

DARWEN VETS BOWLING LEAGUE RULES 2026.

1 - The subscriptions to the league are £35 per team (including football cards) and players are allowed to play in the league once they attain the age of 55, **not before**. If any club play an under-age player that player will be banned from playing in the league for the remainder of the season and all associated points accumulated will be deleted from that team's total with the offending club fined £10.

2 - Teams to consist of 8 players and games to be 21 up. All teams in the Darwen Vets will commence their matches from zero-21. Any underage player who is disabled and has **PLAYED PREVIOUSLY** will be eligible to play in the Darwen Vets. Any **NEW** players applying to join the league must have attained the age of 55 as per rule 1. Players are only allowed to play for one club during the season which will be the first club they represented. Winning players will receive 2 points and the team aggregate a further 2 points. Teams will be matched up with a blind draw. Standard jacks to be provided, visiting players to commence the game with the jack.

3 - The online-bowls results system will be used. No match cards will be issued. Captains are responsible for logging and retaining details in their respective record books regarding the relevant match stating FULL NAMES of all competing players. The home captain is responsible for ensuring the result is entered on line after the match has concluded. Both captains are responsible for checking and agreeing the home team's results book at the end of the match. The away team captain is responsible for ensuring the result has been entered correctly online by the home team. Any problems, contact the league secretary ASAP.

4 - Scheduled Darwen Vets league match day is Wednesday afternoon, starting times 1.15pm, fixture exceptions Wednesday 10.15am. Those clubs that have 2 or more teams in the **SAME** division, any player of that team can only play against another team twice on 2 league occasions in one season. Any players from any division can only play once in any one set of scheduled fixtures. In the Darwen Vets, starred players cannot play for their club's lowest ranking team(s). A fine of £10 and a 0-21 result will ensue if these rules are broken.

5 - Players to be registered for every season on line. Full forename, surname and NL numbers required for all registered players together with email / phone contacts for the club secretary / team captain plus any other contact details. Later registrations forwarded in writing, letter or email to the league secretary before they are eligible to play with a 24hour deadline for new signings during the season. Players must be fully paid up members of the relevant club before playing. A club playing an unregistered player will be fined £10 and 0-21 will ensue on the match card. All fines paid within one month of written notification. Failure to do so will result in a further £10 fine. No fines to be outstanding one month after the final fixture or club(s) will face possible expulsion from the league.

6 - If a player concedes a game, the players score is to remain as it was when the game was abandoned and his opponent awarded 21 points. If a player is taken ill during a game, an unused registered reserve can substitute and continue the game from the point where the illness occurred. If a match is abandoned, all games plus any unfinished games will have to be completed within the 3 week rule and the scores of any games in progress must stand. All match irregularities must be highlighted and the results secretary informed.

7 - The condition of the green will determine whether a game is played or cancelled. Both teams must turn up and wait the final decision, no later than 45 minutes after the scheduled start. Both team captains will agree the fitness of the green with the **HOME** captain having the final say. In the event of the green being unfit, the two teams should agree a new date **IMMEDIATELY**, to be played within 21 days, informing the league secretary in the process.

8 - Scheduled league matches **MUST** be played on the allocated fixture date unless inclement weather makes rule 6 applicable. Matches can only be cancelled in **VERY EXTREME** circumstances. A written request within 7 days has to be received by both the opposing club and league secretary and **ONLY** the league secretary can instigate the re-scheduled match which must take place within the 3 week rule. **Shortage of players will NOT be a valid excuse to cancel a match.** Sufficient players have to be registered before the season commences to cover illness and holidays so that matches should never be cancelled for those reasons. Re-arranged games can only consist of players registered at the time of the initial fixture. If a re-arranged match is not completed in the 3 week period, the league officials will decide a replay date which both teams have to fulfil or face a £10 fine. If only 1 team turns up they will be awarded all 18 points. If both teams fail to fulfil the fixture, they will be awarded 0 points each. All scheduled league matches must be completed in unison on the final fixture date, weather permitting. If the final match of the season is postponed, 5 days will be the maximum time to complete the fixture or the above ruling will be enforced.

9 - All players must strive to be punctual for the scheduled start, and a 45 minute concession will be the deadline for playing members subject to discussion between both team captains. The home team shall vacate their green 15 minutes prior to the match commencing to enable the away side to have the final 15 minute roll-up practise before the match starting time. This arrangement is flexible for both team captains because of their paperwork commitments with the away team captain still subject to the 15 minute practise restriction.

10 Any 'walk-over' will count as 21-0 on the results record. No fine will be incurred for shortage of players up to and including fielding 4 players. A fine of £10 per player will be incurred for every player short of this figure with a maximum £40 fine for a team not fulfilling their scheduled fixture on the fixture date (weather permitting or extreme circumstances as agreed by the committee). Any team fielding a reduced number of players must be highlighted on the results record as 'No Player'.

11 - Subject to the allocated division system, 2 teams will be relegated and promoted each season (subject to new applications and withdrawals). Promoted teams are guaranteed promotion the following season. Divisional merit winners decided on games won. Aggregate if tied.

12- In the event of teams being tied on points and aggregate, to decide promotion / relegation, the combined head to head between the teams will be the deciding factor. If still not decided, the number of wins will determine the winning team with a play-off being the final option.

13- CUP MATCHES - All clubs must enter the Darwen Vets League TEAM KO competition - Salesbury Trophy. All clubs must enter the minimum number of regular playing members into the SINGLES / DOUBLES competitions (played Fridays) which reflect the MAXIMUM number of teams the club have in the Darwen Vets league. One team (minimum 1 player / pair), 2 teams (minimum 2 players / pairs) etc. A £10 fine will be enforced for every team / player / pair (must be from the same club) that do not support the competitions. All players playing in cup competitions must be a registered regular league playing member for that club in this league.

14 - If a club fails to provide a representative at award occasions when one is organised, any cash prize won by that club / individual(s), shall be forfeited and returned to association funds.

15 - Any proposed rule changes / applications / withdrawals to be received in writing by the league Secretary 14 days prior to the annual Darwen Vets AGM (1 vote per club).

16 - Any matters / disputes not covered by these rules will be decided upon by the league committee whose decision will be Final. -----13th March 2026.