LSA LADIES BOWLING LEAGUE RULES – 2026

NOTE: The Executive will have the power to deal with any matter not provided for in these Rules.

1. That the League shall be known as the Lytham St Annes Ladies Bowling League (LSALBL) and is to be governed by an Executive Council consisting of one representative from each Club.

2. The League Officials hold any one position for 3 years and if willing can continue thereafter on a yearly basis.

3. That the annual subscription from each team be £20.00

4. That the home team shall pay the visiting team's greenage fee and provide refreshments at each match.

5. That the Annual General Meeting be held in October, at least two weeks prior to the date of the Presentation Dinner and those eligible to attend shall be as follows:- Chairman, Vice Chairman, Hon. Auditor and Officials, and all registered players of the League, but only the Delegates shall have the power to vote.

6. That the Treasurer submit a statement of the financial position of the League at the Annual General Meeting and at any other time on request.

7. That no rule be altered except at the Annual General Meeting and notice of any suggested alteration must be in the hands of the League Secretary at least one month prior to the date of such meeting.

8. All players must be registered with the League. Registrations to be sent to the Fixtures Secretary prior to the season starting. Subsequent registrations must be made before a match is played. Membership of more than one Club is allowed but no player can be registered to play for more than one Club. Any Club playing an unregistered player will lose 4 points and be fined £2. Players names must be accompanied by their BCGBA number when registering, or they will not be accepted.

9. All League matches should start no earlier than the third week in April. The Tuesday night League games will begin in May.

10. No Matches will be held during the week of Lytham Festival.

11. When a Club has two greens and the usual green is unplayable, the match may be played on the other green if both Captains agree.

12. There shall be two Divisions in the League, and first team matches shall be played on a Tuesday evening, and second team matches on a Thursday evening beginning at 6.30pm. Clubs with 2 teams in the same Division must register each team with no exchange allowed. Second Division players shall be allowed to play 6 games in each of the A and B teams in the First Division, but First Division players shall not be allowed to play for Second Division teams. Players in both Divisions cannot be interchanged once they have played for a particular team. Changes may be possible beforehand.

13. From the end of the 2010 season promotion and relegation will apply annually. At the end of each season the top team in Division 2 will be promoted into Division 1 and the bottom team in Division 1 will be relegated to Division 2. The team promoted or relegated must consist of at least 6 of the players in that team from the previous season. No team shall refuse promotion.

14. If the B team of a club, which cannot accommodate 2 teams on a Tuesday evening, wins promotion to the First Division, that team shall be allowed to play their home matches on a Thursday evening.

15. A Club withdrawing a team from the League may not re-enter those players under a different name the following season.

16. In the event of a match being postponed, the time allowed must be at least 30 minutes after the proposed start. In the event of adverse weather ie, thunder, lightning, torrential rain and green flooded, the match is abandoned/suspended. Any completed games to stand and uncompleted games to mark where the end has finished on the green and then the date is rearranged. The match proceeds from where it left off. Postponed/abandoned matches to be played within four weeks of the original date but must be played before the last match of the season. No League match to be re-arranged without the permission of the Executive Committee unless there is no alternative.

17. Each team shall consist of 8 players. The first match to be drawn on turn of the card. Thereafter games to be played in merit order. After the first League game a player playing for the first time goes in on zero and thereafter according to aggregate. A Second Division player, playing up, will go in at the bottom of the list for her first game and thereafter on aggregate.

18. No practice will be allowed to visiting teams on the day of the match other than the ten minutes just prior to commencement, unless the visiting team are registered members of the 'Home' club. Home teams must not practice on the match green within 1 hour of the match start time, except for the 10 minutes roll up allowed. Both the home & away teams are allowed only 10 minutes roll up prior to the match. Private Greens will be available to registered players for practice on the two days prior to a match on payment of greenage. Any player who plays on the visiting green on the day of a League Match, then the game will be void. Game will count as 21-0 to the opposing team. Both players' merits to remain unchanged.

19. In every match the Jack will first be taken by the visiting Players.

20. Standard Jacks will be used in all matches, and four Jacks should be on the Green at the start of the matches. 8 Jacks to be supplied for players use for practice.

21. There shall be two markers of either gender for each game and will check the score every third end with each other and will acknowledge 1 or 2 points for the players by a show of the appropriate number of hands being raised. Both players to reach the head before signalling to the markers. To avoid confusion, players must signal and wait for markers to give the same signal back before play is resumed. All cases of dispute will be governed by the Rules of the British Crown Green Bowling Association which states that players go back to the last correct end that was checked.

22. During League matches only players and nominated measurers are to be allowed on the green whilst games are in progress, unless a player asks their own marker to review an end. If a referee is present, they should be asked to perform this task. Spectators and non-players should not go on to the green (BCBGA Rule 9.2).

23. If a Captain is unable to field a full team for a League match the game must still be played with however many players are available. For instance, if there are only 4 players, they must play the 4 top players in the opposing team. The remaining players have a 'walk-over'. The game will count as 21-0 for match purposes and 21-11 for merit purposes.

