**DARLASTON LEAGUE RULES**

The League shall be known as the Darlaston League.

The officers of the League shall be the Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and Fixtures Secretary.

The management of the League shall include the Officers of the League and one representative from each team in the League. 5 members will form a quorum.

Any Club wishing to join the League shall apply in writing to the League Secretary and such applications shall be discussed at the Annual General Meeting or a special meeting convened.  If accepted, then the new team/club will be entered in the lowest division.

The annual fee per team shall be £40.00 for team subscriptions.   Payment must be made at a pre-season meeting or via online banking – Treasurer to inform details.

The Annual General Meeting/Pre-season Meeting of the League shall be held in the first quarter of each year, when the Treasurer shall lay before the members a financial statement for the preceding season.  At this meeting the Officers shall retire, but shall be eligible for re-election.

A member Club shall notify in writing to the League Secretary **on or before the Annual General Meeting each year**, any business they desire to be brought forward at the meeting.

No alterations in, or amendments to these rules shall be made, except with the consent of the majority of the members present at the meeting.  Seven days’ notice of all meetings shall be given to each member club and any suggested business or alterations to the rules shall be specified.

The Secretary shall convene a special meeting at any time on receiving a requisition requesting them to do so, signed by the secretaries of any two clubs and indicating the nature of the business to be dealt with.

Any Club not sending in a Notice of Resignation to the League Secretary on/before the Annual General Meeting each year shall be deemed as members for the ensuing year and liable for all League fees.

Any Prize Winners cheques not cashed within the statutory three months shall be deemed void and not re-written.

Any prize money not collected personally by the winning Club will be forfeited and returned to League funds.

Any proposals for rule changes by either a club or a person to the League will need to be put in writing to the secretary with the name of the proposer and a seconder listed.

**RULES FOR LEAGUE AND COMPETITION**

Divisions to comprise of 10 teams maximum. If a club has more than one team entered in the League and should one of them resign before the start of the season, then the remaining team(s) shall stay in their respective divisions.

All Clubs with two teams in the same division will play their matches against each other the first match of the season and the reverse fixture no later than one month before the season ends.

Clubs will play each other on a home and away basis.  Matches should commence on Saturdays at 1.30p.m, with the green fully occupied, unless the start is delayed due to inclement weather. Any changes to the timing should be informed to the secretary.

Matches to be normally played on the date fixed by the League.  Matches may, by mutual agreement, be played prior to this date, or re-arranged within the season. All games are expected to be played.

Teams shall consist of 10 players and all games shall be 21 up.  Any Club presenting less than the full complement of players will forfeit 21 points for each absentee. There are no people allowed to play twice in this league. Any member playing without a County number must be allocated on the system via secretary within 7 days else the game will be classed as walkover. Any unlisted players will be referred back to each club for rectification within 7 days.

If, due to bad light, weather or green conditions, a match has to be postponed or abandoned after play has commenced, then the points already scored shall count.  The captains must mutually agree a re-arranged date when the match must be completed and the LEAGUE SECRETARY MUST BE INFORMED BY THE HOME CLUB OF THE CIRCUMSTANCES AND OF THE RE-ARRANGED DATE.

The making of the draw shall be in the hands of the two captains, or their deputies, who shall act as the referees.  The order of play shall be the prerogative of the home captain.

In all League games the green shall be occupied at all times by League bowlers.  No other person is allowed on the green whilst matches are in progress, unless they are invited to do so.

The visiting player shall have the first attempt to set a mark.

The games shall be played in accordance with the British Crown Green Bowling Association laws of the game.

Not less than four standard jacks, three on a stated 3-ended green, as approved by B.C.G.B.A, must be provided by the home club and used in all games.  Each club in membership shall equip themselves with a measuring tape of sufficient length to comply with Law 13 of the game of Crown Green Bowls.

A match will be won by the team scoring the greatest number of shots.

a) At the close of each match the League score sheets must be signed by the captains, or their representatives, of the competing clubs and entered onto the Bowling Results site **WITHIN 5 DAYS.**  The score sheet so submitted may be amended by the League in the event of any infringement of the Bye-Laws or Rules.

b) Mistakes on submitted score sheets and signed by both captains will not be altered, with the exception of final totals which the computer will correct if wrongly added up.

In the event of inclement weather, the two captains shall decide if the green is fit to play.  In the event of the two captains not reaching a mutual agreement the decision will be at the discretion of the home captain and will be final.

A list of all players to be registered must be on Bowling Results by the commencement of the first match and the last date for inputting extra players is end July. Any member joining the club after that date will need to be sent to the secretary for input.

Should a player be submitted to be registered with more than one club, his registration will be accepted only for the club for which he/she plays his/her first League game.

