

## CONSTITUTION

### 1 INTRODUCTION

The League shall be called the HINCKLEY and DISTRICT TRIPLES LEAGUE, hereafter referred to as the LEAGUE. The League is affiliated to Bowls Leicestershire (BL) and to Bowls England (BE).

The League will abide by the Laws of the Sport of Flat Green Lawn Bowls as published by World Bowls (current Crystal Mark Edition) and the Domestic Regulations of Bowls England (BE). The League's Committee is the Controlling Body and is authorised to devise Conditions of Play - (see Law 57.2 Conditions of Play, and Appendix A). The League's Constitution and Rules have been drawn up in the spirit of true sportsmanship, with respect for the sport, and players.

If during a Match a situation arises that is not covered by the League's Constitution and Rules, players should use their common sense and a spirit of fair play to decide on the appropriate course of action.

### 2 AIM

The primary aim of the League is to provide competitive matches, for all Affiliated Clubs and their Members.

Membership is open to Clubs who have paid Affiliation Fees to their relevant County Association. Clubs must also pay an Annual Membership Subscription per Team to the Treasurer of the League.

### 3 MANAGEMENT

The League shall be managed by a Committee who are unpaid Honorary Officers. Each Team in the League should have a nominated named Delegate.

The Committee shall consist of Chair, Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Treasurer, Competition Secretary and Webmaster. All members of the Management Committee shall be elected or re-elected at the Annual General Meeting (AGM). If during the League's scheduled Season, a vote is urgently required, the Committee shall convene to discuss the issue(s) and decide by majority vote a course of action. If necessary, the issue and decision will be presented to Delegates at the AGM. In the event of a vacancy on the Committee caused by whatever reason, the Committee shall have authority to co-opt a member to fill the vacancy until the next AGM.

The AGM shall normally be held at the end of the League's Season. This will allow matters to be resolved while they are fresh in the minds of Delegates and Committee Members. Delegates must provide the Secretary with written details of any matter they view should be discussed. Any such document shall be submitted to the Secretary at least 14 days prior to the date of the AGM. At the AGM, a report and statement of accounts shall be presented by the Treasurer for the previous Financial Year. Written reports are required from the Chair, Secretary, Competition Secretary, and Webmaster. Clubs may send Delegates for each of their registered Teams or one Delegate to represent all their Club Teams.

**Dissolution of Assets:** The only asset the League has are the funds accrued through the Annual Membership Fees collected from the Clubs who are current Members of the League. Should the League cease to function, the Honorary Treasurer will distribute any remaining funds equally between current Clubs irrespective of the number of Teams a Club has entered.

### 4 SAFEGUARDING

The League follows the Safeguarding Guidance provided by BE, and they advise that Affiliated Clubs should have a recognised Safeguarding Policy and a named Safeguarding Officer. The Committee of the League is conscious that this may be difficult for some Clubs to achieve, but help is available. The League's Website will give details of Safeguarding contacts. BL also has an elected Safeguarding Officer, and they should also be able to provide guidance.

### 5 PARTICIPATION IN THE LEAGUE AND KNOCK-OUT CUP AND SHIELD

A Club may enter more than one team, subject to an availability within the League. Clubs with multiple Teams will be designated by the Club's name and a letter, for example, A, B, C or D as appropriate. All players in a Team must be fully paid-up Men or Women Bowling Members of their Club and registered as such with their County. If a player is registered with two Clubs as a playing member, they shall only play for one Club in the Triples League, and Knock-Out Cup/Shield competitions. They shall not play for more than one Team within their own Club in any one season. If a player moves to another Club during the Season, they are not eligible to play for their new Club.

Prior to the first scheduled Match of the Season the Secretary must have received written notification by email, containing contact information of all Delegates representing their Club Teams. If a Delegate changes during a Season, the Secretary must be informed within 7 days. Compliance with this requirement should alleviate time-wasting experienced by the League Secretary.

A Club or Delegate may make a complaint or grievance during the Season through the League Secretary, and the Committee will discuss the matter and make a final judgement. Appeals of the Committee's decision is allowed providing written evidence is provided in accordance with BE's Regulation 9.

