

# West Sussex Bowls League and P C Cup Rules Oct 2024

## West Sussex Bowls League

### Incorporating the P C Cup



James & James Estate Agents  
are proud to sponsor WSBL

<b>1.</b>	<b>GENERAL</b>	
1.1	The League & PC Cup are to be played under the Rules of Bowls England and the Laws of the Game, subject to any overriding local rules as detailed below.	
1.2	Members are reminded of the following specific Rules of Bowls England:	
	a)	No smoking on the green;
	b)	All woods used in matches must carry a stamp of 1985 or later;
	c)	The skip shall mark the card in all matches;
	d)	All woods in a team shall carry the same identification i.e. club stickers.
1.3	The PC Cup will be a knockout Competition and entry will be by invitation only to existing member league clubs.	
1.4	The PC Cup entrance fee will be NIL, all expenses to come from the League General Account.	
1.5	All League and PC Cup matches are for Men only.	
<b>2.</b>	<b>ELIGIBILITY OF PLAYERS</b>	
2.1	Players eligible to play in the League and PC Cup will be registered members of the club they are representing who have either:	
	a)	represented that club in county competition during the current season OR
	b)	a. not represented any club in county competitions during the current season. <b>except for SCB Champion of Champions in which case, they may represent the team they played for in the previous season.</b> <b>(Amended 2019)</b>
	A list of members who may partake in WSBL or PC Cup matches is to be forwarded to the League Secretary to arrive either prior to the first match being played or by 30 April in any one year – whichever is the earlier. In any matches played before this information is received - the players will be considered as ineligible players - and the match will be defaulted and relevant penalties in accordance with League Rule 4.10 c) imposed. Additional players may be added to this list at any time by notification - in writing - to the League Secretary, Chairman and Divisional Co-ordinator.	
2.2	Clubs may, if they wish, enter more than one team in the league. The teams to be designated 'A', 'B', 'C', etc.	
2.3	Where a Club has two or more teams in any one Division a player may only play for one of those teams.	
2.4	a)	i) Any player who played in <b>SEVEN</b> or more games for a higher-level team (or average of games played by a combination of teams at the higher level) in the previous season, may <b>NOT</b> in this current season, <b>initially</b> play for <b>any</b> lower level team. <b>(Amended ADM 2019)</b>
		ii) However if any such player is not selected and does not play in <b>three consecutive matches</b> for the higher level team he may play for the lower level team subject to the overriding factors of para c) below. <b>(Amended ADM 2013)</b>
	b)	Any player who played in <b>less than SEVEN</b> games for a higher level team (or average of games played by a combination of higher level teams) in the previous season, may commence the season in any team. <b>(Amended ADM 2019)</b>

## West Sussex Bowls League and P C Cup Rules Oct 2024

	c)	Once <b>ANY</b> player has played <b>5 matches</b> for any team - or a combination of teams - at the higher level - that player <b><u>can no longer play for any lower level team.</u></b> (Amended ADM 2013)
	d)	Before the start of the season, any player who has played in SEVEN or more games for a higher level team in the previous season may elect to play <b>only</b> for any lower level team for the duration of the new season. The player's name must be submitted by the club to the League Secretary before the start of the season and the club will be responsible for ensuring that he is not selected for the higher level team.
2.5		In the event of a team fielding an ineligible player the points for the rink in which he played shall be awarded to the opposition plus the two points for the match result. The shots of the defaulting team, for that rink, shall be deducted.
2.6		No player may play for more than one WSBL member club in the League <b>and/or</b> PC Cup in the same season. (Amended ADM 2017)
<b>3. ARRANGEMENT OF MATCHES</b>		
<b>For both League and PC Cup:</b>		
3.1	a)	All evening matches shall be arranged to commence as below <b>18.30 in June and July, at 18.15 in May &amp; August. Mid-week matches start at 18.00 if played after the 7<sup>th</sup> August. Clubs may by mutual agreement arrange to play a match in the afternoon or to start earlier than the specified time (amended 2024)</b>
	b)	No evening matches shall be played after the 14th August and if played after the 7th August shall have a start time of no later than 17.30.
	c)	Matches played on artificial surfaces after the 1st August must have a start time of 30 minutes earlier than those quoted above.
<b>LEAGUE</b>		
3.2		Div 1 fixture schedules will be set for the season by the WSBL Management Committee. The fixtures will conform to a fortnightly pattern set by the Management Committee. Clubs will by mutual agreement, play each of their fixtures in one of the 5 possible slots allowed per week. Friday evening, Sat Morning, Saturday Afternoon, Sunday Morning or Sunday Afternoon. In exceptional circumstances, if it is not possible to play within one of these slots the two clubs will agree a mutually convenient fixture date and time  <b>3.2b.</b> Dates and times for <b>all other</b> League matches (Divisions other than 1) should, where possible, be mutually agreed by the two clubs following the fortnightly fixture pattern set by the WSBL Management Committee. If it is not possible to play within the agreed dates, the home club shall offer a minimum of four dates/times to the opposing team, which shall not include dates on which the opponent already has a league match agreed. The opponent must then accept one of these dates within seven days. <b>Adopted ADM 2020</b>
3.3	a)	<b>Revoked ADM 2020</b>
	b)	<b>Revoked ADM 2020</b>
3.4		Once all fixture dates have been arranged/agreed they shall be notified to the Hon. Secretary by the latest date of 28 Feb in any year.
<b>PC CUP</b>		
3.5		The draw for PC Cup matches will be made prior to the commencement of the season and circulated to clubs no later than 24 <sup>th</sup> April.
3.6		The club drawn at home must challenge the away club no later than 3rd of the month in which the tie is to be played. If the home club fails to offer dates by the 3rd of the month home advantage and choice of dates shall revert to the away club. The away club must challenge the home club no later than the 7th of the month in which the tie is to be played.
3.7		Clubs must offer <b>three (3)</b> (Amended ADM 2016) dates during the period allocated for the round at least one of which must be a weekend, which shall not include dates on which the opponent

