**COUNTY LEAGUE RULES**

**SEASON 2021/22**

1. **Each club will be represented by four rinks (fours) and matches will be played with two rinks playing at home and two rinks playing away.**
2. **Dress for all matches will be whites with white, brown or grey shoes with the exception of teams in Division 3 where grey trousers may be worn by MUTUAL AGREEMENT with the opposing team before the match commences. The whole team must all wear either white or grey trousers. Approved club-coloured shirts to be worn.**
3. **Club stickers should be used on all bowls for league matches.**

1. **All matches will be of 21 ends except where indicated in Rule 13.**
2. **Players who have membership with more than one club will only be eligible to play in the league “for their principle club” The principle club shall be the club they have entered their National Competitions from or the club they declare as their principle club before the commencement of the 1st league match. In addition, no player who has entered National Competitions from a club in another county may play in the league. Any club found to be in breach of this rule may be liable to suspension from the league.**
3. **For clubs that have two or more teams in the league a player who has PLAYED THREE TIMES for his clubs’ 1st team (i.e., the 1st team is the one not defined by the letter “B” after the club’s name) cannot play in the 2nd team again in that season. However, a player in the 2nd team can move into the 1st team at any time irrespective of the number of times he has played in the 2nd team but will then be subject to the 1st team rule if he plays THREE times for the 1st team.**

1. **In all matches except the play-offs (i.e., Challenge Trophy) two points will be awarded for each winning rink, and six points for the overall winning aggregate total (number of shots). This gives a maximum of 14 points available for each match. In a drawn game overall, the aggregate points will be shared. Results (including completed scorecards) should be forwarded to Ian Clough at York IBC as soon as possible but within 72 hours of the completion of the matches.**
2. **At the end of the season when all matches have been completed the two teams in Division 1 who finish in positions 6 and 7 will be relegated to Division 2. The teams that finish in positions 1 and 2 in Division 2 will be promoted to Division 1. The 2 teams in Division 2 who finish in positions 6 and 7 will be relegated to Division 3. The teams that finish in positions 1 and 2 in Division 3 will be promoted to Division 2.**

1. **The positions of teams in the league will be determined by the number of points accumulated in the season. In the event of two or more teams finishing on equal points their position in the table will be determined by the team that has won the most rinks in that season**
2. **In each match the home club has the right to choose the two rinks to be used, and at each venue the away captain will draw for the rinks to be used by the opponents.**
3. **Matches will be played on Saturdays on dates specified in the County Calendar, but may be played on the Sunday of the same weekend (without incurring a default) if mutually agreed between the two clubs involved. If agreement cannot be reached the match must be played on the original date.**
4. **The normal starting time for matches is 12 Noon on the dates given in the list of fixtures. Any other start time can be used by mutual agreement between the clubs involved, but matches should commence at the same time at both venues unless this is totally impracticable.**
5. **If the start of the match at either venue is delayed because of the late arrival of some of the players, both rinks at that venue where there is a delay shall start at the same time. Efforts should always be made to play the full 21 ends, but where for any reason that is not possible then completion of as many ends within the time available should be played and the scores at the end of time will count as the final result at the venue.**
6. **If clubs wish to change the date of a match completely, they may do so by mutual agreement, but they must inform the League secretary immediately of the new date.**

1. **All league fixtures including those that are re-arranged “MUST BE PLAYED”. The date of completion of all the matches scheduled in the fixture list will be the LAST MATCH IN THE SEASON AS DEFINED BY THE FIXTURES IN THE COUNTY CALENDAR.**

**Only at the discretion of the Executive Committee and in exceptional circumstances can any match be played AFTER THE DATE OF THE LAST LEAGUE MATCH IN ANY SEASON.**

1. **Green fees will be paid by the home club at each venue.**

**POSTPONEMENT, CANCELLATION AND DEFAULT.**

1. **In the event of a club who have 2 teams in the league postponing a match because of a lack of players to fulfil both fixtures THEN PRIORITY MUST BE GIVEN TO PLAYING THE MATCH OF THE TEAM THAT IS IN THE HIGHER DIVISION OF THE LEAGUE on the specified date.**
2. **If a club postpones a match for any reason, they must inform the League Secretary immediately.**

1. **The non-offending club must within 7 days of the date of the postponement offer 2 dates to the defaulting club to re-arrange the match and the defaulting club must accept one of the dates offered. Failure to offer 2 dates within 7 days will incur a default and the responsibility for re-arranging the match will revert back to the original defaulting club who must offer 2 dates within the next 7 days. The League Secretary must be informed of the re-arranged date immediately it has been agreed.**
2. **Clubs who have re-arranged a match must 7 days prior to the new date contact each other to confirm the date and time of the re-arranged match.**
3. **If a match cannot be re-arranged because a genuine dispute exists then the County League Secretary must be notified a soon as possible. In that circumstance the Executive Committee will set a date for the match to played. In the event of one team defaulting on the date set by the Executive Committee the other team will be awarded 14 points but with no shot difference.**
4. **If a match is CANCELLED and not POSTPONED then the offending club will be deducted 10 points and incur an automatic default.**
5. **If any club has not completed their fixtures by the end of the season (see rule 15) and they are the offending club then they will incur a default. IF THIS IS THE ONLY DEFAULT IN THAT SEASON IT WILL BE CARRIED OVER FOR A PERIOD OF 12 MONTHS INTO THE NEXT SEASON. (See also rule 24 for more than one default)**
6. **If a club defaults on two or more matches in a season, then all of their matches played in that season will become void and the points gained by their opponents will also be cancelled. The defaulting club will be suspended from the competition for a period of One Year commencing from the beginning of the following season that date being the date of the Annual General Meeting.**
7. **A suspended club wishing to seek re-election to the competition must apply in writing to the County League Secretary in advance of the beginning of the next season. If the application for re-instatement is successful, the club will re-enter the league at its lowest division.**
8. **Any club wishing to lodge a complaint about a particular match should do so by contacting the County League Secretary within 48 hours of the completion of the match.**
9. **Subject to the above rules all matches shall be played under the World Indoor Bowls Council Laws of the Sport of Bowls.**

**John Crowe**

**Hon. Secretary**