

MEN'S COUNTY LEAGUE RULES

1. Eligibility

The Men's Club County League Championships are open to all affiliated and associate affiliated clubs with four or more rinks with no age restriction on male members eligible to play in any of the club teams.

County League entries on the Official Form to be sent to the Hon. County Secretary **by 31st March** each year.

2. General Playing Conditions

All matches are to be played under regulation 10 CONDITIONS OF PLAY, Rule 3 - Dress and Rule 4 - League Playing Conditions as set out below. All the team's bowls shall be identified by the official club sticker.

3. Dress

All white above the waist, Club Tie, grey trousers, registered coloured trousers or EIBA / Bowls Manufacturer grey shorts, and any coloured flat soled regulation bowling shoes **(however this is subject to the rules of the Club where the game is being played).**

At the start of each season the Hon. League Secretary will send to each Club a schedule of all Clubs dress code so that Clubs can comply with this rule.

Coloured shirts may be worn in the County Leagues provided the design and colour shall be in accordance with EIBA Ltd regulations on coloured shirts. All members of the team shall wear the shirt registered by the club. Players are permitted to travel to and from matches wearing the shirt registered by their club.

4. League Playing Conditions

Format

- 1) The men's league teams to consist of four rinks.
- 2) All County League games will be 21 ends or a maximum of 4 hours; whichever is the shorter. An end where the jack has been cast before the 4 hours must be played to a finish – should the cast not be “legal” then the opposition shall place the jack. An end “killed” after the four hour time limit has elapsed shall not be replayed. No Trial Ends.
- 3) At the start of a match where a team is up to four players short rinks shall be formed with a minimum of three players. Where the number of players short on a rink is greater than 1 that rink shall incur a penalty of one point and 10 shots. Law 52B (i) and (ii) shall apply.

Law 52B

- 1) in the defaulting team, the number of bowls shall be made up by the lead and second players playing three bowls each, and
- 2) one fourth of the total shots scored by each team comprising three players shall be deducted from their score at the conclusion of the game. Fractions shall be taken into account.

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- 4) The Men's County League will operate on the basis of a First Division comprising a minimum of eight teams, a Second Division comprising a minimum of eight and a maximum of ten teams, and any additional Divisions as agreed by the County Executive at the County Executive February meeting.

Should either the First or Second Division fall below the minimum required an additional team or teams will be promoted to bring the appropriate division up to the required number of teams.

The Hon. League Secretary will endeavor to keep the same number of teams (within the minimum and maximum required) in each division to provide a balanced League programme each season.

The format of the following season's Men's County League will be decided annually and will be presented by the Hon. League Secretary to the County Executive February meeting for formal agreement. This may vary from year to year.

- 5) League positions will be determined by 1) the highest number of points, 2) the highest shot difference and 3) the highest number of shots scored.
- 6) Teams in each division to play each other on a home and away basis.
- 7) Where two or more teams from the same club play in the same division those teams must play each other twice by 31st January.
- 8) Scoring - A total of seven points for each game. One point for each winning rink with half point for each drawing rink - Three points for a team win with one and a half points for a team draw.
- 9) Matches will normally be played on Saturday afternoon on dates laid down by the Hon. League Secretary, however by mutual consent matches may be played on any day of the week at a time mutually agreed by the clubs concerned. The last date for the scheduled finish of each division on which County League matches will be played will be advised to the clubs by the Hon. League Secretary when he informs them of that season's proposed fixtures.

Other than bringing a game forward no changes will be permitted to the final weeks scheduled matches.

- 10) If a team fails to turn up for a match the County Executive Committee shall be authorised to impose a maximum £20 fine on the offending team who shall also be responsible for any loss incurred in respect of rink fees.
- 11) At the time of making league match fixtures it should be mutually agreed in writing if after match refreshments are to be provided for any of the club's league teams and the cost shared equally between both teams – no agreement – no refreshments.
- 12) The payment of the rink fees is to be the responsibility of the home team.

