



# North Yorkshire Bowls League Constitution

## 1 NAME

The League shall be called the 'North Yorkshire Bowls League' (NYBL).

## 2 AFFILIATION

The League shall be affiliated to Bowls England and subject to its laws.

## 3 OBJECTS

The objects of the League shall be:

- a) To promote, foster and safeguard the amateur flat green game of bowls.
- b) To hold League matches according to the fixture chart.
- c) To hold League Championships annually in single-handed, pairs, triples and fours competitions, and any other competitions constitutionally agreed to by any Annual or Special General Meeting.
- d) To interpret, when called upon by Affiliated Clubs or members thereof, difficult or doubtful questions of law and practice, and arbitrate in all differences referred to the League between and among Affiliated Clubs.
- e) To exercise its duty of care to protect all persons less than 18 years of age and vulnerable adults involved in League organised activities.

## 4 CLUB MEMBERSHIP

- a) Membership of the League shall be open to all Clubs in North Yorkshire that play the flat green game, either on private greens, on greens attached to public premises, or on other public greens; provided that such clubs use a green of an approved Bowls England size and surface. The Management Committee may authorise a modification of the normal requirements in special cases and subject to appropriate conditions.
- b) In the event of a green being declared unfit for play either before the commencement of, or during a season, the Club affected may, with the approval of the Management Committee, be allowed to play on any green of their choice provided that the green so chosen conforms to this Rule.
- c) Applications for membership must be made to the Honorary Secretary of the League and should be accompanied by a list of office bearers of the Club, the address of the Honorary Secretary and the location of the green.
- d) Clubs proposing to join the League must either be affiliated to the Yorkshire Bowling Association (YBA) and Bowls England or be prepared to affiliate to both on acceptance.  
A Club so affiliated but not accepted by the League may become affiliated to the League for a nominal fee of £5 to retain the membership proposal on the table. During this period of affiliation to the League and providing that a Club is eligible to play YBA competitions on its own green, then such a Club will be able to enter League competitions and play rounds both Home and Away. If this provision does not apply, the Club will be able to enter League competitions but will play all rounds away from home on greens which are accepted by the YBA until such times as it fulfils the previously stated YBA. competitions requirement.  
The approval or otherwise of applications shall be at the discretion of the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the League after considering the recommendations of the Management Committee.
- e) Any Club desiring to withdraw from membership of the League shall give notice in writing to the Honorary Secretary.
- f) Clubs playing on municipal or other public greens must have permission from the appropriate Authority allowing them the use of a rink or rinks for competitive matches.

- g) Clubs already affiliated to the League or Clubs intending to apply for affiliation to the League who propose to be playing on municipal or other public greens upon which another affiliated Club is currently playing, shall not be affiliated to the League until such other Club has been informed of the application and has not, in the opinion of the League, offered any bona fide objection to the affiliation.
- h) There shall be no age limit, either for League matches or Competitions.

## **5 LIFE MEMBERSHIP**

- a) Life Members of the League may be elected at the AGM in recognition of outstanding service to the League provided that there shall not be more than ten (10) such members at one time.
- b) Written nominations for Life Membership shall be submitted to the Honorary Secretary not less than twenty-eight (28) days before the next AGM. The Management Committee shall consider these nominations and make recommendations to the AGM.

## **6 SUBSCRIPTIONS**

All Clubs affiliated to the League shall pay an annual subscription, which shall be fixed by the AGM. The annual subscription shall be paid not later than 1st April of the following year. Any Club failing to pay the subscription by the due date shall forfeit all rights and privileges of membership until the whole of the arrears owing by them have been discharged. In this event the Management Committee may take such disciplinary action as it considers necessary. Additionally, any club not paying their county or Bowls England subscription will automatically lose their affiliation to the league.

