

# Constitution and Rules

## 1. Title

The name of the League shall be the Northern Ireland Private Greens Bowling League

## 2. Affiliation

The League shall be affiliated to The Irish Bowling Association.

## 3. Objects

- (a) to promote and foster the game of bowls
- (b) to act in the best interests of its member clubs
- (c) to maintain liaison with the other Associations in Ireland

## 4. The Laws Of The Game

The code of Laws of the Game as formulated by the World Bowls Board, with amendments approved by the Irish Bowling Association for use in domestic competitions, shall be binding on all constituent clubs of the League.

## 5. Membership

(a) A club applying for admission to the League must be in possession of a private green. For the purpose of this Rule, a private green is defined as one maintained and controlled by private enterprise and does not include a green controlled by a public body or one which is open for play to the general public. Application must be made in writing to the Honorary General Secretary and shall state the name and address of the club together with the names and addresses of the office bearers and committee members. The Management Committee shall at their meeting in September decide by majority vote whether such application shall be granted. The General Purposes Committee shall decide the division or league in which the newly elected club shall play.

(b) A club with two greens may enter up to a maximum of four teams in the League Championships and four in the Midweek League on payment of the requisite subscription.

(c) At the discretion of the General Purposes Committee a club with one green may be permitted to enter a second Midweek League team on payment of the requisite subscription

(d) A club is entitled to send two delegates to the Management Committee and General Meetings as set out in Rules 8c and 9.

(e) It is a condition for Clubs entering teams in the Northern Ireland Private Greens Bowling League Championships, Midweek League and Challenge Cup matches that catering must be provided after the matches. The type of meal provided is at the discretion of the host club.

## 6. Subscription and Entrance Fees For Leagues and Cups

### (a) Annual Subscription

The annual subscription for each club shall be fixed at the Annual General Meeting. In addition to the annual subscription each club shall be responsible for an annual capitation fee for each member whose membership entitles him to play bowls. The amount of the capitation fee shall be fixed at the Annual General Meeting and is payable with the annual subscription.

### (b) Leagues and Cups

The entrance fees for the following competitions: League Championships, Midweek League and Challenge Cups shall be fixed at the Annual General Meeting. Application for entries for these

competitions shall be made to the Honorary League Secretary not later than fourteen days before the Annual General Meeting.

(c) **Subscription and Fees**

The subscription and fees must be paid direct to the Honorary Treasurer before 30 April in each year. In the event of a club failing to pay its annual subscription and fees within the time stated, that club shall forfeit all its rights and privileges of membership as long as the subscription remains unpaid.

**7. Discipline and Sanctions**

Where the General Purposes Committee determines that the actions of a club or a member of a club has, after due investigation of the facts and examination of witnesses and relevant evidence, contravened the Constitution and Rules or brought the Northern Ireland Private Greens Bowling League into disrepute it shall have the power to sanction the offending club or member.

Sanctions available to the General Purposes Committee are:

- (a) A letter of warning
- (b) Suspension of the rights and privileges of membership for a period of time
- (c) Severance of membership.
- (d) Any other punishment as deemed appropriate.

Should any of the rules governing the League Championships, Midweek League, Challenge Cups or Championships be broken, or deemed to have been broken, the General Purposes Committee shall have the power to sanction the offending players and / or clubs.

Sanctions available to the General Purposes Committee are:

- (a) A letter of warning
- (b) Deduction of league points
- (c) Expulsion from the competition
- (d) Any other punishment as deemed appropriate.

**8. Administration**

(a) **Office Bearers**

The Office Bearers of the League shall consist of a President, Vice-President, Immediate Past President, Honorary General Secretary, Honorary Assistant General Secretary, Honorary Treasurer, Honorary Competition Secretary, Honorary League Secretary and Public Relations Officer in whose name the League may sue and be sued. Vacancies for any Officers occurring during the year may be filled by the General Purposes Committee.

The President and Vice-President shall occupy their respective offices for a period of 1 year. The then existing Vice-President shall be appointed President and a Vice-President together with the other Office Bearers shall be elected at each Annual General Meeting.

The Office Bearers shall be ex-officio members, with voting powers, of all committees except the Selection Committee. The retiring President shall be an ex-officio member of all committees except the Selection Committee for two years after his retirement.

(b) **Vice-President**

The position of Vice-President shall be held in rotation by a member of a Club which must be affiliated to The Irish Bowling Association and which must have at least 10 years continuous membership of the League. Any Club elected to membership shall be added to the existing rota in accordance with the date of application.

The Club whose right it is to nominate shall be notified by the Honorary General Secretary not later than 1 June to submit a name and such name shall be received in writing not later than 1 September of the appropriate year. The name of the nominee shall then be submitted to the General Purposes Committee and if approved shall be ratified at the Annual General Meeting.