Entrance fee(s) per team to be determined at the Annual General Meeting, payable at the time of entry and **sent by 20th November to the Hon. Treasurer.**

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Player Eligibility

- 1) Clubs with more than one team in the County League must register at least 16 players for each team. The registered players must be registered with the Hon. League Secretary by 1st October in the year the season starts. Clubs with only one team in the County League do not need to register their players.
- 2) A player from a lower team may play for a higher team within the same club for a maximum of four games. If he plays a fifth game for the higher team, he is deemed to be a member of that higher team for the season in question and cannot play for a lower team again that season.
- 3) Any player not registered with any of his Club's teams automatically becomes registered for the team he first plays for and is then governed by the rules for a "registered" player.
- 4) If a Club has more than one team in any Division of the County League then a player can only play for the team he is registered for, or for whom he first plays for if he is not registered.
- 5) Any team found to have broken this rule shall have 7 points deducted for each occasion they have defaulted. In addition, for each game in which this rule has been broken the offending team will lose any points won in that game and all points for that game will be awarded to the opposing team.
- 6) In exceptional circumstances a member of the originally registered 16 players may be de-registered from that team in order that he may play for a lower team. An approach must be made to the Hon. League Secretary in writing or by e-mail giving the reason for the request to have that player de-registered.
- 7) Clubs with more than one team in the league shall designate their strongest side their 'A' team, their second strongest side their 'B' team and their third strongest their 'C' team.
- 8) No player can play for more than one club in the Men's County League's.

Promotion and Relegation for Season 2019/2020

- 1) Two teams will be relegated from Division 1 to Division 2. Two teams will be promoted from Division 2 to Division 1. Two teams will be relegated from Division 2 to Division 3 and the winners of Division 3 (North) and Division 3 (South) will be promoted to Division 2. The teams finishing 2nd, 3rd & 4th in Division 3 (North) and Division 3 (South) will be placed in Division 3 for Season 2020/2021, and the teams finishing 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th in Division 3 (North) and Division 3 (South) will be placed in Division 4 for Season 2020/2021.
- 2) The number of teams to be promoted / relegated between the Divisions will be decided annually and will be presented by the Hon. League Secretary to the County Executive meeting prior to the AGM for formal agreement at the AGM. This may vary from year to year.

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Notification of League Results

The **HOME** team shall telephone the result of the game to the Hon. League Secretary **immediately after the completion of the game**. The **HOME** team shall also send the match result card, signed by both team captains, to the Hon. League Secretary **by first class post or via the Norfolk CIBA website (www.nciba.org.uk) within 24 hours after the completion of the game**.

Withdrawal from League

- 1) Any team whether due to being expunged or due to club cessation will be regarded as a relegated team where applicable.
- 2) Should a Club withdraw a team, their remaining team(s) will stay in their current division(s) if they so wish.

Postponement of Matches

Teams must complete their League programme. No provision has been made for matches to be cancelled.

County League fixtures can be postponed due to adverse weather conditions and / or unforeseen circumstances, or if a County League fixture clashes with any National Inter-County or Inter-Club Championship match (i.e. Liberty Trophy, Over 60 Inter County Knock-Out, Under 25 Inter County Double Rink, Denny Cup/ Plate, Egham Trophy, Under 25 Inter-Club Double Rink or Top Club).

If possible, no league matches shall be played on Eastern Counties League match dates as set out in the County Match programme.

Details of the postponement and re-arrangement of any fixture must be notified to the League Secretary immediately.

In all circumstances the re-arranged fixture **must be played before** the scheduled final weekend of the respective division.

No postponement for any other reason will be allowed.

If a team fails to fulfill a County League Match their opponents will be awarded 7 points and have 50 shots added to their "shots for" total – the offending team will be awarded no points and have 50 shots added to their "shots against" total.

If a club is unable to fulfill an away game and it causes the home club any loss of revenue such as rink fees than the away team will be responsible for reimbursing any such loss of revenue.

Any game postponed **must be played before** the scheduled final weekend of the respective division (see above).

The Hon. League Secretary **must** be informed of any postponement and also be informed in writing or by e-mail of the rescheduled date within **seven days** of the postponement.

Failure to Complete League Programme

Filename: 008 County League Rules

Last Saved: 14/08/2019

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In the event of any club withdrawing from the League the results of the matches played by the withdrawing team will be deleted from both their record and the records of any team they have played in the league.

The County Executive also has the power to suspend the offending team from the League for up to a period of two years.

In the event of the cessation of the bowls operation of any club the County League record of their team(s) to date and those of the teams already played will be deleted. Those players of a team(s) affected will be eligible to play in the County League for another club from the date of cessation.

Championship Trophies

First Division Champions receive the Johnny Johnson Cup and a pennant

Second Division Champions receive the Joe Groom Cup and a pennant.

Third Division (North) Champions receive the Ron Bix Cup and a pennant.

Third Division (South) Champions receive the John Hare Cup and a pennant.

Cups to be returned to the Hon. League Secretary by 1st March.

Engraving will be the responsibility of the Association.

5. Breaches of County League Rules

Any breaches of the above County League rules may be referred to the County Executive Committee, who shall be authorised to impose a maximum £20 fine on the offending club or team or any other penalty as deemed.

(Revised 07/07/2019)