## **7 GENERAL MEETINGS**

- a) **Annual General Meeting (AGM)**
  - i) The AGM of the League shall be held in December (or at such other time as the Management Committee may fix if in its opinion special circumstances warrant such a change) at a place to be determined by the Management Committee for the appointment of Officers and for the transaction of such other business as may be properly done at an AGM.
  - ii) A proposal intended for inclusion in the agenda of an AGM must be submitted in writing to the Honorary Secretary not less than six (6) weeks before the date of the meeting. Changes to the Constitution and Rules may only be made at an AGM.
  - iii) At least twenty-one (21) days before an AGM a notice to attend the meeting, specifying the business to be transacted there at and signed by the Honorary Secretary shall be sent to every Club and to all other persons entitled to be present, provided that want of service of the notice in any case shall not affect the validity of the meeting.
  - iv) An auditor for the coming year shall be appointed but this person shall not serve in any other capacity or on any Committee.
- b) **Special General Meeting**

A Special General Meeting of the League may be called at any time on the instructions of the Management Committee, or on receipt of a request to the Honorary Secretary from an affiliated Club, signed by the Office holders of that Club and supported in writing and signed by the Office holders of at least seven (7) other affiliated Clubs. The meeting must convene within six (6) weeks of the Honorary Secretary's receipt of the request.

## **8 ATTENDANCE AND VOTING PROCEDURES AT ANNUAL GENERAL AND SPECIAL MEETINGS**

- a) Each affiliated Club shall appoint one (1) Voting Representative to attend and speak and cast one (1) vote as directed by his Club.
- b) A Management Committee member may attend and speak in that capacity and cast one (1) vote only, no matter that he hold more than one (1) position on the Committee. He shall not also act as his Club's Voting Representative.
- c) Life Members may, providing they are not present as a Voting Representative or a Management Committee member, attend, speak and cast one (1) vote.
- d) Any member of an affiliated Club who is not represented in the above categories may attend and speak but not vote.

- e) A proposal to change the Constitution will require a two thirds majority to be carried. Any other proposal, particularly to the playing formats and rules, will require a simple majority.
- f) Voting shall be by show of hands unless the Meeting determines otherwise.

## 9 ELECTION OF OFFICERS

- a) At each AGM there shall be elected such Officers as may then be determined including a Chairman, Honorary Secretary, Honorary Treasurer, Honorary Assistant Secretary, plus six (6) members representing the clubs. The offices of Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer may be held by the same person if so determined.
- b) If a vacancy occurs prior to the next AGM in any of the offices foresaid, the Management Committee shall have the power to fill such a vacancy and the person so appointed shall hold office until the next AGM. or until a Special General Meeting convened and held for the purpose of filling the vacancy.
- c) A honorarium payment is available to the Secretary, Assistant Secretary and Treasurer. Currently the payments are £75/year each. These payments may be reviewed from time-to-time by the Management Committee. Any change requires AGM endorsement.

## 10 MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (The Committee)

- a) The Committee shall comprise the Officers of the League and the six members representing the affiliated Clubs.
- b) The Committee shall, subject to these rules, be responsible for the general control and management of the affairs of the League and shall have the power to appoint sub-committees for such purposes and with such powers as they may from time to time determine. It may make suggestions on planning and policy.
- c) The Committee shall be responsible for the administration of all competitions offered by the League and, to this end, it may appoint a secretary and/ or sub-committee as required. It may also make recommendations on changes to playing format(s), rules and competitions.
- d) The Committee shall initially adjudicate on any **disputes or interpretation of rules** whether arising from or in connection with League fixtures or Competitions, clarification of Rules or any other matters requiring early or immediate decision. A Club in membership, an individual from such a club, and/ or a party to such adjudication may, providing written notice is given to the Secretary within 21 days of advice of the decision, appeal against the Committee's findings. The dispute shall then be referred to the Appeals Committee whose judgement shall be final.
- e) All Committee members, except the Chairman or acting Chairman, shall have only one vote even though they may hold a plurality of positions. The Chairman or acting Chairman shall have only a casting vote. A simple majority shall carry any proposal.
- f) The Committee shall decide upon any matter that is not provided for in the Constitution or Playing Formats and Rules. Such decisions will be recorded in Committee meeting minutes and shall be binding until set aside by a change to the Constitution or Playing Formats and Rules.

