

# **EAST BIRMINGHAM OVER-60'S BOWLING ASSOCIATION**

## **RULES AND BYE-LAWS 2024**

1. The Association is to be known as the "East Birmingham Over-60's Bowling Association", and is to be affiliated to the "Warwickshire and Worcestershire Counties Bowling Association".
2. The Association shall consist of a number of Divisions, as dictated by the Management Committee, and agreed by the Ordinary Members.
3. The objectives and powers of the Association are to encourage, control, manage and regulate the game of Crown Green Bowls, and to provide competition for male and female bowlers who are over 60 years of age, being members of Clubs registered with the Association. Players may take part in league, cup and merit competitions immediately upon reaching their sixtieth birthday. Such players must be registered with the Match Secretary before doing so.

### **MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

4. The business of the Association shall be conducted by a Management Committee, elected annually at the Annual General Meeting, and consisting of:
  - a) Chairman
  - b) Secretary
  - c) Treasurer
  - d) Match Secretary
  - e) At least 4 Ordinary Members elected at the AGMA quorum will consist of at least 4 Committee Members.

Committee members may seek re-election annually, together with other nominees duly proposed and seconded. Election to be made on a show of hands. The Committee has the power to co-opt Members to sit on the Committee when a vacancy or vacancies occur between AGMs.

### **MEMBERSHIP**

5. Any bona-fide Bowling Organisation, which may be deemed to be of Club status by the Management Committee, shall be eligible to apply for membership of the Association. Such Club/s must be able to provide a green of acceptable standard to the Management Committee. Such clubs must be able to provide toilet facilities for members and visitors within the vicinity of the club premises during a match and provide basic refreshments for visiting teams. Clubs seeking membership must provide an e mail contact as a pivotal point for future communication to and from the Secretary/Treasurer of the Association.
6. Clubs applying for membership shall be placed on a waiting list to await a vacancy, and provided that the conditions described in Rule 5 are met, shall be invited to join the Association in the lowest Division when a vacancy occurs. Applicants will be accepted in "Date of Application" order.

### **SUBSCRIPTIONS AND FINANCE**

7. The Annual Subscription for Member Clubs shall be determined by the Management Committee. Fees for Cup Competitions and Merits shall also be determined by the Committee. All fees and all monies due to the Association must be paid to the Treasurer.

## **MEETINGS**

8. The AGM will be held in February of each year. All Clubs registered with the Association will be invited to attend, and are entitled to cast one vote, when voting is required. Clubs whose teams are continuing for the next season MUST be represented at the AGM. Failure to be represented incurs a fine of £5.00.
9. Clubs that are on the "waiting list" will be invited to attend the AGM, as observers only, until their membership is ratified. As observers they will have no entitlement to vote.

## **DELEGATES & DELEGATES' MEETINGS**

10. Each member Club shall name one person to act as their Delegate at meetings, and for the purpose of communication between Clubs and Teams.
11. Delegates must provide their Name, Address and Telephone number to the Secretary and also the names and telephone numbers of their Team Captains.
12. Delegates meetings will be held throughout the season, on dates defined by the Secretary. Failure to be represented at delegates meetings will incur a fine of £5.00.
13. When delegates are unable to attend a meeting, suitable replacements must be commissioned to replace them.

## **SPECIAL MEETINGS**

14. The Secretary shall convene a Special Meeting at any time, on receiving a request to that effect, signed by the Delegates of at least 3 Clubs. Such Special Meetings shall have no powers to amend or alter these Rules and Bye-Laws.
15. The Management Committee shall have the power to convene a Special Meeting at any time, and for any purpose, including the amendment or alteration of any Rule or Bye-Law.

