



BOWLING LEAGUE OF IRELAND

Instituted 1927

CONSTITUTION AND RULES

UPDATE HISTORY from April 2014

Updated 2nd April 2015

See minutes of the SGM of 1st April 2015 for details of changes.

Updated 2nd December 2014

See minutes of the AGM of 27th November 2014 for details of changes.

Updated 29th August 2014

Rule 25 amended to reflect motion passed at the SGM on the 27th of August 2014

Updated 10th April 2014

Arising out of an automated comparison of the 2013 and 2014 yearbooks a number of errors were found and these have now been corrected. These errors occurred in the following sections

- Rule 4 management
- Rule 10 Development Fund
- Rule 13 Appeals and Protests
- Cullen Cup
- O'D Cup
- Shott Cup

Updated 3rd April 2014

Rule 4 Management and Rule 12 Attire amended to reflect motions passed at SGM on the 2nd April 2014.

Constitution

Definitions

Lawn Bowls – The sport of outdoor flat green bowls played on either a natural or synthetic surface

1. Title

The name of the League shall be The Bowling League of Ireland, hereinafter referred to as the BLI, which is the Governing Body of the sport of lawn bowls for male players in the Republic of Ireland, and its colours shall be blue, green and gold.

2. Objects

The objects of the League shall be to promote, foster and regulate the game of bowls in the Republic of Ireland in affiliation with the Irish Bowling Association.

3. Laws of the Game

The code of laws of the game in force under The World Bowls Board shall be binding on all League Clubs.

Open tournaments must be licensed by The Irish Bowling Association and must comply with the laws of the game.

4. Management

The business of the League shall be conducted by a Council consisting of the officers, namely President, Vice-President, Immediate Past President, Honorary Secretary, Honorary Assistant Secretary, Honorary Treasurer, Honorary Competitions Secretary, Honorary League Secretary, Public Relations Officer and National Children's Officer in whose name the League may sue and be sued, and one delegate from each affiliated club whose headquarters are not more than 80 Kilometres from the GPO in Dublin. If the Anti-Doping Officer is not on Council as either an Officer or Club delegate, he may sit on council but without voting rights. Similarly if a staff umpire, staff coach, or sub-committee convenor who are also members of the BLI are not on Council as either an Officer or Club delegate, they may sit on council but without voting rights. Any affiliated club whose headquarters are more than 80 kilometres from the G. P. O. in Dublin is entitled to attend and has a vote.

The Officers mentioned in the first sentence with the exception of the President, Vice President and Immediate Past President shall each be paid an honorarium, the amount of which shall be agreed by Council.

The President and Vice-President shall occupy their respective offices for one year at the conclusion of which the Vice-President shall be appointed President and a member appointed Vice-President who shall have been nominated by an affiliated club in accordance with a Rota of clubs determined from time to time by the Council. If a President or Vice-President vacates office, the club that nominated him shall have the right to nominate a member to fill the vacancy. If at any time the club entitled to nominate one of its members for the position of Vice-President fails to do so, the opportunity shall

pass on to the club next in line on the Presidential Rota. Other than the Council giving approval for a change in the Rota to cover a special occasion, clubs that fail to submit a nomination for the position of Vice President shall not be afforded another opportunity to do so until their turn comes around again in the Rota system.

The President, and in his absence the Vice-President, shall preside at all Council Meetings, and in the absence of both President and Vice-President, Council Members present shall elect a Chairman from their number. In the event of an equality of voting, the Chairman shall have a second or casting vote.

Country clubs whose headquarters are more than 80 Kilometres from the GPO in Dublin and who are affiliated to the BLI may be represented at Council Meetings when matters which directly affect their interests are concerned.

The Council each year at their first meeting after the Annual General Meeting shall appoint subcommittees including the Selection Committees, and shall have power to delegate to such subcommittees whatever duties and powers the Council may consider necessary for the proper functioning of the League, subject to the overriding control of the Council. The President shall be an ex officio member of all subcommittees except Selection Committees but shall not have the right to vote at any meeting of a subcommittee unless he is an elected member thereof.

The Officers shall form the Executive of the BLI and manage the affairs of the BLI when the council is not in session. Four shall form a quorum provided a minimum of 3 clubs are represented. Any decision of the Executive shall be binding unless and until it has been reversed by the Council

The Council shall meet at least once in each calendar month unless the officers decide there is not sufficient business to necessitate such a meeting. At least 7 days' notice of each Council meeting shall be given by the Honorary Secretary and 15 shall form a quorum. The agenda for the meeting and the minutes of the previous meeting will be included in the notice and shall be sent to all clubs.

Any club with a team involved in leagues except the Southern Division" which does not have a delegate present at 3 consecutive meetings shall be fined €100.

The officers of the Council shall hold office from their appointment or election at an Annual General Meeting until the next Annual General Meeting.

The Council shall have power to fill by election any vacancy amongst the officers other than the Vice-President between Annual General Meetings.

5. Honorary Members

The Council shall have the power to nominate as an Honorary Member of the BLI any gentleman whose position amongst bowlers or whose services in the interests of the game are such as in the opinion of the Council entitle him to that distinction. The intention to propose the election of an Honorary Member shall be notified to any meeting of the Council, and if agreed at that meeting it shall go forward to the next AGM for approval by the members.