At the end of the Season the winners in each Division and the Knock-Out Cup/Shield winners will be awarded a Pennant for display in their Club. Additionally, they will be awarded a monetary amount paid to their Club Funds. The Committee shall decide this amount.

A Delegate, on behalf of their Club, wishing to make amendments to the Constitution or Rules must submit their proposed amendments to the Secretary in writing at least 14 days before the AGM. The Constitution and Rules shall only be changed by a majority agreement of the Delegates at an AGM.

## RULES OF THE H &amp; D TL LEAGUE

1	Club Team Delegates shall send a list of players to the Secretary prior to the first Match of the Season. Subsequent additions to a Team's registered players must be updated on their score sheets when new players are introduced.
2	Matches are played on Monday evenings unless agreed otherwise by both Team Captains, and the Secretary must be informed of the reason. Play commencing at 6.15pm. In exceptional circumstances, the Match start time may be revised, allowing time for a delayed player or reserve player to arrive at the venue. <b>The revised start time will be no later than 6:45 pm.</b>
3	Matches to consist of 3 Rinks per Team, 3 bowls each player, played over 18 Ends. Prior to each Match commencing, the Home Captain will offer three rinks to their opposite number. To avoid the Home Team favouring a particular Rink, the cards shall be placed face down with the opposing Captain's cards placed face down randomly on top. The Rink number will then be randomly allocated by the opposition captain before the cards are turned over. The Captains to spin a coin to determine which Team has the jack at the commencement of the Match. Also see Rule 9 – Inclement Weather. <b>Poor Light Conditions:</b> In April and August when light conditions may be poor, Team Captains may mutually agree to shorten a Match from 18 Ends to 15 Ends. This decision must be taken before the Match starts.
4	<b>Points Allocation:</b> 2 points per winning rink, tied rinks receive 1 point each Team. Maximum points per Match = 6.
5	The Match is 3 Rinks of Triples, 3 Players per Rink. A Team ONLY FIELDING/PLAYING 2 Rinks will incur penalties. If a Team can only field 2 Rinks the opposing Team Captain must be informed. Absenteeism of a Player on a Rink at the commencement of the Match, but see Rule 2, results in a walkover of that Rink and will give 2 points plus 10 shots to their opponents. The records of any Team conceding more than 12 points due to absenteeism, or more than 6 points to any one Team during a season will be deleted. The Team will be withdrawn from the League for the remainder of the Season and will be relegated to the Division below at the end of the Season.
6	If a player leaves the Green during the course of a Match due to illness or some other reasonable cause and cannot return within ten minutes, an eligible substitute may be introduced providing both team Captains agree to the substitution. The substitute cannot play as Skip but can play in any other position. The other members of the Team can re-arrange their positions as necessary. If no eligible substitute is available the remaining two players shall play at Lead and Skip and the order of play will be Lead A, Lead B, Two A, <u>or</u> Lead B, Lead A, Two A as appropriate, in turn until all three players have played three bowls each. The two Skips will then play three bowls each in turn as normal. The Match score will continue to be calculated in the usual manner without adjustment for the reduced number of bowls used each end.
7	No Club Green Fees to be levied. Meals are not required; but individual Clubs may provide food for sale if they wish.
8A	The Secretary is to be notified immediately BY BOTH Team Captains if a Scheduled Match has to be postponed and re-arranged for either of the following reasons: (1) Insufficient Rinks are available on the Home Team's Green due to Matches being played in any match listed below: (2) Club Bowlers from either the Home or Away Team, are playing in any of the matches listed below thus leaving insufficient registered players available to fulfil the Scheduled League Match: a. A FIXED DATE National/ County Competition or Championship. b. County Executive/Friendly Fixtures, Midland Counties, Middle England League, Johns Trophy or Middleton Cup. In both situations outlined in Rule 8A (1) and (2), the Home Team shall within 72 hours of the postponed Match, offer the Away Team 3 separate dates on which to play the postponed Match. The Away Team must select one of the offered dates within 72 hours. The offered dates must allow for the re-arranged Match to be played within <b>28 days</b> of the original date. The Secretary shall be informed by email or text of the day, date, and time of all re-arranged Matches. <b>This Rule will be strictly enforced to prevent disharmony between Clubs and/or Teams.</b>
8B	If Matches are postponed for other than the acceptable reasons detailed in Rule 8A the Team postponing the Match shall be penalised 4 points for each postponed Match. With the agreement of their opponents, Teams may re-arrange Matches to be played before the scheduled date without deduction of points. The Home Team shall offer the Away Team three separate dates on which to play the postponed Match which must be played within 28 days of the original date. If the 2 Team Captains fail to agree, a decision will be made by the Secretary and a date to play the postponed Match will be given. If necessary, the Committee will make the final decision. Committee Members having a direct interest in a final decision will not be allowed to attend this Committee Meeting. The offered dates must always be free of unsportsmanlike bias, and other competitive commitments should be taken into consideration when offering dates and times. The Secretary of the H & D TL should be promptly informed by email or text of all re-arranged Matches.
9	In obvious cases of inclement weather, or a Club's Green Keeper decides that the Green is unsafe or unfit for play, a Match may be postponed. It is the responsibility of the Home Team to notify the Away Team and the Secretary of the circumstances of the postponement. The postponed Match must be played within 28 days of the original date of the Scheduled Match, and the Secretary must be informed by email or text of the re-arranged date. <b>Failure to do so may mean that both Clubs forfeit the Match.</b>

