

Thornton Cleveleys Bowling League

League Rules for 2026 season

General

1, Title The title is the “THORNTON CLEVELEYS BOWLING LEAGUE” and comprises of bona fide Amateur Bowling Clubs in the area.

2, OFFICERS - The officers are Chairman, Business Secretary, Results & Registrations Secretary, Treasurer, Fixtures Secretary, three other committee members and two auditors. If the Chairman is unable to attend a meeting one of the Secretaries can chair the meeting in his place.

3, COMMITTEE – Between the Annual General Meetings the business of the League is carried out by the Committee which comprises the officers and up to six other members elected at the A.G.M. neither an Officer nor a committee member can vote on a matter affecting his own club.

4, ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – The A.G.M. is held in November to: -

Adopt the Financial Statement;
Elect Officers, Committee Members and two honorary auditors;
Decide on applications from new clubs or teams (new entrants to play in the lowest division);
Decide on the bowling format for the coming seasons league, cup and individual competitions;
Deal with motions and any other relevant business;
Decide Honoraria.

Club motions are notified in writing to the Business Secretary by 31st October; the Business Secretary notifies all clubs of the agenda and motions at least 14 days before the A.G.M.

5, OTHER GENERAL MEETINGS – The Business Secretary convenes a special General Meeting if requested to do so by at least three clubs.

6, VOTING – There is no restriction on players attending or speaking at a General Meeting, each **TEAM** has one vote.

7, FINANCE – An account is maintained with a local branch of one of the major banks or building societies. Cheques are signed by any two of the Officers of President, Chairman, Secretary or Treasurer. The Financial year ends 30th September. The Treasurer submits a financial statement to the A.G.M. and on request to other General Meetings and to the Committee. Club subscriptions must be paid to the Treasurer by 1st April of the coming bowling season or a £10 fine will be levied on each team. No club will be allowed to play in the League in the forthcoming season if accounts from previous seasons have not been paid by the date of the A.G.M.

8, REGISTRATION OF PLAYERS – Any new club joining the league must submit a printed list of their members to the Results Secretary by 1st April for the coming season. This list should detail Christian names, Surname & B.C.G.B.A. Reg. No. For all existing

clubs in the league the list of registered players from the previous season will be automatically carried over to form their starting list of registered players for the coming season. There will be no requirement for existing clubs to forward a list of their registered members to the Results Secretary unless they wish to do so. Any amendments to a clubs list of members can be made at any time by contacting the Results Secretary with details of members to be added or removed from the existing list. Any team that finds themselves short of players on the night may play anyone providing: -

- 1) He/she holds a valid B.C.G.B.A. reg. no.
- 2) He/she are member of the club.
- 3) He/she have not played for any other club in the Thornton Cleveleys League in that season.

Details of new player(s) must be submitted on the match results card. If a club has more than one team in the league, he/she may play for either team but only one game per calendar week (i.e. Sunday morning to Saturday evening). He/she may continue to play for either team up to the last four matches of the season whereupon the team he/she has played most games for will be the team he/she finishes the season with. If he/she has played equal games with both teams, he/she must finish the season with the highest placed team. A player can not normally play for more than one club in a season and only before 1st of July can apply to the Registrations Secretary with a letter of agreement from the other club agreeing the transfer the player who must not have played more than six games for his/her original club.

9. BOWLING RULES -League matches, cup matches, individual competitions are played under British Crown Green Bowling Association rules. Clubs must have 8 standard jacks.

10. TEAM MATCHES – Each team comprises of eight players. In the 15 minutes before scheduled match start time the away team has the exclusive use of the green for practice. The away team captain can alternatively practice earlier for up to 15 minutes. The draw is done in two halves each captain deciding the players for each half. The away team has the use of the jack at the first end. Four games can start at the scheduled match start time; as one game is completed another start until the 8th game is started.

11. MAN, SHORT OR NOT CONTINUING – If a player (or his/her reserve) is not available to play when the last game is due to start his/her opponent if present counts a 21-0 win for the purpose of the match score. For the purpose of his/her individual aggregate the player present is deemed to have won 21-11. If having started a game a player does not continue then his/her opponent will count 21 against the score reached by the player for the purpose of the individual aggregates. The match score for the game to be determined in accordance with the relevant paragraph of the B.C.G.B.A. laws of the game.

