

ISLE OF THANET BOWLS ASSOCIATION – LEAGUE AND COMPETITION RULES

1. GENERAL RULES

- 1.1 Every player in league or individual competitions must be a Bona Fide member of a club affiliated to the IoTBA. A Bona Fide member is one who has paid a fee to become a member of that club. Teams may only be entered into Leagues and competitions provided all the players in that team are from the same Club. Affiliation fees must be paid to the Treasurer by 1st May - otherwise Club members will not be permitted to play in Leagues or Competitions.
- 1.2 All green fees are the responsibility of the home player or Club and visiting teams shall not be charged green fees.
- 1.3 A Club shall waive the green fees when their club is used as a neutral ground for competitions or leagues.
- 1.4 All affiliated clubs shall be entitled to enter teams in the Premier League, the Combination League and the Jubilee Pairs Competition.
- 1.5. All Clubs shall by 1st May send a copy of their Fixtures to the League Secretary with the Contact name and phone number of the Club representative responsible for League games.
- 1.6. Entry fees to Leagues and competitions shall be determined by the Council at the Annual General Meeting.
- 1.7. These Rules and any decisions of the Council are binding on all affiliated Clubs and may be added to or amended at any time by the Council at a Council meeting.
- 1.8. These Leagues and Competitions shall be organised by the League Secretary and the Competition Secretary on instruction from the IoTBA Council.
- 1.9. All Leagues and competitions shall be run under the Rules of Bowls England and KCBA so far as applicable except where IoTBA rules apply.

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2. INTER CLUB LEAGUES

- 2.1. A player can only play for one club in any season.
- 2.2. The Premier League must be between clubs with teams of four Triples, one of which only may play with two players, i.e. a minimum of eleven players in a side. Clubs may only enter one team in the Premier League.
- 2.3. The Combination League shall be between clubs with each team consisting of two Triples, one of which only may play with two players, i.e. a minimum of five players in a side. Clubs may enter more than one team in the Combination League.
- 2.4. Clubs shall normally play each other league team twice in the season, once at home and once away.
- 2.5. Depending upon the number of teams entered in the Combination League, then either:
 - 2.5.1. All teams will be entered into one league and play each other twice in the season OR the League will be split into two divisions based on the Combination finishing positions of teams the previous season.
 - 2.5.2. Clubs with two teams Entered in The Combination League, must keep a Register of Players playing in Team "A" and players in Team "B". No-one may play in more than ONE Team. Score Cards, signed by Opposition Captains, should be kept by both Clubs in case of objections at a later date.
- 2.6. The League Secretary shall forward a list of matches and playing dates to each club by 31st December. The Club Secretary must inform the League Secretary by 30th April of any matches and dates which have been rearranged by agreement between the Clubs.
- 2.7. Match dates can be changed by the agreement of both clubs but the League Secretary must be informed. If a change is not agreed by both clubs, then the original date will stand.
- 2.8. Matches may be postponed:
 - 2.8.1. For reasons of weather conditions or unfit greens due to the weather.
 - 2.8.2. If no rinks are available at the home club due to booked County or National matches, but this rule does not apply to Club matches.
 - 2.8.3. If both teams agree to move the fixture and every effort is made to play the match earlier than scheduled.
 - 2.8.4. If any match is postponed under these rules, 48 hours notice must be given or the points forfeited.
- 2.9. League matches cannot be scheduled to be played after 14th August, except a match postponed in August for weather conditions.
- 2.10. A match abandoned due to the weather, shall deem to have been fulfilled if ten ends have been played.
- 2.11. In the event of a match being abandoned before ten ends are played then the Home Club shall within seven days, offer their opponents two non-consecutive dates to play the fixture, one of which date shall be accepted by the Away Club.

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- 2.12. Any Club failing to fulfil a fixture or complete a fixture, other than by reason of weather or unfit green shall be deemed to have lost the game and their opponents shall receive maximum points plus ten shots.
- 2.13. Matches shall be decided on total shots with three points awarded for a win, one & half points for a drawn match. In addition each winning triple on either side shall receive one point or half point for a tie.
- 2.14. Where a team plays a man short, the offending side will bowl two players x three woods and the non-offending side will bowl three players x two woods. The offending side shall forfeit one third of their shots on that particular rink. This will normally only be permitted twice but then referred to the League Committee.
- 2.15. When a triple game is played with an ineligible player, the game and one point and five shots shall be awarded to the opposing team of eligible players. In addition one point will be deducted from the offending team's League table points.
- 2.16. Results must be communicated by both clubs (email or phone) to the League Secretary within 24 hours after the game and if not points & shots will not be awarded to the offending club. In addition one point will be deducted from the offending team's League table points. Score cards shall be kept until the end of the season.
- 2.17. The Club with the highest number of points at the close of the competition shall be the Champions of the League. In the event of equality of points, the Champions of each League and any other positions shall be determined by shot difference. In the event of continued equality positions shall be determined by shots scored.