An Honorary Member:-

1. Shall be exempt from paying both the Affiliation and Development Fees.

2. Shall not be entitled to attend Council Meetings, unless he is an officer of the BLI or a delegate of an affiliated club.
3. Shall be invited as a guest to attend the Unfurling of the BLI Flag, the BLI Championship Dinner and the Annual Dinner.
4. He may attend the Annual General Meeting but shall not have a vote unless he is a delegate from his club.

The number of Honorary Members shall not exceed 8

6. Annual General Meetings

An Annual General Meeting shall be held in November in each year for the purpose of (1) considering annual reports which shall be submitted by the Honorary Secretary, Honorary Competitions Secretary, Honorary League Secretary and Public Relations Officer; (2) election and appointment of officers; (3) consideration of motions duly submitted to the meeting by the Council or affiliated clubs; (4) appoint a Medical Officer, Anti-Doping Officer and a National Children's Officer, (5) General Business.

The business of the meeting shall be conducted in accordance with the standing orders. A Copy of standing orders, which control the conduct of a General meeting, shall be issued to every club.

Nominations for all officers should be received by the Honorary Secretary not later than one calendar month previous to the Annual General Meeting, and if not so received, shall be invalid.

If no valid nomination has been received for an office, other than the offices of President and Vice-President, the outgoing officer shall be eligible for re-election at the Meeting without nomination. In the event of such officers being unwilling to accept re-election, the meeting shall have power to elect any member of an affiliated club who is known to be willing to accept that office.

It shall be the right of any affiliated club or the Executive to submit a notice of Motion for consideration to the Annual General Meeting such notice must reach the Honorary Secretary at least one calendar month prior to the date fixed for the meeting.

The Honorary Secretary shall send to the Honorary Secretaries of each affiliated club one copy of (1) the notice convening the meeting (2) the agenda (3) reports of Honorary Secretary, Honorary Competitions Secretary, Honorary League Secretary, Public Relations Officer the interim report of the Honorary Treasurer (4) every notice of motion duly submitted for consideration at the meeting, and one copy to each member of the Council not less than 10 days prior to the date fixed for the meeting.

The meeting shall be open to all members of affiliated clubs for discussion on any subject raised but voting shall be confined to duly appointed club delegates (each club being entitled to three delegates) and the officers of the League.

7. Special General Meeting

A Special General Meeting shall be summoned only to consider changing constitutional and/or competition rules, or in accordance with clause 13, or to consider any matter considered by the Council to be of sufficient importance to justify the holding of a Special General Meeting. It may be summoned at the discretion of the Council, or on a written requisition to the Honorary Secretary of The Bowling League from an affiliated club. The requisition must be accompanied by a fee of €100, and must state the matter for consideration at the meeting. When the Council has decided that the

requirements for summoning a Special General Meeting have been met, the notice convening the meeting shall be sent to each affiliated club. Only in that event shall the €100 fee be refunded to the club requesting the meeting.

The notice convening the meeting shall state the nature of business to be considered and no other business shall be transacted at the meeting. At least ten days' notice of the meeting shall be given to each affiliated club.

The persons entitled to attend and vote shall be the same as at the Annual General Meeting.

8. Membership

All applications for affiliation to the League shall be made in writing to the Honorary Secretary giving the name of the club and the names, addresses, telephone numbers, and email addresses of its office holders. The appropriate club affiliation fee as specified in clause 9 should be sent with the application. The Council shall at its first meeting after receipt of the application decide by vote whether to accept or refuse the application and a ballot shall be taken if demanded by any member of the Council.

9. Subscriptions and Fees

Each club shall pay an annual subscription to The Bowling League Of Ireland at a rate to be proposed by Council for approval by the members at an Annual General Meeting or Special Meeting and calculated as follows:

Each Club shall pay an annual subscription to the BLI as follows: -

Clubs whose greens are not more than 80 Kilometres from the GPO in Dublin shall pay a subscription of €35.00.

Clubs whose greens are more than 80 Kilometres from the GPO in Dublin shall pay a subscription of €20.00.

In addition each club shall pay an annual fee to the BLI at a rate per member for each member who has taken part in a BLI competition during the preceding year. All subscriptions and fees for each year shall be payable to the Honorary Treasurer not later than 1st May in that year. If any club fails to pay by the 1st May a fine of €50.00 will be imposed on the club concerned.

The rate of subscription for each member shall be €20.

In addition each Club shall purchase at least one ticket for the Annual BLI Dinner.

The Council shall have the power to reduce the subscription rate for a particular club due to special financial circumstances that the Council deems appropriate. Any club requesting a reduction must send a written request annually to the Honorary Secretary at least two weeks before the 1st May of that year. Any requests received after that date will not be considered.

10. Development Fund

A development charge at a rate to be proposed by Council for approval at an Annual General Meeting shall be charged for each member of a club who has taken part in a Bowling League of Ireland Competition during the preceding year.

All development charges for each year shall be payable to the Honorary Treasurer not later than the 1st May in that year. From the year 2013 until further notice, the charge for each member shall be €3.00

Players under 25 who have a current student card, and players under 18, are exempt from paying the BLI subscription and development charges.

