

2025

**BELPER AND MID-DERBYSHIRE
CROWN GREEN BOWLS
ASSOCIATION**

BYE-LAWS

LEAGUE RULES

CUP RULES

BYE-LAWS

1. (a) The name of the association shall be “Belper and Mid-Derbyshire Crown Green Bowls Association”.
- (b) The objects of the Belper and Mid-Derbyshire Crown Green Bowls Association are to promote the game of crown green bowls, encourage good fellowship amongst members and foster enthusiasm and sportsmanship in crown green bowls through competition.
2. The affairs of the Belper and Mid-Derbyshire Crown Green Bowls Association shall be managed by an executive committee, which shall consist of the chairman, vice-chairman, secretary, treasurer, and seven club representatives to be elected annually at the annual general meeting. No clubs shall have more than three representatives serving on the executive committee at any one time. A minimum of **three (3)** clubs shall be represented to form a quorum at an executive meeting.
3. Each honorarium shall be decided at the Annual General Meeting and shall be payable before April 25th. Those in receipt of honorariums are the General Secretary and the League Treasurer.
4. At an executive committee meeting each member shall have one vote and additionally the Chairman shall have a casting vote.
5. At a Belper and Mid-Derbyshire Crown Green Bowls Association meeting each club shall have one vote and additionally the Chairman shall have a casting vote.
6. The Annual General Meeting of the Belper and Mid-Derbyshire Crown Green Bowls Association shall be held in February each year. A special General Meeting of the Belper and Mid-Derbyshire Crow Green Bowls Association may be convened at the discretion of the Chairman and shall be convened if the secretary receives a request in writing stating the purpose of the meeting, signed by the secretaries of at least three clubs. In the latter case the meeting shall be called within 15 days of the request reaching the secretary. At least 7 days notice shall be given of a Special General Meeting.
7. Each club shall give due consideration to the Belper and Mid-Derbyshire Crown Green Bowls Association requirements with regard to the use of greens for fixtures and competitions.
8. An application for a team to enter a league organised by the Belper and Mid-Derbyshire Crown Green Bowls Association shall be submitted to reach the secretary on before January 31st of the season in which playing. When places are limited preference will be given to clubs who apply first.
9. A letter of resignation withdrawing a team from a league organised by the Belper and Mid-Derbyshire Crown Green Bowls Association shall be submitted to reach the secretary on before January 31st of the season in which they should have competed.
10. The last date for new proposals and rule amendments to reach the secretary is October 31st. Such new rules and amendments to be dealt with at a delegates meeting to be held on or before December 20th and become effective forthwith.
 - (a) When a rule change is proposed and agreed for inclusion into the League document, by the delegates, that rule cannot be amended until it has been in force for a period of three years after the date of its inclusion in the document.
11. Each application for a club to join the Belper and Mid-Derbyshire Crown Green Bowls Association and/or for a team for a team to join a Belper and Mid-Derbyshire Crown Green Bowls Association league shall be dealt with at a delegates meeting to be held in February. At least 7 days notice shall be given to each club.
12. Only players who are British Crown Green Bowls Association card holders and are registered with Belper and Mid-Derbyshire Crown Green Bowls Association shall play in the Belper and Mid-Derbyshire Crown Green Bowls Association league, cup and other competitions. Details of players names to be notified to the Association Secretary for inclusion on the MB website(bowls results) prior to playing in any match or competition.
13. Matches played under the jurisdiction of the Belper and Mid-Derbyshire Crown Green Bowls Association shall be in accordance with the B.C.G.B.A Laws of the Game.

