

# **Fylde Amateur Bowling Association**

## **2025**

### **League Rules & Byelaws**

### **Rules of Team Cup Competitions**

#### **General**

1, The Association to be known as the “Fylde Amateur Bowling Association” and is open to male & female bowlers living in the area covered by the boundaries of the North Lancashire and Fylde County Bowling Association and for players eligible for County selection by such Association.

It is preferred that payment of agreed team entry fees be made to the Treasurer at the A.G.M. when teams are registered for the upcoming season. Clubs/Teams who are unable to do this will be allowed up to the 31<sup>st</sup> March for payments to be received. Payments can be made by means of Cash, Cheque or Bank Transfer. Cheques should be made payable to “**Fylde Amateur Bowling Association**” and Bank Transfers made by using your Club/Team name as the reference. Bank Account details may change from time to time so current bank account details will be issued at the Annual General Meeting each year.

If any team registration fees are not paid by 31<sup>st</sup> March a £10 fine will be levied and if this and the fees are still not paid within a further 14 days the team will be suspended from further league fixtures.

2, The affairs of the Association shall be governed by an Executive Committee to consist of representatives and officers appointed annually at the A.G.M. by each Club/Team. Each team registered with the association shall have one vote at the Annual General Meeting. A representative of each Club/Team must attend the Annual General Meeting, or a £10 fine will be issued to the offending Club/Teams.

3, The officers of the Association shall comprise of a Chairman, Business Secretary, Results & Registrations Secretary, Treasurer, Fixtures Secretary, two auditors and four other committee members. In the absence of the Chairman the Business Secretary adopts the role of Vice Chairman for the meeting.

4, Any Fylde club desirous of being affiliated must be duly proposed and seconded and voted upon at the Annual General Meeting, this also affects clubs who wish to be reinstated.

5, Any new Club/Team joining the Association, must submit a printed list of their members, wishing to play in the Association, to the Associations Registrations Secretary on or before the 31<sup>st</sup> March for the coming season. This list should detail Christian name, Surname & B.C.G.B.A. registration number. For all existing clubs in the Association, the list of registered players from previous season will be automatically carried over to form their starting list of registered players for the coming season. There will be no requirement for existing clubs to forward a list of their registered members to the Registrations Secretary, unless they wish to do so. Any amendments to a Club/Teams existing list of members can be made at any time by contacting the Registrations Secretary with details of members to be added or removed from the existing list. For league matches and with

exception to the last 4 games of the season, a team may field any player, even if they have not been registered with the Registrations Secretary providing that: -

- I.** They currently hold a valid B.C.G.B.A. Registration Number.
- II.** They are a member of the Club.
- III.** They have not played any other games for another club in the Association during the season.

Any team in breach of the above will be deemed to have played an unregistered player. Any team playing an unregistered player shall: -

**5.1,** Incur an automatic fine of £10.00 for each unregistered person playing in the match. Any fine so imposed must be paid to the Association Treasurer within 7 days, or this will be increased by a further £10.00 for each subsequent 7 days, or part thereof. If a fine remains unpaid for a period of 28 days, the Executive Committee have the power to take such action as it deems necessary to discipline the offending club.

**5.2,** Have the result of that particular game amended to 21-0 in favour of the non-offending team.

**5.3,** If the breach occurs in a league fixture: have 5 points deducted from their League total for the season. This to apply if the player won or lost his game.

The Executive Committee have the power to refuse the registration of any player, or cancel this where they deem it necessary, and their decision shall be final, without appeal at law or otherwise.

**6,** The Annual General Meeting and prize presentation evening should be held during November each year. Notices of Motion for alterations of Rules and Byelaws of the Association or Team Cup Competition, must be received by the Business Secretary not later than 30<sup>th</sup> September each year. Such suggestions to be considered by the Executive Committee and they to bring forward a recommendation at the Annual General Meeting.