24. Should a player refuse to continue a game that player shall forfeit the game. The offender(s) to receive no further score and the opponent(s) to receive the maximum score.

25. Should a player leave sight of the green without informing the opponent and obtaining the permission of the Referee, that player shall forfeit the game. The offender(s) to receive no further score and the opponent(s) to receive the maximum score.

26. If a player has to stop play or leave the green due to any incident and is unable to resume play before the finish of the match, (or that round in a competition), the opponent(s) shall be awarded the game. The score of the player who left the green to remain as it stood and the opponent(s) to receive the maximum score.

27. Once the draw has been made no player to be changed on the team sheet.

28. The scratch time for a game is 30 minutes after the official start time, otherwise the game is forfeited.

29. The Captain of the Home Club to submit the results via the www.online-bowls.com website within 24 hours of the completion of the match. If there is a problem with submitting the results within 24 hours of the match completion, the home club should contact the Fixtures Secretary.

30. To qualify for a League merit a player will be allowed to miss 2 games but must play in the last match. The League aggregate prize stands as number of wins, then accumulated points, only to be divided by the number of games should two people have the same aggregate and number of wins.

31. A Second Division merit winner shall receive prize money once only unless they have played 7 games for their First Division team the following season.

32. A rota system to be in operation so that no one team has a bye first and last match every year.

33. Teams from the same Club should not play each other on the final match of the season.

34. When a player reaches 20 points, stating 'ALLBUT' is mandatory.

35. For League Singles competitions entrants from Division Two have +3 added to their scorecards, except for previous winners of either competition.

36. When measuring, the loose end goes to the bowl, regardless of how many bowls to be measured. The adjustable end to the Jack. The measurer at the loose end indicates contact with the bowl; adjustment is made at the Jack end. The measurer must remove their finger off the button when the tape is in position. The measurer at the Jack end to state which bowl//bowls are counting. Measurers may be of either gender.

37. If two or more ladies are of the same merit on the team sheet, then turn of the card should be used to determine the position in which they play.

38. In the event of 2 clubs having the same number of points at the end of the season, aggregate should be used to determine the winners. If aggregate is the same, then the total number of games won should be used.

39. All League Rules will be included in the on-line bowls website.

40. All games of Bowls to be played in accordance with the laws of the B.C.G.B.A.

41. A County player may only play in the First Division.

42. In the case of a dispute during any game, the matter shall be referred to the Captains (if they are available) or Vice Captains for a decision. If no agreement can be reached, the end shall be declared void and shall be replayed.

GENERAL RULES & REGULATIONS APPLICABLE TO ALL COMPETITIONS

All games shall be played under the auspices of the British Crown Green Bowling Association Rules.

An official referee to officiate on all competition finals days.

All competitions open to Ladies who are Members of both the LSA Ladies Bowling League and LSA Senior Ladies Bowling League. The Terry Blakeley Mixed Competition and Bedford Hotel Mixed competition also open to Members of the LSA Men's League.

Winners will hold the trophy for one year.

At all competitions, entrants are not allowed to practice on the competition green before, or during, the competition.

Each club's League Delegate will receive entries and send the names of each entrant to the Competitions Secretary immediately after the entries close.

All entrance fees must be paid to the League Treasurer before taking part in the competition. Once the draw has been made no entry money will be refunded.

In competitions where players from the Reserve List play, their entry fees will be donated to the League's chosen charities.

Players who enter any competition must be available every round of the competition including the Finals Day. No player to be allowed or requested to re-enter competitions at any stage.

At all competitions, every effort should be made to have a reserve list. This to stop anyone getting a bye.

Any Club not represented by at least one player in a League Competition will be fined £5.00.

All competition games require 2 markers of any gender.

A Club with 2 greens, when they host a competition, shall have the option of which green they use for the semi-finals and final. However, the finals day of the Quicksave Motors Ladies Doubles competition will be played on the men's green of the host club, being a neutral green. Where the condition of the mens's green is questionable, then a representative from each Club in attendance will vote on which green to use on finals day.

Preliminary rounds of singles competitions will be played on the Tuesday (and if required Thursday) with the quarterfinals, Semi Finals and final played on the Saturday.

Prize monies won in any competition will not be paid out prior to the presentation ceremony. Any winner of a cash prize not present at the official presentation shall forfeit it and the cash will be donated to charity. The charity shall be decided by the League Committee.

THE 5 - A - SIDE COMPETITION
Rules and Regulations

All Clubs to enter a minimum of 1 team for the competition.

Each Club's League Delegate to send number of teams entered to the League Secretary by the date stipulated on the entry sheet.

There will be a £10 entry fee per team. Any Club not entering at least 1 team will be fined £5.00.

Teams may consist of any mixture of the Club's registered players from both evening League Divisions.

Reserves may be used provided they have not played in another team in the competition.

Games will be 21 up, played from scratch.

