

## Blackburn and District Amateur Bowling Association League Rules 2026

### Name

1. The Association shall be called THE BLACKBURN AND DISTRICT AMATEUR BOWLING ASSOCIATION

### Objects

2. The objects of the Association shall be

- a) To encourage and promote good fellowship between the various parks and clubs
- b) To organise and regulate all competitions held under its auspices.
- c) To uphold the rules of the game of Crown Green Bowls as at present adopted by the British Crown Green Bowling Association

3. The Association shall consist of teams representing the various parks and clubs in the Blackburn and District.  
Application for Membership

4. Application from clubs wishing to join the Association shall be made not later than the date fixed for the Annual General Meeting for membership in the following year and shall be subject to the approval of the Executive Committee. Applications for additional teams from existing member clubs may be accepted by the Handicapping Committee.

5. The Governing Body of the Association shall be styled the Council and shall consist of the officers and the Executive Committee of the Association and two representatives of each affiliated clubs

6. The Officers shall consist of a President, Vice President(s), Chairman, Honorary General Secretary and Honorary Secretaries shall be elected each year at the Annual General Meeting.

### Committee

7. There shall be an Executive Committee consisting of the Officers and five others, who shall be elected at the AGM each year and shall serve for a period of three years and shall be eligible for re-election. Five members shall form a quorum. Life Members are permitted to attend all meetings but shall not have the power to vote at General Meetings.

8. No person shall be eligible for election as a member of the Committee unless they are current paid-up members of a member club and shall have their willingness to stand for election having been proposed and seconded.

9. The Executive Committee shall have the power to elect a person to fill any casual vacancy occurring at any time and the person so elected by the Committee shall serve until the next AGM when he shall retire but shall be eligible for re-election.

10. The Executive Committee of this Association shall be responsible for and have control over any team or player playing in any League or Competition and representing this Town or Association. Members of this Association are not allowed to register or play for any team or organisation which purports to represent this Town or Association or is otherwise considered by the Executive Committee to be injurious whether by act or impute, to either the reputation, organisation, or general well-being of the Association. Member clubs may enter teams in other competitions provided they use their own title and their own registered players.

11. Any player registering or playing for an organisation in contravention of a decision of the Executive Committee shall have his/her registration cancelled and shall be suspended from all functions promoted by the Association

12. The Annual General (AGM) shall be held on a Thursday in February each year, or upon such a date within that month fixed by the Council. All registered clubs shall be at liberty to attend but no more than two members from any single club shall vote, these being the nominated Council delegates or their substitutes.

13. The accounts of the Association shall be audited annually by two members.

14. Notice of any alterations or addition to the rules must be in the hands of the Honorary General Secretary not later than the 1<sup>st</sup> of February each year and shall be included in the agenda of the AGM.

15. A Special meeting of the Council may be convened at any time by the Honorary General Secretary, on the instructions of the Executive Committee or at the request of any one park or club, such a request being in writing and signed by the Chairman and Secretary of the park or club, such a meeting shall be called within 14 days of receipt of requisition.

## Subscriptions

16. The Annual subscription for each club of the Association shall be fixed at the AGM and shall be paid on or before the pre-season Council Meeting. This shall be a non-returnable fee, except under exceptional circumstances, which shall be decided by the elected Officers of the Association.

## General Rules

17. The Secretary shall keep in a book the correct Minutes of the proceedings of the Council and the Executive Committee and shall produce such a book at all meetings thereof. He shall summon all meetings of the Council and the Executive Committee and shall prepare and forward copies of the Financial Statement (duly audited) to the secretary of each member park or club, at least 14 days before the AGM. He shall enrol clubs in membership and give all notices required by the rules for the time being. He shall also receive and dispose of, according to the instructions of the Council, all monies received and paid by the Association and shall act in accordance with the instructions of the Council

18. No Rule of the Association shall be repealed or altered, and no more Rule shall be made, save by a 51% majority of the members present at any of the Council, and one month's notice of such proposed alteration or addition shall be given to each member park or club

19. a) Any park or club making a protest against any other park or club either as a body or against any one of its members individually, or on any grounds whatsoever, shall forward a copy of such protest to both the Association's Secretary and/or the Secretary of the alleged offending body, with 7 days of the alleged offence. A sum of £10 shall be deposited with the Association's Secretary by the protesting body while the protest is made. Such a deposit shall be forfeited if the protest is deemed frivolous.

b) The Executive Committee of the Association shall hear all protests etc., as defined in rule 19a. Any meeting called shall have a quorum as in rule 7. A decision of the Executive Committee on any matter shall be a final and binding on all parties concerned unless any party wishes to appeal on point of rule. All such appeals, which shall be allowed on points of rule only, must be made in writing to the Association's Secretary and accompanied by a deposit of £10. The latter shall be forfeited if the appeal is unsuccessful. All decisions on protests and appeals of the Executive Committee shall be reported to the next Council or General Meeting.