In the event of a club waiving their privilege, the club next in order on the rota shall have the right to nominate. Every seventh year commencing 1990 the Management Committee shall have the right to appoint a Vice-President who has been nominated by the General Purposes Committee.

## ROTA OF CLUBS

Forth River	Malone	Comber
Ewarts	Downpatrick	Belfast
Albert Foundry	Ballywalter	Hilden
Ballymena	Shorts	Willowfield
Pickie	Dunbarton	Mossley
Ulster Transport	Shaftesbury	Falls
Old Bleach	Knock	Ards
Salisbury	Larne	
NICS	Belmont	
Saintfield	Cavehill	

### (c) Management Committee

The business of the League shall be conducted by a Management Committee consisting of the Office Bearers and two delegates from each club. The names of the delegates must be received by the honorary General Secretary on or before 31 December in each year. Twelve members shall form a quorum.

The Management Committee shall meet on or before fourth Friday in the months of March and September and on such other occasions as may be deemed necessary. Seven days notice of all meetings shall be given to each Club Secretary.

If any vacancy through death or resignation should occur during the year, the club thus represented shall have power to nominate a delegate to fill the vacancy. A delegate unable to attend a meeting may appoint a substitute in his stead for that particular meeting.

### (d) General Purposes Committee

The General Purposes Committee shall consist of the Office Bearers and three Club delegates who are to be elected at the Annual General Meeting. Should an Office Bearer hold two Offices, four Club delegates shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting.

The business of the Northern Ireland Private Greens Bowling League shall be conducted by the General Purposes Committee. It shall oversee and assist in the arranging of League Championships, Midweek League, Challenge Cups and Championship competitions and shall adjudicate in any dispute relating to such arrangements. It shall also deal with any matter referred to it by the Management Committee or General Meeting. Five members shall form a quorum.

The General Purposes Committee shall have power to appoint sub-committees if it considers this to be advisable. It may co-opt members to any duly appointed sub-committee.

(e) Selection Committee

A Selection Committee consisting of five members shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting for the purpose of selecting and arranging teams to represent the League in all representative matches. Those elected are not required to be Officers or delegates of clubs.

A club may not have more than one member on the Selection Committee.

(f) Delegates to the Council of the Irish Bowling Association

(1) The President, Vice President and the Treasurer and,

(2) To be elected at the Annual General Meeting: three from the officers and delegates of clubs affiliated to the Irish Bowling Association.

Should an Office Bearer of the Northern Ireland Private Greens Bowling League who is a delegate to the Council of the Irish Bowling Association hold more than one of these Offices, or also hold the Office of Honorary General Secretary, four delegates shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting.

(g) Duties of Honorary General Secretary

The Honorary General Secretary shall be responsible for keeping a record of all business transacted at General Meetings and General Purposes Committee Meeting and for such duties assigned to him by these Committees. He shall also become, by virtue of Office, a member of the Council of the Irish Bowling Association.

(h) Duties of Honorary Treasurer

The Honorary Treasurer shall keep a detailed account of all receipts and disbursements and shall submit a full account thereof, duly audited, at the Annual General Meeting.

(i) Duties of Honorary Competitions Secretary

The Honorary Competitions Secretary shall be responsible for the preparation, organisation and carrying into effect of the League's Singles, Junior Singles, Youth Singles, Pairs, Triples, Fours and Senior Fours Championships including the maintenance of proper records of each Championship

(j) Duties of Honorary League Secretary

The Honorary League Secretary shall be responsible for the preparation, organisation and carrying into effect of the League Championships, Midweek League and Challenge Cup competitions including the maintenance of proper records of such leagues and competitions.

(k) Duties of Honorary Assistant General Secretary

The Honorary Assistant General Secretary shall be responsible for such duties as may be delegated to him by the Honorary General Secretary and the General Purposes Committee.

(l) Public Relations Officer

The Public Relations Officer shall be responsible for the development and maintaining of the profile of the Northern Ireland Private Greens Bowling League, including attracting, maintaining and promoting sponsorship opportunities .

(m) Safeguarding Officer

The Safeguarding Officer shall be appointed by the General Purposes Committee. If not a member of that Committee he shall be entitled to attend meetings but without voting rights.

The Safe Guarding Officer shall liaise with the Irish Bowling Association and the member clubs of the Northern Ireland Private Greens Bowling League on all matters relating to the safeguarding of young people and vulnerable adults.

## **9. General Meetings**

The Annual General Meeting shall be held on or before the last Saturday in November each year, the date, time and place to be arranged by the General Purposes Committee.