The development charge together with any funds appropriated by the Council and any income arising from the investment thereof shall be accumulated and shall comprise the Development Fund.

The Finance Committee shall manage the funds comprising the Development Fund and all matters concerning the investment of the funds shall be determined by a unanimous decision of the Finance Committee. The Secretary and the Treasurer shall jointly have the authority to sign on behalf of the Bowling League of Ireland any documents relating to the management or investment of the funds.

The funds shall be available to foster and develop the game of bowls in the Republic of Ireland by way of interest-free loans to member clubs and to finance the acquisition and development of bowling greens and premises.

An application by a member club for a loan shall be considered by the Council on the recommendation of the Development Committee. All loans approved shall be paid back to the Bowling League of Ireland by either 6 monthly or 12 monthly instalments and must be paid in full within three years.

If a loan or any part of it remains unpaid after three years then interest at the rate of 5 % will be added to the outstanding balance. Before a loan is advanced, the club must return the approval for a loan form, duly signed by the President and Secretary and dated. Clubs which are in existence for less than two years that request a loan must submit a guarantee or letter from their Bank that they are financially capable of repaying the Loan. The Council shall be empowered to accept loans from the member clubs to augment the Development Fund.

11. Selection Committee

The selection committee shall consist of four members, each from a different club, and they shall be responsible for selecting both junior and senior inter association teams and any other representative BLI teams. The election of the four members shall take place at the first Council meeting following the AGM, and shall serve for a period of two years. The International Selector, shall be nominated by Council to the IBA for a three year term, according to the Rota as laid down by the IBA and he shall be convenor and chairman of the selection committee, and shall have a vote. The selection committee may select a captain for each team who may be co-opted on to the committee to assist in the selection of that team, but shall not have a vote. Selectors shall not be eligible to play on teams for which they are responsible for selection.

12. Attire

When the Council so rules, players must wear club blazers and white flannels.

For all Saturday and Sunday league or cup matches, semi-finals and finals of cup competitions and semi-finals and finals of the Championships, competing players must wear regulation dress comprising white or cream trousers or tailored shorts, white socks and outer garments as defined at the end of this clause. Belts and braces, if worn, shall be white or cream. Regulation bowling shoes shall be worn for all matches.

Players on teams or sides shall wear white or club coloured shirts/polo shirts, with or without a sponsor's logo, as have been approved in advance by the Council. All players must wear shirts/polo shirts of the same colour.

Cardigans, pullovers, headgear, jackets and wind protectors, where worn, shall be white or club coloured, with or without a sponsors' logo, providing such colours and designs have been approved in advance by the Council.

Outer rainwear shall be white, as per manufactures' designs, or such other club coloured rainwear as has been approved in advance by the Council.

13. Appeals and Protests

Should any dispute arise as to the meaning or interpretation of any of these rules or of the competition rules or upon any point not covered by the rules, any of the parties to the dispute may appeal to or lodge a protest with the Council.

All such appeals and protests shall be sent in writing to the Honorary Secretary who shall thereupon refer the matter to the next ordinary meeting of the Council or if the matter is of an urgent nature the Secretary may if practicable call a Special General Meeting of the Council to deal with it or otherwise refer it to the Emergency Committee.

14. Suspension

Any club refusing compliance with or acting in contravention of a decision of the Council may be suspended or expelled from the League by the Council. Such suspension or expulsion shall be pronounced by the Council at a Special Meeting called to consider same and of which meeting the club concerned shall receive at least 7 days clear notice.

A notice of such suspension or expulsion shall be sent by the Honorary Secretary by registered post on the day following the decision, to the Honorary Secretary of the club and thereupon the said club shall forfeit all subscriptions and other fees paid by it and all rights, benefits and privileges of League membership, but the said club shall nevertheless have a right of appeal to a Special General Meeting of the League against the decision of Council provided that the requisition for such appeal is sent to the Honorary Secretary in accordance with clause 7 not later than 10 days after the said decision of the Council.

15. Role of Officers

- a) The **Honorary Secretary** shall be responsible for the proper carrying out of the day to day secretarial work of the League as directed by the Council including the maintenance of proper records of all business transacted at General and Council Meetings, and shall be an ex officio member of all committees without voting powers unless he is an elected member of such committee.
- b) The **Honorary Assistant Secretary** shall be responsible for such duties as may be assigned to him by the Honorary Secretary and the Council.
- c) The **Honorary Treasurer** shall be responsible for the receipt and disbursement of all League funds and for the maintenance of proper accounts in respect of such. He shall submit his report and accounts duly audited in respect of the previous financial year at an S.G.M. to be held before the 30th of April of each year. At the S.G.M. the election and appointment of an Auditor shall take place. Annual accounts shall be kept and made available to the Revenue Commissioners on request. The financial year shall end on 31st December annually.
- d) The **Honorary Competitions Secretary** shall be responsible for the organisation and the carrying into effect of the Singles, Pairs, Triples and Fours Championships (Senior and Junior) and the Senior Fours including the closing dates for each round thereof and the maintenance of proper records of these Championships.
- e) The **Honorary League Secretary** shall be responsible for the preparation of all League and Cup fixtures and the maintenance of proper records of League and Cup Competitions.

