prohibited for all Players, Umpires and Markers taking part in any Peterborough & District Bowls League games or competitions. Any complaints concerning breaches of this rule must be clearly indicated on the result card. Local Club rules on smoking should be respected by visiting players.

7. 2 The standard of dress for all matches under the control of the League will be white or club shirt, providing all team members wear the same. Grey or black worn below the waist, with shorts being accompanies by white or grey socks.

7. 3 Club uniforms are acceptable provided all team members wear the same and they are registered with the League. Clubs will be responsible for ensuring their members adhere to this rule, and that any club contravening this rule must be clearly indicated on the result card. A report on the matter, made in writing by each team captain must be sent to the Fixture Secretary within seven days of the incident. Infringements of this rule may result in the Management Committee taking disciplinary action against the club.

7. 4 Players, umpires and markers must wear flat-soled ("heel-less") footwear when they play on the green or act as umpires or markers.

7. 5 Date of Bowls: All composition bowls must bear a legible stamp for 1985 or later and can continue to be used without stamping until such time as the stamp becomes illegible. Any other type of bowls (such as Lignum Bowls) must be stamped every ten years.

7. 6 The home/host club or the first named team in a cup competition must ensure they provide the relevant equipment, i.e. scoreboards at the end of each rink, mats, jacks, ditch markers and two-metre sticks.

7. 7 All the competitions shall be governed by the Management Committee. Any dispute arising shall be referred to the Management Committee whose decision in this and all other matters concerning competitions shall be final.

7. 8 A match shall consist of three playing rinks, except the Sixes League where there will be two. No match shall take place with less than two players per rink. In the event of a rink being short, extra bowls may not be played by any of the other players in the rink.

7. 9 In the case of all competitions, with the exception of the Munday Shield, the order of play for a rink that is a player short will be: Lead, Lead, Second, Lead, Lead, Second, Skips (1.1.2; 1.1.2; skips).

7. 10 In the Midweek League, Sixes League and Rowlett Cup, the front edge of the mat must be placed two metres from the rear ditch at the start of the match and in subsequent ends the front edge of the mat may be positioned not less than two metres from the rear ditch and not less than 25 metres from the far ditch.

7. 11 In matches played to World Bowls Laws, i.e. Club 55 League, Weekend League, Munday Shield and Mick Lewin Trophy, the front edge of the mat may be positioned at least two metres from the rear ditch and at least 25 metres from the far ditch.

7. 12 If the Jack be driven off the boundaries of the rink it is counted as dead and, unless agreed otherwise by the skips, replayed from the same end. If the Jack goes into the ditch from the effect of play it shall be deemed to be live and played to its position being indicated by a suitable marked place on the bank.

8. CUP COMPETITIONS

8. 1 **ALBERT ROWLETT CUP** – donated by the family of Albert Rowlett. Midweek League rules apply - three rinks of two bowl triples playing 21 ends. **Result of the game is to be based on the total end score of all three rinks. Should the score be equal then an extra end is to be played by one rink. RINK FOR EXTRA END IS TO BE DRAWN BY TEAM CAPTAINS BEFORE COMMENCEMENT OF THE GAME.**

8. 2 **MUNDAY SHIELD** - presented by Walter Munday. Weekend League rules apply – two rinks of two-bowl fours, one rink at home and one away, playing 21 ends. **Result of the game is to be based on the total end score of both rinks. Should the score be equal then an extra end is to be played by one rink. The first-named team will play the extra end up to the final, when the captains will draw a rink before the match.**

8. 2a **Start time** for both **Albert Rowlett & Munday Shield** will be 6.30pm and not later than 6.45pm. Any ties played after July 31 the start time will be 6.15pm and not later than 6.30pm, with the exception of the final which has a 6.00pm start.

8. 3 **MICK LEWIN TROPHY** - presented by the family of Mick Lewin. Restricted to clubs playing in the Club 55 League, whose rules apply – Three rinks of three-bowl triples playing 18 ends to World Bowls Laws, players to be aged 55 on or before the date of the match. **Result of the game is to be based on the total score of the three rinks. Should the score be equal then an extra end is to be played by one rink. RINK FOR EXTRA END IS TO BE DRAWN BY TEAM CAPTAINS BEFORE COMMENCEMENT OF THE GAME. Start time:** 2pm and not later than 2.15pm.

8. 4 The competition is to be open only to those clubs being members of the League.

8. 5 The entrance fee for the competition is £5 per team or as determined at the AGM.

8. 6 The competitions are run on a knock-out basis and all the players must be registered with the League.

8. 7 Once a player has represented a team in one of the competitions, they may not transfer to another team in the same competition.

8. 8 If a match is postponed (see Postponed Matches [12] or Abandoned Matches [13]), then the first named team will be responsible for immediately notifying the Fixture Secretary.

8. 9 The first named team will be responsible for offering their opponents an alternative date for the rearranged match, which must be played before the next round, and notifying the Fixture Secretary as soon as the date has been confirmed.