12. INCLEMENT WEATHER – If there is no agreement between the two captains and consequently a match is not started or is not completed the team prepared to play reports the disagreement to the Results Secretary (for Committee decision). Otherwise, a postponed or abandoned match is rearranged by the two captains and must be played within three weeks of the scheduled fixture with both captains informing the Results Secretary of the new agreed date or by agreement of the Results Secretary. In the case of an abandoned match completed games stand and other games are replayed in their entirety.

13. OTHER RE-ARRANGED MATCHES – A scheduled match can be re-arranged for reasons other than inclement weather only with the approval of the Results Secretary. Such a match must be played either before or within seven days of the scheduled date or by agreement with the Results Secretary.

14. MATCH RESULTS – The home team captain to prepare a detailed result card with players full names to be legibly entered. Both team captains to check and agree final individual game scores plus match score and aggregate prior to both captains signing the card. Home team captain to ensure that the result reaches the Results Secretary by 12noon

on the succeeding Tuesday. Match results may be submitted electronically and not by post it is the responsibility of the home team captain to retain a copy of the result until the end of the season in case of any disputes.

15. LEAGUE MATCHES – League matches are scheduled for Friday evening. League matches start at 7pm unless an earlier time as detailed on the website fixture list.

16. LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP – League match points are awarded as follows;

One point for each winning player.
Two points for a home aggregate win.
Three points for an away aggregate win.
One point for a home aggregate tie.
Two points for an away aggregate tie.

If two or more teams finish equal points in the championship, runners up or relegation position final placings will be decided by the team's net aggregate chalks over the season; if the aggregate chalks are equal the most individual winners decide. There is two up/two down promotion/relegation between league divisions or as decided by the AGM if the league divisions are adjusted.

17. LEAGUE INDIVIDUAL PRIZES – A prize for the individual merit winner in each division shall be awarded by the league. The merit winner shall be determined by the number of points awarded for the number of games won in league matches in each division. A player shall be awarded one point for a home win and two points for an away win. If the number of points is identical then the player with the best aggregate wins, if tied then the player with the most individual wins will be deemed the winner.

18. LEAGUE DOUBLES COMPETITION – The league doubles competition is open to all league bowlers. Pairs can be from any club, but each player must have played at least one league game. Closing date for entry will be 7 days prior to the competition date and will be limited to a maximum of 32 pair. No practice will be allowed. The competition date and entry fee will be announced at the AGM.

19. PRIZES – Prizes are decided by the committee and are awarded to the top two teams in each league division, to cup finalists and to individual merit winners in each league division.

20. COMPLAINTS – Any complaints must be sent in writing by a club official with a £10 deposit to the league Business Secretary. Any other party to a protest or complaint will be given an opportunity to make a written statement and oral representation to the committee. After a written complaint has been considered by the committee the £10 deposit will be returned to the complaining club unless the complaint is found to be groundless or trivial.

21. RULE INFRACTIONS –

Any club not sending a delegate to the AGM is fined £10.

Late payment of club subscriptions (Rule 7) will automatically result in a fine of £2 per day with a maximum fine of £20.

A club contravening rule 8 (unregistered player) is fined £10, has four league points deducted and for the purpose of the match aggregate the individual game is deemed to be lost 0-21 (the other player counts a 21-11 win for the purpose of his individual aggregate). A £10 fine is imposed by the Results Secretary for each infringement of rule 14.

A club in breach of rule 13 (match re-arranged) without the Results Secretaries approval is fined £10.

Any team in breach of league rules 12 and 13, failure to play rearranged game in the specified time frame will result in both a 4-point deduction and £10 fine for each team.

If a club infringes any other rules the committee has the power to impose an appropriate penalty for the offence.

Any fines not paid by the end of the season will result in a five-point penalty for offending teams.

Any player reported to the league on three or more occasions for using “Foul or abusive language” backed up by two independent witnesses will be fined £10. The Player will be suspended from any future league matches and competitions for the remainder of the season.

22. RULE AMMENDMENTS – Rule changes can only be considered at the Annual General Meeting and changed after member teams have voted in favour of the proposal by a clear majority.

Last updated at the 2025 Annual General Meeting 8th December 2025.

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