The **Honorary Competitions Secretary** and the **Honorary League Secretary** will both be members of the Competitions Committee and each is empowered to convene meetings of that Committee either collectively or in part to assist in the efficient carrying out of his duties.

- f) The **Public Relations Officer** shall be responsible for the promotion of the game of bowls and the Bowling League of Ireland affairs through the media, television, radio, press etc. and also to attain where possible sponsorship for the competitions run by The Bowling League Of Ireland.
- g) The **National Children's Officer** will be responsible for the mandatory vetting of Persons who wish to undertake certain work or activities relating to children or vulnerable persons who participate in the sport of bowls within The Bowling League of Ireland.

16. Inspection of Greens

All synthetic greens shall be inspected by the greens committee before the end of March each year. All natural surfaces shall be inspected by the greens committee before the commencement of any League, Cup or BLI championship matches are played. The Vice President shall be the convenor of

the greens committee, and a minimum of three members of the greens committee must be present at each inspection. A full written report shall be presented to the Council at the May Council Meeting. If any green is not passed for play, the greens convenor shall inform the Honorary Secretary of the BLI, who shall write to the club concerned informing them of the specifics of the decision, and shall request the club to inform him when the necessary work has been carried out, after which the greens committee shall re-inspect the green, where a minimum of three committee members shall be present. The Honorary secretary shall also inform the secretaries of all clubs when a green has been closed, and likewise inform them when it has been passed for play.

The Council shall have the power at any time to close any green during the course of the season if considered unfit for playing matches under the control of the BLI provided the following criteria is followed

Upon a complaint in writing as to the playing condition of a green, the Honorary Secretary shall immediately arrange to have the green inspected by the greens committee, of which a minimum of 3 members shall be present. If the green has been found unfit for play the Honorary secretary shall immediately notify the emergency committee and both the complainant club and the club concerned, and the secretaries of all the clubs. The club whose green is deemed to be unfit for play shall be responsible for arranging all outstanding fixtures until such time as the necessary work has been carried out, at which time the greens committee shall re-inspect the green, where a minimum of 3 committee members shall be present, and if fit for play the greens convenor shall inform the honorary secretary, immediately after the inspection who in turn will write to the club concerned, and the secretaries of all clubs that the green is now fit for play, within 3 days of the greens being inspected.

17. Alteration in Competition Rules

The Competition Rules shall not be enlarged, repealed or altered except by (1) a resolution of a General Meeting passed in the same manner as a resolution altering the Constitution or (2) a resolution of the Council passed by two thirds of those present and voting at a Special Meeting called for that purpose, the notice convening which shall state the exact nature of proposed alteration or addition, and which notice the members of the Council shall receive at least 14 days prior to the date of meeting.

18. Interpretation of Constitution and Competition Rules

The Council shall have the power to interpret these Rules and the Competition Rules and to decide all matters not specifically provided for therein and their decision shall be final.

19. Doping

The Anti-Doping rules of the Bowling League of Ireland are as the Irish Anti-Doping rules as amended from time to time. All members of Clubs affiliated to the Bowling League of Ireland are bound by the Irish Anti-Doping Rules, which have been circulated to each club, as amended from time to time, and the disciplinary procedures and sanctions contained therein.

20. Income and Property

The income and property of the Bowling League of Ireland shall be applied solely towards the promotion of its main objects as set forth in this Constitution. No portion of the Bowling League of Ireland's income and property shall be paid or transferred directly or indirectly by way of dividend,

bonus or otherwise howsoever by way of profit, to the members of the Bowling League of Ireland. No Officer shall be appointed to any office of the Bowling League of Ireland paid by salary or fees, or receive any remuneration or other benefit in money or money's worth from the Bowling League of Ireland in respect of such office. However, nothing shall prevent any payment in good faith by the Bowling League of Ireland of:

- (a) reasonable and proper remuneration to any member or Officer of the Bowling League of Ireland for any services rendered to the Bowling League of Ireland (other than as an Officer).
- (b) interest at a rate not exceeding 5% per annum on money lent by Officers or other members of the Bowling League of Ireland to the Bowling League of Ireland.
- (c) reasonable and proper rent for premises demised and let by any member of the Bowling League of Ireland (including any Officer) to the Bowling League of Ireland.
- (d) reasonable and proper out-of-pocket expenses incurred by any Officer in connection with their attendance to any matter affecting the Bowling League of Ireland.
- (e) fees, remuneration or other benefit in money or money's worth to any Company of which an Officer may be a member holding not more than one hundredth part of the issued capital of such Company.

21. Winding-up

If upon the winding up or dissolution of the Bowling League of Ireland there remains, after the satisfaction of all its debts and liabilities, any property whatsoever, it shall not be paid to or distributed among the members of the Bowling League of Ireland. Instead, such property shall be given or transferred to some other institution or institutions having main objects similar to the main objects of the Bowling League of Ireland. The institution or institutions to which the property is to be given or transferred shall prohibit the distribution of its or their income and property among its or their members to an extent at least as great as is imposed on the Bowling League of Ireland under or by virtue of clause 20 hereof. Members of the Bowling League of Ireland shall select the relevant institution or institutions at or before the time of dissolution, and if and so far as effect cannot be given to such provisions, then the property shall be given or transferred to some charitable object.

