



North Lincolnshire Bowls Triples Leagues

Constitution

18th October 2025



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General

Name of the Organisation

1. The organisation shall be known as the **North Lincolnshire Bowls Triples Leagues**, which may be abbreviated to **North Lincs Trips Leagues** or **NLTL**.

Objects of the Organisation

2. The objects of the organisation are:
 - a. To promote the sport of lawn bowls.
 - b. To encourage and develop new bowlers.
 - c. To promote the social interaction and comradeship of bowlers.

The Leagues and Competitions

3. The organisation will run two leagues plus two Knockout Competitions
 - a. **The Men's Trips league.** This league is for teams of male bowlers.
 - b. **The Mixed Trips league.** This league is for teams that must include male and female bowlers for every match and may include juniors bowling full sized bowls.
 - c. **Knockout Competitions.** There will also be a K/O competition for each of the above leagues. If any club has more than one team entered into each of the K/O competitions players will be only be allowed to play for one of their teams.
 - d. **Knockout Competitions.** *Clubs that default on any of their Knockout Competition matches will not be allowed to enter that relevant competition for the following season.*
4. **Team membership.** Membership is open to all clubs based within the unitary authority of North Lincolnshire. Grandfather rights are granted to teams outside the area already competing in the leagues.
5. **Eligibility of players.** Team members must be members of the club they represent and having played one or more matches for that club in the NLTL, Any player will be allowed to change clubs after the season has started if that player has only played a maximum of 2 games for their original club. If any player requires a move outside of this rule the league committee will discuss this request.

Management

6. **Officials.** The leagues shall be managed by a committee of six officials comprising:

Chairperson	Vice Chair	Secretary	Fixtures Secretary	Treasurer
Trophies Member				
General Member				
7. **Annual election of officials.** All officials will be elected/re-elected at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) in accordance with the following procedure:
 - a. Known vacancies will be advertised at least 28 days prior to the AGM.
 - b. Nominations, which require a proposer and a seconder, are to be submitted to the secretary at least seven days prior to the AGM.
 - c. Election will be by majority vote and each club in attendance at the AGM will receive one vote. Should there be more than one nomination for an appointment, then election will be by ballot.
 - d. If there are no nominations, and the extant officials are willing to serve on, they may be re-elected en masse if there are no objections from the floor.

8. **Temporary appointment of officials.** Should vacancies remain unfilled or unforeseen vacancies arise after an AGM, the committee is empowered to appoint temporary replacements who will remain in post until the next annual election of officials.

9. **Duties of the committee.** The committee is responsible for the day to day running of the organisation and management of its finances and assets. The committee is empowered to deal with and resolve all grievances such as:

- a. The conduct of clubs and/or individuals.
- b. The abidance of the Laws of the Sport and locally set rules of the NLTL.
- c. The condition of bowling greens.
- d. All match related disputes which arise during the season.

10. **Committee meetings.** Committee meetings shall be convened as required, there not being less than four meetings per annum (pre-season, mid-season, end of season and pre-AGM).

- a. **Calling notice.** The Secretary shall issue a calling notice to all committee members not less than seven days prior to each meeting.
- b. **Voting.** A quorum of four committee members shall be required for matters requiring resolution by vote.
- c. **Minutes.** The Secretary shall produce minutes within seven days of a meeting having taken place. These will be distributed by email to all committee members and to all clubs.

General Meetings

11. **The Annual General Meeting (AGM).** The AGM will take place by the last Saturday in October. A calling notice will be published not less than six weeks prior to the meeting. Topics for discussion and motions for consideration at the AGM must be submitted in writing or by email to the secretary not less than four weeks prior to the meeting. Such items will be included on the agenda which will be published not less than two weeks prior to the meeting. No other business will be discussed at the meeting and any attempt to do so will be dismissed.

12. **Objectives of the AGM.** As follows:

- a. The annual election of officials ([paragraph 7](#)).
- b. To review and agree the minutes of the previous meeting.
- c. To review and agree the Statement of Accounts.
- d. To review and agree team entry fees for the coming season.
- e. To consider clubs wishing to join the leagues (condition of greens etc).
- f. To confirm the deadline for club entries for the following season.
- g. To consider other topics and motions forwarded by member clubs included on the agenda. Motions must be submitted in writing not less than four weeks prior to a meeting and must have a proposer and a seconder from different clubs.