14. The Executive Committee may form a sub-committee to deal with any aspect of the Belper and Mid-Derbyshire Crown Green Bowls Association business and may co-opt any suitable person for this purpose.
15. (a) Any complaint, dispute, objection or disciplinary matter shall be dealt with by a five person Disciplinary Committee appointed from members of the Executive Committee and /or Club Chairman or Vice-Chairman, who are independent to the club(s), official(s) or other persons involved in the matter to be dealt with. A letter of complaint or objection shall be submitted to the Association Secretary **with a non refundable lodgement fee of £25**. The Association Secretary will consult the Chairman and convene a Disciplinary Committee within seven days of receiving the letter. The Disciplinary Committee shall have the right to request the presentation of any record and/or written or verbal evidence from the Association, each club and each club member to enable any matter to be dealt with equitably. A Disciplinary Committee shall be held within fourteen days of the Disciplinary Committee being informed.
 - (b) A Disciplinary Committee shall have the right to fine, deduct points, suspend, ban or take other appropriate action against any Club official or member who has been the subject or the matter dealt with by the Disciplinary Committee or who has failed or refused to provide to the Disciplinary Committee any required record of evidence.
 - (c) An appeal against a Disciplinary Committee decision may be made to the Derbyshire Count Crown Green Bowling Association secretary.
16. (a) A fine of £15 on clubs not sending a delegate to General meetings.
 - (b) An invoice to be sent stating the fine. If not paid within 30 days the fine to be doubled. If not received within a further 30 days the Executive Committee to take further action.
17. Holders of trophies awarded for success in League, Cup or other competitions shall be responsible for ensuring that the trophies are:-
 - (a) Held securely
 - (b) Maintained in good order
 - (c) Handed over on the date and at the location determined by the Belper and Mid-Derbyshire Crown Green Bowls Association Secretary.
 - (d) Failure to return all trophies by the specified date given by the Secretary will incur a penalty of £20.
18. The Executive Committee shall decide the number of teams in a division.
19. Should any dispute or any other matter arise for which no provision has been made in these Bye-Laws, League rules or Cup rules such matters shall be dealt with by the Executive Committee or appropriate Sub-committee.
20. Delegates representing Mid-Derbyshire at County meetings are to be appointed at the A.G.M., two from the Executive Committee plus one other nominee.
21. **OVER 55'S SINGLES AND DOUBLES COMPETITIONS**
 - (a) All entries must be bona-fide registered members of Belper and Mid-Derbyshire Crown Green Bowls Association. All entrants must be 55 years of age on the day of the competition. The entry fee shall be decided at the A.G.M.
 - (b) Qualifying rounds will be played on neutral greens allocated by the Committee and entrants will be required to report to the greens selected at an agreed time when an organiser appointed by the Committee will make a draw from those present at the time. Qualifiers from the early rounds will be re-drawn on finals day at the green selected by the Committee who will appoint measurers.

INDIVIDUAL MERIT COMPETITION

- (a) Annually the Individual Merit competition shall be run as a qualifying competition for the Derbyshire County Crown Green Bowls Association Merit.
- (b) Qualifying rounds will be played on neutral greens allocated by the Committee and entrants will be required to report to the greens selected at an agreed time when an organiser appointed by the Committee will make a draw from those present at the time. Qualifiers from the early rounds will be re-drawn on finals day at the green selected by the Committee who will appoint referees and measurers.

COMPETITION RULES

1. (a) All competitions shall be controlled by the Executive Committee of the Belper and Mid-Derbyshire Crown Green Bowls Association.
(b) On the finals day play in all Belper and Mid-Derbyshire Crown Green Bowls Association competitions standard jacks approved by the BCGBA shall be used.
2. Competitions shall be open to all bona-fide registered players of Affiliated Clubs with the Belper and Mid-Derbyshire Crown Green Bowls Association.
3. In all Belper and Mid-Derbyshire Crown Green Bowls Association competitions players receiving a bye shall be allowed fifteen minutes roll up before playing in a first round except where their opponent has received a bye.
4. Non-appearance on finals day may lead to disciplinary action of a ban from the appropriate competition for a period of two years.

LEAGUE RULES

1. A club having more than one team in a division of a league shall, prior to the start of the season, identify the order of each team from the highest to the lowest or the League Secretary will assume alphabetical order to identify the highest.
2. A club having more than one team in a league shall be allowed to interchange players except that:-
 - (a) A player who has an aggregate of plus one (+1) or better after three or more games in a team shall not be permitted to play in a lower team.
 - (b) A player shall not be permitted to play for more than one team in each session. Where teams are playing matches on Saturday evenings, which would normally be played in the afternoon, then these matches shall be considered to be in the afternoon session. **This rule should not be considered to apply to a re-arranged match.**
 - (c) Where a club has more than two teams in a league, players may only drop down to the next highest team subject to the stated condition of his/her aggregate in rule 2(a).
3. (a) Only lady players shall be permitted to play in the Ladies league but other leagues shall be open to both ladies and gentlemen. Only players who have reached the age of 55 shall be permitted to play in the Over 55's League.
(b) Doubles shall mean two players. Where a team is unable to field two players in a game of doubles the game shall be awarded to the opposing team 21-0.

4. (a) The normal team size, team format and minimum number of players required for a valid match in each league shall be as follows:-

League	Team Size	Format	1st Team Min. No.	Other Teams Min No.
Saturday Singles	10	Singles	10	8
Wednesday Doubles	10	Doubles	10	8
Ladies	8	4 Singles 2 Doubles	8	7
Over 55's	8	4 Singles 2 Doubles	8	7

Saturday League (Team of 10) - Where a club has more than one team in the League then the first team should play with a full complement of 10 players and if short then players should be taken from their 2nd, 3rd or 4th teams if necessary. In the rare instance that a 1st team arrives at a match with less than a full compliment due to unforeseen circumstances, fully explained to the opposing captain to avoid confusion, then 1 or 2 games are forfeit 0-21. A match cannot be started with less than 8 players. Clubs 2nd, 3rd or 4th teams are allowed to play up to 2 players twice and these players will be selected from 4 nominated players of the team that is short, the cards placed face down and the opposing captain to choose 1 or 2 from these. If there is a circumstance where any of these players chosen cannot fulfill that 2nd game then that game is lost 0-21. A club with only one team in a league can play up to 2 players twice with the criteria as before regarding nominating players.

