

ESSEX COUNTY CARPET BOWLS ASSOCIATION

LEAGUE AND COMPETITION RULES

All Essex County League and Competition Matches will be played to the Rules for Playing Carpet Bowls as published by the English Carpet Bowls Association, with the following additions/amendments: -

1 EQUIPMENT

- 1.1. The carpets, woods, centre spar and end blocks will all be as described in the Rules for Playing Carpet Bowls as published by the English Carpet Bowls Association.
- 1.2. For a League match the home team shall provide a minimum of two carpets and auxiliary equipment.
- 1.3. All players should wear FLAT soled shoes. Bowlers must not stand or kneel on the carpet during play.

2. LEAGUES

2.1 ADMINISTRATION

- 2.1.1. All leagues will have a League Secretary who will be elected at an Annual General Meeting and represent the clubs within their league at all Executive Committee meetings.
- 2.1.2. A League Secretary will be responsible for the collation of all match results for their leagues. Results should be sent to the League Secretary by the home team within five days of a match being played.
- 2.1.3. League Secretaries will periodically, from the results received, complete League Tables for distribution to all clubs within their league.

2.2. FIXTURES

- 2.2.1. Prior to the commencement of each season League Secretaries will arrange a meeting of all clubs in their league to establish fixtures for the coming season. All Winter League matches must be played between 1 September and 15 April the following year. .
- 2.2.2. Clubs should notify their League Secretary of their league fixtures before the commencement of the season.
- 2.2.3. Each team in a league will play each other both home and away.
- 2.2.4. All teams should be willing to play matches on any evening during the week or at weekends.
- 2.2.5 Any team failing to appear for an arranged match shall be responsible for any out of pocket expenses incurred by the opposition. The Club who fails to appear, as well as the offended Club, shall within seven days of the original match date, notify their League Secretary of the reason(s) for the match not taking place. Both Clubs must promptly arrange a new date for the fixture and that date is to be advised immediately to the League Secretary. Should the fixture not be able to be fulfilled before the end of the season then the League Secretary should be notified immediately and at their discretion the fixture may be rearranged for after the normal season end date, however no longer than one week. In the event of any difficulty in rearranging the fixture the League Secretary will advise the Executive Committee, who will review the situation and make a decision on any action to be taken. Clubs should be aware that the original offending club may be penalised and their opposition awarded the game with 8 points and 30 shots.

2.3. TEAMS

- 2.3.1. During a year, which commences on 1 September of one year and ends on 31 August of the following year, a player being a bona fide member may play for one club in the Winter League and/or any closed County Championship. A player from a non-league club may play for a League team, but also be allowed to play for their non-league club in the County Championships.
- 2.3.2. The names of all players and team format to be given to the opposition prior to a match starting.
- 2.3.3. Each team will consist of a maximum of 14 and a minimum of 8 players.
- 2.3.4. Clubs wishing to enter more than one team into the league must ensure that: -
- Each team has its own Captain/Secretary for administration purposes and to prevent any conflict of interest.
 - (a) The names of members should be notified to their League Secretary before the season starts. Should a team from the same club be in another League then the Secretaries responsible for those Leagues will compare team lists to ensure there is no duplication of players
 - (b) A player may only play for one team during the season. If a player having already played for team (a) then plays in team (b) or vice versa, for whatever reason, then that club shall be disqualified from the league for the remainder of that season. All games played to that point will be declared null and void.

2.4. MATCHES

- 2.4.1 The names of each team will be exchanged before the game starts, and be agreed upon.
- 2.4.2. The Captains of both teams shall toss a coin for choice of woods prior to the first game being played. Both rinks/triples from a team shall play with the same colour woods throughout the match. The skips of each game shall toss a coin to decide if they shall bowl first or second on the first end.
- 2.4.3. Each League match shall comprise of the following individual games: -
- (a) Each match is played in the first session with 2 x Fours (rinks)
 - (b) This is followed by a second session of 2 x triples (6 bowls each team).
- This allows for a maximum of 14 players and a minimum of 8 players.
- (c) Any deficit of players for the triples can be substituted from the first Rinks.
 - (d) No player can skip twice and the home team players (if playing twice) cannot play on the same carpet twice.
 - (e). Any player who did not play in the first session, when playing against teams/players that did, would be allowed a two end roll-up before the triples matches starts.
 - (f) Games will be of 9 ends.