22. Code of Ethics and Good Practice for Children in Sport

The Bowling League of Ireland is fully committed to safeguarding the wellbeing of its members. Every individual in the Bowling League of Ireland should, at all times, show respect and understanding for their rights, safety and welfare, and conduct themselves in a way that reflects the principles of the Bowling League of Ireland and the guidelines contained in the Code of Ethics and Good Practice for Children's Sport in Ireland. It shall be the responsibility of the Children's Officer to make member clubs aware of their responsibilities in accordance with the Code of Ethics and Good Practice for Children's Sport. It shall be the duty of the Children's Officer to provide or to make arrangements for the provision of training for Clubs Children's officers.

23. Indemnity

Members of the Council, its Standing Committees and any ad-hoc committee appointed by the Council shall be indemnified by the Association against all costs, losses and expenses which they may

incur, or may become liable for, by reason of any contract entered into or act or thing done in good faith in accordance with the instructions of the Council, or a General Meeting of the Association.. It shall be the duty of the Association to provide insurance to indemnify the officers for such cost, losses and expenses.

24. Dispute Resolution

Just Sport Ireland:

- (a) Subject to all internal avenues of appeal having been exhausted, this clause shall apply to any dispute or difference arising out of, in connection with or under this Constitution or any rules, bye-laws, codes, policies or equivalent of the BLI. This shall include without limitation any dispute arising out of, under or in connection with the legality of any decision made or procedure used by the BLI or any part of it.
- (b) Each such dispute or difference shall be referred to Just Sport Ireland (JSI) for final and binding arbitration by a single arbitrator in accordance with the JSI Arbitration Rules and in accordance with the Arbitration Act 2010 as amended.
- (c) This clause shall also apply to every participant and member of every Unit (as defined below). Each such participant or member is bound to refer any dispute or difference which remains unresolved after all internal avenues of appeal have been exhausted to JSI arbitration in accordance with sub-clause b) above.
- (d) The provisions of this clause shall apply notwithstanding any other provision to the contrary contained within this Constitution and/or any other rules, bye-laws, codes, policies or equivalent of the BLI and/or any Unit from time to time. This clause applies notwithstanding the level within the BLI that any such dispute or difference occurs in the first instance.
- (e) The effect of this clause is to prohibit any party to such dispute or difference from commencing legal proceedings before the Courts.
- (f) For the purpose of this clause, “Unit” means any team, association, club or committee or sub-committee or other grouping, association or entity of any type which is in turn a member, part of, affiliated to or governed by the BLI.

25. Alterations to Constitution

The foregoing body of rules forming the Constitution of the League shall not be enlarged, repealed or altered except by a resolution for which a Notice of Motion shall have been given in accordance with the foregoing rules, passed by a majority of those present and voting at an Annual or Special General Meeting. The said Notice of Motion shall specify the exact nature of the proposed alteration to the rules. No addition, alteration or amendment shall be made to the objects and/or the income and property clauses in this Constitution for the time being in force unless the same shall have been previously approved in writing by the Revenue Commissioners.

COMPETITION RULES

Rule 1: The competitions of the Bowling League of Ireland are open to all male bona fide members of affiliated clubs and a player can represent one club only in any year unless with the express permission of the Council.

Rule 2: The sides of affiliated clubs whose headquarters are not more than 80 kilometres from the GPO in Dublin shall be formed into divisions by the council who shall have power to divide the division into sections. Further divisions may be set up that involve clubs whose headquarters are more than 80 kilometres from the G. P. O. Dublin.

Rule 3: It shall be the duty of the Honorary League Secretary and the Honorary Competitions Secretary to prepare and submit to the council each year for approval (1) a list of league and cup fixtures (2) a list of dates for each round of the various knockout competitions.

All knockout competition draws shall be made by the council or the competitions Committee who shall fix the venues of all games unless otherwise provided by the rules.

An entry fee of €10 shall apply for each cup competition. No money is to be sent with the entry, the Honorary Treasurer will then invoice each club with the competition fees and the affiliation fess, which must be paid by the 1st May each year as per Constitution Clause 9.

Rule 4: No club shall be allowed to enter more than one side in each division except where a division is divided into two or more sections when it shall be one side in each section. Where a club enters teams in more than one section of a divided league, players that play on a team in one section are ineligible to play for any other of their teams entered in other sections of the same league.

Rule 5: At least two weeks before the first league fixture in any year each club must return in writing to the Honorary League Secretary and Honorary Competitions Secretary a full list of the names, addresses, and if available, telephone numbers and email addresses of members entitled to play for the club.

The name, address, and if available, telephone number and email address of any member joining after that date must be returned in writing to the honorary Competitions secretary and the Honorary League Secretary before such member takes part in any competition or league match. A fine of €100 will be levied on clubs failing to meet deadline stated in this rule.

Rule 6: Entries to the BLI championships must be on the official entry forms, which must be sent to the Honorary Competition Secretary not later than 5.00pm on the closing date as notified on the official entry form. Any entry that is not on the official form will not be accepted. All names for each competition must be stated and be clearly legible.