## **AMENDMENT TO RULES AND BYE-LAWS**

16.
  - a) With the exception of financial matters, notices of any proposed amendment or alteration to the Rules and Bye-Laws must be proposed by a Member Club (or Management Committee Member) and seconded by another Member Club (or Management Committee Member). They shall be forwarded in writing to the Secretary at least 28 days prior to the AGM at which such amendments or alterations are to be considered.
  - b) Notices containing all valid amendments and alterations are to be circulated to all Member Clubs, Officers, Past Presidents, Life Members and Members of the Management Committee 10 days in advance of the November General Meeting by the Association Secretary.
  - c) The proposer (any Member Club or Management Committee Member) must obtain a seconder (a different Member Club or Management Committee Member) to be identified in accordance with 16a above.
  - d) The Financial Balance Sheet and any finance matters will be debated at the February General Meeting.
17. The Chairman of an AGM at which amendments and alterations to Rules and Bye-Laws are considered, shall allow an amendment or alteration to be moved, by any Delegate (acting for his/her Member Club) or Management Committee Member, to any notified amendment or alteration, providing such amendment is relative to and does not alter the context of the notified amendment or alteration unduly, and in the event of the same being seconded by another delegate (acting for his/her Member Club) or Management Committee Member and being carried by a bare majority of those present, and entitled to vote, shall be considered as a notified amendment or alteration.

18. No Rule or Bye-Law shall be altered, rescinded or added to, without the consent of the majority of those present, and entitled to vote at the AGM.

### **LAWS OF THE GAME**

19. The "Laws of the Game", as per BCGBA, apply to all matches played within this Association. A copy can be obtained by the purchase of the British Crown Green Bowling Association Official Handbook, or viewed through the Internet at [www.bowls.org](http://www.bowls.org)

### **PLAYING RULES**

20. All matches to be played in accordance with the "Laws of the Game" and, if there are any problems, with guidance from the WWCBA.
21. League matches will commence at 11.00am on the dates specified in the fixture list. Away Captains have the choice of selecting TWO of the first three ends to commence the match. Cup matches will commence at 11.00am on the dates specified in the programme. Order of play to be drawn by the Captains.  
Merit Competitions will commence at 10.30am on the dates specified in the programme.
22. Clubs must indicate at the commencement of a season which of their greens will be used throughout. Greens cannot be changed thereafter, except in extreme cases and with the approval of the Management Committee.

### **LEAGUE MATCHES**

23. a) Each team shall be represented by 6 players, though in unforeseen circumstances teams may comprise less (i.e. 4 or 5 players). The minimum requirement is 4 players. A score of 21-0 is conceded for each player missing.
- b) Points shall be awarded as follows: 2 points for a home win, 1 point for a home draw, 3 points for an away win and 2 points for an away draw. In addition, one point will be added to the points total for each individual winner, home or away.
- c) In the event of a team failing to attend or conceding a programmed league match (or failing to field a minimum of 4 players) the following shall apply:
- i. If the home team fails to attend or concedes a programmed league match (or fails to field a minimum of 4 players) the following shall apply: if the home team fails to attend or concedes (or fails to field a minimum of 4 players) the match shall be awarded to their opponents and they shall forfeit 30 shots and 1 league point from their total. Additionally they shall be fined £20.00. The away team shall receive 30 shots and 3 points plus 1 point for each of the 6 named team members. For league aggregate purposes, home bowlers will receive a score of 21-12 and 21-16 for away bowlers.
  - or
  - ii. If the away team fails to attend or concedes (or fails to field 4 players) the match shall be awarded to their opponents and they shall forfeit 54 shots and 1 league point from their total. Additionally they shall be fined £20.00. The home team shall receive 54 shots and 2 points plus 1 point for each of the six named team members. For league aggregate purposes, home bowlers will receive a score 21-12 and 21-16 for away bowlers.
- d) When clubs have two teams playing in the same league i.e. A and B (or B & C or C & D) they will play each other on the first two dates within the league programme. No "A" team players who play in the first league match should then play in the "B" team in the return match. Failure to comply will lead to a score of 0-21 in the return match.
24. A draw for opponents shall be made by the Captains before the commencement of the match. Play, which shall be continuous, will commence with three games being played to start the match. When one game is completed it shall be replaced immediately with another. In the event that one team has insufficient bowlers to complete the match the opposing Captain will claim a 21-0 win for any game not played and record it as a "walk-over" on the result card.