20. Each team shall consist of eight players of either gender and shall play home and away matches. All games to be played and teams to be matched up with a blind draw.

21. Each team may register any number of players on official registration forms. A list of bone-fide players shall be forwarded to the Association's Registration Secretary by each club by a date to be fixed by the Executive Committee. Further players may be added after that date, but the registering team shall be liable to have its handicap amended should the Handicapping Committee consider it necessary. No player shall be eligible to register for any team after 1<sup>st</sup> May. No player will be eligible to play until his or her registration has been cleared by the Handicapping Committee and returned to his or her club after stamping by the Registration Secretary. All approved registrations shall be valid from the date thereon the last day of February of the following year.

The Executive Committee shall have the power to accept or reject any registration. In the event of a player changing his or her club he or she must first of all notify in writing the club to whom he or she is registered of his or her proposed transfer, and the club for whom he or she proposes to play shall notify the Association's Fixtures Secretary and the former club, in writing of the proposed transfer. Transfers shall not be permitted after the closing date for registrations, or if the player has already played for the club for which he or she is registered. The Committee may make exceptions to this ruling in exceptional circumstances, such as change of address.

Teams shall not be accepted for registration with less than eleven properly registered players. Clubs registering players without their written consent i.e., signature on registration form, shall be dealt with by the Executive Committee. No player shall be registered for more than one club during a season unless permission is given by the Handicapping Committee within the framework of this rule.

Clubs with more than one team have to submit for registration one squad of names to cover their two or more teams maintaining the minimum number of eleven players per team. Once a player has played ten games in

the higher team (or figure set by the Executive Committee), that player may not play for a lower team. In the case of a club with three teams, no player can drop from the A team to the C team (unless in the same division). A player cannot play for more than one team in anyone-week starred players cannot play for a lower team.

22. The green keeper, or in his absence, the bowls housekeeper, shall be the sole judge as to the fitness of the green for play to commence. On private greens where there is no neutral bowls house keeper the person presented by the home team as being green keeper or bowls house keeper for the time being, shall be accepted as such by all parties for the purpose of operating this rule, in the event of subsequent weather deterioration, the visiting captain shall be the sole judge as to the continuation or otherwise of the match. In the case of matches played on neutral greens a representative of this Association shall be appointed by the Committee and shall be the sole judge as to the fitness of the green for play in the event of weather deterioration after the game has commenced. This official shall also determine the fitness of the green before the match, in the absence of a neutral bowls housekeeper.

23. Any team playing an ineligible player shall lose six points from its total in the league table and shall lose the game(s) concerned.

24. All teams to start at scratch except the previous Division 1 winners who will start on home -2 and away -1, subject to any amendment at future Annual General Meetings. All games should be 21 up, the winner to be credited with two points. The team gain the highest aggregate shall be credited with a further two points.

25. The fixtures shall be compiled by the Fixtures Secretary.

26. Matches shall be played on Monday evenings except where a club or green has more than two teams in which case the other team(s) shall nominate an alternative mid-week day for home games, which not clash with other club/green commitments in other league's normal match night (but on no other), the visitors may elect to postpone subject to giving appropriate notice.

Where a week has two sets of fixtures the second shall be on a Thursday or such day that the Fixtures Secretary may set for certain teams where the Thursday night would be impractical due to use of the green by other teams. These fixtures shall be fulfilled as though for a normal match night, subject to provisions set out above.

Except as may be specifically provided in the fixture book, TEAMS SHALL NOT POSTPONE FIXTURES ON THEIR NORMAL HOME MATCH NIGHTS EXCEPT UNDER PENALTY WHICH SHALL BE DECIDED BY THE DISPUTES COMMITTEE USUALLY POINTS DEDUCTION. Visiting teams shall be allowed to postpone only were such fixtures clash with those in another league on that league normal match night (but postponements on a Monday shall not be allowed except under penalty as above). Requests for postponements must be made in writing not less than three days (i.e. 72 hours) in advance.

All postponed and abandoned matches shall be played within 28 days (not including Bank Holidays and local holidays), except that all league matches must be completed following the last scheduled fixture in the Fixture list on the website. Teams persistently postponing matches shall be reported to the Executive Committee. This paragraph shall also apply to abandoned matches.

It shall be clearly understood by member clubs that ( i ) matches shall not be postponed in order for players or teams to compete in other leagues or competitions except as provided for in the first paragraph of this rule, ( ii ) matches must be played if teams are able to raise the necessary number of players from their registered squads regardless of full strength qualifications, and ( iii ) teams failing to act properly within the spirit of this rule shall incur disciplinary action.

27. The home team must vacate the green 15 minutes prior to the match commencing and to enable the visiting team to have the last 15 minutes for practice, captains can be flexible with their practice but no longer than 15 minutes, if any home players arrive late for practice then it is down to agreement between both captains, Practice shall not be permitted after the match has started.

28. Teams failing to field a full complement of players will not be fined for each player, and individual games affected shall be awarded to the other side, scorecard to be marked showing handicap figure.

