

Chester Seniors Bowling League

Constitution

1. Name and Affiliation

The League shall be called 'The Chester Seniors Bowling League' hereinafter referred to as the League. The League shall be affiliated both to the Cheshire County Bowling Association (CCBA) and the British Crown Green Bowling Association (BCGBA).

2. Objectives

The objectives of the League shall be:

- a. To develop and encourage Crown Green Bowling amongst adults over the age of fifty five (55).
- b. To provide an efficient organisation of competitive and social bowling for member bowling clubs and their members.

3. Membership

- 3.1 Any affiliated bowling club with public liability insurance and located within a five mile radius of Chester Cross can apply to be members of the League.
- 3.2 All member clubs shall be bound by the rules and bye laws of the League.
- 3.3 Any club that has ceased to be a member of the League shall not have any rights or interests in the property and funds of the League. All registered members of Clubs are entitled to attend the Annual General Meeting (AGM).

4. Officers

The officers of the League shall be:

- a. Chairman
- b. Vice Chairman
- c. Secretary
- d. Treasurer
- e. Safeguarding Officer

All of which shall be elected at the AGM.

5. Committees

There shall be one Executive Committee and Captains Meeting as necessary.

- 5.1 An Executive Committee of the elected officers responsible for ensuring that all the Rules of the League are implemented and organising the forthcoming season's bowling programme. The Executive Committee may propose changes to both the constitution and match and competition rules to the AGM when considered appropriate.

- 5.2 The quorum for the Executive Committee shall be three (3).
- 5.3 A Captains' Meeting consisting of the Officers and one nominated member of each League Club. The Captains' Meeting is responsible for reviewing the Constitution and Rules of the League as necessary, and the organisation of team bowls competitions including the draw for both the Hermitage Cup and The American Plaque Competitions.
- 5.4 The quorum for the Captains Meeting shall be six valid voting delegates.

6. Finance

- 6.1 League funds shall be held in a bank account as agreed by the League AGM. There shall be at least three nominated signatories, one of which is the Treasurer, to the League bank account. Such signatories would normally be Officers of the League.
- 6.2 All cheques and money transactions shall be countersigned by two of the nominated bank account signatories.
- 6.3 The Treasurer shall keep proper accounts of League funds as agreed by the Executive Committee. The accounts shall be audited by an Auditor appointed at the AGM.

7. Subscriptions and Fees

- 7.1 Each registered league team shall pay an annual registration fee and any match or competition levies annually as agreed at the League AGM.
- 7.2 Clubs/teams must pay all fees direct to the Treasurer by April 31st each year.
- 7.3 30 days grace will be granted following which a fine will be applied unless there are exceptional extenuating circumstances.
- 7.4 Teams who have not paid their fees to League within thirty (30) days of April 31st, will only receive half the normally due points for each game (rounded down) until all the fees are paid.

8. Club and Team Registration

- 8.1 It shall be assumed that all teams playing in the most recent previous season will be participating in the following season's League.
- 8.2 Clubs and/or teams wishing to withdraw from the League must inform the Secretary before February 28th prior to the beginning of the season.
- 8.3 Clubs and/or teams wishing to join the League should normally apply to the Secretary, in writing, before the League AGM prior to the commencing

season. The application will be subject to approval at the AGM or, if made after the AGM by the Captains Meeting.

9. Team and Player Registration

- 9.1 All Team players must be fully paid-up members of the club/team before being registered with the Secretary not later than the day of the first match of the forthcoming season.
- 9.2 All players must have both BCGBA and CCBA registration numbers. Additional/new players may not play in any League or Competition event until their cards have been issued by the CCBA registrar and the League Secretary advised of their relevant numbers.
- 9.3 If a team drops out of the League after the commencement of the season players may be transferred to another team(s), up to a maximum of two (2) players per team, subject to the agreement of the Executive Committee.
- 9.4 Players who have played five (5) games or less for a team during the first half of the season shall be eligible to register for a different team in the second half of the season. The Secretary is to be informed at least seven (7) days before the start of the second half of the season, after which no such changes will be allowed. Under exceptional circumstances the Executive Committee may approve registrations of players after the normal cut-off date.

10. Annual General Meeting

- 10.1 The League AGM shall normally be held on an afternoon in October each year, the date and venue to be advised by the Secretary at the start of the current season or as soon as possible thereafter.
- 10.2 Notice of the AGM shall be given by the Secretary to club secretaries and posted on the League website at least twenty-one (21) days before the date of the meeting.
- 10.3 Nominations for Officers and other vacancies to be made, in writing, to the Secretary not less than seven (7) days before the AGM.
- 10.4 Items of any other business (AOB) must be forwarded to the Secretary at least seven (7) days before the AGM. If no nomination for a particular office or vacancy is received, then nominations for that office or vacancy at the AGM shall be valid. The agenda for the meeting will include:
 - a. Receipt and adoption of annual reports from the Chairman, Secretary and Safeguarding Officer.
 - b. Presentation of audited accounts and the appointment of an auditor.
 - c. Election of Officers.