The business of the meeting shall be to:

- a. Receive reports from the Honorary General Secretary, Honorary Treasurer, Honorary League Secretary, Honorary Competitions Secretary and Public Relations Officer
- b. Elect office bearers for the following year
- c. Elect three members to the General Purposes Committee
- d. Elect five members to the Selection Committee
- e. Elect three delegates to the Irish Bowling Association Council
- f. Elect one delegate to the Irish Bowling Association Annual General Meeting
- g. Elect two Auditors
- h. Fix the annual subscription for each club
- i. Fix the capitation fee for each member
- j. Fix the entrance fee for League Championships, Midweek League and Challenge Cups
- k. Fix the entrance fee for Championship competitions
- l. Discuss any notice of motion which shall have been given in writing to the Honorary General Secretary on or before 30th September
- m. Discuss any other business not requiring a notice of motion.

Notices of motion for consideration at the Annual General Meeting shall be forwarded to the Honorary General Secretary in writing not later than 30 September in each year.

A Special General Meeting may be summoned at the discretion of the Management Committee, the General Purposes Committee or on a requisition to the Honorary General Secretary from an affiliated Club. The Honorary General Secretary shall call the meeting within twenty one days of the summons of requisition and shall state on the agenda the business for which the meeting has been called and no other business shall be transacted at that meeting.

A General Meeting, Annual or Special, shall consist of two delegates from each Club, together with the Office Bearers of the League and fourteen members shall form a quorum. Twenty one days notice of all General Meetings shall be given.

## **10. Greens**

The greens of all Clubs, members of the PGL, shall be inspected at least once every four years by a Greens Sub-Committee, the members of which to be appointed each year by the General Purposes Committee. If the convenor of the Greens Sub-Committee is not a member of the General Purposes Committee he shall be co-opted.

### **ROTA OF GREENS**

2015	2016	2017	2018
Malone	N.I.C.S.	Castleton	Belfast
Falls	Knock	Salisbury	Shaftesbury
P.S.N.I.	Belmont	Willowfield	Saintfield
Transport	Gallaher	Cavehill	Downpatrick

Nortel  
Mossley  
Larne  
Ballymena  
Old Bleach

Shorts  
Pickie  
Ballywalter  
Ards  
Comber

Cliftonville  
Forth River  
Ewarts  
Albert Foundry  
North Belfast

Ballee  
Magheradroll  
Hilden  
Dunbarton

### **11. Alteration of Rules**

Alteration of or addition to the Constitution and Rules or the rules governing the several competitions shall not be made except at the Annual General Meeting or at a Special General Meeting called for that purpose and these shall require a notice of motion.

### **12. Powers of Committee**

The Management Committee shall have the power to interpret the Constitution and Rules and to deal with all matters not specifically provided for therein.

### **13. Safeguarding of young people and vulnerable adults**

The Northern Ireland Private Greens Bowling Association is fully committed to safe guarding the wellbeing of all its members. Every individual at all times should show respect for and understanding of the rights, safety and welfare of others and particularly young people and vulnerable adults and conduct himself in a way which reflects the principles of the Northern Ireland Private Greens Bowling League and the guidelines set out in the Irish Bowling Association Safeguarding policy.

### **14 Indemnity**

Members of the General Purposes Committee shall be indemnified by the Northern Ireland Private Greens Bowling League against all costs, losses and expenses which they may incur, or may become liable for, by reason of any contract entered into or act or thing done in good faith in accordance with the instructions of the General Purposes Committee, Management Committee or a General Meeting of the Northern Ireland Private Greens Bowling League. It shall be the duty of the Northern Ireland Private Greens Bowling League to make provision for such costs, losses and expenses to be met out of its funds, or otherwise.

### **15. Honorary Members**

The Management committee shall have the power to elect as an Honorary Member any gentleman whose services in the interests of the Northern Ireland Private Greens Bowling League are such as entitle him to that distinction and who has been recommended by the General Purposes Committee for election. An Honorary Member shall be entitled to attend an Annual General Meeting or Special General Meetings of the Northern Ireland Private Greens Bowling League but he shall have no vote unless he also be an Office Bearer or the delegate of a Club. The number of Honorary Members shall not at any time exceed 12.

### **16. Trophies**

All trophies shall be deemed to be the property of the League and shall be vested in the Office Bearers of the League. The trophies shall be presented on a date fixed by the General Purposes Committee and the recipients shall give the Honorary General Secretary a written undertaking for their safe custody and return in good condition on or before 31st July of the following year.

### **17. Charities**

(a) Benevolent Fund (Hugh T. Coulter Trophy)

1. The Trophy presented to the League by the late Hugh T. Coulter, Belmont Bowling Club, in the year 1941 shall be held for one year by the club in accordance with the Rota of Clubs.
2. Object: to raise monies for institutions or charitable organisations not state aided.