Any entry that has A.N. Other as a player will be void. The fee for each player shall be €7.00 unless otherwise changed by Council at an annual general or special meeting. No money is to be sent with the entry form. The Honorary Competition Secretary shall send the Honorary Treasurer the number of entries for each club within 4 days of the closing date, The Honorary Treasurer will then invoice each club with the competition fees and the affiliation fess, which must be paid by the 1st may each year as per Constitution Clause 9.

That all BLI Championship fixtures, in each round of the various Singles, Pairs, Triples and Fours Competitions be shown on the Irish Lawn bowls Website in a playdown sheet format but not including the semi-final stage.

Rule 7: At least two weeks before the first league match each club must return to the Honorary League Secretary and Honorary Competition Secretary the names of twelve players to be registered in respect of each of the sides entered by it in Division 1 and 2, as well as 8 players in Division 3, and 8 players in Division 4 where the club has a side entered in Division 5. A fine of €100 will be levied on clubs failing to meet the deadline stated in this rule.

Rule 8: The Council during the playing season shall examine the lists of registered players returned by the clubs and if any player is found to be unacceptable shall require his club to register another player in his place.

Rule 9: Clubs wishing to alter their lists of registered players must notify the Honorary League secretary in writing stating the reason for the change. Alterations in the list shall be effective on receipt of an email from the Honorary League Secretary approving the change.

Rule 10: The Honorary league secretary shall forward to each club not later than 1st May in any year a list of all registered players and shall notify the clubs of subsequent alterations.

Rule 11: Any club playing a member ineligible under these competition rules and requirements shall, in the case of a cup match forfeit the tie or, in a league match the points at stake in the match to their opponents. For both cup and league matches, in addition to the above, a fine of €100 will be levied. The Honorary League Secretary shall notify both the offending club and their opponents of any forfeiture incurred under this rule within 28 days of the match in which the offence occurred. Any allegation or complaint by a club that an ineligible member has been played must be received in writing by the Honorary League Secretary within 14 days of the alleged offence.

Rule 12: Players registered in Division 1 shall not be eligible to play in any junior championship competition. They shall also be ineligible to play in Divisions 2, 3, 4 and 5 and the cup competitions associated with these leagues.

Players registered in Division 2 shall not be eligible to play in any BLI junior championship competition. They shall also be ineligible to play in Divisions 3, 4 and 5 and the cup competitions associated with these leagues.

Players registered in Division 3 shall not be eligible to play in Divisions 4 and 5 nor the competition for the Shott Cup but shall be eligible to play in all other junior competitions. The names of 8 players to be registered in respect of its side in Division 4 shall not be eligible to play in Division 5.

Players who have played 2 or more games in division 1, 2 or 3 shall be ineligible to play in Division 6

Rule 13: Players, who have played 7 matches in either Division 1 or Division 2, or a combination of 7 matches in both divisions, shall no longer be eligible to play in Junior BLI Championship Competitions, divisions 4 and 5 and the Shott Cup in that season.

A Player who has played no more than two league matches for a team in a division higher or a combination of higher divisions than the team he normally plays for may play in one cup match associated with the higher division without being barred from playing in a lower level cup competition. A player who has not played in a higher division is also allowed to play in one cup match associated with the higher division without being barred from playing in a lower level cup competition.

Any player who is an original entrant in or plays in the Marper Cup, Boyd Cup, Baird Cup or Sixsmith Cup is ineligible to play in the Nassau Cup, Tyler Cup, Bowling League of Ireland Cup, and Mecredy Cup.

Players who only play in Division 4 and 5 may enter the Marper, Boyd, Baird, Sixsmith and Shott cups.

Clubs may nominate 2 unregistered players who will be exempt from the 7 match rule for League matches only. The names of the players to be submitted at the same time as the list of registered players. Once nominated, the exempted players may not be changed during the season, unless authorised by the Council due to exceptional circumstances.

Rule 14: League matches can be postponed only when either side is on the same day engaged in an IBA Challenge Cup game, have 2 registered players from that team engaged in a BLI selection, National Championship, British Isles Championship, international competition or international practice or by mutual agreement in the event of the death of a member or if the green is unfit for play by reason of inclement weather or otherwise unplayable, of which notification to their opponents shall be given by the club invoking this rule then the postponed game shall be played on Tuesday of the following week or earlier if mutually agreed. Selectors of teams involved appointed under Constitution rule 10, the President, Honorary Secretary and Umpires shall be included in the number needed for a postponement if they are registered players on the team seeking the postponement. This rule shall apply up to and including the first Tuesday in August, thereafter to the end of the season the game shall be played on Tuesday of the following week or earlier if mutually agreed but with the number of ends reduced to 18. Open Challenge, Crumlin Cup, O'D Cup and Shott Cup matches can be postponed for the same reasons in which event a new date shall be fixed by the Council or Emergency Committee.

For the purpose of this rule the week is deemed to commence on Sunday.