2.5 SCORING

- 2.5.1. The rink or triple with the most shots at the end of their game shall be the winners of that game. If the shots for a game are equal then that game shall be declared a draw. Two points will be awarded for each game won and one point will be awarded to each team for a drawn game.
- 2.5.2. The result of a match will be determined by the team gaining the highest number of game points (a maximum of eight per match).

- 2.5.3. In the event of a tie on points at the end of the season, then shots for will be applied.
If teams are still equal then the team with the least shots against will be declared the winners.

3. COMPETITIONS

3.1 COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

- 3.1.1. The following County Championships will take place each year: - Singles, Pairs, Triples and Fours. The winners of each discipline will be invited to represent the County at both the Eastern Counties and National Champion of Champions competitions. Should the winners be unable to accept then the County Executive Committee will be free to invite suitable players.
- 3.1.2. Rule 2.3.1 will be relaxed when applying to the County Championship Triples and Fours competitions. Clubs should submit their normal team application to the Tournament Secretary. Should the club have additional players, but cannot make up an additional team, or should a club not have enough players to make up a complete team, then the names of those individual team members wishing to play should be provided to the Tournament Secretary. The Tournament Secretary or his nominee will then endeavour to make up additional teams from these individuals. Priority will be given to club members playing together, otherwise the selection will be by random draw. These teams will have the same rights to represent Essex in the Champion of Champions if they win.
- 3.1.3. Clubs should be certain that when they enter teams into the County Championships, they will be able to meet that commitment. The County Executive Committee reserve the right not to invite a club to enter one or more County Championships should that club fail to meet their commitment on more than one occasion whatever the reason.
- 3.1.4. The Tournament Secretary will, before the beginning of each season, distribute a rota stating which clubs will be required to loan equipment for any County Competition. (This is dependent on the storage facility for equipment at the venue). Any club unable to loan equipment on any occasion must contact the Tournament Secretary as soon as possible to allow alternative arrangements to be made. It must be remembered that these competitions cannot take place without clubs loaning their equipment on these occasions.
- 3.1.5. FERRIS CUP – This is open to all member clubs of the Essex County Carpet Bowls Association and will be run on a knockout basis, administered by the Tournament Secretary. The individual team make-up and format for this competition will be the same as those given for a league match. When making arrangements for these matches try to ensure that the time-table set for this competition is complied with, but they do not take precedence over league matches.

3.2. OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS

- 3.2.1. Entries for all competitions other than those stated in rule 3.1.1 will be determined by the rules distributed by the organisers.

3.3. UNCOMPLETED COMPETITIONS

- 3.3.1. Competitions with a set number of games for all teams (e.g. Inter-League, League Finals, Ladies v Gentlemen).

- 3.3.2 If a competition, championship or tournament cannot be completed before three quarters of the matches are played, then it will be abandoned with no result.
- 3.3.3. If a competition, championship, or tournament cannot be completed after three quarters of the matches are played then: -
 - (a) If all competitors have played an equal number of matches, then the score at the end of play shall stand.
 - (b) If all competitors have played an unequal number of matches, then the average scores of matches actually played shall determine the result.

3.4. COMPETITIONS WITH ROUND ROBIN AND KNOCKOUT ROUNDS (e.g. County Singles, Pairs, Triples and Fours Championships).

- 3.4.1 If a competition, championship or tournament cannot be completed before the completion of the knockout rounds, then it will be abandoned with no result. Efforts will be made by the County Tournament Secretary to re-arrange the four County Championships on another day and the championship will be commenced from the beginning with all previous results discounted and with bowlers that are available on the re-arranged date.
- 3.4.2. If a competition, championship or tournament cannot be completed after the knockout stages have commenced then efforts will be made by the County Tournament Secretary to re-arrange only the four County Championships on another day and the championship will recommence with only the same bowlers that were present and still in the championship.
- 3.4.3 If a County championship cannot be completed then it will be recorded as uncompleted and the County Committee will decide on who shall represent the County at both the Eastern Counties and English Champion of Champions.

4. MEASURING

- 4.1. Should a measure by a referee (third party) be called for in either league or competitions, then all players should stand clear of the carpet and accept the decision of that referee.
- 4.2. Steel measures only should be used in all league, cup, championships and any other fixtures played under these rules.

5. LOCAL ARRANGEMENTS

- 5.1. If, in certain situations, there are good reasons for slight amendments to these rules for a particular match, then these must be agreed by the captains of both teams before any games are played.
- 5.2. All participants are encouraged to use common sense in resolving any minor disagreements over the interpretation of the rules.