**RULES of the H & D TL LEAGUE (Continued)**

10	If the Match is rained off and 33 ends have been played overall, the score at that time will stand as a result. If the match is rained off with less than 33 ends played overall, the match must be replayed from the beginning at a re-arranged date. See Rule 9. The Secretary should be informed of all re-arranged Matches.
11	If the last Scheduled Match of the Season is postponed it must be played within 14 days. All Matches must be completed within 14 days of the last Scheduled Match date of the Season.
12	A Bowler must use the same set of bowls during a Match: See Law 29.3 Changing Bowls.
13	<b>Misconduct &amp; Discipline:</b> Foul language or disruptive conduct on the Green will not be tolerated. Should a Match be interrupted due to misconduct, the Captains shall attempt to resolve the issue, so the Match can continue to completion. If the issue results in the Match being abandoned or the result compromised, each Captain shall submit a written report to the Committee. The Committee will then conduct an enquiry before taking appropriate action against the Club and player(s) in breach of this Rule. <b>Bowls England Regulation 9 details the appropriate action to be taken by a Controlling Body.</b>
14	Teams shall play in flat bowls shoes, trousers/tailored shorts, or crops/skirts as appropriate and Club Shirts. White shirts/tops may be worn instead of Club Shirts. However, all nine members of the Team must be dressed the same.
15	Team Captains must submit Match results promptly, or at least the day after the Match. The two captains will be the judges of all disputed points on a Rink, and when they agree their decision is final. If they fail to agree, refer to Rule 16.
16	The Committee shall determine all questions and disputes that may arise. Such questions and disputes shall be notified to the Secretary within 24 hours of the match having been played. A clear written statement of the facts should be communicated by email to the Secretary, together with evidence if such exists.
17	The Committee reserves the right, without recourse to an AGM or Special GM, to take appropriate action should we face a pandemic situation, or Guidance from Government or Bowls England introduces safety measures or a lockdown. The Committee must have the freedom and authority to react promptly to safeguard our Affiliated Clubs and Members.