25. Pre-match practice for visiting teams shall be from 10.45am until 10.55am. Visiting teams are not allowed onto the green until invited to do so by the Home Captain. No practice is allowed on neutral greens.
26. During the course of play, the only persons allowed on the green are: the players, the Captains or their appointed deputy and the measurers when required.
27.
  - a) Fixture dates must be adhered to whenever possible.
  - b) Before the commencement of a new season clubs will ideally be grouped into divisions of twelve teams based on their finishing positions at the conclusion of the previous season. In the formation of the new divisions clubs with more than one team will have their highest placed team entitled the 'A' team and the next highest entitled the 'B' team and so on, regardless of the finishing positions of their teams at the conclusion of the previous season.
28. When clubs have both "A" and "B" teams in the League the "A" team fixture MUST be played on the date stipulated. The postponement of the "B" team fixture must satisfy the requirements of Rule 43.
29. When clubs have "A", "B" and "C" teams in the League, both "A" and "B" team fixtures MUST be played on the date stipulated. The postponement of the "C" team fixture must satisfy the requirements of Rule 43.
30. When clubs have "A", "B", "C" and "D" teams both "A" and "B" team fixtures MUST be played on the date stipulated. The postponement of the "C" and "D" team fixtures must satisfy the requirements of Rule 43.

#### **LEAGUE MATCHES PLAYED ON NEUTRAL GREENS (WHEN APPLICABLE)**

31. The selection of greens for League Matches played on neutral greens will be made by the Match Secretary. No practice is allowed on the neutral greens by either team. In all league matches played on neutral greens the Captains shall toss a coin before the draw is made, the winner to choose whether his side shall lead the jack on odd or even ends. The draw to be made by each Captain placing his opponent's cards.
32. All clubs when playing League Matches on neutral greens shall provide 2 Jacks, 2 Mats, measures and long tapes. No home green representative is required to remain in attendance throughout the match thereby prejudicing his/her own selection for his/her club.

#### **BOWLERS**

33. Before being allowed to play, bowlers must be registered with the Match Secretary. Bowlers may play for any team within their Club. Having played for one team he/she cannot subsequently play for another team in the programmed fixtures for that week.
34. Any offending team shall be penalised by having that bowler's score eliminated and the opponents enhanced to 21. The offending team will also have 5 points and 50 shots eliminated from their total. A fine of £10.00 will apply in all cases.
35. Bowlers without an opponent will be awarded the game 21-0. This must be shown on the match result card as 21-W/O. For league aggregate purposes, that bowler will receive a score of 21-12 if at home or 21-16 if away.

If a player has to stop play, or leave the green due to any incident and is unable to resume play before the finish of the match (or that round in a competition) the opponent(s) shall be awarded the game. The score of the player who left the green to remain as it stood and the opponent(s) to receive the maximum score.

In the event of the unfortunate death or life threatening illness ie. stroke/heart attack of a player

during the course of the match the following procedure should apply:

- i. the match shall be adjourned forthwith and shall subsequently be continued as provided for by rule
- ii. the scores of the player and his opponent and the scores of other incomplete games shall be maintained pending continuation and
- iii. the player may be replaced on the date of the mutually agreed, continued game by another eligible player

36. Any player who is a member of more than one Member Bowling Club may play against his/her other club - home or away, unless specifically prohibited from doing so by the bowlers' own Club Membership Rules.

### **TRANSFERS**

37. Any bowler desiring to transfer from one club to another must obtain a Transfer Form from the Match Secretary, ensure it is completed properly by his/her present club and have it completed by the proposed new club before submitting it to the Match Secretary for agreement by the Management Committee. The bowler can continue to play for his present club until the date of Transfer is approved. The Match Secretary will notify the new club of the effective date of the transfer.