## West Sussex Bowls League and P C Cup Rules Oct 2024

	already has a league match agreed. Should the side challenged be unable to accept any of the dates offered they shall forfeit the match. The away club shall notify acceptance of one of the dates offered within 3 days of the offer being made by the challenger. <u>The PC Cup co-ordinator to be advised by telephone or e-mail of the dates of all matches by both clubs - as soon as one of the three dates has been accepted.</u>	
3.8	All weekend matches to start at 10.00 and mid-week matches at 18.00 except in August when mid-week matches start at 17.30 if played after the 7th. Clubs may by mutual agreement arrange to play a match in the afternoon or to start earlier than 18.00 hours.	
<b>4.</b>	<b>MATCH FORMAT &amp; RESULT</b>	
4.1	Within each League division, each team will play each of the other teams twice during the season, once at home and once away. Any team that defaults on more than two matches during a season will be withdrawn from the League and its' record will be expunged.	
	<b>N.B.</b> Following a request during the 2012 Season for clarification of 'home' in the above paragraph the matter was considered, and an executive decision was made in accordance with the Constitution para 3.4 d). The definition of 'home' is considered to be <b><u>'an outdoor bowling green venue that is the choice of the home team/club'</u></b> .	
4.2	In both League and PC Cup, teams will comprise of 16 players, playing as four teams of Four. If a team cannot fulfil four complete rinks then local rules 4.6 to 4.8 below will apply. Substitution may be permitted in accordance with the Laws of the Game. <b>(Amended ADM 2013)</b>	
4.3	All rinks to play <b>18</b> ends continuously unless the match is abandoned for any reason when Rule 4.10 d) will apply. In League matches rinks shall not be conceded prior to the end of <b>18</b> ends and if a player is obliged to leave the rink for more than 10 minutes due to illness, injury, or other reason the rink shall continue to play under the terms of 4.8 below. In PC Cup matches a team may concede if they consider it right to do so. <b>(Amended ADM 2024)</b>	
	<b>NB:</b> In discussion prior to voting on matters concerning players leaving the rink due to illness or injury and the revised ruling that a rink is 'required to carry on playing with three players' – it was agreed that in cases of 'severe injury or illness' it <i>'may not be appropriate to continue'</i> and - <u>that common sense should prevail</u> - with the circumstances being subject to review by the Management Committee.	
4.4	Rinks to be drawn. For the PC Cup a further separate draw shall also take place to establish on which rink the extra end shall be played.	
4.5	Trial ends to be played as agreed between competing clubs.	
4.6	Where just one player is absent at the time due for the commencement of the match the following shall apply:	
	a) The trial ends, followed by the match, shall commence at the time scheduled for the commencement of the match with seven players each bowling their two woods.	
	b) The absentee player shall be allowed to take his place in the team as recorded on the match card, provided he arrives prior to the jack being bowled for the commencement of the sixth end. If he fails to arrive by that time the team shall continue to play one player and two woods short for the entire game.	
4.7	Where more than one player is absent at the time due for the commencement of the match either of the following shall apply	
	a) The match may be delayed to allow time for the players to arrive;	
	i) For afternoon games a maximum delay of 30 minutes may be permitted before the trial ends must commence.	
	ii) For games commencing after 17.30 a maximum of 20 minutes may be permitted.	
	iii) <u>If this option is chosen, once the first jack has been bowled to commence the game proper no player may join the game and however many rinks as necessary will play with one player short using the format in 4.8</u>	

