

NORTH WEST KENT BOWLS LEAGUE RULES

(Incorporating agreed proposals at AGM 27th October 2025)

1. The League shall be called the NORTH WEST KENT BOWLS LEAGUE.
2. It will be made up of teams of two Triples, either of men or of women, entered by Bowls Clubs within NORTH WEST KENT and all matches will be played on outdoor greens.
3. The management of the League shall be vested in a committee of not more than six members. One member shall be nominated as the General Secretary, and another as the Treasurer. One member will be nominated as Men's Competition Secretary and another as the Women's Competition Secretary. The committee has the power to co-opt additional members.
4. All Committee members shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting (AGM).
5. The quorum for all committee meetings shall be four committee members.
6. The Annual General meeting shall be held in October in accordance with an agenda and any proposals, to be circulated at least THREE weeks before the date of the meeting to all participating clubs via their Representatives.
7. At all meetings of the League, only one male and one female vote from each club will be allowed.
8. The Committee may call an Extraordinary General Meeting by giving not less than SEVEN days' notice to all participating clubs via their Representatives. Likewise, not less than SIX members may call for a similar meeting by a written request to the General Secretary or one of the League Secretaries, but must define the reason for such a request. No other business may be discussed at such a meeting. Voting as at the AGM.
9. Subscriptions (the fee paid by each competing team) shall be paid by their parent Club and shall be determined from time to time at an AGM.
10. The League may be dissolved by a resolution passed by a majority of not less than three-quarters of the League Clubs present at a General Meeting.
11. On dissolution, any excess of liabilities over assets shall be borne equally by all competing clubs. Any excess of assets over liabilities shall be disposed of as may be decided at a General Meeting called for that purpose.
12. Any proposal for an amendment of or addition to these rules, and any other resolution must be given to the General Secretary or one of the League secretaries in writing by 30th September so that same can be included on the agenda for the AGM of the year. Any matter not provided for in these rules shall be dealt with by the Committee whose decision is final.
13. Each club will advise the Men's and Women's Competition secretaries the name, postal address, telephone number and email address of the club's representative for their teams, as soon as possible, so that the list of representatives may be kept up to date.
14. The correct dress for League matches is Whites above and Greys below the waist OR club colours, and correct bowls shoes.
15. Play will be according to World Bowls (Crystal Mark Edition, including domestic regulations for Bowls England) and K.C.B.A. Two trial ends shall be played in all League & KO Tournament games, unless mutually agreed otherwise.
16. League teams can only be made up of full playing members selected from their club. However at the discretion of the Committee, small clubs (who have no reserve players)-may use up to 2 bowlers from another small club (within or without the NWK area) which DO NOT play in the NWKL. A small club is defined as having 10 or less Ladies' or Men's full playing members. Home clubs should have exhausted their own pool of players first. External players cannot play as skips.

Two clubs inside the NWK area, who both have 5 or less Ladies or Men full playing members as at 1st December, can combine to create a single team to play in the NWK in the following year.
(Note: to be kept under review at the AGM)

17. When a club has more than one team in the League, club members in a lower division team may play in the same club's higher division team(s), up to twice per season. If a member plays more than twice for any higher ranked team, they must stay as part of the higher ranked team and cannot return to any lower ranked team(s). Members cannot move between club teams in the same division. Club members CANNOT play down from a higher division team to a lower division team.
18. No green fees will be paid by visiting teams.
19. In each match 6 points will be available of which 2 points will be awarded to each winning triple or, in the case of a tie, 1 point to each tied triple, and 2 points will be awarded to the team with the higher overall score or if the overall score of each team is equal, 1 point to each team.
20. If any League match is conceded without having been played, 6 points shall be awarded to the team to which the match is conceded and 6 points shall be deducted from the team which makes the concession.
21. All League matches must be played at 6pm (5.30pm in August) on the Thursday evening shown on the fixture list, subject to amendment by the Committee in the early part of the season in respect of County competition dates. With the agreement of both teams involved, a fixture may be played at a different time/date from that in the fixture list, provided it is played before the last scheduled match.
22. If a player selected by a team fails to appear and play after a maximum waiting period of 30 minutes after 6pm (5.30pm in August) on the day fixed for the match, then the member may not play in that match. If an eligible substitute is available, then that person may be used.
23. If upon receipt of the fixture list, a club knows that some fixtures need to be rearranged (e.g. tour weeks etc) that club must contact the opposition with 3 alternative dates, which should be finalised by the 14th February.
24. In the event of bad weather, including rain or excessive heat, the Team Captains can agree before the match commences to play 12 ends only.
25. In the event of adverse weather conditions stopping play and preventing completion of the match that day, the game is to be resumed within 14 days, with the same teams if at all possible. If less than 12 ends have been played and there is no agreed date between the clubs (or Captains), the General or Competition Secretary will set a new date when the match must be resumed. If at least 12 ends have been played, the match will be deemed to be complete.
26. If a game is postponed because of bad weather or any other valid reason, the teams involved (or their representatives) must within 4 days of the original match agree a new time/date, which should be before the last scheduled match AND notify the rearranged time/date to the Competition Secretary. If the Competition secretary has not been notified of the rearranged date within 4 days, the match will be deemed to be cancelled and neither team involved will be awarded any points for the fixture.
27. If agreement to postpone a match because of rain / excessive heat, cannot be reached then the final decision to play or postpone will be made by the home team on the grounds of playing conditions or Health and Safety.
28. If a player is taken ill or is injured after the start of play, and if an eligible player is available they can join the team in any position other than skip. The other players can move positions. If no eligible player is available, the match can be postponed and resumed at a later date (See Rule 25). If the match continues, then Rule 29 will be adopted for the remaining ends.