Wednesday Doubles (Team of 10) – The criteria for number of players including nominating players to play twice will be the same as for the Saturday League with the additional proviso of League Rule 3 (b).

Over 55's and Ladies Leagues (Teams of 8) – The same criteria will apply as per the Saturday League including the nominating of players to play twice, again with the additional proviso of League Rule 3 (b), but a full compliment for a 1st team will be 8 players and a match cannot be started with less than 7 players. Only one (1) player will be allowed to play twice for a clubs 2nd, 3rd or 4th teams.

A player playing twice will not be awarded the 1 or 2 points (in the case of a doubles game) for the win in their 2nd game, that point or points to be awarded to the opposition, but the players score will count to the teams aggregate.

5. Matches shall start at the following times:-

Saturday singles 1.30pm unless a club has special dispensation to start at 1.00pm
Clubs third team matches may start at 6.30pm

A match that has been rearranged due to the application of league rule 11(a) or 11(b) may be played on a weekday evening - 6.30pm in April and August 7.00pm in May, June or July.

Over 55's 1.30pm

Over 55's Single and Doubles competitions 1.30pm

Ladies and Wednesday Doubles 6.30pm April to 14th May inclusive, 7.00pm remainder of May, June and July and 6.30pm August and September.

Clubs with lights can, after consultation with their opponents, start at 7.00pm.

6. Immediately prior to the start of the match the away team shall have sole use of the green for fifteen (15) minutes.
7. When a player is not available when called that game may be re-scheduled to be played later in the match. A substitute shall be permitted provided that:-
- The game starts within five (5) minutes of the re-scheduled call.
 - The player has not previously played in the match.

8. If a club, with more than one team in a league is unable to fulfill a fixture then the club shall play their highest team – as identified in League Rule 1. If the club plays their lower team(s) then the points gained will be deducted.
i.e. If a clubs' highest team cannot fulfill a fixture the clubs' lower team shall fulfill this fixture.
9. A team failing to fulfill a fixture shall receive no points and the opposing team shall be credited at the end of the season with an average number of points gained at their other home or away matches as appropriate.

(a) Ladies League only – If a team defaults on a match the opposing team will be awarded 10 points and the offending team zero points.
10. When a match is started and not finished it shall be continued at a mutually agreed date. A substitute shall be allowed to play for any other player who has not started a game in the match provided that the substitute has not previously played in that match. A game started and then abandoned shall be re-started by the original players from the score as it stood at the time of abandonment. If an original player is not available for the re-started game then that game shall be forfeited to the opponents with the absent player being credited with the game points scored at the time of abandonment. When abandoned matches are re-started on another date standard roll ups shall be permitted.
11. Each match shall be played as scheduled except when:-
 - (a) The green is unfit for play because of inclement weather and as determined by the host club.
 - (b) When a Government / Met Office amber or red warning for severe heat is issued a game may be postponed by EITHER club and played either with a different start time or on a different date as mutually agreed by both captains.
 - (c) The green is required for a cup, charity match or competition arranged by an Association, a County Association or British Crown Green Bowling Association.
On the day of the day of the BCGBA Men's and Ladies Individual Merit Competitions teams with a qualifying player are allowed to postpone their fixture.
 - (d) Clubs with two greens to nominate a green for each team, League and Division, which cannot be changed unless the green is unavailable i.e. League Rule 11(a), 11(b), 11(c). The visiting captain to be informed and be in agreement to play on the second green.
12. Match results shall be determined by the match points awarded to each team as follows:-
 - (a) One match point for each singles game won.
 - (b) Two match points for each doubles game won.
 - (c) Two match points for the team with the highest overall match score. When the total overall match scores are equal each team shall receive one point.
 - (d) Results to be entered on to the MB website by the home team and checked by the opposing team.
13. Should any team play an unregistered player or otherwise unqualified player that team shall be deemed to have lost that game by a score of 0-21.
14. The number of match points awarded, less any deducted for Disciplinary reasons, shall determine league positions. When two or more teams vying for promotion have the same number of points and this includes home or away points being added for one or more of these teams then that average should be calculated to as many decimal places as necessary to determine their relative position(s) and nor rounded up or down. Each Division table to be sorted, after all games played, by "Points gained", then by "Matches won", then by "Matches drawn" then by "greater difference of points for and against".
15. Normally the top two teams in a division except the highest division will be promoted and the bottom two teams in a division except the lowest division shall be relegated. In special circumstances additional or fewer teams may be promoted or relegated to achieve minor league re-organisation.
16. League organisational changes shall be as agreed at an Annual General Meeting or a special general meeting for that purpose.