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3. JUBILEE PAIRS

- 3.1. All affiliated Clubs are eligible to enter one team in the Jubilee Pairs upon payment of the appropriate fee.
- 3.2. A Team shall consist of two pairs of players from each Club, one pair playing at home, one pair playing away, both against the same opposing Club on the same day and date.
- 3.3. The Competition shall be organised drawing the teams into two Divisions. Each team shall play each other team in the same division once.
- 3.4. For each match, six points are awarded. Each winning pair shall receive two points for a win, one point for a draw. In addition two points shall be awarded to the overall team winners when the scores of both pairs are aggregated, with one point to each team if the aggregate scores are equal.
- 3.5. Dates and times by which matches must be played, will be determined by the Competition Secretary. Clubs may agree to play matches prior to these dates. Matches may only be postponed or abandoned due to the weather and will be rearranged on a date agreed by the Competition Secretary. The completion of ten ends shall constitute a game.
- 3.6. Any Club failing to fulfil an agreed fixture other than by reason of the weather, shall be deemed to have lost the fixture and the opposing Club shall receive six points and ten shots,
- 3.7. The Home Club shall be responsible for conveying the result to the Competition Secretary within 48 hours.
- 3.8. The winner of each division shall play the runner-up in the other division to decide the two teams to play in the Final. Positions in the division shall be determined firstly by points scored, then shot difference, then shots scored.

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4. INDIVIDUAL COMPETITIONS

- 4.1 The IoTBA shall hold, each year, a Singles, Under 21 Singles, Pairs, Triples and Fours Championship, which are open to all Bona Fide Members of affiliated Clubs. The age of the Under 21 players shall be determined as at the 1st April in the same year as the competition.
- 4.2. The general management of the competition shall rest with the Competition Secretary in accordance with the Rules approved by the Council. The draw for each Competition shall be made by the Competition Secretary in the presence of another Council member.
- 4.3. The number of rounds and the Closing Dates of each round shall be determined by the Competition Secretary from the number of entries. Each Competition shall have a different Closing Date for each round to avoid players having to play two or more competitions on the same date and time.
- 4.4. The competitor on top of each pairing is the challenger and is responsible for arranging the game, including the marker, and should offer his opponent three alternative dates (at least one date midweek and at least one date at the weekend i.e. Sat/Sun). No offers may be made for the closing date. The Opposing competitor must accept or reject the dates and times offered within 48 hours of the offer. The competitor on the bottom of the pairing chooses the rink from a choice of at least two rinks offered by his opponent. If rinks are not available at the challenger's club then the match must be played at the opponent's club. If neither is available, a neutral club must be found.
- 4.5. Every effort must be made by the challenger and his opponent to play the game before the final date of the round. If an earlier date cannot be agreed then the match must be played at 6pm on the "play by date". In the event of a dispute about dates the Competition Secretary should be contacted by phone on 01843 596955. An extension of time will only be allowed by the Competition Secretary in exceptional circumstances.
- 4.6. Score Cards will be issued for every round and must be signed and returned as soon as possible to the Competition Secretary by hand or posted to the address on the card. If a score card is lost or not received, then any club scorecard may be used. Competitors do not have to wait to receive a score card to arrange the next match as the draw sheet shows the next possible opponent.
- 4.7. If either competitor is unable to play, the opponent and the Competition Secretary should be notified before the closing date. In the pairs, triples and fours the individuals playing in the first match constitute the team, but one substitute is allowed after the first match and must be the same person for all rounds played.
- 4.8. Semi Finals of all competitions shall be arranged by the challenger and must be played on a neutral green unless all players are from the same club. Finals will be played at a venue to be decided by the Council.
- 4.9. All competitors must obey the codes of dress which apply at the club where the match is being played. The code of dress on Finals Day is whites, i.e. white shirt, Club tie and white full length trousers. Registered club shirts may also be worn. Any competitor not correctly dressed will forfeit the match.
- 4.10. All Finals shall be played on the IoTBA Finals Day to be held on the First Saturday in September.