In accordance with the B.C.G.B.A rules, all clubs deemed members of the League must be directly affiliated to the Staffordshire County Bowling Association and also submit annually a full list of registered players with the appropriate fee laid down by the S.C.B.A.

In the event of a club having two or more teams in the Darlaston League, players must be registered for one team only.

Transfer between teams shall not be allowed once played for a team, exception will be if one of the teams resigns from the League.

All such transfers to be notified to the League Secretary before the transfer takes place.  No second transfer by any player shall be allowed in any event.

One point will be awarded for each match won and two points shall be awarded for the overall aggregate score at the end of the game.  In the event of a draw, each team shall be awarded one point.  The League championship will go to the team gaining the greatest number of points during the season.  In the event of two or more teams gaining the same number of points, then the team having the best aggregate will be the winner.

For the best League average prizes, home wins are 1 point and away wins are 2 points.  Any player receiving a walkover shall be credited with 21 shots.

In the event of a forfeit match, the team claiming the match will be awarded 2 points and no shots will be awarded to individual players or to the team. This can only be decided with the League Chairman or representative.

Teams who forfeit a match will have 2 points deducted from their existing total. Should a team continually do this then all their points will be deducted as if they cease to play in the league.

When the League comprises of more than one division, there shall be a movement between the divisions of two up and two down, the top two teams on a lower division will replace the bottom two teams of the next higher division.

There shall be no transfer of registered players between clubs during the playing season.

Any question arising which is not provided for in the foregoing rules, shall be brought to the Committee or League Chairman who shall make a decision.

**COMPETITIONS**

1. Authority
all games and competitions must be played in accordance with the BCGBA laws of the game. Failure to comply will result in the suspension from the Association both of the clubs concerned and of the players taking part.
2. Draw
the draw for all competitions will be made by random number selection. Green selection for all competitions will be at the discretion of the relevant competitions sub-committee.
3. In Cup Games (Wainwright Award) the result will be decided on total aggregate score of the two legs.

**SAFEGUARDING & WELFARE**

It is the responsibility of each club to safeguard and promote the well-being of all its members, ensuring a positive and enjoyable experience for all. All members playing in the league should, at all times, show respect and understanding for the safety and welfare of others. Green Etiquette is extremely important

As a member of Darlaston League your players are expected to abide by BGCBA code of practice which includes:

* All members must take responsibility in ensuring they are up to date with the rules, understand and adhere to them.
* All members must respect the rights, dignity and worth of all participants regardless of age, gender, ability, race, cultural background, religious beliefs or sexual identity.
* Use correct and proper language at all times.
* Bullying of any sort will not be tolerated.
* Make reasonable measures to protect your own safety and the safety of others e.g. walking around the green and shouting green if travelling bowl could hit someone, also if firing will take place.
* No smoking on or near the green
* No drinking on the green
* The use of mobile phones on the green is not permitted

It is the responsibility of each club to have a safeguarding policy and person responsible for looking after the welfare and support of vulnerable people and protection of children.

**DISCIPLINARY, DISPUTES, APPEALS HEARING AND COMPLAINTS**

In the event of any disciplinary, dispute or appeals situations arising, the accepted BCGBA Guidelines for Disciplinary/Appeals Procedure shall be adopted.

In the first instance any items deemed under disciplinary, grievance, dispute or complaints must be put in writing to the League Secretary.

Any club must be represented at the hearing to present the case of the relative club(s).  The complainant club must set down in writing the full facts of the incident complained of.

Upon the League Secretary receiving a complaint in writing from a club involving another club or clubs they shall request the Secretary of the other club(s) involved to submit in writing their version of the incident complained of, without informing them of the full contents of the letter of complaint.

A panel will be set up for the hearing. Should such time decisions need to be made or considered, the representatives of the clubs concerned shall leave the meeting.  The panel will not include members from any Club involved in a dispute.

The representative(s) will then be recalled when the Chairman will then give the decision of the committee verbally to the representative(s) present.

Should the representatives fail to attend the meeting, the panel will use the facts presented to make the decision.

All decisions will then be given in writing from the Secretary.

Should an appeal take place within the League and not resolved this may then be passed to the Staffs County to take the appeal and should the individual be suspended then it may cover all leagues not just the Darlaston League.

**FEES**Joining fee                                                           £40.00
Annual subscription – member clubs            £40.00

**GDPR – DATA PROTECTION**

It is the responsibility of each Club Secretary to maintain the records of each member of their individual club. REMINDER that in line with legislation the data held may only be used for the purpose of “bowls”.

These rules are dated 21st February 2024 and have been agreed by the members at the AGM on 21st February 2024.