**CONSTITUTION MARCH 2023**

* 1. The League will be called The Southport & District Ladies Bowling League.
	2. The Officers shall consist of a minimum of three elected officers, who shall be elected each year. If there are no nominations for one of the positions any of the three main officer’s roles – Secretary, Treasurer and Match Secretary - can be a jointly held position.
	3. The Committee shall consist of one Member (Delegate) from each club in the League, together with the Officers. One volunteer will be nominated as Chairman for each meeting.
	4. Five members to form a quorum at any meeting with at least two Officers. The volunteer has the casting vote.
	5. At least 48 hours’ notice must be given by the Secretary before calling a Committee Meeting.
	6. The Committee shall
1. Receive and accept, if desired, applications to join the League
2. Deal with any other matters referred to them by the Annual General Meeting
3. The Match Secretary shall fix the dates on which matches are to be played.
	1. The Committee is empowered to deal with any infringement of the rules or complaints made by players or clubs. If the Committee so decide, any offence found to affect the result of the match then two points shall be deducted.
	2. The Annual General Meeting
4. Shall be held each year on a date to be decided upon by the Officers and must be held within 3 months of the end of the season.
5. Shall be open to all registered players and shall close all proceedings of the past season; elect Officers for the coming season; receive the Secretary, Treasurer & Match Secretary Reports; fix subscriptions and deal with any other business.
6. No proposal to alter any rules or make any new rules will be considered unless notice is given, in writing, to the Secretary at least 14 days before the meeting. An Open Meeting will be held prior to the Annual General Meeting to discuss any such proposals if they are received early enough.
	1. Should a Club not send a Delegate to any meeting a fine will be imposed - £2.00 for the first non-attendance, £5.00 for any further absences.
	2. Registration Fees to be paid per Team before the start of the season, the amount to be fixed at the Annual General Meeting.
	3. League Finances

 If the Officers decide that it is necessary or advisable to dissolve the league they shall call a General Meeting of the League. Giving at least 21 days’ notice and the terms of the resolution to be proposed. If the proposal is confirmed by not less than 75% of those present the Officers shall have the power to realise any assets held by or on behalf of the League. Any assets remaining upon dissolution, after the satisfaction of all proper debts and liabilities of the League, shall be given or transferred either to (a) such other organisation whose objectives are similar to those of the League (b) to some charitable organisation within the area covered by the League’s activities (c) be divided up equally between those Clubs who are League members at the time of the dissolution. Whichever of these options to be decided by a simple majority of the League Clubs.

* 1. The Secretary, Match Secretary, Treasurer should receive an Annual Honorarium, the amount to be agreed at the Annual General Meeting.

**RULES**

2.1 Each Club to be given a copy of the Rules.

2.2 Games to be played to BCGBA Rules. All players to be registered with the BCGBA.

2.3 a) Before the season commences, clubs must register with the Match Secretary, the names and BCGBA Numbers of all fully paid up members who wish to play in their League Teams. These Registered players will be eligible to play in League Competitions.

 b) At the same time each Captain should have a similar list of team players

 c) 24 Hours’ notice to the Match Secretary is required before a newly registered player may play for a team, a shorter time may be accepted at the discretion of the Match Secretary.

2.4 Juniors aged 11 (i.e. at Secondary School), are allowed to play in League Matches, but must be registered with B.C.G.B.A and have parental/guardian authorisation.

2.4 (a) Lancashire County Crown Green Bowling Association require all league Clubs to have a nominated “Safeguarding Officer”.

2.5 Teams will consist of eight players. No borrowing is allowed from any other team.

(a) Players may play for any Registered League Club in both an Afternoon and Evening Division. Once a player has played two games in either Division she must remain with that team. BUT players whose club folds during the season will be allowed to play for another League Team, in either Division. They would start off scratch.

1. If a Second Division player leaves her team over a dispute she may play for a First Division team for the rest of the season, at the discretion of the Officers.

2.6 Where a club has two or more available Greens the Club should nominate the Match Green at the start of the season.

2.7 a) Evening matches start at 7.00pm. A player arriving late may take part in a match if present when they are required to play their game. Such player/s must be named on the team sheet at the start of the match. Reserve to be named by 6.30pm.

 b) Venues without lights start time is 6.30pm during April, August and September.

 c) Clubs should play their evening matches on a Thursday unless their green is not available on Thursdays.