From that date he/she must not play for their former Club. The Club will be penalised if that occurs as set out in Rule 34.

A transfer fee of £2.00 and a registration fee for the new club must accompany the transfer form. The transfer fee and the registration fee will be reviewed and determined annually by the Management Committee.

### **PROMOTION & RELEGATION**

38. At the end of a season the 2 top teams in each Division will be promoted to the next higher Division, this being decided by the greatest number of points gained, and in the case of a tie, the greater plus shots.

In the event that a team from a higher Division resigns from the League, THREE teams from each of the lower Divisions will be promoted.

39. At the end of a season the two bottom teams in each Division will be relegated to the next lower Division, this being decided by the least points gained, and in the case of a tie, the least plus shots, or the most minus shots.
40. If a team resigns from the League after the end of a season and prior to the commencement of the next season, the teams finishing in the top THREE places in the next lower division and subsequent divisions will be promoted.
41. In the event that a team resigned from the League AFTER the new season's fixtures have been constructed the division will continue with one team short.

### **RESIGNATIONS**

42. Clubs resigning their team or teams prior to the end of a season (the end being defined as the last Delegates Meeting of the season) will be fined £25.00 for each team so resigning. The team's results will be eliminated from the League Tables together with their opponent's results.

### **POSTPONED MATCHES**

43. a) Before a match can be postponed, permission must be obtained from the Match

Secretary, who will decide if the proposed postponement is justified, depending on the reason given. If granted 48 hours notice must be given to the opposing Captain, and the match rearranged to be played within 21 days of the original fixture date. If both teams fail to agree a date within 21 days the match shall be played on the 23<sup>rd</sup> day. If either the home team or the away team fail to attend on the 23<sup>rd</sup> day the match shall be deemed to have been conceded by the defaulting team. Penalties as laid down in Rule 23b shall apply.

b) At the start of the season Clubs must inform the Match Secretary of their involvement with membership of another 'Tuesday morning league'

c) Teams who normally play their matches on Wednesday mornings and whose parent club is a registered member of any other official association, which play their league matches on Tuesday mornings, may request to reschedule their Tuesday fixture as follows:

i The Match Secretary and captain of the affected opposition home team to be informed before the start of the season once the fixture list has been published.

ii The home team for the fixture that requires rearrangement to offer a choice of 2 dates/times within a time frame of 7 days before or 7 days after the designated match date.

iii The Match Secretary to be informed immediately in writing by both captains of the agreed new date.

iv No matches scheduled to be played in the last two weeks of the season may be postponed and must be brought forward to a date agreed by both captains. The only exceptions allowed are inclement weather or the condition of the green.

44. The Match Secretary has the right to proclaim a match void, and to penalise one or both teams 2 points and 50 shots, plus a fine of £10.00 each.

#### **ABANDONED MATCHES**

45 When a match has to be abandoned prior to the start, either because of inclement weather or the state of the green, agreement must be made between the Captains, as to when the fixture will be played and the Match Secretary informed. It will be classed as a postponement and Rule 43 will apply.

When the match has already started, and has to be abandoned due to weather, or an unforeseen situation, it must be rearranged at the time, and be resumed within TWO WEEKS. The resumption must take place with the same bowlers who were on the green at the time of abandonment, with existing scores, and as near as possible to the spot where play ended.

An originally drawn bowler may be replaced if he/she had not started their game, and is not available on the rearranged date.

#### **FIXTURES**

46. All fixtures, whether in League or Cup, should be played. They should NOT be conceded to

opponents. Matches can be played in advance of scheduled date if both teams agree. Conceding a match to opponents will incur a fine of £20.00.

## SENIOR, JUNIOR AND CONSOLATION CUPS

47. These Competitions will be run by draw. Each team shall be represented by 6 players, though in unforeseen circumstances teams may comprise less (i.e. 4 or 5 players). The minimum requirement is 4 players. Bowlers without an opponent will be awarded the game 21-0. The team with the highest aggregate will be declared the winners. Three players will play on the home green and three on the away green. The away team players will have possession of the jack at the first end of each game.