## 11 APPEALS COMMITTEE

The Committee shall comprise three members who shall be chosen from amongst the current Life Members and the Club Representatives on the Management Committee by the Honorary Secretary as the occasion demands. The Appeals Committee shall;

- a) Deal with appeals against Management Committee decisions and with other matters which have been referred to them regarding the Constitution and Rules, Bowls regulations, and disputes which cannot be resolved by the Management Committee.
- b) Have the authority to call witnesses and acquire such documents as may be necessary.
- c) Maintain minutes of their meetings.

A decision by the Appeals Committee is final.

## 12 QUORUM

The quorum for the transaction of business shall be:  
General Meetings – Ten (10) clubs in membership

Management Committee and Sub-Committees – At least 50% of Committee members.

Appeals Committee – All three (3) members.

### **13 SEVERANCE OF MEMBERSHIP**

Upon any breach of these Rules the Management Committee after due investigation of the facts and, if need be, the examination of witnesses and relevant documentary evidence, may suspend or determine the membership of any Club. Such Club shall have a right of appeal to the AGM or a Special General Meeting convened for that purpose against an adverse decision, provided that the appeal, signed by the office bearers of the Club and stating the ground or grounds upon which it is made, is lodged with the Honorary Secretary of the League within twenty-one (21) days of the Committee's decision.

### **14 DUTIES OF HONORARY SECRETARY AND HONORARY TREASURER**

- a) The Honorary Secretary shall keep a record of all business transacted at all General Meetings and at all meetings of the Management Committee and at any other Committee or Sub-Committee that may be appointed other than the Appeals Committee, and shall submit to the AGM a report of the proceedings of the League since the previous AGM.
- b) The Honorary Treasurer shall manage all financial dealings of the League and present a report of such business at each AGM and Management Committee meeting. The financial year of the League shall commence on the 1st December. The funds of the League shall be deposited at a bank approved by the Management Committee. All authorities to withdraw shall be signed by any two (2) of the Honorary Treasurer, the Honorary Secretary or the Honorary Assistant Secretary. The League's financial activity shall be audited annually.

### **15 SAFEGUARDING**

The League fully accepts its legal and moral obligations to exercise a duty of care towards all persons participating in its activities. To support this, all member clubs are expected to have a Safeguarding Policy that follows the guidelines provided by Bowls England.



# North Yorkshire Bowls League

## Playing Formats and Rules

### 1 GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS

#### a) Rules and Conditions

Every Competition shall be played under the rules of Bowls England and shall be controlled by the Management Committee.

#### b) Eligibility

- i) Other than for the Champion-of-Champions competition, all competitions shall be confined to members of such Clubs as are in membership and have paid their subscription for the current year. A player who has represented a club in any competition cannot play for or represent another club in that or any other competition unless permission is obtained from the Management Committee.
- ii) In the Champion-of-Champions competition a club in membership in the previous season may still nominate the usual two entries even if not in membership in the current year. The previous year's winner and runner-up may also play.
- iii) In the knock-out competitions, a named player changing Clubs between seasons shall retain his singles named entry to play from his new Club if the League Secretary is informed before May. He loses named pairs, triples and fours entries at his old Club; these entries may be played with a new named player if the League Secretary is informed before May. He may join pairs, triples and fours rinks in other names at his new Club. Pairs, triples and fours entered in his name at his previous Club may remain in the Competition providing that they supply the Competition Secretary with new contact names before May of the Competition year.
- iv) Named competitors who or whose team(s) do not appear for their rounds in knock-out competitions, including the champion-of champions, and who have made no valid representations for their apparent lack of courtesy which are acceptable to the Management Committee, shall be banned from these competitions the following year.
- v) Playing an ineligible person shall result in loss of rink in a League or Team Tournament match, and forfeit of game in knock-out and champion-of-champions competitions.

#### c) Entrance Fees

The entrance fees for all Competitions held under the auspices of the League shall be proposed by the Management Committee for confirmation at AGM.

#### d) Prizes

The prizes, if any, to be awarded to the winners and runners up in each Competition shall be determined by the Management Committee.