8. 10 A team fielding an ineligible or unregistered player will be fined £10 and in the case of it being a winning team disqualified from the competition and replaced in the next round draw by the team they defeated in the round in question.

8. 11 If a team is unable to fulfil its cup commitment by the end date for any reason other than an application to the league for a postponement citing 'exceptional circumstances', then they will forfeit the tie and their scheduled opponents put through to the next round. If the league supports their postponement application then the match must be played before the next round with the first named team offering three dates and notifying the Competition Results Secretary of new date.

8. 12 The finals of all three competitions will be played on a green selected by the Management Committee.

9 LEAGUE COMPETITIONS

9. 1 **ROY GIBSON MIDWEEK** - English Bowling Federation Laws except where amended by the Peterborough League [7.10] - three rinks of two bowl triples playing 21 ends. **Start time:** 6.30pm and not later than 6.45pm. **From 1st August, 6.15pm, not later than 6.30pm**

9. 2 **TONY HOBBS WEEKEND -** World Bowl Laws except that players may alter the order in which they play, but only after the completion of an end, other than a dead end, and before the commencement of the next end. Three rinks of three-bowl triples playing 18 ends. **Start time** will be 2.00pm and not later than 2.15pm.

9. 3 **DAVE HARROLD CLUB 55 -** World Bowl Laws except that players may alter the order in which they play, but only after the completion of an end, other than a dead end, and before the commencement of the next end. Three rinks of three-bowl triples playing 18 ends, players to be aged 55 on or before date of match. **Start time** will be 2.00pm and not later than 2.15pm.

9. 4 **SUBSTITUTE PLAYERS** - The number of substitutes permitted per team per game is three. Substitute players from the same League club will be permitted if they are from a team in the same division or lower however, they must not play in any divisional team of the same league for the following 6 days. The team requiring the use of substitutes must have a minimum of 9 players registered to play for it otherwise substitutes will not be permitted. (A breach of these requirements will be deemed to be playing an “ineligible” player and the team penalised in accordance with Rule 9.13). Substitutes must be clearly marked on the result card submitted to the league stating the name of the team with which they are registered. (A breach of this requirement will be deemed to be playing an “unregistered” player and penalised in accordance with Rule 9.14).

9. 5 Points awarded in each match: 4 points for team scoring most shots; 2 points for each team in the event of a tie; 2 points for each winning rink;1 point for each rink that is tied.

9. 6 The constitution of the division shall be decided by the Management Committee, with the principle of two teams relegated and replaced by two promoted teams, whenever possible to balance the divisions, to apply. If a team declines promotion then promotion is offered to those in 3rd or 4th place instead, if they wish to take up the offer. The team that finishes 1st or 2nd and declines promotion stays in the same division but starts with a penalty of 2 points per game.

9. 7 Each team shall play home and away matches with each team in the appropriate division.

9. 8 Clubs having more than one team in the same division of the League must ensure that matches between their teams are played before July 31 each year.

9. 9 To prevent clubs stockpiling or back loading their season, 40% of a clubs' fixtures must be scheduled before July 1.

9. 10 Fixtures will be made by the Management Committee relevant to information received from clubs. Clubs failing to submit information to the Fixture Secretary must stand by fixtures made.

9. 11 If two or more teams finish level on points at the end of the season, then shot difference will apply. If teams still remain level, then final positions will be determined by virtue of the team having scored more shots.

9. 12 Any team playing an **INELIGIBLE** will have a five point penalty deducted from its total league record in respect of each offence signed for on the result card and be fined £10 for each offence.

9. 13 Any team playing an **UNREGISTERED** player will receive a £5 late registration administration fine, but there will be no further penalty.

SIXES LEAGUE

10. 1 **Sixes League -** English Bowling Federation Laws except where amended by the Peterborough League [7.10] - two rinks of three bowl triples playing 2 sets of 7 ends. *This League will adopt the rules of the main Leagues except where amended below within Section 10.*

10. 2 **Dress Code -** Teams may play in whatever dress code is adopted by their club. (exemption from 7.2)

10. 3 **Rinks & Players -** Rinks will be drawn in the normal way and remain the same for both sets. Players on each rink may rotate, as per Federation Laws, during each set. Teams may consist of up to 8 players with the reserve players able to change at the end of a set only, except where the change is necessary because of medical reasons.

10. 4 **Scoring -** 2 points awarded for each set won (1 point each if drawn), plus two points to the overall winner of total shots scored (1 point for each team where total shots are equal). 10 points available for each game.

10. 5 **Registration of players** must be made in accordance with 6.1. Unregistered players will be dealt with in accordance with rule 9.13. Players registered to play in the Midweek League Premier Division are not eligible to participate in the Sixes League. Breach of this rule will result in the opposition being awarded all 10 points.

10. 6 Only one team per club is permitted to enter the Sixes League.

10. 7 Start time: 6.30pm and not later than 6.45pm. From 1st August, 6.15pm, not later than 6.30pm

11. CAPTAINS' DUTIES

11. 1 The visiting captain or appointed representative will draw for rinks, and toss a coin to decide possession of the jack on the opening end.