3.The disbursal of such monies for benevolent purposes shall be vested in the General Purposes Committee.

#### ROTA OF CLUBS

Hilden	Forth River	Willowfield
Albert Foundry	Belmont	Larne
Ballymena	PSNI (RUC	Ballee
Castleton	Cavehill	North Belfast
Pickie	Ewarts	Comber
Ulster Transport	Saintfield	Ards
Old Bleach	Shaftesbury	Knock
Gallaher	Malone	Ballywalter
Salisbury	NICS	Downpatrick
Shorts	Cliftonville	Magheradroll
Dunbarton	Mossley	Falls
	Belfast	Nortel

#### (b) Richard Minnis Trophy

The League's Trophy in aid of the blind or those threatened with blindness is 'The Richard Minnis Trophy'. This trophy was presented to the Northern Ireland Private Greens Bowling League and Kenilworth Bowling Club in 1943 by Richard Minnis Esq., Larne, to be competed for annually between Kenilworth Club and the League.

It is the desire of the donor that competition for the trophy may be the medium of aiding institutions or hospitals which have for their object the preserving of sight and relief for the blind

# General Competition Rules

(applying to League Championships, Midweek League, Challenge Cups and Championships)

1. All competitions shall be played under the code of Laws of the Game as formulated by the World Bowls Board, with amendments approved by the Irish Bowling Association for use in domestic competitions.
2. All competitions shall be confined to the members of Clubs comprising the Northern Ireland Private Greens Bowling League. A player can only represent one Club in the Leagues, Challenge Cups and Championships in any one year.
3. A player who takes part in any competitive match or tie in any other league affiliated to the Irish Bowling Association shall not be eligible to play during the season in competitive matches or ties under the jurisdiction of the Northern Ireland Private Greens Bowling League. It shall not be permissible for a club or any member of a club to enter or take part in a competitive match or tie in Ireland promoted by a league or association of clubs not affiliated to the Irish Bowling Association except with the approval of the General Purposes Committee.
4. In all games or ties in the League Championships, the Senior and Junior Challenge Cups and the semi-finals and finals of Championships, competing players must wear white or cream trousers, white belt (if worn) and white socks. Players on teams or sides may wear white or club coloured shirts (with collar) with sponsor's logo, providing such colour/designs and sponsor's logo have been approved by the General Purposes Committee. All players must wear a shirt of the same colour of design. Pullovers, cardigans, jackets, rainwear and headgear, if worn, must be white or cream or of the same colour and design as approved shirts. Regulation bowling shoes must be worn for all matches.

For Midweek League matches, Midweek Cup Matches and earlier rounds of Championships, substitute grey trousers for white or cream trousers.

5. Bowls discs must be used in all competitions. Where discs in club colours are not being used, red discs must be used by the home team and blue discs by the away team. The discs to be used in semi-finals and finals shall be decided by the Honorary Competitions Secretary or the Honorary League Secretary.

6. Match and ties shall commence not later than the following times:

- (a) Saturdays: 2pm or in the case of a second match on the same green, 6pm.
- (b) Evenings: 6.30pm

Semi-finals and finals may be arranged by the General Purposes Committee for an earlier time.

These times must be adhered to within a limit of 15 minutes otherwise the match or tie may be claimed by the side or competitors ready to commence play.

7. When a match or tie is to be played, the rinks to be played on shall be drawn at the green by the visiting player or their representatives



8. Umpires – if considered necessary, qualified umpires/markers may be appointed by the General Purposes Committee for matches or ties. It shall be their duty to settle disputes that may arise between the competitors, and in the case of inclement weather, to decide in consultation with the green keeper or club official whether the green, at the time, is in a condition to play, their decisions to be final.

9. Protests shall be made in writing to the Honorary General Secretary and shall be dealt with in accordance with the rules of the relevant competition.

10. All competitions under the direct control of the Northern Ireland Private Greens Bowling League shall be played on flat outdoor greens. The General Purposes Committee may arrange for floodlights to be used during semi-finals and finals.

# Rules Governing League Championships

1 (a) The League shall consist of five divisions. The competition shall be played on a home and away basis with each team playing each other twice in accordance with the fixture list. The League shall be structured as follows:

Teams	Division 1	Division 2	Division 3	Division 4	Division 5
55	10	10	11	12	12
54	10	10	10	12	12
53	10	10	10	11	12
52	10	10	10	10	12
51	10	10	10	10	11
50	10	10	10	10	10

(b) A system of promotion and relegation will operate through all five divisions.

The bottom two teams, in Division 1 shall be relegated to Division 2;

The bottom two teams in Division 2 shall be relegated to Division 3;

The bottom two teams in Division 3 shall be relegated to Division 4;

The bottom two teams in Division 4 shall be relegated to Division 5.