## West Sussex Bowls League and P C Cup Rules Oct 2024

	b)	If up to four players are absent the team may decide to commence at the time due and play under the conditions of 4.6 above with one player short on any or all of the four rinks.	
	c)	If more than four players are absent the match may be delayed as in para a) above but if after the relevant permissible time delay there are still more than 4 players absent the match will be considered a 'default match' and dealt with under para 4.10 c). <b>(Added ADM 2013)</b>	
4.8	a)	Where there are only three players on a team on a rink – either at the start of a game or due to a player leaving a rink due to illness, injury or other reason - then play on the rink shall be as follows: <b>(Amended ADM 2013)</b>	
	i)	Whichever team wins the end the lead (or two if the lead is the player missing), shall place the mat and deliver the jack.	
	ii)	The Lead of the team with four players shall then play both of his two woods followed then by the other six players playing in order commencing with whichever team won the previous end.	
	iii)	There shall be no deduction of 25% from the score.	
	b)	If more than one player is obliged to leave a rink due to illness, injury or other reason for more than 10 minutes - then that rink shall be forfeited with the two rink points and the 2 'overall shot' points being awarded to the opponents. <b>(Added ADM 2013)</b>	
4.9		Visiting clubs to bowl the jack on the first end at all times.	
	a)	All League matches will be played on the date as arranged and notified to the Secretary, prior to the commencement of the season and no match will be rearranged to be played after the scheduled date for any reason. In exceptional circumstances a club may – with the agreement of the opposition – arrange to play a fixture – <u>prior to the scheduled date</u> – subject to the consent of the League Secretary after consultation with other Officers.	
	b)	If in the PC Cup a match is abandoned prior to commencement or before a minimum of <b>10 ends</b> have been completed on all rinks the match will be re-arranged. Any re-arranged match must be played no later than 7 days after the original date. The home club to offer two new dates to the away club on the day of the cancellation. Should the home club fail to offer 2 dates on the day of the match they shall forfeit the match. The away club must accept one of these dates during the next 24 hours or will forfeit the match. <b>(Amended ADM 2024)</b>	
4.10		In League Matches, points are to be awarded on the following basis: <b>(Amended ADM 2017)</b>	
	a)	- Completed Match	
		Two (2) points awarded to the team scoring the most shots;	
		One (1) point awarded to teams who tie on shots scored;	
		Two (2) points awarded for each winning rink;	
		One (1) point awarded for each tied rink;	
		For the purpose of the matches won tie break; Clubs are given win if they score more points than their opponents i.e. 10-0, 9-1, 8-2, 7-3 and 6-4 would all denote wins and 5-5 would be a draw.	
	b)	- Cancelled Match	
		Five (5) points shall be awarded to each club for a match cancelled due to inclement weather. It is the responsibility of the home team to cancel any fixture due to inclement weather and they must notify the away club. Matches will not be re-arranged and played on another date;	
	c)	- Defaulted Match	