In the event of a tie (aggregate scores level), the team with the most individual winners will win the match. If still a tie, one player at each venue will play 7 shots up against the opponents. The best aggregate score wins the match. If there is still a tie the process is repeated with two different players until a result is reached. The extra games shall be played immediately following the drawn match. The winning team will be responsible for posting the result on bowlsresults and the losing team will confirm the result. Matches for A and B teams are to be played on Wednesday, with two matches played on the green at the same time if necessary. C and D team matches are to be played on Tuesday, but may be rearranged, if necessary, to suit both teams, for any day during the cup match week. All games must be played on the same day at the same time at both venues.

Practice time is permitted for home team players up to 15 minutes prior to the start time, but there will be no practice for away players.

All cup finals will be played on a neutral green.

48. a) The Senior Cup is for teams in Divisions 1, 2 and 3. The Junior Cup Competition is for teams from Division 4, 5, 6 and 7. Players can only play for one team in any round.
- b) The Senior and Junior Consolation Cups are for teams, which do not progress past the first round (including any preliminary rounds) in the Senior and Junior Cups. The Consolation Cups will be the subject of a fresh draw.
- c) In the Senior, Junior, Senior Consolation and Junior Consolation Cups Competitions:
- i. Players that play in an A team cannot subsequently play in their club's B, C, or D teams, and so on
  - ii. Players that play in a B team cannot subsequently play in their club's C, or D teams, and so on
  - iii. Players that play in a C team cannot subsequently play in their club's D teams, and so on.
- d) As the competitions progress players can be promoted to a higher level in the next round, but having done so must then play in accordance with Rule 48c.
- e) Any breach of this rule will entail the forfeiture of the player's score in the offending match and his/her opponent will be awarded a 21-0 win. The offending team will also incur a fine of £10.00 for each offending player.
- f) All clubs on whose green a league, merit or cup final match is scheduled shall provide jacks and footers, which comply with the BCGBA specification. Additionally, they must provide a tape measure not less than 19 metres in length. Clubs are also requested to make available any other equipment, scoreboards, chalks etc which they themselves would consider necessary for the smooth running of the match or competition.
- g) When a club enters an A Team in the cup competition but withdraws, concedes or fails to appear in the preliminary round or first round after the draw is made, its B, C or D Teams will also be eliminated from the cup competition as follows:

- i. Should a B Team withdraw, concede or fail to appear, its C and D Teams will also be eliminated.
- ii. Should a C Team withdraw, concede or fail to appear, its D Team will also be eliminated.

## **MERIT SINGLES AND DOUBLES**

49. Entries for these competitions must be in the hands of the Match Secretary by the closing date as shown. Entrants will be drawn by the Committee to play at pre-selected greens. Entries can only be accepted from 2 bowlers registered with the same club in the Merit Doubles.
50. The Delegates whose greens have been chosen must ensure that:
  - a) The greens are available for play on the date specified
  - b) The greens are opened by a club member and
  - c) The Jacks, Mats and Long measures are made available.
51. The Host Green Delegate will have the Competition Sheet prior to the match, with the names of the participants, ready to pass on to the Organisers at the venue. The Organisers will be TWO of the participants or a Committee Member who will conduct the draw, and arrange for the Competition Sheet to be forwarded to the Match Secretary directly after the match showing scores of each game and the winners.
52. If there are any BYES drawn, these should be drawn out first, so that they head the following round.
53. All matches are 21 up.
54. In the event that Greens and equipment are not made available for the Merit or Cup matches, the Host Club will be fined £20.00.

## **DISCIPLINE, COMPLAINTS AND APPEALS**

55. An enquiry into any suspected breach of these Association Rules and Bye-laws, by a player or club may be instituted by the Management Committee either
  - a) at the request of the player or club which may lodge a complaint provided that such complaint is in writing and has been submitted to the Secretary/Treasurer within one calendar month of the alleged offence taking place
  - or
  - b) at its discretion.

