

LEAGUE CONSTITUTION

A - Membership

1. The League shall be called the SUFFOLK BOWLS (B.E.) TRIPLES LEAGUE and shall, always conform to the rules of the Suffolk Bowls (B.E.).
2. Membership of the League shall be open to all Clubs affiliated to the Suffolk Bowls (B.E.) and who pay the annual league affiliation fee by a date to be agreed by the Area Secretaries and the League Secretary annually, but not later than 31st December. Additionally, all players must Registered with Bowls England.

2. B – Governance

1. The League shall be managed by a General Council consisting of the following:- (i) Chairman; (ii) Vice Chairman; (iii) Hon. Secretary/Treasurer all elected at the County A.G.M.; (iv) 3 delegates from each of the areas namely Ipswich, Lowestoft & West Suffolk elected at Area A.G.M.; (v) League life members; (vi) The County President and General Secretary shall be ex-officio members of the General Council, (5 to form a quorum).
2. A motion signed by 5 or more clubs received by the General Council Hon. Secretary or the General Council itself shall be empowered to call a Special General Meeting (S.G.M.). The S.G.M shall only deal with the business for which it is convened and have the powers of an A.G.M.
3. Each area of the League shall elect a Area Management Committee which will include:- (i) Chairman; (ii) Vice Chairman; (iii) Hon. Secretary/Treasurer; (iv) up to 5 committee members for the purpose of a) Collection of affiliations; b) Organising competitions including promotion/relegation if desired; c) dealing with all disputes and difficulties including deduction of points or fines; d) Referring matters to the General Council if required; e) Carrying out any other duties as required.
4. Anything not covered by the Constitution and Rules of Play to be dealt with by the General Council.
5. Decisions by the General Council shall be final.

C – Meetings and Motions

1. The General Council shall i) Have the power to draft new or amendments to existing Rules of Play or Constitution for presentation at an Area or County A.G.M.; ii) Organise the County Finals; iii) Suggest the level of fees for approval at A.G.M.; iv) Co-opt to fill vacant positions of Office-bearers; v) Call a S.G.M.; vi) Hear any appeal against fines points deduction imposed by Area Committees; vii) Deal with matter not covered by the Rules of Play or Constitution.
2. Nominations from Clubs for the various Officers of the Area Management Committee and proposed new/amendments to the Rules of Play / Constitution must be in writing and in the hands of the Area Secretary at least 21 days before the date of your Area A.G.M. for inclusion on the agenda. Nominations for Office-bearers will be taken at the meeting if a position is vacant.
3. Each Area A.G.M. shall be held during September or early October, the date and venue of which shall be advised to area clubs a minimum of 14 days to the meeting date. The General Council (League) Chairman, Vice Chairman & General Council Hon. Secretary/Treasurer can attend if required (with no voting rights). Business of Area Meeting to include:- i) Election of Office-bearers; ii) Electing delegates to the General Council (see B1); iii) Discuss and amend any new motions received or amendments to existing Rules of Play and/or Constitution, if duly seconded from a different club to the proposer; iv) Receive reports of the General Council and Area Management Committee; v) Transact any other relevant business appropriate to the running of the Area; vi) Other matters may be discussed at the Chairman's discretion, but not voted on.
4. Any new proposals received or amendments to existing Rules of Play and/or Constitution if agreed at an Area AGM or those forwarded directly by individual clubs as long as they have been seconded by a club from another Area. Must be with the General Council Hon. Secretary in writing not less than 28 days prior to the meeting date to be included on the County AGM agenda. The General Council Hon. Secretary shall circulate these proposals to clubs a minimum of 21 days

- prior to the A.G.M., any amendment to these proposals to be returned to the General Council Hon. Secretary minimum 14 days prior to the A.G.M. for recirculation to clubs within 7 days.
5. The Annual General Meeting of the League will be held in late November or December each year with minimum of 21 days' notice given by the General Council Hon. Secretary. Business of County A.G.M. to include:- i) Election of Office-bearers; ii) Discuss and vote on rule changes if received in writing by the General Council Hon. Secretary 28 Days before the A.G.M. or any amendments (duly seconded at the A.G.M.) received by the General Council Hon. Secretary 14 days prior to the A.G.M.; iii) Set any fees applicable to the running of the League; iv) Approve the Financial Statement of the League prepared by the General Council Treasurer; v) Transact any other relevant business appropriate to the running of the League
 6. Voting at all meetings: -i) 2 Delegates or their Substitutes per club, (although all members can speak); ii) Office-bearers; iii) Life members. Simple majority for all matters at Area A.G.M. Simple majority on Rules of Play and 2/3rd majority on Constitution at County A.G.M. At all meetings the Chairman shall have a casting vote as well as a deliberate vote and paper ballots at the Chairman's discretion.
 7. Proposals which relate to Area matters need only Area A.G.M. approval.
 8. The Area Hon. Secretaries and General Council Hon. Secretary shall be responsible for issuing notices convening all meetings under their control and shall keep minutes of all business transacted. Such minutes shall be proposed, seconded and approved at the respective next meetings, then signed by the Chairman of that meeting. The Secretaries shall also carry out such other duties, as may be required by the respective Area Management Committee/General Council.
 9. Meetings of the General Council or Area Management Committee to be called as required by the Chairman or Hon. Secretary/Treasurer.

D – Other 1. Any club lodging an appeal against a fine or deduction of points imposed by the Area Management Committee will pay at the time of the appeal to the General Council a sum of £20.00 to cover administration charges. Should the appeal be granted the £20.00 fee will be refunded. 2. All fines imposed for the year to be paid by the 2nd Sunday in November in that year.

For Info – Timeframe for Proposals and Motions:-

- ✓ 21 Days prior to League Area A.G.M. – Motions and to be in writing with the Area Hon. Secretary.
- ✓ 14 Days prior to League Area A.G.M. – Date of meeting and agenda to be sent to member Clubs.
- ✓ At League Area A.G.M. – Discuss and amendment to motions received.
- ✓ 28 Days prior to League County A.G.M. – Any Area approved or Individual Club (Seconded) motions to change the Rules of Play / Constitution to be in writing with the General Council Hon. Secretary for inclusion on the A.G.M. agenda
- ✓ 21 Days prior to League County A.G.M. – Date of meeting and agenda to be sent to member Clubs.
- ✓ 14 Days prior to League County A.G.M. any amendments to be in writing to the General Council Hon. Secretary.
- ✓ 7 Days prior to League County A.G.M. any received amendments advise to clubs.
- ✓ At League County A.G.M. - Discussion & voting on motions and amendments received.

NB any underlined section represents a rule change.

2026 Season