#### e) Dress

All players must wear their club's colours above the waist and grey below the waist plus the correct footwear. Grey shorts from Bowls England and mainstream bowls equipment manufacturers may be worn.

#### f) Etiquette

The League expects the highest standards of etiquette from its members. Any concerns/ complaints should be sent in writing to the Honorary Secretary for referral to the Management Committee.

#### g) Unfit Green

- i) In the event of a green being declared unfit for play either before the commencement of, or during a season, the Club affected may, with the approval of the Management Committee, be allowed to play on any green of their choice provided that the green is of an approved Bowls England size and surface.
- ii) For isolated instances of a green being deemed unplayable teams/ players may change venue.

h) **Green Safety**

When deciding if it is safe to play any local Greenkeeper advice and/ or "no play" signs etc take precedence. After this it is the responsibility of the following to decide if the green is safe to play:

- i) In League and Team Tournament Matches the team captains.
- ii) For Knock-Out competitions played as "one-off" games the two skips or the individuals if a singles game.
- iii) For organised games, including such as but not limited to the Champion-of- Champions and the latter stages of knock-out competitions, the Organiser in consultation with players.

Outside of the above, it is the responsibility of each individual to decide if the green is safe to play.

## 2 LEAGUE MATCHES

- a) League matches shall be played over 18 ends by teams consisting of four rinks of three players each playing three bowls There will be no trial ends. One shot only to be scored on the first two ends.
- b) The requisite number of ends to be played for a score to stand shall be 12 for an 18 end game and 15 for a 21 end game.
- c) All League matches shall start at 6.30pm except for April, August and September games which will start at 6pm. If time or weather conditions render this impracticable the number of ends to be played shall be agreed by the respective captains before play commences or, in default of agreement, by the toss of a coin. Once play has commenced, however, and the number of ends so determined cannot be played for any reason whatsoever the winners shall be team with the highest total score when play ceases, irrespective of the number of ends played provided that in no case shall the duration of a game be less than the requisite number of ends and that any decision to end play before the requisite number of ends have been played shall be the subject of agreement between the respective captains.
- d) When a match has to be abandoned because of the conditions prevailing and the requisite number of ends have not been completed then the match shall be replayed in its entirety, with both teams being able to select its team from all available members. The match shall be rearranged following the rules for a Postponed match (see below).
- e) In a fours format a team may play with a minimum of three (3) players per rink, ie a team minimum of nine (9) players. In a triples format a team may play with a minimum of two (2) players per rink, ie a team minimum of six (6) players. Where a rink has less than the expected number of players the conditions described in "Playing with Fewer Players" shall apply.
- f) It shall be the duty of Club Secretaries to retain signed rink score cards until the completion of the League season and these should be available for scrutiny in the event of any dispute in match results
- g) For the deciding of the League Championship points shall be awarded
  - i) In each match, two points per winning rink (1 point each if drawn) plus 2 points to the team with the higher aggregate score (1 point each if drawn).
  - ii) In the event of two or more teams tying for any position in a League table, shots aggregate (shots for divided by shots against) will decide relative positions. If positions are still not resolved then the result of the matches between the teams shall be the decider.
- h) All League matches shall be played on the date shown in the fixture list unless due to ground, weather or safety conditions a match is called off by the local greenkeeper or, at the time of playing, by mutual agreement of both captains. Additionally, a team losing four or more players to a Bowls England affiliated County and/ or National Competition may apply to the Management Committee to have their match postponed. If a match is postponed for any other reason there shall be a deduction of 4 points to the club postponing the match.
  - i) Within 7 days of a postponement the home club must offer three dates to the opposition, avoiding published reserved dates, one of which must be a weekend. The offered dates must allow the game to be played within the sooner of 28 days of postponement or 7 days after the end of the final scheduled round of fixtures. Failure to do this will result in the award of the game and match points to the away team. The away team must accept one of the offered dates within 7 days of receipt. Failure to do so will result in the award of the game and match points to the home team.