The top two teams in Division 2 shall be promoted to Division 1;

The top two teams in Division 3 shall be promoted to Division 2;

The top two teams in Division 4 shall be promoted to Division 3

The top two teams in Division 5 shall be promoted to Division 4.

Through promotion or relegation, more than one team from a club may play in the same division.

To maintain the integrity of the League Championships structure as outlined in rule 1(a) the Honorary League Secretary, with the approval of the General Purposes Committee, may adjust the number of teams to be promoted or relegated. Clubs will be made aware of any possible change as early in the season as possible.

(c) The team with the highest number of points at the top of each division on completion of the League programme shall be declared winners. The team with the second highest number of points shall be declared runners-up.

Seven points shall be awarded in each game. Three points will be awarded to the winning team and one point for each winning four on either team. In a drawn game one and a half points will be awarded to each team plus one point for each winning four on either team. When fours finish level each four shall be awarded 0.5 of a point.

2. (a) In the event of two or more teams being equal on points at the top of a division on completion of the League programme the team with the best aggregate of shots shall be declared the winner. The team with the second best aggregate of shots shall be declared runners-up.

In the event of two or more teams being equal on points at the bottom of a division on completion of the League programme, the team with the best aggregate of shots shall be placed above the other teams. Other teams shall be similarly placed.

The aggregate shots of any team shall be determined by subtracting the total number of shots scored against a team from the total number of shots scored by the team over the course of the League programme.

(b) In the event of two or more teams finishing equal on points and aggregate of shots at the top of any division the shots for shall be divided by the shots against. The team(s) with the higher figure will finish in the higher position(s). In the event of two or more teams finishing equal on points and aggregate of shots at the bottom of any division the shots for shall be divided by the shots against. The team(s) with the lower figure will finish in the lower position(s).

### 3. Team designations.

(a) Where a Club has 2 or more teams playing in the League Championships the teams shall be designated the "A" "B" "C" team etc. based on the highest to lowest division respectively in which they are playing

(b) Where a Club has 2 or more teams playing in the League Championships in the same division, the club shall designate their teams as "A" "B" "C" team etc

### 4. Registration of panel of players.

(a) Prior to the first league match, clubs which are required to do so, must submit to the Honorary League Secretary their panel or panels of players.

A panel shall consist of a minimum of 8 players. Those players who in the previous or current season have played at Senior International, Junior International or Senior Inter-Association level must be included on the "A" panel. Any new caps at Senior International, Junior International or Senior Inter-Association level within the same season must be added to the "A" panel once those respective teams are selected.

(b) A Club with one only team in the League Championships is not required to submit a panel of players.

(c) A Club with two teams in the League Championships must submit to the Honorary League Secretary a panel of a minimum of 8 players who will only be eligible to play for the club's "A" team in the League Championships.

(d) A Club with three teams in the League Championships must submit to the Honorary League Secretary two panels with a minimum of 8 players on each. The players on the "A" panel will only be eligible to play for the club's "A" team in the League Championships. The players on the "B" panel will be eligible to play for the club's "A" and "B" teams in the League Championships

(e) A Club with four teams in the League Championships must submit to the Honorary League Secretary three panels with a minimum of 8 players on each. The players on the "A" panel will only be eligible to play for the club's "A" team in the League Championships. The players on the "B" panel will be eligible to play for the club's "A" and "B" teams in the League Championships. The players on the "C" panel will be eligible to play for the club's "A", "B" and "C" teams in the League Championships

(f) A substitution system will allow clubs to change 2 players on the minimum 8 player panel in the same playing season – amendments will require the approval of the Honorary League Secretary.

(g) The panel for each club will be posted on the Northern Ireland Private Greens Bowling League website

(h) Players who are not included on any panel are eligible to play on any of their club's teams in League Championship matches.

5. League Championship matches shall consist of 4 fours and 21 ends shall be played. Teams may mutually arrange prior to the commencement of a match to limit the number of ends to be played. Not less than 15 ends shall be played.

Teams may play no trial ends, 1 trial end or 2 trial ends. An agreement to do otherwise e.g. to play for 1 shot on the first two ends may result in both clubs being subject to sanctions.

6. When it is proved that a club played an ineligible player, including a player on a named panel ("starred" player), the club shall forfeit the match and the points shall be awarded to their opponents.

#### **POSTPONEMENT OF MATCHES**

(7) Irish Bowling Association Cup Matches and National Championships.

When a Saturday fixture is postponed because a team is playing an Irish Bowling Association cup match or because the green of the home team is being used for an Irish Bowling Association cup match, the fixture must be played on or before the following Tuesday.

If a Club has a player in the finals of the Irish Bowling Association National Championships the fixture due to be played on that Saturday must be played on or before the following Tuesday.

