

Horam and District Bowls League Rules

Match arrangements

1. For any match, each side must be mixed (ladies and gentlemen), that is, a minimum of one lady or one man in the whole side. The side will consist of four Triples. A Triple does not have to be mixed; it could consist of three ladies or three gentlemen. Failure to comply with this rule will result in a deduction of 25% of the overall shots scored by the offending side and will be rounded up to the nearest whole number if necessary.
2. Dress will be whites for afternoon matches and greys in the evenings, unless the League organisers have agreed an arrangement to the contrary.
3. Each game is to consist of 18 ends. The Captains will toss a coin before the game to decide the choice of the Jack.
4. The Captain of the visiting side will decide on which rink each of their Triples will play and put their cards face down. The home side's Captain will put their Team cards, one each, on the opposing side's cards, to decide the order of play.
5. Matches can only be cancelled through inclement weather or due to circumstances where both clubs reach agreement. In both cases the match must be re-arranged. If the green of the home club is unplayable, the venue may be swapped over, provided both clubs are in agreement.
6. A side arriving short of one player (that is, with one team being a pair) will play as follows: the Pair will play as Lead and Skip with three bowls each. Each team's Lead will play their three bowls as normal, then the opposing Triple's number Two will deliver all three of their bowls in succession, after which the Skips will play their three bowls as normal. Therefore the Pair will play a total of six bowls and the Triple nine bowls, with no other forfeit to the Pair's final score.
7. Once a game has started, if a player has to leave the green through illness or injury and is unable to return, a substitute may be used if a member of their club is available to play. If no substitute is available, the match will continue with the remaining two players playing as a Pair as in Rule 6.
8. A side only able to field three Triples (that is, only three teams in the side) will play the match but lose one league point for the missing Triple and 10 shots from the defaulting side's overall score.
9. For any club failing to arrive for an arranged match, or where agreement cannot be reached in Rule 5 (excluding inclement weather), the offending club will forfeit the match and 8 points will be awarded to the opposing club for that match.
10. Player positions may not be changed during the match.
11. If the Captains agree to abandon a match in progress because of inclement weather (or any other reason) and each rink has completed twelve or more ends, the score at that stage will count as a result. Note that all rinks must have completed at least twelve ends; if twelve ends have not been completed by all rinks, the match is to be re-arranged.
12. Points will be awarded for match results as follows:
 - 4 points to the side with the highest final score
 - 2 points per side when both sides finish with the same score
 - 1 point to each winning team
 - ½ point to each team in a drawn rink (i.e. equal final scores for both teams)**A total of 8 points are therefore awarded in each match.**

13. The match result form must be completed and signed by both captains, and sent by the home captain to the League Secretary as soon as possible after the completion of the match. This can be done by post or by emailed scans or photographs. The match cards should be retained by the captains.
14. Players may only play for one club and must be registered with that club. Failure to comply with this rule will invalidate the score of the offending Triple that person has played for and it will be deducted from that club's overall score for the match. Points will then be awarded accordingly.
15. If more than one club is equal on points at the end of the season, the club with the greater number of credited shots will attain the higher position in the League table.

League formalities

16. The cost of engraving the League Shield will be met by the club winning the League in that season.
17. Changes to these Rules can only be made if all member clubs in the League are in agreement at the annual End of Season Meeting. Proposed changes must be submitted to the League Secretary no later than the end of July of the current season. Proposed changes will be circulated to all member clubs prior to the meeting.
18. Inclusion of additional Clubs to the League must be ratified at the End of Season meeting. All Clubs must be in agreement, prior to the End of Season Meeting by agreeing to play the proposed new Club. The League Secretary will notify all member clubs of proposed new league clubs. The proposed new club(s) will be permitted to discuss with existing League member clubs possible fixture dates prior to the End of Season Meeting.
19. The End of Season meeting will be held at Horam Bowling Club at a date no later than the last full week in September of the current season.
20. There must be a quorum of two thirds of Clubs in attendance at the End of Season Meeting or any Special Meeting to enable it to take place.

Note: In these Rules, where no specific Rule covers any circumstance or incident, the Laws of the Sport of Bowls shall apply.

Ratified at the Horam League Delegates' Meeting on September 26th 2023