Order of play to be determined by turn of card.

No roll-up time allowed.

Initial Jack possession to be determined by toss of coin between Captains, the winning team to have 3 Jacks and the other team 2 Jacks.

The winners of the match will be the team with the most points. If the number of points is equal for both teams the number of games won will determine the match winner. Once a match is won and one team is mathematically unable to win, the losing team will concede the match and bring the remaining games off the green.

The winners of the semi-finals & final must play the same team in the final.

All games will require 2 markers of either gender.

The Executive have the power to deal with any matter not provided for in the Rules.

BEDFORD HOTEL MIXED DOUBLES TROPHY

The competition to be open only to registered Players in the LSA Mens League or LSA Ladies Bowling League and LSA Senior Ladies Bowling League.

The entrance fee will be £8.00 per pair, inclusive of any green fees payable.

Games will be 21 up, played from scratch.

A reserve list of players will operate.

10 minutes practice time will be allowed on Finals Day only.

Any pair failing to report to the organiser within 5 minutes of the time advised for play may be scratched by the organisers.

The Winners will be presented with the Bedford Hotel Trophy at the conclusion of the event. This will be held until the next playing of the trophy but must be returned to an Official of either League at least a week prior to the 1st qualifying round of the next competition.

The number and amount of Prizes are determined by the League Executive Officials and will be subject to the amount of entry fees received.

The League Executive Officials and/or the Organiser appointed by the host club will appoint Match Officials as necessary, together with 1 official marker for each game.

The League Executive Officials of the 2 Leagues have the power to deal with any matter not provided for under these rules.

TERRY BLAKELEY MIXED DOUBLES MEMORIAL TROPHY

This 2-day competition is open to Ladies and Gentlemen affiliated to the LSA Men's League or LSA Ladies Bowling League and LSA Senior Ladies Bowling League.

Each club's League Representative will receive entries and send names together with the entrance fee of £8.00 per couple, to the Competitions Secretary by the date stipulated on the entry sheet.

A reserve list of players to operate.

All games require 2 markers of either gender.

THE MAYORESS' V.E. TROPHY

The winners will hold the Trophy for one year; will receive the first prize from the Chairman and the League combined.

Games will be 21 up, played from scratch, except for previous winners who will be handicapped and Division 2 players who will start with +3 on their card, unless they have previously won the competition.

Winners to receive a handicap of minus 4 (to a maximum of minus 8). Division 2 players to have +3 on their score card.

Handicaps to reduce by 1 per year, provided participation in the competition takes place. These reductions to still apply should a player win the competition whilst handicapped.

The entrance fee will be £2.

QUICKSAVE MOTORIST CENTRE LADIES DOUBLES TROPHY

This competition will be held on a weekend other than the Lytham Festival Weekend. The competition Finals Day will be played on the men's green of the Host Club being a neutral green. Where the condition of the men's green is questionable, then a representative from each Club in attendance will vote on which green to use on finals day.

The entrance fee will be £4.00 per player.

Entrants will have a First Division player and a Second Division Player paired together by way of a draw, as far as possible.

Games will be 21 up, played from scratch.

Every effort should be made to have a reserve list of players.

LEAGUE TEAM KNOCKOUT COMPETITION

Teams in the two Leagues will be entered into the League Team Knockout Competition

Draw to take place prior to the start of the season and relevant dates set for the completion of each round.

Home team Captain to advise away team Captain of green availability within the week specified for the match and arrange a mutually convenient date and time for its completion. Should the Captains be unable to come to an agreement the matter should be referred to the League Committee.

All games to be 21 up, played from scratch.

The Semi-finals and Final to be played on a Neutral Green.

Competition Handicaps will apply as stated:

- 8 points given to away team – however, no away advantage is to be given should 2 teams from the same club be drawn together. Likewise, should any game be played on a neutral green, no away advantage will apply.
- 8 points given by First Division team to Second Division team.
- 8 points Handicap to previous year's winner.

There will be no entry fee for the Knockout Competition, however, any Club withdrawing a team will be fined £5.00. If there is any Club whose teams have failed to progress to the next round, then their greens will be declared "Neutral" enabling future rounds to be played on those greens.

Should a Division One team need a Division Two player(s) to complete their team, this will not be classed as playing in a League match & Rule 8, therefore, will not apply.

Clubs to substantively field the same team as in league games with 8 players with order of play determined by turn of card. No player may play for more than one team.

10 minutes roll-up per team allowed prior to game, apart from the Semi-final and Final.

Visiting team to take the Jack. However, for games where 2 teams from the same club are drawn to play each other; for games played on a neutral green and for the Semi-finals and Final, each team will take 4 Jacks each.

The winners of the match will be the team with most points. If the number of points is equal for both teams the number of games won will determine the match winner. Should there be equal numbers of games won by both teams then each Captain will nominate 1 player each who will play a "play-off" up to 11.

All games require 2 markers of either gender.

Results sheets to be sent to the Fixtures Secretary on completion of matches.

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