13. **Voting.** Each club represented at the AGM shall cast one vote for each motion and may vote for or against, or they may abstain. In the event of a tie, the chairman shall cast the deciding vote.

14. **Extraordinary General Meetings (EGM).** An EGM may be called:

- a. By the committee when urgent business requires the input or approval of member clubs.
- b. At the request of a member club if the matter in question has the support of at least 25% of member clubs.

15. **Quorum.** A general meeting may commence if 50% of clubs playing in the league are represented at the meeting by a club official.

Laws of the Sport

16. **World Bowls governance.** Matches will be played in accordance with the *Laws of the Sport of Bowls (Version 3.2 revised 2014)*¹. However, as permitted by paragraph 57.1 of these laws, the NLTL rules set out from [paragraph 17](#) take precedence.

¹ [The Laws of the Sport of Bowls](#) was approved by the World Bowls Council and adopted by Bowls England. Bowls England was formed on 1 January 2008 following a merger of the English Bowling Association and the English Women's Bowling Association.

NLTL Rules

17. **Divisions.** The number of divisions in either league will be determined by the number of teams competing. The maximum number of teams per division will be 10. Teams joining or re-joining the leagues will be placed in the lowest divisions.
18. **Promotion and relegation.** End of season standings will determine promotion and relegation whereby the two lowest placed teams in any division will be relegated and be replaced by the two highest placed teams in the lower division. If an imbalance of teams occurs following team registration for the following season, the committee is empowered to adjust the promotion/relegation quota to rebalance the divisions. The end of season rankings will be decided by the following sequence:
- Total number of points.
 - Total number of shots when the total number of points is tied.
 - Highest aggregate number of shots between the teams concerned, when the total number of shots is tied.
19. **General rules.** Matches as follows:
- Teams shall consist of nine bowlers (three rinks of three bowlers) and each bowler shall bowl three bowls in turn (Lead, Second, Skip).
 - Bowlers may not change position once the match has commenced unless a substitution is made ([paragraph 29](#)).
 - No trial ends are permitted.
 - The home team will send the jack on the first end.
 - The duration of the match shall be 18 ends per rink. If a match is abandoned due to poor conditions (e.g., rain or bad light), the result at the time of stoppage shall count providing that a minimum of 30 ends in total have been played. If the requisite number of ends have not been played, the match must be rearranged to be played as soon as possible, and the Fixtures Secretary notified of the new date.
 - Matches will commence not later than 6:30pm and not later than 6pm from the *first Monday in August*. Any bowler arriving more than 15 minutes after the match has started will not be permitted to play.
20. **The season.** The season will run from the Monday closest to 1 May through to the first Friday after 31 August, but the committee may amend this as deemed necessary.
21. **Fixtures.** Each team will play a home and away match against every other team in the division, unless mutually agreed otherwise to overcome unforeseen circumstances (e.g., a flooded green).
22. **Fixtures schedule.** The Fixtures Secretary will publish a fixtures schedule in January and every effort must be made to arrange fixtures to be played during the designated weeks.
23. **Rescheduling fixtures.** Fixtures are to be rescheduled by mutual agreement in the event of bad weather, illness, or the non-availability of players. The home team must inform the Fixtures Secretary once a new date has been agreed.
24. **Unplayed fixtures.** Clubs may only cancel a fixture once when they cannot provide a team. In such circumstances, the opposing team must offer up all available dates to reschedule the fixture. The opposing team should not be disadvantaged and will be awarded 8 points and 30 shots if the fixture cannot be played.
25. **Cancellation due to poor conditions.** If a fixture is cancelled due to poor conditions and cannot be rescheduled, the match shall be voided, and no points awarded to either team.
26. **Team withdrawal.** If a team withdraws from a league part way through the season, its results will be deleted from the league table and the league standings adjusted accordingly.