**7,** The Financial Year End of the Association be 30<sup>th</sup> September in each year. The Accounts to be audited and a copy of the balance sheet, together with the agenda and notice calling the Annual General Meeting, shall be sent to affiliated clubs at least 7 days prior to the Annual General Meeting. An Account shall be opened at a local branch of an approved Bank or Building Society. All monies received shall be paid by the Association Treasurer into the Bank or Building Society and he shall submit a Statement of Accounts at the Annual General Meeting and at any other time on request. All cheques shall be signed by two from the Secretaries, Treasurer or Chairman.

**8,** A Special Meeting may be called on the request of not less than 3 Clubs. The notice calling the meeting shall state the nature of the business and none other shall be transacted.

**9,** No Rule or Byelaw shall be altered, rescinded or added to without the consent of a majority decision of the teams present and voting at the Annual General Meeting, or at an Extra Ordinary General Meeting convened as in Rule 8, for the specific purpose of amendment of these Rules or Byelaws.

**10,** Each club shall be furnished with a copy of the Rules and Byelaws of the Association and should be in possession of an up-to-date version of the Laws of the game as adopted by the British Crown Green Bowling Association. The Executive Committee shall have the power to deal with any infringement or offence of the Association Rules or Byelaws or decide upon any complaint in connection with Association matters by any club or player. They shall also have the power as circumstances warrant to either caution, fine, suspend for a specific period or expel any such club or player. If the offence is found to affect the result

of a League match, the Executive Committee may also deduct points up to a maximum of 10.

**11,** Any Club protesting against another Club or player shall do so by means of a resolution passed by the Committee of the Club so protesting. Accompanying the protest, a written statement of the facts relied upon shall be sent to the Association Business Secretary and at the same time a copy must be sent to the Club protested against. A protest regarding all matches must be made within 7 days of the match being played. The Executive Committee shall meet to investigate and make a ruling on any infringement reported.

**12,** During the last four weeks of the season, no player who has taken part in 8 matches may play for any other team, in the same or lower division, in a League or Cup Match. Any Team playing an ineligible player shall be subject to the penalties laid down in Rule 5. The Secretary shall also be instructed to draw attention of the Executive Committee to infringements of this Rule and the Executive Committee to take any further such steps as they deem necessary in accordance with Rule 10.

**13,** No player having played in one F.A.B.A. League team shall play for any other differing F.A.B.A League team during the same “week”. The “week” to be Monday to the following Sunday inclusive. A player shall not play for more than one Club in the Association Competitions in one season, unless;

**13.1** – His original club have withdrawn from the Association after the commencement of the season.

**13.2** – Exceptionally and only before 1<sup>st</sup> June, a club can apply to the Business Secretary, with a letter of agreement from the other club to transfer a player who has played not more than three league matches for the club.

**14,** All teams must play the league fixtures on a Wednesday evening in accordance with the official fixture list. No alterations to these dates except as provided in Rule 20, shall take place without prior agreement from the Association Results Secretary. Any team wishing to re-arrange a match must first of all obtain permission from the Association Results Secretary to a re-arrangement giving reasons for the request. Once permission has been granted the home team captain should provide the opposing team with 3 alternative dates at least 7 days prior to the first of these alternative dates. The dates provided must;

**14.1** – Be prior to the date specified in the fixture list.

**14.2** – Be on at least 2 differing days of the week.

The away team captain must agree to one of these three dates. The agreed date of play must then be notified by means of the home team captain to the Association Results Secretary at least 24 hours before the agreed date.

In the event of both being unable to agree a date within the timeframe allocated the matter will be referred to the League Management Committee who may impose a date for the rearranged match and if either team fails to turn up and play a fine of £10 will be levied and 10 league points deducted on the offending team. The team which does turn up to play will be deemed to have wone all games 21-11 for the purpose of the league merit tables. If both teams fail to comply with the league ruling BOTH teams will be deducted 10 league points. The game will be declared a 0 – 0 draw for the sake of the league tables. Not withstanding the above matches scheduled for the last two Wednesdays of a season may not be rearranged unless at least one month’s notice is given by the team seeking rearrangement

**15,** The number constituting each League Team in a match shall be 8 players. Each game shall be 21 up. 8 identical jacks tested and stamped by Official Standard Jack makers or Testers in accordance with the British Crown Green Bowling Association Regulations must

be supplied for practice by both sides and 4 of these shall be used for the match. Members of the visiting team shall have the lead of the jack at the initial end and the visiting player shall have the choice of placing the footer within the meaning of Law 3.1 of the Game of Bowls. Both team captains shall agree when the second four matches shall start before the first four matches commence.