In the event of any enquiry being instituted on the complaint of any player or club such player or club shall forthwith deposit with the Treasurer the sum of £20, which will be returned if the complaint is upheld.

On the deposit being made and a written statement of the facts placed with the Secretary an enquiry shall be instituted by the Management Committee.

The Management Committee shall have power to reprimand, suspend, fine or expel any player or club who shall infringe any Rule or Bye-law, or whose conduct shall, in their opinion, render him/her or them unfit for membership but no player or club shall be dealt with, without first being summoned to appear before the Management Committee to explain his/her or their conduct, and given opportunity to advance his/her or their defence.

Anyone so summoned to appear before the Management Committee shall be entitled to receive at least 7 days notice in writing by Recorded Delivery from the Secretary, giving particulars of the breaches of conduct being the subject of complaint.

## **MATCH RESULTS**

57. Results of League and/or Cup matches must be entered on to the EBOS website via [bowlsresults.co.uk](http://bowlsresults.co.uk) by the home captain in the case of league matches and the captain of the winning team in the case of cup matches. The results must be entered by the Friday of the same week. The captain of the away team must confirm the result is correct within five days of the match having been played. Captains are strongly advised to keep a paper copy signed by both captains, to be kept in case of dispute.

## **PLAYERS DRESS IN MERIT FINALS, CUP FINALS AND REPRESENTATIVE MATCHES**

58. Hard or block heeled footwear must not be worn whilst on the green in any match played under the Association's jurisdiction.

The following is the only permitted dress for bowlers on final days for Merits and Cup Finals or Representative Matches.

Trousers: These shall be tailored or chinos, full length or cropped and of a single dark colour.

Shorts: These are permissible, but must conform to the rules above and be tailored and of a single dark colour.

Shirts: These shall be collared and sleeved, and may be embellished.

Women may wear skirts that are at least knee length and dark in colour.

Not permitted: shell suits, beach shorts, track suits and denims.

Any player failing to conform to the above will be fined the sum of £10:00.

Where necessary, and in accordance with the pertaining weather conditions, sweaters which conform to the above and/or wet weather gear may be worn.

## **RESTRICTIVE DOMESTIC CLUB RULES**

59. Member Clubs that have restrictive, domestic club rules (e.g. players not permitted to bowl or take part on the green as a member of a visiting team or which prohibits specific forms of attire on the bowling green) must communicate these restrictions to the Association Secretary, annually by the 31 January for general compliance.

Such restrictive rules will then be considered by the Management Committee and agreed, or not, and if appropriate will be communicated to Member Clubs before the commencement of the bowling season.

## **FINES**

60. The following fines shall apply:
- a) Failure to attend an AGM or Special Meeting - £5.00
  - b) Failure to be represented at a Delegates Meeting - £5.00
  - c) Failure to submit results on time - £5.00
  - d) Withdrawal of a team from the League during a season, and/or after the last Delegates Meeting - £25.00
  - e) Failure of Host Club to have Green open and prepared for any League, Merit or Cup match in accordance with rule 48g - £20.00
  - f) Any team not fulfilling their league or cup fixture, or not notifying their opponents and Host Green Delegate or Captain of non-appearance for League or Cup match, or conceding league matches to opponents with or without a preceding postponement in accordance with Rule 46 - £20.00
  - g) The playing of an ineligible or unregistered bowler - £10.00
  - h) Failure to conform to the dress code - £10.00 (for each player)

## **DISBURSEMENT OF FINES**

61. As a result of a Host Club failing to have their green available for a Cup Match the two attending teams will be paid £10.00 each.

As a result of a Host Club failing to have their green available for a Merit Competition, the £20.00 fine will be distributed between the attending bowlers.

When a team fails to appear for a League or Cup match, the attending team will be paid £10.00