- d. Agreement of subscriptions for each team for the next playing season and entry fees for competitions.
- e. Proposals for changes to team and competition prize monies.
- f. Presentation of trophies and prizes.

11. Changes to the Constitution and League Rules.

- 11.1 Alterations and additions to the Constitution shall only be made at the Annual General Meeting and shall require the approval of not less than two thirds of the total votes cast of members present at the AGM.
- 11.2 Alterations and additions to Match and Competition Rules shall be decided by a simple majority and must only be dealt with at the AGM.
- 11.3 Notice of the proposed alteration and/or addition to the Constitution and/or Rules shall be given to all member clubs of the League and posted on the League website not later than twenty-one 21 days before the date fixed for the AGM.

12. Voting at Captains Committee Meeting

Voting shall be restricted to one (1) delegate per club. Officers are not entitled to an individual vote, but the Chairman shall have a casting vote to be used in cases where the voting is declared equal.

13. Expulsion and Disciplining of a Club, Team, or Player for harassment and unacceptable conduct.

The League shall endeavour to provide a safe and harassment free environment within its activities.

- 13.1 The Executive Committee shall investigate, in confidence, any reported harassment or unacceptable conduct in general.
- 13.2 Intimidation or harassment of Officers regarding decisions or policies implemented by such Officers or other designated persons of the League is deemed to be completely unacceptable. In this context, "intimidation and harassment" shall be defined as follows.

Use of expletives directed at officers or other players, comments or remarks which are gratuitously critical, insulting, or humiliating, innuendo or spreading malicious gossip.

Unacceptable conduct includes bullying in any form and or discrimination as outlined in BCGBA policies and templates.

These definitions are not exhaustive.

- 13.3 All incidents of inappropriate behaviour on or around the green during or following a match shall be reported to the Chairman, League Secretary or Safeguarding Officer in the first instance.
- 13.4 If the Executive Committee is advised of a safeguarding concern or case for action, it shall establish a Disciplinary Sub-committee.
- 13.5 The Disciplinary Sub-committee shall investigate the allegation as they see fit, giving due recognition to the requirements of natural justice. The member involved shall be given seven (7) days prior notice of any hearing and must have the opportunity to present their version of the facts; the Committee shall have the power to require the attendance of any member, at any proceedings, who may be able to assist in its deliberations.
- 13.6 The Sub-committee shall report its findings in writing to the Executive Committee and make recommendations as to a course of action or appropriate penalty. The Executive Committee cannot alter the findings presented to same but may refer a case back to the Disciplinary Sub-committee if it believes additional evidence is required.
- 13.7 The Executive committee may determine a penalty for a team or individual such as suspension from a match or matches within the League and/or a points deduction for a team or a reprimand for a team or individual player or any other penalty deemed to be appropriate.
- 13.8 When the harassment is considered so serious as to bring the game into disrepute, then the Executive Committee will refer the matter to the Cheshire County Bowling Association Management Committee with a request for County wide suspension; in extreme cases, expulsion from the League may be considered.
- 13.9 A member under penalty shall have seven (7) days to appeal the decision, from receipt of the penalty notice to the Executive Committee who will then refer the matter back to the Disciplinary Sub-committee. Only one appeal will be permitted.
- 13.10 Teams and players are reminded that any member of the public may report an incident directly to the BCGBA if they believe the games is being brought into disrepute.
- 13.11 **EXPULSION FROM THE LEAGUE**
Subject to the approval of the Captains Committee, The Executive Committee may expel any team or player whose conduct has, in its judgement, been inconsistent with the objects of the League, brings the game into disrepute or goes significantly beyond any conduct referred to in 13.1 and 13.2. Before such power is exercised, seven (7) days' notice shall be given to the team or player concerned. The disciplinary procedure will be the same as outlined in

section 13.4 to 13.9 and an opportunity afforded of showing cause, before the Executive Committee, why the team or player should not be so dealt with.

14. Interpretation of Rules

14.1 The Executive Committee, shall have power to interpret these Rules if there should be any ambiguity concerning the interpretation of any Rule.

14.2 There shall be no appeal from decisions of the Executive Committee.

14.3 The Executive Committee may refer any matter to the Cheshire County Bowling Association.

14.4 The Executive Committee, shall have the power to deal with any matter not provided for in these Rules.

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