 2.8 Afternoon matches start at 1.30pm. Reserve to be named by 1.30pm. A player arriving late may take part in a match if present when they are required to play their game. Such players must be named on the team sheet at the start of the match.

N.B. 2.7 and 2.8 AFTERNOON AND EVENING start times may be altered if both Captains agree. Any such alterations must be reported to the Match Secretary preferably before a match is played.

2.9 Visitors will have 10 minutes practice, starting 15 minutes before the match commences.

2.10 All games will be 21 up

2.11 Season starts with Turnover of Cards this also applies when a team has a bye in the first week.

2.12 Matches to be played to Aggregate System; players starting aggregate to be entered on the result card.

1. Players without an aggregate play off scratch at block 8
2. New Players play off scratch

 2.13 Match results should be entered on the Southport Ladies results web site. They can be entered by either the home team captain, their representative, or the Away team Captain, within 2 days of a match.

* Captains (or their representatives) can modify match details for up to 5 days after a match (amend scores or names).

 2.14 Matches may be played on Bank Holidays, if both Captains agree

 2.15 Matches should only be re-arranged in the event of inclement weather or for compassionate reasons. On rare occasions that a fixture clash occurs across two leagues and a Captain cannot raise a full team, she must contact her opposite number as soon as possible with a view to re-arranging the match. Such a move must be cleared through the Match Secretary.

2.16 a) The Home Captain is responsible for the decision regarding an unfit green.

 b) If matches become doubtful, because of inclement weather early in the day, the Home Captain is to convey to the Away Captain, a firm decision to cancel or proceed – not sooner than 11.30 am (Afternoon) or 5.00pm (Evening) to avoid unnecessary cancellations should the weather improve.

2.17 a) Every effort should be made to rearrange matches within 21 days; if there are any problems with this, both Captains must contact the Match Secretary whose decision is final.

 b) In the case of bad weather or untoward circumstances the Home Captain shall decide whether or not play is to proceed. Completed games must stand and the score in any unfinished games remain and will continue from such score when the game is replayed. In the event of a person not being available on the re-arranged date, the named reserve may replace a selected player when the match is reconvened. This could only apply if that particular game has not started. If it has already commenced the result would stand

c) If a match has started and then been abandoned, players should be allowed practice time before the start of the rearranged game.

2.18 A Club failing to send a full team shall allow their opponents 21 points for each player short. The Player awarded the game because of absence will receive +7 on her aggregate. The absent player should be placed at Block Number 8.

2.19: Individual Winners receive 1 point. Away Team Win 3 points. Away Team Draw 2 points. Home Team Draw 1 point. Home Team Win 2 points.

2.20 At the close of the season the two lowest teams in Division One will be demoted to Division Two. The two top teams in Division Two will be promoted to Division One.

2.21 If there is a tied position at the end of the season which affects promotion or relegation, the points from matches won should decide the issue. Failing that, the number of individual games won, failing that a play off on a neutral green shall decide the position.

2.22 Winning teams and runners up of each division will be awarded a money prize at the Annual General Meeting

Merit winners from each division will be awarded a money prize at the Annual General Meeting. The Merit winners shall be those with the highest aggregate at the end of the season

2.23 In the event of Captains being unable to agree on any matter they are requested to advise the Officers of the problem, in writing, at the earliest opportunity. The captains should be available to attend a meeting to resolve the dispute.

**COMPETITIONS**

3.1 a) Competition Sheets should show a contact name, telephone number and email address (if available)

 b) Entrance Fees are to be paid when submitting entries or as agreed with the Club.

3.2 a) Random doubles competitions can be run as singles competitions at the discretion of the host club, if there are insufficient entries for a doubles competition.

 c) The Spring Pairs Competition, if played (not random pairs) will be played on the Thursday preceding the first League Match.

3.3 a) when a draw is made, byes should be left if possible, to accommodate late entries.

 3.4 Competitions to start at 10.00 am, scratch time 10.30 am.

3.5 Competitions to be 21 up, if there is no Consolation Competition.

**Code of Conduct & Other Points**

4.1 Markers of League games should check scores after each third end and not shout across the green.

4.2 When indicating who has won the points, a clear signal should be given by the winner of the “end” when they reach the head. Their opponents should **not** signal.

4.3 Bowlers should Walk behind other bowlers on the green, not in front of them.

4.4 **Reasonable Dress** should be worn for league games**.**

**No Smoking** on the green.

**Mobile** **Phones** should be switched off during matches.

5.2 Captain’s mobile phone numbers are to be included on the web site.