17. A players league registration may be transferred from one club to another subject to the player involved submitting to the Association Secretary a letter as follows:-
- An application from the player naming the club to which the transfer is required.
 - Confirmation from the club to which the registration is to be transferred.
 - Confirmation from the club from which the registration is to be transferred that the player is a fully paid up member.
 - The transfer of registrations shall not be permitted after 30th June.
18. A team arriving late for a match shall:-
- Forfeit part or all of the roll up time (Rule 6)
 - Be deemed to have failed to fulfill the fixture if at least four players have not arrived within a thirty (30) minute period after the scheduled start time.
19. For clubs with floodlights:-
- Floodlights shall be switched on, at the discretion of the home team captain, before it gets dark so that players can get accustomed to the lights.
 - If the green with lights is being used as a neutral green the switching on of the lights shall be the responsibility of the host club ensuring that the lights are switched on before it gets dark so that players can get accustomed to the lights.

CUP RULES

- Cup matches shall be played either on a neutral green or on a home and away basis.
 - In allocating the venue for cup matches the Committee shall endeavour to minimize travel by allocating greens within a reasonable proximity of both teams involved in the ties.
 - Handicaps as shown in the fixture book only apply for Saturday Team Doubles, Saturday Handicap Cup and Over 55's Handicap Cup matches. When cup matches are played on a home and away basis the handicap given is divided equally over the two legs. The committee reserves the right to amend teams handicaps depending on a review of players registrations.
- The format of the team taking part in a cup match shall be the same as the associated league competition except that Saturday Team Doubles shall be made up of five (5) pairs. **No player to be allowed to play twice in a Cup match.**
- Cup matches shall be arranged so that no team shall play on a green that the team has played on the same day and on neutral greens.
 - No cup match shall be arranged within the playing season unless a specific date is left vacant for such. Wednesday Doubles Cup matches will commence at the end of the League season.
 - Clubs who fail to open a green for a cup match shall be fined £15. Clubs who fail to turn up for a cup match without informing the league secretary prior to the date of the match shall be fined £15.
- Saturday Singles and Saturday Doubles Cup matches shall start at 1.30pm when played in the afternoon and at 6.30pm when played in the evening. Other cup matches shall start at the same time as the associated league matches.
- Prior to the start of a cup match on a neutral green:-
 - No roll up shall be permitted.
 - The captains shall toss a coin and call to determine the use of jacks.
- When a cup match is played on a home and away basis:-
 - A roll up shall be permitted with the away team having sole use of the green for fifteen (15) minutes prior to the scheduled start time of the match.
 - The away team shall have first use of the jack at the first end of each game.

- (c) Any changes made to the scorecards after the draw is completed must be agreed by both captains who must sign the opponents' cards. Non-compliance could result in disciplinary action being taken.
7. A team arriving late for a match shall:-
- (a) Forfeit part or all of the roll up time (Rule 6)
 - (b) Be deemed to have failed to fulfill the fixture if at least four players have not arrived within thirty (30) minutes of the scheduled start time.
 - (c) A team failing to fulfill a cup fixture shall be deemed to have lost the match.
8. The result of each cup match shall be determined by the aggregate game scores of the teams involved with handicaps taken into account when applicable.
9. The captain of the winning team shall be responsible for completing the match result sheet, signed by both captains, and entering the result on to the MB website within two (2) days of the match being played.
10. When aggregate scores plus the applicable handicaps are equal the team winning most games shall be deemed to have won the match. When the match is still a draw, after this consideration, the same number of wins and the same aggregate score one more end shall be played by the last game on the green. The winner of the last end in the last match shall take the jack in this deciding end. The winner of the match shall be decided by the outcome of this additional end.
11. A player who has an aggregate of plus one (+1) or better after three or more league games in a team shall not be permitted to play in a cup match associated with a lower team.
A player shall play for only one club and one team in each cup competition.
12. A player shall have played at least three (3) league games for a team in the Wednesday Doubles, Over 55's or Saturday League and in the Ladies League at least two (2) league games to be eligible to play for that team in a cup semi-final or final.
13. When an unregistered or unqualified player plays in a cup match that game will be forfeited 0 – 21.
14. Clubs lower teams may enter cup matches even if the higher teams do not, subject to League Rule 2(a).
15. A cup semi-final or final will be played on a green with floodlights.
16. A cup match cancelled due to inclement weather must be played before the next round of the competition. Both captains and the host club are to make the arrangements and inform the League Secretary of the new date.
17. **The BCGBA dress code will be in operation at all Cup Finals. Non compliance in any game will result in that game being forfeited to the opposition by a score of 0 – 21.**