

The league is established in order to give opportunity for bowlers who do not normally play in league games to obtain experience of competitive bowling.

These rules are adopted on the basis they provide sufficient guidance to enable Team Organizers to complete the League Programme, using their initiative where necessary, and remembering that **bowls should be played in a friendly and sporting manner.**

1. FORMAT

- 1.1 The Over 55's League shall consist of Divisions and the games will be played on Outdoor Greens in the Summer Any South Devon Bowling Club may apply to enter teams in the League but the maximum number of teams entered by a Club is 2. Teams from the same club in the same division shall be identified by a letter suffix, e.g. 'A'. Each team shall consist of **two triples** of male players.
- 1.2 The League Divisions will be identified by a letter prefix e.g. V, W, X, Y. The maximum number of teams per division will be ten and the formation of the teams into the divisions will be approved at the AGM.
- 1.3 The divisions will be separate and equal thus there will be no promotion or relegation.
- 1.4 A Finals Day will be arranged at the completion of the League programme and will consist of a play-off between the winners of the divisions. Semi finals will be played in the morning and the final and 3rd and 4th playoffs in the afternoon. Substitute players are allowed in the afternoon session. Before the start of any game the clubs will be asked to nominate which triple would play if a sudden death end had to be played as a result of a tied game. In order to keep games flowing then two's will be requested not to be up.

2. PLAYERS

- 2.1 Prior to the opening of the summer season, each club will appoint a Team Organiser for each participating team and the organiser will supply a list of players (together with his own telephone number and E-mail address) to the League Secretary for registration. Player must have reached the age of 55 prior to the 1st April preceding the season. Additional registrations may be made during the season direct with the League Secretary.
- 2.2 Where a player(s) holds a registration with more than one club and those clubs are registered within the Over 55 League, the player(s) may elect which team they wish to play for during a season. Once chosen they will not be permitted to switch club. If the individual is registered to play in a top division of another league, regardless of which team they elect to play for they will be subject to the conditions as laid out in Rules 2.3, 2.4 and 2.5.
- 2.3 A player who is registered to play in a team which is in the top division of another league will be eligible to play in this league under the circumstances below.
- 2.4 Only **two** players may participate in any match (one per triple) **but not playing as skip**. These players would be indicated by (P) after their name on the scorecard/e-card.
- 2.5 Contravention of the above 2.4 will incur a penalty whereby in any instance 8 points and 10 shots will be awarded to the non-offending opponents.
- 2.6 Should any player become ill during a game and be unable to continue, a substitute may be used, but not as 'skip'. Any such substitute must be a registered player for that team. If no registered substitute for that team is available then the Team Organisers shall determine whether:

- (a) Rule 3.3 be invoked,
- (b) Rule 3.5 be invoked,
- (c) The match be rearranged in accordance with rule 3.4 or,
- (d) The match is abandoned and the points are shared as in rule 4.3

3. FIXTURES

- 3.1 A fixture list compiled by the League Secretary will be sent to each Club Secretary in good time for that club to enter them into their overall fixture list.
- 3.2 Matches start at 10am on a Wednesday as shown on the fixture list, or not later than 11am if mutually agreed between the two teams. Failure of a team to be on the Green to start a match within 30 minutes of the agreed start time, or to be present with less than 5 team members, shall incur penalties as in rule 4.4
- 3.3 Should a side turn up with, or are reduced to only 5 players then the game will be played and on the rink where there are only 2 players then they will use 3 woods each and the opposing triple will use 2 woods each. On the rink of the side with only 2 players they will reduce their actual score by 30% when providing their final score. For games where teams are reduced to 5 players during the game then the 30% reduction will be applied from that point.
- 3.4 Where matches are postponed without any play the Home Team Organiser must offer their opposite number three alternative dates within 48 hours of the postponement. Matches must be played within 21 days of the original date but all matches must be completed 7 days before the finals day otherwise they cannot be included in the final league table.
- 3.5 **Where a match has been started and illness or bad weather intervenes, if a total of 28 ends or more have been played then the match shall end and the scores at the last completed end shall stand as the result.** If the completed ends are less than 28 then the Team Organisers shall agree to rearrange the match according to rule 3.4 or agree to share the points as in rule 4.3.
- 3.6 The Home Team Organiser will ensure that the properly completed Result Card is sent forthwith to the League Secretary. The match scorecards shall be retained by each Club in case of an inquiry.

4. POINTS ALLOCATION

- 4.1 Points shall be awarded as follows:
 - Two (2) points for a winning triple
 - One (1) point for each team in a drawn triples
 - Four (4) points for the match winner based on the aggregate score
 - Two (2) points for each team if the aggregate scores are equal.
- 4.2 If a total of 28 ends or more have been played before an event listed in **Rule 2.6**, or 3.5 occurs the match shall end and the score at the last completed end shall stand.
- 4.3 If team organisers agree to share the points then 4 points will be awarded to each team with 0 shots recorded.
- 4.4 When a team organiser cancels a game, except for bad weather, then if the other team organiser does not accept the reason as being valid the situation will be reported to the league secretary. If it is deemed that the reason is valid then the game will have to be re-arranged, however, if it is deemed that the reason is not valid then the non-offending team will be awarded 8 points and 10 shots.
- 4.5 Should infringements to these rules be discovered at any time during the season the penalties may be imposed retrospectively.

5 FINANCE

- 5.1 The financial year shall run from 1st October to the 30th September the following year.
- 5.2 The subscription to the League, per team, shall be determined at the AGM and will be payable prior to the beginning of the season.

6 ORGANISATION

- 6.1 The AGM of the League shall be held soon after the end of the financial year.
- 6.2 The League Committee will consist of a Chairman, Secretary, and Treasurer who will be appointed at the AGM to run the league.
- 6.3 Any Notice of Motion for the AGM must reach the League Secretary, in writing, at least fourteen days prior to the date of the meeting.
- 6.4 The Committee will meet as and when as required and may co-opt a member or members onto the Committee.
- 6.5 In the event of a dispute the matter will be decided by the Committee (unless their Club is involved, when a representative of another Club will deputise) and the decision shall be final and binding.
- 6.6 Any alteration to these Rules shall be made only at the AGM in accordance with Rule 6.3.
- 6.7 A Special General Meeting of the League may be called by the Committee on receipt of a written motion by the Secretaries of three clubs.
- 6.8 Such a meeting will be held not less than fourteen days or more than twenty one days from receipt of the motion, which shall be the only business of the meeting.
- 6.9 Votes on motions will be on the basis of one vote per club and a simple majority will suffice

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SOUTH DEVON OVER 55 TRIPLES LEAGUE

RULES

CHAIRMAN:	MERVYN BENNEY
SECRETARY:	MIKE RUSSELL
TREASURER:	STEPHEN SEARE