**COUNTY SENIORS LEAGUE RULES**

**SEASON 2021/22**

1. **Each club will be represented by 4 rinks (fours) and matches will be played with two rinks playing at home and two rinks away.**
2. **Dress for the matches will be grey trousers and club-coloured shirts with white, brown or grey shoes. Please note the dress rules for the finals under the heading “Rules for the** **finals”.**

1. **Club stickers must be used for all league matches.  In the event of a clash of colours the away team must provide a change of colour.**
2. **All matches will be of 21 ends duration but with a time limit of 4 hours which includes** **2 trial ends.  If a game is in play at the allotted time of 4 hours and the end is made dead** **that end will not be replayed.**
3. **Matches should be arranged to be played in the allocated month as shown on the fixture list sent to each club at the beginning of the season but re-arrangements of fixtures is permitted provided it is by mutual agreement between participating clubs and the league secretary is informed of the change.** **Matches are to be played mid-week Monday to Friday with a 12 Noon to 1.00 pm start. Matches to commence at the same time both home and away when played on the same day.**
4. **Fixtures should commence week beginning 30 September and must be completed by the 13th March 2020. There is no extension to the completion date AND ALL MATCHES MUST BE PLAYED.   (See rule 15)**
5. **For clubs that have more than one team in the league a player who has PLAYED THREE TIMES for his clubs 1st team cannot play in any other team in that season.  However, a player in any other team can move into the team above irrespective of the number of times he has played in the other teams but will then be subject to the rule of playing THREE times for the higher placed team even if they are in the same division.**

**CLUBS WITH MORE THAN ONE TEAM IN THE SAME DIVISION MUST**

**DECLARE WHICH TEAM IS REGARDED AS THEIR 1st TEAM IN THAT**

**DIVISIONAT THE START OF THE SEASON AND NOTIFY THE SECRETARY.**

1. **Players must be AGE 55 OR OVER on the 30th September 2021 to be eligible to play.**

1. **Rink fees to paid by the home club.**
2. **In all matches 2 POINTS will be awarded for each winning rink and 6 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.**

1. **At the end of the season when all matches have been completed the 2 teams in Division 1 who finish in the bottom two positions will be relegated to Division 2.  The 2 teams who finish in positions 1 and 2 in Division 2 will be promoted to Division 1.**

1. **The positions of teams in the league will be determined by the number of points** **accumulated in the season.  In the event of more than one team finishing with equal** **points shot difference will be taken into account.  If this does not resolve the situation** **then the result of the match played between the clubs involved will determine the relevant position in the league.**

**POSTPONEMENT AND DEFAULT.**

**POSTPONEMENT.**

1. **Postponement is defined as one or both teams unable to play on the date agreed but a new date is mutually agreed to play the match before the date of the last match of the season.**
2. **If a postponed match or part of a match cannot be re-arranged because a genuine dispute exists then the league secretary must be notified a soon as possible.  In that circumstance the Executive Committee will meet and decide on what course of action to take.  This could result in a date being set by the committee to play the match or if this is not possible a decision will be made regarding the allocation of points and any sanction that the committee feels appropriate to impose on an offending club. (e.g a default)**

**DEFAULT.**

1. **IF ANY CLUB HAS NOT COMPLETED THEIR FIXTURES BY THE END OF THE SEASON (See rule 6 ) AND THEY ARE THE OFFENDING CLUB THEN THEY WILL INCUR A DEFAULT.  If this is the only default incurred by the club in that season it will be carried over for a period of 12 months into the next season.  (See also rule 16)**
2. **If a club incurs 2 or more defaults in a season then all of their matches played in that** **season will become void and the points gained by their opponents will be also be cancelled. The defaulting club will be suspended from the league for a period of ONE YEAR commencing from the beginning of the following season that date being the date of the Annual General Meeting.**

1. **A suspended club wishing to seek re-election to the league must apply in writing to the league secretary in advance of the commencement of the next season.  If the application for re-instatement is successful then the club will re-enter the league at its lowest point.**
2. **Any club wishing to lodge a complaint about a particular match should do so by contacting the League Secretary within 48 hours of the completion of the match.**

**CHALLENGE TROPHY FINALS RULES.**

1. **The Challenge Trophy will be competed for annually at the end of the season between** **the top 2 clubs in Division 1 and the top 2 clubs Division 2.**
2. **The format of the competition will be round robin each team playing 3 matches on a** **time limited basis 1 hour 15 minutes + 1 end.**
3. **The bell will start each game and a bell will be rung at the 1 hour 15 minute mark. An end in progress when the bell sounds must be completed and one additional end played. If after the bell has gone at the end of 1 hour 15 minutes any end that is made dead will not be replayed.**

1. **The 3rd player will remain at the mat end of the rink until he has sent his last bowl. Skips may visit the head once per end only and if you decide to remain at the head until your opponent has played his 1st bowl then that will count as visit.**
2. **4 substitutes are permitted in matches 2 and 3 but the 16 players who have played in** **match 1 cannot move from their original team into another and any substitute used** **must remain in the team he is allocated to.**
3. **There will be no trial ends but one shot will be given for the winner of each end on the 1st and 2nd end of the 1st match only.**
4. **2 points will be awarded for each winning rink and 1 point if the rink is drawn.** **There will be 6 points for the overall aggregate score making a total of 14 points.**
5. **The team with the most points after 3 matches will be the winners.  In the event of** **two teams having equal points then the team with the better shot difference over the 3** **matches will be the winners.  If there is still equality between two teams then the team** **that won the most ends will be winners.**
6. **DRESS FOR THE FINALS IS WHITES AND CLUB SHIRT WITH WHITE, BROWN OR GREY SHOES. FAILURE OF ANY TEAM NOT TO COMPLY WITH THE DRESS CODE ON FINALS DAY WILL MEAN ELIMINATION FROM THE COMPETITION.**

**John Crowe**

**Hon. Secretary**