If a team is short of its full complement of players there is no minimum number of players required to

fulfil a fixture, the offending team to be reported to the Results Secretary. However, in cases where such a match is completed as far as possible, the Appeals and Disputes Committee shall be informed and shall have the power to order a replay or a satisfactory completion of the match on such terms as they may direct, if they consider that there may be otherwise an unfair effect on the league positions, in such cases the offending team shall be fined as above and shall pay all reasonable expenses.

Teams not having four players present to start the match at the official time shall lose up to two games.

Persistent offenders shall be referred to the Executive Committee for further action.

29. All players must report themselves on arrival to the captains of their respective teams and must be available at any time when called for.

30. No player will be allowed to participate in any match if he or she has failed to report within 45 minutes of the official starting time.

31. If the weather prevents the playing or completion of any game or games on the date fixed, such game or games will be replayed with the time limits according to rule 27. Completed games will stand. Unfinished individual games will recommence from the score standing at the suspension. Once a match has started only players (including reserves) named in the original team sheet and who have complied with the time limit will be eligible to play.

32. A complete list of the visiting team (including reserves) shall be handed to the home team captain not less than 5 minutes before the scheduled starting time.

33. Results shall be added onto the online bowls website if no result added within 3 days of the fixture the club secretary or captain will be informed and the club will have a further 48 hours to add the result on the website or a fine of £20. Persistent offenders shall be reported to the Executive Committee.

34. All members must realise that park greens are public greens. Matches played under the auspices of the Association are played in the parks by virtue of privilege only, and the green keeper may at any time debar anyone from playing if he has just cause to do so. Further, in the case of matches being played on private premises, any person excluded from those premises by the owner or keeper thereof on reasonable grounds shall not be entitled to play, and his or her clubs shall recognise the rights of the owner/keeper. All appeals in respect of this rule shall be heard by the Appeals and Disputes Committee.

35. Any member(s) against whom ungentlemanly conduct or gross misconduct is alleged either on or off the green in connection with the affairs of this Association shall be reported to the Appeals and Disputes Committee and his or her Club informed. Should the protest be upheld the Committee may impose a finite or sine die suspension to reflect the seriousness of any offence(s).

36. All fines imposed on clubs must be paid in full to the General Secretary/Treasurer within 21 days, otherwise a further mandatory fine of £10 per week imposed.

37. In the event of teams tied on points at the end of the season, to decide for promotion or relegation the head-to-head results between the teams will be the deciding factor, if still not decided then the number of league wins if still level then a play-off will be the final option.

38. All promoted teams finishing in the top two places must be promoted the following season.

39. Any matter arising not embraced by these rules will be dealt with by the Executive Committee whose decision shall be final and legally binding on all parties.

40. Winning teams and individual Merit winners not represented at the Presentation Evening will forfeit their prize money.

41. These Rules were amended at the Annual General Meeting held in February 2026 and cancel and replace all previous rules of the Association. The rules of the Association shall not be altered except by resolution of the Annual General Meeting, or a Committee Meeting convened at the request of the Executive Committee for that purpose.

Rules of the President's Day Competition

The competition shall be made by draw. Each team in the league shall be represented by at least one player.

Each player shall be handicapped, and games shall be 21 up and played to the rules of the BCGBA.

An annual draw shall be conducted with the Executive Committee determining all prizes, price of tickets and ticket allocations. Each club shall purchase its allocation (10 tickets - £10 per team).

#### The Max Forrest Trophy Competition

Members of the Association entered by their club/team (who shall normally be the merit winners from the season previous) shall endeavour to fulfil their inclusion in the competition. If a member cannot, then he or she should arrange for a replacement to be sent and notify the Tournament Secretary immediately.

#### Infirmary Cup Competition

The foregoing rules shall govern matches played in the Infirmary Cup, subject to the following amendments and additions.

1. Teams shall be handicapped person-for-person. The team drawn first in a tie shall play at home and shall pair up, the visitor to take the jack.
2. The winner shall be the team winning the most individual games. In the event of a draw, the best aggregate (including handicaps) shall decide. If the match is tied there shall be a replay on the visitors green, they now to be the home team.
3. The final shall be played on a neutral green with both teams playing on their away marks. The official in charge shall with a toss of a coin involving both captains who has the block even number or odd number games from 1-8
4. The dates for various rounds shall be published on the league website and postponement of matches set on such date shall not be permitted. It must be appreciated that other dates may have to be set also, to accommodate ties not able to be played on the set dates, and teams shall endeavour to fulfil these, subject to having no prior commitments.
5. Teams playing short shall be fined according to rule 9 and shall lose all games concerned.
6. Matches shall not be split so as to take place at various times (except in the event of abandonment due to inclement weather)
7. In the event of a team being drawn to play a team which play on the same green, then both teams will play off their home handicap mark. The team drawn first in the tie shall pair up, the opponents take the jack.
8. Cup games take precedent over league games which are scheduled to played on the Thursday or alternate night.