- j) Any dispute concerning the non-fulfilment of league fixtures shall be referred to the Management Committee whose decision thereon shall be final. The Management Committee shall have plenary powers to impose penalties and award points to the injured parties, as deemed fit. In addition to the foregoing, and subject to the right of appeal, the Management Committee shall also have power to expel from membership of the League any Club persistently failing to fulfil its fixtures.

### **3 TEAM TOURNAMENT**

- a) Subject to the under mentioned conditions the competition will follow the relevant rules for League Matches.
- b) All teams in the league are eligible to play. The Management Committee will propose a playing format depending on the number of clubs entering for confirmation at AGM. If groups are involved they will be decided by the drawing of lots.
- c) The playing format is teams of twelve (12) competing as follows:
  - i) One singles match playing to eighteen (18) points, four (4) bowls each player. The home team shall provide a marker.
  - ii) Two pairs matches playing fifteen (15) ends, four (4) bowls each player. A game may be tied.
  - iii) One triples match playing thirteen (13) ends, three (3) bowls each player. A game may be tied.
  - iv) One fours match playing fifteen (15) ends, two (2) bowls each player. A game may be tied.
  - v) In all matches there will be no trial ends. One shot only to be scored on the first two ends.
- d) One (1) point shall be awarded to the winner of each match, or ½ each if a game is drawn, plus one (1) further point for the team with the better aggregate score.
- e) Group position shall be determined as described for League Matches.
- f) If there are groups the winners will play in semi-finals and a final on a pre-selected date with revised durations of singles 21 shots up, pairs 18 ends, triples 18 ends and fours 18 ends. In the event of a tie between clubs in these later stages the result of the Singles match shall determine the winner.
- g) A Team may play a triples game with two (2) players and/ or a fours game with three (3) players. In such situations the conditions described in "Playing with Fewer Players" shall apply.

### **4 KNOCK-OUT COMPETITIONS (Excluding Champion-of-Champions)**

- a) **Competitions**
  - i) Singles. The game shall be played to twenty-one (21) points with four (4) bowls each player. A marker is required.
  - ii) Pairs. The game shall be eighteen (18) ends, four (4) bowls each player.
  - iii) Triples. The game shall be eighteen (18) ends, three (3) bowls each player.
  - iv) Fours. The game shall be eighteen (18) ends, two (2) bowls each player.
  - v) In the event of a tie in a pairs, triples or fours game one extra end shall be played. The team winning the spin of a coin may choose to bowl the jack or have the final wood.
  - vi) For other than finals, the option of trial ends or immediate start may be decided on-the-day by those playing. If there is no agreement then the default is no trial ends with one shot only to be scored on the first two ends.
  - vii) For Finals matches, the choice of trial ends or immediate start will be decided on the day by the competition organiser.
- b) **Competition Stages**
  - i) All competitions entries shall be drawn together and played off in rounds according to the draw. The result of the draws shall be communicated to Club Secretaries as soon as practicable.
  - ii) The dates on which the various rounds must be played will be clearly stated in the draw. The rounds may be played before the date shown by mutual agreement. If this agreement is not forthcoming, the round must be played on the date shown or the match forfeited by the defaulter. Rounds not played because of inclement weather must be played during the following weekend.
  - iii) Should a match be curtailed because of inclement weather and 12 ends have not been completed, it must be continued during the following weekend, resuming from the score when the match was curtailed.