11. 2 The home team captain or appointed representative will be responsible for providing a result card and at the end of the match both captains or appointed representatives should check that the result card is a true record of players and score before signing.

11. 3 The result card should be in the possession of the appointed league results secretary within five days of the match taking place. This should either be by post or the card can be scanned/photographed and then sent by e-mail. Failing to do this may mean the offending team be liable to a fine of £10.00.

11. 4 Two trial ends are available before each match if decided upon.

11. 5 If a player arrives late, they may join the match at any time provided their name has been included on the result card before the start of the match.

11. 6 If a player is unable to complete a match through illness or injury, a replacement may be permitted on behalf of the player concerned, providing they are registered for that team in that league or cup competition.

12. POSTPONED MATCHES

12. 1 Every effort should be made to complete the matches on the planned dates. However, in adverse weather conditions the safety of players is considered paramount.
If in the opinion of the groundsman and/or one of the captains or appointed representatives, the green or weather are unfavourable for a match, captains must arrange a mutually acceptable alternative date. This also applies for rain, exceptionally hot weather or any other weather phenomenon. Captains may choose to start earlier or later than the regular start time, take a break during the match, shorten the match to the minimum number of ends, or any combination of these that both captains agree upon.

12. 2 The home team or first named team in cup competitions will be responsible for both notifying the Fixture Secretary of the decision immediately by phone or email and providing them with a new date within seven days of the original fixture being postponed, the new date not to be beyond the second week of September in the case of league matches, or before the next round in the case of cup matches.

12. 3 Clubs can apply to the League to postpone a match without penalty if they believe there are 'exceptional circumstances' involved, in which case the League will make a decision based on the facts presented to them. If the League agree to the request, the team seeking the postponement will be responsible for notifying the Fixture Secretary of the new date by phone or email within seven days of the original date of the match. If the League refuse to accept the reason offered, then either rule 12.4 or rule 12.5 will apply.

12. 4 Any team that requests a postponement other than 12.1 (unfavourable weather conditions / unfit green) and 12.3 (exceptional circumstances) will be penalised 2 points for non-fulfilment of the original fixture date as stated at the start of the season. This will be for each postponement. Notification of the re-arranged fixture, to be played not beyond the second week of September, to be emailed to the League rep and cc to the Fixture Secretary by both team captains. The Management committee reserve the right to issue a date for a match to be played in any dispute.

12. 5 Where a postponement is made less than 72 hours before the scheduled date for reasons other then provided in 12.1 (unfavourable weather conditions / unfit green) and 12.3 (exceptional circumstances) the team postponing the fixture will be penalised 5 points. Notification of the rearranged fixture, to be played not beyond the second week of September, to be emailed to the League rep and cc to Fixture Secretary by both captains. The Management reserve the right to issue a date for a match to be played in any dispute.

12. 6 If a club reaches the quarter-final stage, or beyond, of a knockout competition, both within and outside the jurisdiction of the League, then with the consent of both captains, the League fixture may be rearranged without penalty. The club seeking to postpone the League fixture is responsible for notifying the Fixture Secretary of the fixture change and the re-scheduled date before they play their cup match. The rule only applies to full team competitions, and therefore does not apply to singles, pairs, triples and fours.

13. ABANDONED MATCHES

13. 1 Matches to consist of 18 completed ends in the Club 55 League, Weekend League and the Mick Lewin Trophy. If a match is abandoned before 18 ends are completed, and if a minimum 12 ends have been played by all three rinks, then the score at the termination of the match will be accepted as the result. If play is abandoned before all three rinks have played 12 ends, the match will be declared null and void and replayed at a later date.

13. 2 Matches to consist of 21 completed ends in the Midweek League, Albert Rowlett Cup and the Munday Shield. If a match is abandoned before 21 ends are completed, and if a minimum 14 ends have been played by all three rinks, then the score at the termination of the match will be accepted as the result. If play is abandoned before all three rinks have played 14 ends, the match will be declared null and void and replayed at a later date.

13. 3 Sixes matches to consist of two sets of 7 ends. If a match is abandoned before 14 ends are completed, and if a minimum 9 ends have been played by both rinks, then the score at the termination of the match will be accepted as the result. If play is abandoned before both rinks have played 9 ends, the match will be declared null and void and replayed at a later date.

13. 4 The home team, or first named in cup competitions, will be responsible for notifying the League Representative immediately of an abandoned match, either by phone or email. The League Representative to be notified of the rearranged date within seven days of the original fixture. The new date for league matches must not be beyond the second week of September; a rearranged cup fixture must be played before the next round.

14. TROPHIES AND REPLICAS

14. 1 The winners of each division or cup competition will be presented with a trophy at the end of the season**,** but this will be retained by the League for insurance purposes and put on display in the League's trophy cabinet at the Peterborough & District Indoor Bowling Centre.

14. 2 A club failing to attend the annual presentation dinner to collect prizes shall forfeit those prizes and pay the cost of said trophies.