

# **SOUTH WESTMORLAND SENIORS' BOWLING LEAGUE (SWSBL)**

## **2021 SEASON – LEAGUE FORMAT AND RULES**

### **Overview**

In recognising that many “senior” bowlers are keen to return to competitive bowling, but also that some are also apprehensive as we ease our way out of the Covid pandemic lockdown, the League Executive of the SWSBL has decided that the League will be run on a structured but friendly basis for 2021.

The League will start on Monday 17 May.

What this actually means is that fixtures will be on the Mb Bowling Results web site as in any normal year, and clubs will be asked to enter their match results as normal. However, we recognise that some clubs may find it difficult to satisfy the current League rule regard the minimum number of players, so we have amended this rule for this year only.

We also recognise that some teams may find that they need to withdraw from the league once the season has started, or possibly postpone or cancel matches. This is totally acceptable under the current uncertain times that we all find ourselves in, and there will be no penalty for any club or team that need to do this.

As we will be operating on a friendly basis, at the end of the season there will be no promotion or relegation and no Division winners' trophies presented.

We have had an overwhelming positive response from clubs and all the teams that were entered for the 2020 season want to play again in 2021. As a result of this uptake there will be no need to move any teams between divisions and will be using the 2020 division structure.

Unfortunately, the downside of this overwhelming positive response means that if every team was to play home and away matches that the final matches for divisions 1-3 would not take place until Monday 11 October, which is clearly not practical or desirable for many clubs, we have therefore decided that the last league fixtures' will be in week commencing 6<sup>th</sup> September. The fixture list on the Mb Bowling Results web site will provide fixtures beyond that date so that any clubs who, by mutual agreement with their opponents, want to play beyond w/c 6<sup>th</sup> September can do.

To keep the production of League Fixtures relatively simple for the League Secretary, we will be using the 2020 fixtures, but with a changed start date. This will mean that for Divisions 4 and 5, who do not play on bank holidays, that the weeks with no games will not match up with the actual 2021 bank holidays. Although we appreciate that this is not ideal, to recalculate all of the fixtures to accommodate 2021 bank holidays would be a lengthy task and provide little value to the season.

If by mutual agreement teams want to play a fixture on a different date than that shown on the Mb Bowling Results website, then please contact the League Secretary who will update the system with the new date. This also includes fixtures after week commencing 6<sup>th</sup> September.

The League Secretary will notify Clubs once the fixtures are available on the Mb Bowling Results web site.

## **Amendment to Rules for 2021 Season Only**

### R1 Amended to Read (amendments highlighted in yellow)

Teams to consist of 8 players on each side. The match to consist of 4 single games and 2 doubles. Each game 21 Up. All matches to be organized under the Rules of the British Crown Green Bowls Association. A random draw to be made by the two Captains prior to the start of the match, starting with a doubles game.

If a team is up to two player short the Captain of that team must forward a minimum of four names, then a player or players to be selected to play twice will be done by a random ballot as stated above, and the opponent may have a practise of 4 ends.

Order of play for the first 3 jacks to include at least 1 double, i.e., 1 double and 2 singles or 2 doubles and 1 single. Points awarded - 4 singles, 2 doubles, 1 point per game plus 2 for the aggregate, giving 8 points available.

In the event of a player or players receiving a walkover he/she/they do not have the game added to their games played or won, or 21 points added to their personal aggregate, but it is counted in the team's overall score as 21 points win.

Any player having already played for a club should be excluded from moving to play for another club in any one season, unless dispensation has been granted from the league.

No player can play for more than ONE TEAM in the same week.

Clubs can use score boards as well as score cards for all matches if the prevailing BCGBA guidance allows.

## R6.

Rule R1 is removed. (Relates to league winners)

All other rules remain the same.

## **Amendment to Constitution for 2021 Season Only**

C5 will not apply in 2021 (Relates to promotion and relegation)

## **Legal Compliance – NHS Test and Trace**

It is up to participating Clubs to ensure that they have an appropriate and robust system in place in order to comply with the current legal requirements of “NHS Test and Trace”.

The League is able to assist Clubs in this as the MB Bowling Results website not only stores the names of players who have taken part in matches, but also has the facility to store names and contact details for the main Club contact person and team captains. If Clubs, choose to use the “Club Contacts” section of the website then please ensure that the details for all contacts are accurate and kept up to date. If personal contact detail are being provided then this should be undertaken directly by the individuals concerned or in line with your Club’s Data Protection Policy, and you should not ask the League Secretary to carry this out on your/their behalf.

Please be aware that the requirements of the General Data Protection Act (GDPR) apply when providing personal contact details for individuals

## **League Executive Committee Recommendations**

- All clubs and team captains are advised to read and apply the prevailing guidance of BCGBA.
- Away team captain should contact the home team captain prior to setting off to the match, in order to ensure that the match is still on, and how many players will be taking part. This would also provide an opportunity to discuss any issues of concern such as car parking arrangements and the availability of facilities etc.

**SWSBL Executive Committee April 2021**