- iv) In the event of a clash between a League final and a National final, the League final should be played before the scheduled date. This date is to be with the agreement of the Competition Secretary.
  - v) The results of all matches shall be submitted to the Honorary Secretary or other designated Officer immediately after the ties are played. The onus on making such returns rests with the winners. All score cards must be signed by the loser before being submitted to the Honorary Secretary or other designated Officer.
- c) **Challenger and Opponent Duties**
- i) The first drawn of each singles, pairs, triples and fours match shall be termed the “Challenger” and the second the “Opponent”.
  - ii) The Challenger in singles must provide a marker or forfeit the game
  - iii) Nominal starting time for rounds is 6.30pm. Competitors should, however, realise that as the competition progresses the time should get progressively earlier. The Challenger should contact the Opponent to suggest a starting time.
  - iv) If a party arrives more than half an hour after the time fixed for the tie the other party may claim “a walk-over”.
  - v) Any postponement because of weather should be communicated to the Competitions Secretary by personal contact or phone immediately. Such contact should be confirmed in writing or email to furnish evidence in the event of a dispute.
  - vi) The ties in all rounds of the competitions up to the finals shall be played on the green of the Challenger. The finals shall be played on a green nominated by the Management Committee.
  - vii) Where a green is not in a reasonable playable condition the Opponent shall have the right of playing on his own green on appeal to the Honorary Secretary or other designated Officer, whose decision shall be final. Should neither green be in a reasonable condition then the Honorary Secretary or other designated Officer shall fix a neutral green for the tie to be played.
  - viii) If a game does not complete it must recommence at the point where it was stopped. The game must be completed within 14 days.
  - ix) One substitute is allowed in a pairs, triples and fours team due to illness or unavailability. This person cannot skip the team. The person substituted may return for a later game.

## 5 CHAMPION-OF-CHAMPIONS COMPETITION

- a) Each club may nominate up to two players, usually their Club Champion and the Runner-up, to play in this competition to determine the League’s “champion-of-champions”. The previous year’s winner and runner-up may also play as two (2) extra players.
- b) A club nominating a substitute after their initial entries have been submitted must advise the League Secretary.
- c) Competitors who do not notify the League Secretary that they will not be present for the competition shall be excluded from the event the following year.
- d) The competition will be played over one day (weather permitting) at a club chosen by the Management Committee,
- e) The format is four bowls each player, playing for the shorter of thirteen ends or 1 hour in each round, except for the final which shall be 15 ends.
- f) The option of trial ends or immediate start will be decided on the day by the competition organiser.

## 6 DOUGLASS CUP

- a) This is a trophy for the season’s “most improved” team.
- b) It is determined by the number of points a Club gains over the previous season. In the event of a tie the most improved League position of the tied Clubs shall decide and, if still not decided, the final decider will be the aggregate result of the match(es) between the teams.

## 7 PLAYING WITH FEWER PLAYERS

There are two situations where a team or rink may play with fewer than the expected number of players.

- a) **Team or Rink of Four (4) playing with Three (3) Players**



- i) In this situation the lead and second players will each play with 3 woods; the skip with 2 woods.
  - ii) The jack will be set by the team winning the previous end (or winning the toss if the first or an extra end). The lead of that team will bowl their first wood, followed by the first wood from the lead of the other team. Other woods and players will follow, each player bowling their allotted woods before another on their team bowls, and ensuring that woods are always bowled alternately by the two teams.
  - iii) 25% will be deducted from the final rink score of the team with three players.
- b) Team or Rink of Three (3) Playing with Two (2) Players**
- i) In this situation both players in the team of 2 will play with 4 woods.
  - ii) The jack will be set by the team winning the previous end (or winning the toss if the first or an extra end).
  - iii) If the team with 3 players won the previous end (or toss) then they will play the first 2 woods, followed by 1 from the team of 2, and then alternate after that.
  - iv) If the team with 2 players won the previous end (or toss) then they will play the first wood, followed by 2 from the team of 3, one from the team of 2, and then alternate after that.
  - v) 25% will be deducted from the final rink score of the team with two players.

#### REVISION HISTORY

Date	Scope	Summary of Changes	Filename
Feb 2025	Constitution and Rules	Update following 2024 AGM	NYBL R&C 2025 V2.docx
Jan 2024	Rules	Update to playing format following 2023 AGM. Issued version.	NYBL R&C 2023 V5.docx
Oct 2023	Constitution and Rules	Version after Management Committee review, pre-AGM review. Not issued.	NYBL R&C 2023 V4.docx
Aug 2023	Constitution and Rules	Version for Management Committee review. Not issued	NYBL R&C 2023 V3.docx
May 2023	Constitution and Rules	General review & update initial version. Not issued	NYBL R&C 2023 V2.docx
2018	Start Version	N/A	NYBL-R&C-updated-2018-AGM.docx