#### **EXCEPTION**

If on the Tuesday a Club has a player engaged in the semi-final of the Northern Ireland Private Greens Bowling League Championships the match may be postponed but must be played within 28 working days.

#### **8 (a) Senior and Junior Inter-Association Matches**

A fixture may be postponed when a team has one or more players involved in an Inter-Association match, either as a player or official. In this case an official is deemed to be one of the following: Northern Ireland Private Greens Bowling League President, Northern Ireland Private Greens Bowling League Honorary General Secretary, Northern Ireland Private Greens Bowling League Treasurer, Northern Ireland Private Greens Bowling League selector, Irish Bowling Association Honorary Secretary, Irish Bowling Association Honorary Assistant Secretary, Irish Team Manager, Irish Assistant Team Manager or an officially appointed umpire.

#### **8(b) Senior and Junior BIBC International Series / BIBC Championships**

A fixture may be postponed when a team has one or more players involved in the British Isles Bowls Council International Series or British Isles Bowls Council Championships, either as a player or official. In this case an official is deemed to be one of the following: Irish Bowling Association President, Irish Bowling Association Honorary Secretary, Irish Bowling Association Treasurer, Irish Bowling Association Honorary Secretary, Irish Bowling Association Honorary Assistant Secretary, Irish Team Manager, Irish Assistant Team Manager, Irish Bowling Association selector or an officially appointed umpire.

An official who has retired from playing cannot be used to postpone a game under this rule.

The club desiring the postponement must contact the Honorary League Secretary and the opposing club, giving at least 48 hours notice. The game must be played on the following Tuesday. The home club must confirm these arrangements with their opponents. This date now becomes the original date.

#### (9) Other Situations

A fixture may be postponed when the green of the home club is unplayable or for any other valid reason. Inability to field the strongest possible team (e.g. by reason of players' holiday commitments) will not however be regarded as a valid reason for postponement.

Any fixture postponed in accordance with the foregoing must be played within twenty eight working days from the date of the original fixture.

The home team shall offer two dates (not consecutive and which do not coincide with a fixture, involving either club, arranged by the Northern Ireland Private Greens Bowling League) to the opposing team, one of which must be accepted.

The Honorary League Secretary must be informed in writing (letter or email will be acceptable, text message is not) of the date agreed by both clubs concerned not later than 10 working days after the original fixture date. Failure to contact the Honorary League Secretary by either team within this period will result in forfeit of the fixture and the award of 7 points to the opposition. In the event that neither team contacts the Honorary League Secretary then the match shall be declared void. Should the home club not offer dates within 10 working days, the visiting team is still required to contact the Honorary League Secretary to advise him of the situation or it too will forfeit the fixture and no points will be awarded to either team.

#### **SCRATCHING A FIXTURE**

10. In the event of a team scratching a fixture:

(a) 48 hours notice must be given to the opposing team, either to the Honorary Secretary or Honorary Match Secretary, and to the Honorary League Secretary before the date on which the fixture was scheduled to be played.

If the visiting team is scratching a fixture and 48 hours notice is not given, the visiting team will be liable for 50% of any catering costs incurred by the home team.

(b) The team scratching the fixture shall have seven points deducted from its' accumulated league points and seven points shall be awarded to their opponents.

If the match scratched occurs in August or September a further three points shall be deducted from the team's accumulated league points for the following league season.

Where a team scratches more than three matches in a single season the General Purposes Committee will have the power to declare all the results of all matches already played by that team null and void. Outstanding matches still to be played by that team will also be declared null and void. That team may only re-enter the League Championships if and when the Club can satisfy the General Purposes Committee that the team can fulfill matches in accordance with the published list of League fixtures.

11. Protests and appeals must be received in writing by the Honorary General Secretary within 7 working days of the cause of the protest, except in the case of an ineligible player when the protest may be made at any time during the League season.

12. Each Club shall keep a record of all matches played, including the names of the players participating in the matches, also the scores. Within five working days of the date on which a match had been played, each Club shall forward to the Honorary League Secretary the names of the players and also the result of the match.

13. The League Championships must be finished by the third Saturday in September of each year. League Championship matches shall not be arranged for the date of the finals of the Northern Ireland Private Greens Bowling League Championships

14. When the winners and runners-up have been declared, the League shall hand to representatives of the Clubs the respective Cups presented for competition, subject to such conditions as the General Purposes Committee may determine.

The winners shall receive 18 badges. Additional badges, not exceeding 6, may be purchased for competitors from the Honorary Treasurer

15. The General Purposes Committee shall have the power to interpret the Rules Governing League Championships and to deal with any matters not specifically provided for therein. It shall deal with any dispute which may arise as to the meaning or interpretation of these rules.

