

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 31 March the following year. All Summer Singles matches must be played between 1 April and 31 July in the same 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. Should that club not enter the Summer Singles League, if a player is already a bona fide member of a club entering the Summer Singles League, then that player may play for that club in the Singles League. 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. The optimum and preferred number of players in a league team is twelve. No team may play with less than ten players unless circumstances beyond a club's control prevail. In such cases a team must have a minimum of nine players, but should spectators who are eligible to play for a team be present then they must be asked to play. When a team has less than 12 players available then the following procedure must be adhered to: -

A team arriving with 10 or 11 players will play the match using the standard format of fours and pairs however the rules regarding 3 versus 4 will be applied. The team with fewer than 12, the rinks with only 3 players will play the 8 woods in the following format, with no penalty.

Player 1 plays their 2 bowls as normal, the same for the 2nd player, then player 1 and 2 bowl alternatively against the opposing 3rd player, then the skips bowl as normal.

A team with less than ten players must give the opposition the names of the players (including nominating all skips) for both pairs, the first rink and the name of the skip of the second rink. The second rink will comprise of the remaining players yet to be named plus a player(s) to be selected randomly by the opposition from the first two players in the first rink. This random selection shall be made in the following manner: - The names of the first two players from the first rink will be put in a container and the captain of the opposition will draw a name as required to complete the second rink, **no player drawn to play twice may skip the second rink.**

In addition, the player(s) drawn **cannot play in the same position as their first game** (i.e. if lead in first game cannot play lead in second). When submitting the result sheet to the League Secretary, the team playing with less than ten players must be identified and the names of any player that has played twice during that match should be highlighted.

Should the team playing with less than ten players be the home team then the two rinks cannot be played on the same carpet.

In the event of illness of a player occurring during a game preventing that player from continuing, then a non-player present, who is a member of the affected club, may continue from that point in the same position as the player withdrawing from the game. If there is no non-player present, the team-shortage rules will apply from the point of disruption. Should the occurrence happen during the first session of play then the player selected as replacement should, if circumstances allow, be drawn from the second rink and not be a player who is to be a skip. If the team has already arrived with nine players, then this will not be possible and in these exceptional circumstances the first player from the pair in the second session can be chosen. If this situation arises during the Summer Singles, the same rule will apply except, if no non-player is present, this particular game will be forfeited.

- 2.3.4.** Should a team have less than the minimum of nine players available then they must rearrange the fixture. If the League Secretary is satisfied that a rearranged fixture cannot be played then the team with the required number of players will be awarded the full eight points from that match, with 30 shots for and no shots against.
- 2.3.5.** A team may only play four times in any league season with less than ten players without suffering a penalty. On the fifth and every subsequent occasion a team playing short will forfeit one game point
- 2.3.6.** Clubs wishing to enter more than one team into the league must ensure that: -
- (a) Each team has its own Captain/Secretary for administration purposes and to prevent any conflict of interest.
 - (b) Each team must have a minimum of fourteen players, the names of which 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.
 - (c) 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 Captains of both teams shall toss a coin for choice of woods prior to the first game being played. Both rinks/triples and pairs 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.
- 2.4.2.** Each League match shall comprise of the following individual games: -
- (a) One game between the first rink from each team.
 - (b) One game between the first pair from each team.
 - (c) One game between the second rink from each team.
 - (d) One game between the second pair from each team.
- 2.4.3.** Each game shall consist of nine ends – no practice, trial, or roll-up ends may be played by either team prior to a match commencing.

2.5 SCORING

- 2.5.1.** The rink or pair 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.