**16,** Matches to commence at 7.00pm except during April and August when they shall commence at 6-30pm. Any matches during September will commence at 6.15pm. This latter time may be adjusted to commence earlier or later if floodlights are available subject to the agreement of the visiting captain. At the start or end of the season a match can start earlier due to poor light only if both team captains agree.

Visiting teams to be allowed 15 minutes practice immediately preceding the commencement of the match with the exclusive use of the green during this period. No player may practice on an opponent's green on the day of a League or Cup Match unless he is a bona fide member of a club which also has usage of the green concerned.

**17,** The final match result and individuals scores must be agreed by both captains when the match is completed. A detailed result sheet of each league match must be forwarded immediately by the team captain or a representative of the home team to the Association Results Secretary to be received by 9:00pm on the Thursday following the completion of each match. Within 4 days of the match ending the away team captain should check the web site to confirm the results have been submitted correctly and in the case of dispute report any errors to the Association Results Secretary. If submitted electronically via website, email or text message it is the responsibility of the home team captain or designated record keeper to retain details of the match result until the end of the season in case of disputes.

A £10 fine will be levied for failure to comply.

A £10.00 fine will be levied on the home team for late submission of results.

Any fines incurred under this Rule will also be subject to the conditions laid down in Rule 5.1 where non payment of such fine occurs.

**18,** The championship shall go to the team obtaining the greatest number of points. Matches to be decided on the points progress system: one point shall be given for each individual win; three points shall be given to the visiting team if they secure the best aggregate at the end of the game and two points shall be given to the home team if they secure the best aggregate at the end of the game. Maximum points to be collected are eleven points by the visiting team and ten points by the home team. If there is a tie on the aggregate score the visiting team shall receive two points and the home team one point.

In the case of a tie League Positions will be decided as follows: -

1. The team with the most games won.
2. The team with the most games drawn.
3. The team with the highest individual aggregate difference.
4. Greatest number of points in games between the teams concerned.
5. Better aggregate points difference in games between the teams concerned.

In the unlikely event of the teams still being level a play off will take place between the teams concerned.

**19,** Providing the size of a division is not reduced after the fixtures have been prepared the two clubs occupying the bottom positions in each division at the end of the season shall be relegated and the two clubs occupying the top positions in each division be promoted. Where a team withdraws subsequent to the preparation of the fixtures the Association Results Secretary shall draft a suggested constitution taking into the account the subsequent reduction in competing teams. This to be agreed or amended by the Executive Committee at the Annual General Meeting. Nothing in this Rule shall operate to prevent the A.G.M. promoting or relegating more than two clubs if they wish to do so.

**20,** In the case of inclement weather or unforeseen cause interfering with a match the two Captains shall decide whether conditions are such as that the match can be completed. If both Captains agree on a postponement or are unable to agree that the conditions are unsuitable, they must confer IMMEDIATELY to reach agreement on a revised date. At the time of postponement, the home team Captain should offer the away team Captain three alternative dates for play. The dates provided must:

**20.1** - Be within 28 days of the postponed fixture and prior to the date of the last scheduled match of the season.

**20.2** – Be on at least two differing days of the week.

The away team Captain must agree within 24 hours of the postponed fixture to one of the dates. The agreed date of play must be notified by BOTH Captains to the Associations Results Secretary and this notification must be received by the Results Secretary WITHIN 48 hours of the original postponement. Any infringement of this rule by either team shall be punishable by an automatic fine of £10.00 followed by implementation of the conditions laid down in League Rule 5.1.

In the unlikely event where both team Captains cannot agree on a date then the fixture WILL be played on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after the 28 days since the postponed fixture or on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday prior to the date of the last scheduled match of the season which ever is the earlier. Any team failing to attend will forfeit the match to the opposing team and have 10 league points deducted.