## West Sussex Bowls League and P C Cup Rules Oct 2024

		Ten (10) points for default awarded to non-offending team - The offending team will be deducted ten (10) points for non-completion of the fixture, but the Management Committee reserve the right to reduce or rescind this penalty in the case of exceptional extenuating circumstances.		
	d)	- Abandoned Match		
		In matches abandoned after the commencement the rink scores to count if a minimum of <b>ten (10)</b> ends have been completed on all rinks. The number of ends that have been completed must be clearly indicated on the result sheet. If <b>10 ends</b> have not been completed on all rinks 5 points shall be awarded to each club. All players will be recorded as having taken part in the match. <b>(Amended ADM 2024)</b>		
	e)	- Conceded Match		
		In matches conceded after the commencement of the game, ten (10) points will be awarded to the non-offending team - The offending team will be deducted ten (10) points for non-completion of the fixture <u>but the Management Committee reserve the right to reduce or rescind this penalty in the case of exceptional extenuating circumstances.</u> All players will be recorded as having taken part in the match. If less than <b>10 ends</b> have been played no shots will count, but if 11 or more ends have been completed the shots scored will be recorded. <b>(Amended ADM 2024)</b>		
4.11	In PC Cup matches the team scoring the most shots when the totals from the 4 rinks are added up will be deemed to be the winner. Should the scores be level one (1) extra end will be played on a single rink only to determine the winner.			
4.12	<p>Match Result Sheets, fully completed with the names of players, the result of each rink and the overall match scores <u>are to be e-mailed</u> (or in exceptional circumstances telephoned) to the league divisional - or PC Cup - Results Co-ordinator by BOTH TEAMS.</p> <p>For matches played Monday to Saturday results are to be forwarded to arrive within 24 hours of the commencement of the match.</p> <p>For SUNDAY matches such results <b><u>MUST BE</u></b> received by the relevant person by <b><u>22:30 on the day of the fixture</u></b> - AT THE LATEST - to enable the weekly results and tables to be passed to the sponsor, first thing Monday Morning.</p> <p>Any result that is not e-mailed in (e.g. notified by telephone) must be forwarded by post to arrive within two (2) days of the date of the fixture. <b>(Amended SDM 31 Jul 13)</b></p>			
	Result Coordinators:			
	Division One:	Alan Messer	<a href="mailto:alan.messer1@gmail.com">alan.messer1@gmail.com</a>	01903 525014
	Division Two:	Alan Messer	<a href="mailto:alan.messer1@gmail.com">alan.messer1@gmail.com</a>	01903 525014
	Division Three:	Alan Messer	<a href="mailto:alan.messer1@gmail.com">alan.messer1@gmail.com</a>	01903 525014
	PC Cup:	Alan Messer	<a href="mailto:alan.messer1@gmail.com">alan.messer1@gmail.com</a>	01903 525014
<b>5.</b>	<b>PROMOTION AND RELEGATION &amp; NEW TEAMS</b>			
5.1	All new teams will enter the League in the lowest division.			
5.2	If at the end of the season clubs are level on points the order of placement in the league table shall be determined by aggregate shot difference and if aggregate shot differences are equal then by shot averages. <b>(Amended 2024)</b>			
5.3	At the end of the season the top team, in all but the 1st division, will be promoted to the next highest division. The bottom team, in all but the bottom division, will be relegated to the next lowest division <b>(Amended 2024)</b>			
5.4.	Once the closing date for receipt of entries to the League has passed, the Management Committee shall be responsible for formulating the Divisions for the forthcoming season bearing in mind rule 5.3 above. <b>(Amended 2024)</b>			

## West Sussex Bowls League and P C Cup Rules Oct 2024

5.5	When undertaking this task, the Management Committee shall attempt to ensure that divisions contain equal numbers of teams where possible but that when there are an uneven number of teams, the higher numbers shall always be in the higher divisions and adjustments in the number of clubs promoted/relegated should be made as necessary to ensure this situation prevails. (Amended 2024)	
5.6	The League Structure for the forthcoming season shall then be forwarded to the member clubs as soon as agreed. (Amended 2024)	
5.7	However, if it is considered that it is necessary to <u>increase or reduce the number of Divisions in the League</u> then such a decision shall be made and agreed at the ADM by the club delegates. (Added ADM 2013)	
<b>6.</b>	<b>DRESS CODE</b>	
6.1	Teams may wear their own club coloured shirts providing all players are dressed the same - otherwise white above the waist for all matches. White trousers/shorts to be worn for afternoon matches and grey for morning/evening fixtures unless agreed by both clubs beforehand. <u>The wearing of shorts is subject to each individual Club's rule.</u> (Amended ADM 2014)	
	<b>NB:</b> In discussion prior to voting on matters concerning players all being dressed the same in matches – it was agreed that ' <u>on the odd occasion when a problem occurs</u> ', a player may fail to have the correct attire – (wrong shirt or trousers even) and still be permitted to play - but in general if a club is to wear 'club colours' all players shall be dressed the same.	
<b>7.</b>	<b>APPEALS</b>	
7.1	Any club that has been imposed a penalty under the above rules, and considers it has exceptional extenuating circumstances, shall submit an appeal, in writing, to the Hon Secretary, within 7 days of the date of the match, stating full reasons for their failure to comply. Any such appeal will be considered as soon as possible by the Management Committee and in all cases no later than 28 days after the date of receipt. The decision of that committee shall be final.	