27. **Points.** A total of eight points shall be awarded as follows:
- a. Two points per rink being two points for a win or one point each in the event of a draw.
 - b. Two points for the match aggregate (the total number of shots scored on all rinks).
28. **Multiple club teams in the same division.** When more than one team from the same club are in the same division, the following rules apply to league matches and knockout competitions:
- a. Clubs must submit squad lists for each team prior to the start of the season. These lists which can be updated as new players are added, will be circulated to all other teams in the league for transparency.
 - b. If multiple teams are in the same division, both fixtures (home and away) must be played within the first six matches of the season.
 - c. No bowler shall play for more than one team unless rule 28.d, 28.e or 28f is exercised by the club.
 - d. In extremis, bowlers in higher division squads may play in lower division teams in accordance with the following conditions:
 - (1) A maximum of two higher division bowlers may be selected to play in a lower division team fixture.
 - (2) Each higher division bowler may be selected to play in a lower division team not more than twice in one season.
 - (3) Such selections must be declared to the opposition prior to play commencing and annotated when filling in the scoresheet. Non-compliance with this rule will result in the match being declared void and the opposition being awarded 8 points and 30 shots.
 - (4) A copy of the annotated scoresheet must be sent to the Fixtures Secretary by the club exercising this rule so that a central record can be maintained (a photo or scan sent by email or text is acceptable).
 - e. Lower division bowlers may be selected to play in higher division teams without restriction.
 - f. Clubs may transfer bowlers between squads during the season in accordance with the following conditions:
 - (1) A maximum of two transfers in and two transfers out are permitted per squad.
 - (2) A bowler can only be transferred once.
 - (3) Clubs must notify the Fixtures Secretary in writing or by email before a transferee's first match with the new squad so that a central record can be maintained.
29. **Substitution during a match.** In the event of illness or an emergency resulting in a bowler having to leave the green during a match, substitution is permissible as follows:
- a. The substitute must play out the remainder of the match and no further changes to the rink can be made.
 - b. The substitute cannot replace the Skip. In such circumstances, the order of play must be changed.
 - c. In the case of a Mixed Trips match, the team making the substitution must still comprise male and female bowlers after the substitution is made. If this requirement cannot be met, then the team making the substitution will play two against three on the rink affected as described in [paragraph 30.a](#).
30. **Absentees.** If a team does not field the requisite number of bowlers for a match, then the following rules apply:
- a. If a team fields eight bowlers, one rink will play two against three and the sequence will be Lead, Lead, Second - repeated until all bowls have been delivered. Skips will then bowl their bowls as normal. The Lead from the team winning the previous end will deliver the Jack and start the sequence.

- b. If a team fields seven bowlers, two rinks will play two against three as described in paragraph 30.a.
- c. If a team fields six bowlers, all rinks will play two against three as described in paragraph 30.a.
- d. If a team fields fewer than six players, the fixture must be rescheduled.

31. **Scoresheets.** The home team captain is responsible for preparing and completing the match scoresheet, which both captains must sign after the match to confirm their agreement of the result. The scoresheet is to be retained by the home team until the end of the season.

32. **Submission of results.** The home team will submit the results online as instructed by the Fixtures Secretary. Results should be submitted as soon as possible and not later than midday on Saturday so that up-to-date league tables can be published on Sunday. Those teams experiencing difficulty submitting results online or who cannot meet the deadline should call the Fixtures Secretary to submit their results.

33. **Results disputes.** It is the responsibility of every team to check the weekly publication of results and to raise any discrepancies with the Fixtures Secretary without delay. The Fixtures Secretary will arbitrate any disputes and in extremis may call for a copy of the match scoresheet to resolve the matter.

34. **Dress code.** Bowlers shall wear grey bottoms and either white tops or club shirts. Tailored grey shorts are permissible during warm weather.

Finance

35. **Bank account.** The NLTL holds a Trustees bank account with Lloyds Bank. There shall be three signatories from the committee one of which must be the Treasurer. Spending may be transacted on the authority of one signatory.

36. **Entry fees.** Entry fees will be set annually at the AGM and are payable by normal bank transfer using (BACS) or by cheque made payable to **North Lincolnshire Bowls Triples Leagues**. All entry fees must be paid before the start of the season.

37. **Presentation Night.** Any league or cup winners who do not attend the Presentation Night will receive their trophy but forfeit their Prize Money.

38. **Reimbursement of costs.** The committee shall not be out of pocket and may be reimbursed for any reasonable expenses incurred for which receipts are provided.

39. Clubs who host/run either of the leagues knockout competitions will be reimbursed £50 by the league for each competition.

40. **Annual Statement of Accounts.** The treasurer will present a simple Statement of Accounts at the AGM and a vote will be taken to adopt the statement as a true record. The financial year will be 1 October – 30 September.

41. **Audit.** The account will be audited by a non-committee club official prior to the AGM.

Amending this Constitution

42. This constitution can only be amended by majority vote at a General Meeting.

Agreed at an AGM held 18 October 2025 – amendments are in red and italics

G S Lamplough
Chairman

North Lincolnshire Bowls Trips Leagues

Date: 15th November 2024