29. For any League matches: One player short: all players use three bowls – one rink to play three members with three bowls each (9) and the opponents to play two members with three bowls each (6). The no. 2 in the side with three members will play their three bowls unopposed. The two member team lead and skip will play alternate bowls against their opposing team equivalents as per normal. There is no score penalty.
30. For any League matches: Two players short: all players use three bowls – both rinks to play three members with three bowls each (18) and the opponents to play two members with three bowls each (12). The no. 2 on both rinks with three members will play their three bowls unopposed. The two member team's lead and skip will play alternate bowls against the opposing team's equivalent as per normal. There is no score penalty
31. Except when rule 29 or 30 is applied, a league match must be contested by two triples from each team involved. If a team is three players short or otherwise concedes a rink, 4 points are awarded to the non-conceding team. The remaining triple is contested for 2 points, as normal.
32. Penalty for including an ineligible player in a match: if the offending team have won, the match the shots and points of that team shall be reversed.
33. The **home** team is responsible for sending the results on the NIGHT PLAYED to the appropriate person by email. The email should have attached copies of all four score cards. The home team must retain the original score cards in case of query. Alternatively, the cards can be posted by 1st class post and allow two days from the date of play. Scorecards must clearly show the names of both clubs, the names of each player in block capital letters, the division number and the date.
34. Clubs are to check the results and League tables that are sent to them by email. If clubs have any queries about, or objections to the results and/or points they must be notified to the Competition secretary no later than FOURTEEN days after the issue of the results and tables by email from the League to the clubs.
35. At the conclusion of each season: For the Men's league, two teams shall be promoted from each division and two teams shall be relegated from each division except that in order to bring the number of teams in any division up to eight, three teams may be promoted. For the Women's league, one team shall be promoted from each division and one team shall be relegated from each division except that in order to equalise the number of teams in any division, two teams may be promoted.
36. There will be a one week gap in the schedule typically during June, set by the committee to avoid clashes with the busiest round of the Kent matches.
37. NWK Charity Cup: the Men's match will be between the winners of division 1 and the winners of the Fred Tyler cup. The Ladies match will be between the winners of division 1 and the winners of the Gladys Tyler cup. The matches will take place on a neutral ground in early May. If a Team is unable to play, the runner-up in the Tyler Cup finals will be asked. The teams will be made up from members of the clubs, ideally as many members who played in the previous season's competitions. In the event that the same team wins both, the runner up will play. The winners would be presented with the NWK Charity Shield and £125 each, to be donated to a charity of their choice.
38. Any matter not provided for in these Rules will be dealt with by the General Secretary and the Competition Secretary, whose decision is final.

All Bowls Teams participating in the NW Kent Bowls League are eligible to compete in the Tyler Knockout Competitions. Men's Teams compete for the 'Fred Tyler Cup' and the Women's Bowls Teams compete for the 'Gladys Tyler Cup'. Therefore, since they are Knockout Competitions, additional specific Rules will apply:

THE FRED AND GLADYS TYLER KNOCKOUT TOURNAMENT COMPETITION RULES

1. The entry fee is included in the NW Kent Bowls League subscription.
2. The 'Draw' will be arranged by the 'Knockout Competition Secretary'.
3. The 'Draw' will be published showing the date of each round. The rounds until the Semi-Final will be played on a Monday for the women and Tuesday for the men. The Semi-Final and Final will be played on a Thursday. However, in any round prior to the Semi-Final, any team may request their opponent to play on a date, to be mutually agreed, before the nominated date. In the event of an alternative date not being mutually agreed, the team requesting the change must either play on the nominated date or concede the match. The challengers to check with opposition to confirm date and time of the match.
4. The home team is required to email or phone the result of the match to the Competition Secretary on the evening of the match. The home team is also required to forward all four signed scorecards by 1st class post, or scan and send via email, on the day following play, to the Competition Secretary. The Competition Secretary will advise the winning teams of their opponents in the next round.
5. The correct dress is as for League matches, i.e. Whites above and Greys below the waist OR club colours, and correct bowls shoes.
6. Agreement should be made before the start of the match as to which 'triple' will play the extra end in the event of an overall draw/tie after eighteen ends.
7. A Penalty will be given for including an ineligible player – if the offending team have won, then the match result will be reversed.
8. No green fees should be paid by visiting teams.
9. If play is impossible on the Monday/Tuesday because the green is unplayable, or there is inclement weather, the match must be played within seven days or before the next round.
10. For the Semi-Finals and Finals only. Neither Lead may visit the head until both have delivered three bowls each. The Second players, having left the head after the Leads have delivered their bowls may not return to the head until both players have delivered two bowls each. There is no restriction on Skips revisiting the head should they wish to do so. The maximum time that a player may confer before delivering a bowl is two minutes, the time being calculated from the time the previous bowl played came to rest. Should this rule be breached and not picked up by an Umpire in charge of the green, the aggrieved opposing Skip should bring the notice of the infringement to the Umpire. The Skip of the offending Triple will be warned by the Umpire and should the player continue to not adhere they will be subject to disqualification at the discretion of the Tournament Director (or nominated deputy), whose decision will be final.
11. In so far as they are relevant, the NW Kent Bowls League Rules shall apply in addition to these Fred and Gladys Tyler Knockout Tournament Competition Rules.