Any party to dispute may appeal a decision of the General Purposes Committee to the Management Committee

# Rules Governing Midweek League

1. (i) The main purpose of the Mid-Week League is to give the opportunity of competitive play to club members who do not play in the League Championships.

(ii) Any player named in a panel as required under League Championships is not permitted to play in any Midweek League match.

(iii) When it is proved that a club played an ineligible player, including a player on a named panel ("starred" player), the club shall forfeit the match and the points shall be awarded to their opponents.

2. The League will be divided into 2 divisions.

A system of promotion and relegation will operate. The two bottom teams in Division 1 will be relegated to Division 2. The two top teams in Division 2 will be promoted to Division 1.

New entrants will play in Division 2

3. Midweek League matches shall consist of 4 fours and 18 ends shall be played. Teams may mutually arrange prior to the commencement of a match to limit the number of ends to be played. Not less than 15 ends shall be played.

Teams may play no trial ends, 1 trial end or 2 trial ends. An agreement to do otherwise e.g. to play for 1 shot on the first two ends may result in both clubs being subject to sanctions.

4. The winners in each division shall receive 18 badges. Additional badges not exceeding 6 may be purchased for competitors from the Honorary Treasurer.

5. Games postponed because of the unavailability of a green or because the green of the home team is unplayable will be played at the earliest possible date by arrangement between the Clubs concerned.

The Honorary League Secretary must be informed in writing (letter or email will be acceptable, text message is not) of the date agreed by both clubs concerned not later than 10 working days after the original fixture date. Failure to contact the Honorary League Secretary by either team within this period will result in forfeit of the fixture and the award of 7 points to the opposition. In the event that neither team contacts the Honorary League Secretary then the match shall be declared void. Should the home club not offer dates within 10 working days, the visiting team is still required to contact the Honorary League Secretary to advise him of the situation or it too will forfeit the fixture and no points will be awarded to either team.

# Cup Rules

## SENIOR CHALLENGE CUP

1. The competition shall be called The Northern Ireland Private Greens Bowling League Senior Challenge Cup.
2. The competition shall be open annually to teams in Divisions 1-3 of the League Championships.
3. Players who have been nominated on panels for teams that play in Divisions 1-3 of the League Championships are restricted to playing in the Senior Challenge Cup. A player may only play for one team in the Senior Challenge Cup.
4. The draw for each round of the Competition and also for Green shall be by ballot. The Semi-final and Final matches shall be played on neutral greens.
5. Each Club shall play 4 fours and each game shall be 21 ends. In the event of a tie an extra end on each rink shall be played, and should the result again be a tie, an extra end on each rink shall be played and so on until a decision has been obtained.
6. If within a period of 15 minutes from the time fixed for the game, a player is absent from one or more teams the game shall proceed but,
  - (a) in the defaulting team, the number of bowls shall be made up by the lead and second players playing three bowls each, and
  - (b) one fourth of the total shots scored by each team comprising three players shall be deducted from their score at the conclusion of the game. Fractions shall be taken into account.
7. Protests and appeals must be received, in writing, by the Honorary General Secretary within 3 working days of the cause of the protest. These shall be dealt with by the General Purposes Committee whose decision shall be final.
8. The winners shall receive 18 badges. Additional badges not exceeding 6 may be purchased for competitors from the Honorary Treasurer.



## **JUNIOR CHALLENGE CUP**

1. The competition shall be called The Northern Ireland Private Greens Bowling League Junior Challenge Cup.

(2) The competition shall be open annually to teams in Divisions 4-5 of the League Championships. Players who have been nominated on panels for teams that play in Divisions 1-3 of the League Championships are ineligible to play in the Junior Cup. A player may only play for one team in the Junior Challenge Cup.

3. A player who has played in the Northern Ireland Private Greens Bowling League Senior Cup shall be ineligible to play in the Northern Ireland Private Greens Bowling League Junior Cup in the same season.

4. Rules 4-8 governing the Senior Challenge Cup shall apply to this competition.

## **MIDWEEK CHALLENGE CUP**

1. The competition shall be called The Northern Ireland Private Greens Bowling League Midweek Challenge Cup.

(2) The competition shall be open annually to teams in Divisions 1 and 2 of the Midweek League. A player may only play for one team in the Midweek Challenge Cup.

3. A player who has played in the Northern Ireland Private Greens Bowling League Senior Cup shall be ineligible to play in the Northern Ireland Private Greens Bowling League Mid-Week Cup in the same season. Up to a maximum of 8 players who are eligible to play in the Northern Ireland Private Greens Bowling League Junior Challenge Cup may also play in the Midweek Challenge Cup.

For the purpose of this rule, if a club has only one team in the League Championships and that team plays in Divisions 1-3, the club may enter a team in the Northern Ireland Private Greens Bowling League Midweek Challenge Cup and use up to a maximum of 8 players who play in the League Championships.