In the event where the last match of the season is postponed due to inclement weather then the season will be extended by an extra week to allow this fixture to be played.

**21,** Prizes shall be awarded to the Merit winner and runner up of each Division. These shall be determined by the number of points gained for a particular team by each player on the basis of one point for a home win and two points for an away win. Matches played in another team cannot be included towards a merit prize. If the points are identical the prize will be awarded to the player having the highest points difference to his credit. If there is still a tie, then prizes shall be awarded to each player so tying.

The Association Results Secretary shall determine the winner of each merit prize. Claims are not required but may be presented by the captain within 7 days of the completion of the season's League Fixtures if they so wish.

**22,** In the event of a player having a walkover or where it is subsequently found that a player has played an ineligible player then said player shall count 21-0 for the purpose of the match. For the purpose of his individual aggregate the player presents to have deemed to have won 21-11.

**23,** The draw is to be done in two halves starting with the home team Captain placing the score cards of his selected first four players face down. The away team Captain then randomly covers these with the cards of his chosen first four players. Both Captains then share the duty of completing the names of home and away team players on the score cards. The same process is then repeated for the second four players. Any player absents when called to play must be replaced by a reserve and shall not therefore play in the match.

**24,** Each competition game shall be marked by an official marker of each club. Score cards shall be checked every third end in accordance with B.C.G.B.A. law 3.4. In the event of a score error which can not be agreed by markers or respective Captains the score shall revert to the end where both markers show the score to have been agreed as correct. An official score card received by the Association Results Secretary and signed by the captain or any other person delegated by the captain of each competing team will be deemed undisputed proof of a final score of the match.

**25,** The Club winning the Division One League Championship shall hold the Bickerstaffe Trophy for the ensuing twelve months.

The Champions of each division will in addition receive a prize for a minimum amount of £60 and the runners up in each division shall receive a prize for a minimum of £35.

All clubs holding any Association trophies shall be responsible to return the same in good condition to the Association Business Secretary or Executive Committee no later than the 15<sup>th</sup> September. Any Trophies not returned by this date shall be subject to a fine of £1.00 for each day they remain overdue.

**26,** All league and individual prizes must be collected at the Annual General Meeting or other evening set aside for this purpose. Prizes will be forfeited unless attendance is not possible due to illness or other acceptable reason. Such reason must be notified to the Business Secretary prior to the commencement of the presentation evening.

**27,** All property of the Association shall be vested in the Executive Committee at the time being who shall hold the same upon trust for the league.

In the event of the Association being disbanded through any cause whatever the Executive Committee for the time being shall take charge of all Shields, Cups, Prizes etc.

The Shields, Trophies, Cups and Prizes should be insured in the name of the Association.

**28,** Any Club or Player failing to comply with the above rules and requirements therein laid down will be liable to be fined or such offer penalty imposed as may be decided upon by the Executive Committee, that Club or Player will be liable to be expelled from the Association.

**29.** No variation to the dates or venues of matches as laid down by the official Fixture List will be permissible without reference to the League Results Secretary.

### **Rules of Team Cup Competition**

1. Open only to clubs of the FYLDE AMATEUR BOWLING ASSOCIATION.
2. Teams to be drawn in pairs; Match on green of first team drawn of each pair; except semi-finals and final; venue of these to be fixed by the Executive Committee on neutral greens.
3. Players eligible for the League are eligible for the competition but a player must not play for more than one cup team during the same year.
4. All teams shall consist ONLY of players who have taken part in League fixtures for that Team prior to the cup game being played. This rule shall apply only to the 2<sup>nd</sup> and subsequent rounds of the competition. (See also rule 12 in Rules and Byelaws).
5. All ties must be played on a Monday night specified on the Online Bowls web site. The only exceptions to this are those specified in 5.1 and 5.2 below.

5.1 - If the green of the home team is not available on the prescribed date due to a pre-laid down League Match or Cup Tie of this or another League, the two captains should endeavour to agree a mutually acceptable date for the playing of the tie. Due to the numerous local Leagues taking place on most other nights any such date should be with the mutual consent of both teams.