Rule 15: In the event of a game commenced being stopped as per the Laws of the Game, the game must be completed no later than fourteen days from the date of stoppage or as decided by the Council or Emergency Committee as appropriate. If the clubs concerned cannot agree a mutually agreeable date, then the Council shall fix a date for the match to be played and their decision shall be final. If either or both clubs fails to turn up to play on the date fixed by Council, then they will have deemed to have given a walkover and a fine of €100 will be imposed on the club who fails to turn up or on both clubs if both fail to turn up.

Rule 16: A league match may be brought forward by mutual arrangement and written confirmation of such agreement shall be sent by the secretary of each club to the League Secretary or in his absence an Officer of the BLI. If no such correspondence is received it is presumed that the match is to be played as scheduled and whichever team does not attend is considered to have conceded a walkover. An extension may be granted by the Council at its discretion. Such requests must be in writing and shall only be considered at a full council meeting, to be held before the scheduled fixture date.

Rule 17: Official scorecards in respect of all league and Cup matches shall be signed by the captains of each side playing on the day and it shall be the responsibility of the winning captain to post the card in time to reach the League Secretary within four working days from the date on which the match was played. The Honorary League Secretary has the authority to impose a €25 fine on clubs where a master card is not returned within the set time or not filled out correctly.

In the event of a drawn game the home side shall have the responsibility for posting the card. It is the responsibility for both captains to text the result of all league and cup matches to the webmaster, within 30 minutes of the match finishing.

Rule 18: Daytime matches shall start at 2.30pm except for Veterans matches which shall start at 11.00am or at other times arranged by the League Secretary and / or mutually agreed between clubs, and evening matches at 6.30pm. Before the second Monday of May and after the first Monday in August evening matches will start at 6.00pm

Rule 19: All matches must commence not later than fifteen minutes after the time fixed and if not so commenced the match may be awarded to the competitor/s ready to commence play at the prescribed time. A match commenced on one green cannot be resumed on another green except by mutual consent.

Rule 20: If a team concedes a walkover, their opponent shall be awarded full match points. In the case of a Cup match the tie will be awarded to the opponent.

Rule 21:-A club which teams give a walkover or withdraw from a league or cup match shall be required to provide a written explanation to the Honorary League Secretary. Should such explanation be deemed to be unacceptable by the council they shall levy offending clubs €100.

Rule 22: Clubs undertaking tours/holidays are required to seek permission from the council in writing and not to undertake such a tour/holiday before the 3rd Saturday in June in any year except with written permission from the council.

Rule 23: An arrangement to agree one shot on the first two ends in lieu of trial ends is not in accordance with the Laws of the Game. Teams who adopt this practice will be penalized by the loss of points or disqualification.

Rule 24: Teams shall not forfeit home advantage without prior approval of the Honorary League Secretary.

Rule 25: Clubs shall submit to the February Council meeting for its confirmation, their entries for league and cup competitions for that calendar years season. After that date, clubs that withdraw teams from league or cup competitions shall be required to submit a written explanation to the Honorary League Secretary for review. Should no explanation be received, or should the Council deem the explanation to be unacceptable, the offending club shall also be fined €200.

Rule 26: League, cup and championship matches shall take precedence over domestic competitions and tournaments. Any club wishing to host an open tournament in the following season shall submit their request to the Honorary Secretary in writing at least two weeks before the January council meeting, for council's approval, at the January council meeting. Requests for open tournaments will not be considered at any other time.

Rule 27: Umpires may be appointed by the Council for any match and they shall perform their duties in accordance with the laws of The World Bowls Board.

The captains in a side's game and the skips in a team game must ensure that all the laws of the World Bowls Board are strictly adhered to during a game.

Rule 28: The first drawn of each two in any round of the Singles, Pairs, Triple's, Four's and Senior Fours competitions shall be the challenger and shall, with the exception of the semi-finals and finals which shall be played on neutral greens except the council shall otherwise decide, have choice of green and rinks will be decided by draw from prior bookings.

In the case of a singles match the home player shall provide a marker. In the event of no rink being booked or available or in the case of a singles match no marker has been provided, the tie shall be

awarded to the opponent. In all cases league matches will take precedence on rinks designated by the club. Where designated rinks are not in consecutive order in a league or cup match, no other game shall be played on intervening rinks.

Once the draw for rinks has taken place the rink settings cannot be changed

The challenger shall arrange with the opponent for the playing of the match drawn on or before the closing date fixed for the round. If for any reason no such arrangement has been made the match shall be played on the green of the challenger at 6.30pm on the closing date and if either fails to appear the match shall be awarded to the other, and if both fail to appear both shall be eliminated from the competition.

If the green is unfit for play by reason of inclement weather or otherwise unplayable, then the match must be played within four days, a subsequent postponement must be played within two days and the result of the match telephoned to the Honorary Competitions Secretary on the same evening of it being played.

Score cards giving results of all matches together with the names of all the participants shall be with the Honorary Competitions Secretary not later than four days following the match.

If the score cards have not been received by the Honorary Competitions Secretary within four days of the match being played, (or in the case of a match being postponed due to the green being unplayable, the result not having been telephoned in), then the match will have been deemed not to have taken place and both sides will be eliminated from the competition.

The semi-finals and finals shall be played on a green on which the Council shall decide two years in advance at the first meeting after the AGM. In the year 2014 council will decide on the green for 2015 and 2016. Greens will only be considered on receipt of a written request from the club secretary. Where possible the championships should alternate between a grass and synthetic green each year.