A player who has been named on a panel (starred player) as required under League Championships is not permitted to play in the Midweek Challenge Cup.

4. Rules 4-8 governing the Senior Challenge Cup shall apply to this competition.

# Championship Rules

1. The Championships shall be confined to the members of clubs comprising the Northern Ireland Private Greens Bowling League and a player must be entered through the same club for each competition.

The entrance fee for each competition shall be set at the Annual General Meeting. A prize may be awarded to the winner(s) and runner(s)-up in each competition.

2. The Championships shall comprise the following competitions:

The Northern Ireland Private Greens Bowling League Single-handed Championship.

The Northern Ireland Private Greens Bowling League Junior Single-handed Championship.  
Competitors must be under 25 years of age on 1 April of the season in which they are competing.

The Northern Ireland Private Greens Bowling League U18 Single-handed Championship. .  
Competitors must be under 18 years of age on 1 April of the season in which they are competing

The Northern Ireland Private Greens Bowling League Pairs Championship.

The Northern Ireland Private Greens Bowling League Triples Championship.

The Northern Ireland Private Greens Bowling League Fours Championship.

The Northern Ireland Private Greens Bowling League Senior Fours Championship.  
Competitors must be over 55 years of age on 1 April of the season in which they are competing.

The formats of play will be:

Singles will be 21 shots (shots scored over 21 will not be counted) and each player shall play 4 bowls.

Pairs matches shall consist of 21 ends and each player shall play 4 bowls.

Triples matches shall consist of 18 ends and each player shall play 3 bowls.

Rinks matches shall consist of 21 ends and each player shall play 2 bowls.

In the event of a draw an extra end shall be played and so on until a decision has been obtained.

3. The competitions shall be played annually and the winners in the Singles, Junior Singles, Youth Singles, Pairs, Triples, Fours and Senior Fours Championships, provided that they are members of a Club affiliated to the Irish Bowling Association, are automatically entered for (and if they qualify) the corresponding National Championships held by the Irish Bowling Association.

Entrants in the Pairs, Triples, Fours and Senior Fours Championships must be members of the same club.

4. There is no restriction on the number of players that a Club can enter in each competition. A Club shall forward the names of the competitors, together with the appropriate entry fees, to the Honorary Competition Secretary to arrive on or before the closing date which will be strictly adhered to. Entries will only be accepted on the official Championship entry form.

Uncompleted entries for a Pairs, Triples or Fours Competitions will not be accepted.

Should an entrant in the Fours, Senior Fours, Triples or Pairs Competition withdraw through illness or other unforeseen circumstances prior to the commencement of the competition, another member of the club may be nominated as a replacement. The replacement automatically becomes an original member of the Four, Senior Four, Triple or Pair. Such nominations must be made in writing and forwarded to the Honorary Competitions Secretary before the start of the second round of the relevant competition.

Members of each club may make their own arrangements as to the formation of a four, triple or pair. The same player must compete throughout the competition unless a satisfactory explanation is submitted for the substitution of not more than one player who has not already entered or played in the competition in which he is to act as a substitute. No other player may replace the first named substitute in any one of the competitions.

5. Ties shall be completed on or before the published date.

(i) Ties can be brought forward from the published date with mutual agreement of the players involved.

(ii) In the event of the green being unplayable on the published date the competitors involved should contact the Honorary Competitions Secretary and shall agree a date to play the tie before the following round. Should the competitors be unable to agree a date, the Honorary Competitions Secretary shall decide the date.

(iii) In exceptional circumstances the Honorary Competitions Secretary can postpone a tie. The competitors involved shall agree a date to play the tie before the following round. Should the competitors be unable to agree a date, the Honorary Competitions Secretary shall decide the date. Exceptional circumstances in this instance are defined as unforeseen events occurring that prevented the tie being brought forward and also of sufficient severity that the Honorary Competitions Secretary can excuse the competitor(s) involved.

6. The Championship Finals shall be arranged for a Saturday in August determined by the General Purposes Committee. The Semi- finals shall be arranged for the preceding Monday and Tuesday, though extra days in that week may be used for ties should a competitor be involved in more than 2 semi-finals.

7. The draw for the entire competitions to be done by ballot at the start of the season, within 10 working days of the closing date. The first drawn of each two in the ties in the various rounds, subject to the capacity of the green and with the exception of the Semi-finals and Finals, shall be defined as having a home draw. Byes, if any, shall be given in the first round. The General Purposes Committee shall arrange the greens for the playing of Semi-finals and Final ties.

8. Protests and appeals must be received, in writing, by the Honorary General Secretary within 3 working days of the cause of the protest. These shall be dealt with by the General Purposes Committee whose decision shall be final.