5.2 - If the two teams cannot mutually agree to a revised date the tie must take place on the following Sunday evening. Both teams must prepare to accept this amendment.

5.3 - In any event the tie must be played prior to the date of the next scheduled round.

5.4 – If inclement weather causes postponement from the original date the conditions laid down in 5.1, 5.2 and 5.3 apply.

5.5 – Unavailability of players will not be accepted as a reason of the non-completion of ties at the times shown above. A team not complying with the above will automatically be withdrawn from the competition.

6. Players to be handicapped as per table below; handicap points to be placed on score cards at the BEGINNING of each game; games to be 21 up; and a practice to be allowed as in a league rules, away team to have first throw of the jack. Note; In the event where both teams play on the same green or both teams are playing on a neutral green then the handicap will be determined by the highest division team v the lower division team irrespective of which team comes out first in the draw. If both teams are in the same division, then they will play off scratch.

Home	Away	Points received	Neutral green
Div 1	Div 1	2 Away	Level
Div 1	Div 2	3 Away	1 Div 2
Div 1	Div 3	4 Away	2 Div 3
Div 1	Div 4	5 Away	3 Div. 4
Div 2	Div 1	1 Away	1 Div 2
Div 2	Div 2	2 Away	Level
Div 2	Div 3	3 Away	1 Div 3
Div 2	Div 4	4 Away	2 Div. 4
Div 3	Div 1	Level	2 Div 3
Div 3	Div 2	1 Away	1 Div 3
Div 3	Div 3	2 Away	Level
Div 3	Div 4	3 Away	1 Div. 4
Div 4	Div 1	1 Home	3 Div 4
Div 4	Div 2	Level	2 Div 4
Div 4	Div 3	1 Away	1 Div 4
Div 4	Div 4	2 Away	Level

7. A team entering the competition for the first time shall be allocated a Division One handicap for the first year of entry unless due to known standard of the team it is determined otherwise by the Executive Committee.

After the first season a team allocated a Division One handicap shall retain this until such time as it fails to gain promotion within the respective division.

8. Winning team to hold the cup for twelve months which must be returned to the Association when requested. The winning team, runners up and semi- finalists to receive prizes.

9. In the event of a player being absent from a cup match the game shall be awarded 21-0 to his opponent. No handicap score shall be credited to the absent player. Any team playing an unregistered player in a Cup Tie will be subject to the penalties detailed in League Rule 5.

10. The winning side in all rounds shall be determined on total aggregate score alone.

**11.** The Tie shall be played within 7 days on a green of visiting club, handicap allowance altered accordingly, if a tie in replay, the second reply to be on a neutral green to be decided by the Executive Committee with the handicap as per Rule 6.

**12.** The Laws of the game as adopted by the B.C.G.B.A. and the Rules of the F.B.A.A. to apply to this competition on all points not specifically covered by these Rules and the Executive Committee of the F.A.B.A. are empowered to adjudicate upon any matters of dispute in connection with the competition.

**13.** - The order of play in the qualifying rounds prior to the semi finals shall be determined as in League Rules 23. In the Semi Finals and Final;

**13.1** - The nearest team to the venue has first practice between 6.30 and 6.40pm, the furthest team from the venue to have second practice 6.40 and 6.50pm.

**13.2** - The team practicing first to have lead blocks one, three, five and seven in the match. The team practicing second lead blocks two, four, six and eight in the match.

**13.3** Each Captain must submit the names of his eight players to the designated officials prior to the draw taking place. All games must be played in order in which they are drawn by the officials. If a player is not present when called a reserve must be submitted by the team immediately. The reserve cannot be a player already drawn to play in a subsequent game in the match. If a player is not present when called and no reserve is immediately available, the game will be forfeited by that team. 21 points shall be awarded to the opposing player. No handicap score shall be credited to the absent player.

**14.** Any team not fulfilling an advertised Cup Match and not giving a maximum of three days notice of their intentions will be fined £10.

Last updated at the 2024 Annual General meeting.

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