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**RULES OF THE KNOCK-OUT CUP AND SHIELD COMPETITION**

1	The KO Cup and KO Shield Competition is limited to Teams from Clubs that have paid to enter the H & D TL. A Team playing an unregistered player, or a player registered to another Club or Team, shall be disqualified from the Competition. The Competition Secretary manages the Competition. Matches shall be played in accordance with the current Crystal Mark Edition - Laws of the Sport of Bowls, issued by World Bowls and Domestic Regulations for Bowls England. The H & D TL Committee is the Controlling Body, see Rule 57.2 – Conditions of Play, Laws of the Sport of Bowls – World Bowls.
1A	The Competition is divided into two sections: Teams in Divisions 1, 2 and 3 play for the KO Cup; Teams in Divisions 4, 5 and 6 play for the KO Shield. The Competition Secretary will conduct a random draw for each Competition and will determine the PLAY BY DATES for each Round, and the FIXED DATE for the Finals. The venue for the Finals will be decided by the Competition Secretary in liaison with the Management Committee. The first named Team in the draw shall be the Home Team. The Competition is played in Knock-Out Rounds and the winning Team will progress to the next Round. The Rounds will be displayed on the H & D TL website.
2	At least 3 weeks prior to the Play By Date of the Preliminary Round or First Round for those Clubs not involved in a Preliminary Round, the Home Team (Challenger) must offer 3 dates to the Away Team (Opponent) by phone (text) or email. In subsequent Rounds, the Home Team shall, within 72 hours of the previous round Play By Date, offer the Away Team by phone (text) or e-mail 3 separate dates to play the next round. If the Away Team fails to respond, the Home Team claims the Match. However, if the Home Team fails to offer 3 Dates, the Away Team becomes the Challenger and offers 3 Dates to the Home Team by phone (text) or email, to play the Match on their own Green. If the Home Team fails to respond, the Away Team claims the Match. Teams must be able to provide evidence that Dates have been offered. Disputes will be settled by the Competition Secretary and/or the Committee.
3	Prior to each Match commencing, the Home Captain will offer three Rinks to the Away Captain. To avoid the Home Team favouring specific Rinks, the cards shall be placed face down with the opposing Captain's cards placed face down randomly on top. Rink numbers will then be randomly allocated by the Away Captain before the cards are turned over.
4	Matches to consist of 3 Rinks per Team, 3 bowls each player, played over 18 ends. The Captains to spin a coin to determine which Team has the jack at the commencement of the Match. The Captains to spin a coin again if an extra end is necessary. The scoring will be as the League Matches, 2 points for a winning Rink, 1 point for a <b>tied</b> Rink. If after all 3 Rinks have played 18 Ends the overall result is a draw, the tied Rink will play an extra End(s) until a result is established. A result is established from the number of Rinks won and not the number of shots won. All results shall be submitted to the Competition Secretary within two days of the match being played.
5	If a player leaves the Green during the course of a Match due to illness or some other reasonable cause and cannot return within ten minutes, an eligible substitute may be introduced providing both team Captains agree to the substitution. The substitute cannot play as Skip but can play in any other position. The other members of the Team can re-arrange their positions as necessary. If no eligible substitute is available the remaining two players shall play at Lead and Skip and the order of play will be Lead A, Lead B, Two A, OR Lead B, Lead A, Two A, as appropriate, in turn until all three players have played three bowls each. The two Skips will then play three bowls each in turn as normal. The Match score will continue to be calculated in the usual manner without adjustment for the reduced number of bowls used each end.
6	Green Fees <b>will not</b> be levied by individual Clubs. Meals are not required; however, Clubs may provide food and refreshments for sale if they so wish.
7	<b>Inclement Weather:</b> In obvious cases of inclement weather, or a Club's Green Keeper decides that the Green is unsafe or unfit for play, a Match may be postponed. It is the responsibility of the Home Team to notify the Away Team, and the Match must be re-arranged promptly.
8	The H & D TL, as the Controlling Body, has decided that if a Match is rained off and 33 ends have been played over all Rinks, the score at that time will count as a result. If a Match is rained off with <b>less than 33 ends</b> played over all Rinks, the Match must be replayed from the beginning on a re-arranged date, at the earliest opportunity. The Competition Secretary is to be informed of the situation.
9	A Bowler must use the same set of bowls during a Match: See Law 29.3 Changing Bowls.
10	<b>Misconduct &amp; Discipline:</b> Foul language or disruptive conduct on the Green will not be tolerated. Should a match be interrupted due to misconduct, the Captains shall attempt to resolve the issue, so the Match can be completed. If the issue results in the Match being abandoned or the result compromised, each Captain shall submit a written report to the Competition Secretary. An enquiry will be conducted before taking appropriate action against the Club and player(s) in breach of this Rule.
11	Teams shall play in flat bowls shoes, trousers/tailored shorts, or crops/skirts as appropriate and Club Shirts. White shirts/tops may be worn instead of Club Shirts. However, all nine Team Members must be dressed the same.
12	The Committee reserves the right, without recourse to an AGM or Special GM, to take appropriate action should we face a pandemic situation, or Guidance from Government or Bowls England introduces safety measures or a lockdown. The Committee must have the freedom and authority to react promptly to safeguard our Affiliated Clubs and Members.

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