Rule 29: The Senior and Junior Singles shall be first to 21 shots. The Senior Pairs and Senior Fours shall be played to 21 ends. Senior and Junior Triples shall be played to 18 ends. The Junior Pairs and Junior Fours shall be played to 18 ends. The Senior Fours is played to 21 ends and is confined to players who have reached the age of 55 on the first of April in the year that they enter the competition. A player who plays in the Senior Fours can play in Junior BLI Competitions and the Shott Cup, provided they have not played in the Marper, Boyd, Baird and Sixsmith, or are registered players in Division 1 or 2. The Railway Union Cup is played to 21 shots and is confined to players who are under 25 on the 1st April in the year that they enter the competition. The Bank of Ireland Insurance and Investment Cup is played to 21 shots and is confined to players who are under 18 on the 1st April in the year that they enter the competition.

Rule 30: Members of each club may make their own arrangements with reference to the formation of Fours, Pairs and Triples but any entry not containing the required number of names to complete a pair, Triple, or Fours will be void. The entry shall constitute the original players. Before the start of the first round should one entrant in the Pairs, Triples or Fours competition be forced to withdraw through illness or other unforeseen circumstances which would prevent him from taking part in the competition, another member of the club who has not entered or played in the competition may be nominated and automatically becomes the original entrant for the competition. In Singles, Pairs, Triples and Fours, the player who has withdrawn shall no longer be considered an original entrant and may act as a substitute as defined in rule 31. Such nomination with full details must be received in

writing by the Honorary Competition Secretary not later than the closing date of the first round of the competition.

Rule 31: Not more than one player may be used as a substitute in Pairs, Triples and Fours. The player acting as substitute must not already have entered nor played in the competition in which he is to act as substitute. The original player must be reinstated for subsequent games if he so desires. The same substitute must be used for any Fours, Triples or Pairs if again required.

Rule 32: All cups and trophies for the League, Cup, BLI Championships and the Bowler of the Year trophy, are the property of the BLI and shall be brought to the June Council meeting each year for cleaning and restoration.

Cups that have been presented to the winners of the BLI Championships of that year shall be returned to the BLI no later than the September Council Meeting each year to be engraved.

All other cups and trophies shall be brought to the September Council Meeting each year to be engraved.

They shall be presented at the Annual Dinner to the relevant winner, who shall sign for their safekeeping and return in the same condition that they received them. Any damage or loss occurred will be the responsibility of the club that received them.

Rule 33: All outstanding fines and monies must be paid on or before the next council meeting after the fine has been imposed. Failure to do so will result in the team involved being barred from competing in any league or cup competition resulting in loss of points in the league or concession of a walkover in a cup.

LEAGUE FORMAT

All Division or section shall have a maximum of 10 sides

Division 1 shall play for Stephens Cup
Division 2 shall play for the Trophies (irl) Cup
Division 3 shall play for the Cullen Cup
Division 4 shall play for the Cooper Cup
Division 5 shall play for the Cassoni Cup
Division 6 shall play for the Division 6 Cup

In Division 1, 2 and 3 Four fours shall form a side, in Division 4 and 5 three fours shall form a side and Division 6 two fours shall form a side each side shall play every other side in the division twice, once at home and once away, subject to any exceptions the council may make.

In division 1 and 2, 21 ends will be played whereas in all other divisions 18 ends will be played.

Matches shall be decided on the aggregate number of shots scored by the respective side. 3 points shall be awarded the winning side with the points divided by two in a drawn match. One point for each winning rink on each side and 0.5 points for each side in a drawn rink. Both captains must sign a master result card for each match played and must mark on the card the points claimed for the match.

The side finishing with the highest number of points on the completion of the league shall be deemed the winner. In the event that two or more teams end up with an equal number of points then the team with the highest number of match points shall be declared the winner. Where match points for teams

are equal the team with the highest shot difference (total shots for minus total shots against throughout the league) shall be declared the winner. Should these figures be equal then the team that has scored the highest number of shots in the league shall be declared the winner. This process shall also be used to decide upon the last place team.

In Divisions 1,2,3 and 4 the side finishing in the last place shall be relegated to the next lowest division subject to the proviso that either the winner or second placed teams in the lower division be eligible for and seek promotion. In Divisions 2, 3, 4 and 5 the side finishing first shall be promoted to the next highest division subject to the proviso that their club has not got a side already in that division. In the event of the winning side not being able to be promoted or declining promotion. The side finishing second shall be promoted subject to the foregoing condition

Where it will not cause the total number of teams in Division 5 or 6 to exceed 10, a club may have two sides. In Division 5 but where a second side is entered 12 players must be registered for that side. Once a player plays for one side as an original player or a substitute he shall be also deemed to be registered for that side and may not play for any other side in Division 5.

If there are 10 teams in division 5 or 6 and a club that does not already have a team in division 5 or 6 requests to join then if there is one or more clubs with 2 teams in that division the lowest placed such team will be removed in order to create a place for the requesting team. In no circumstances may the total number of teams exceed 10.

There shall be no relegation from Division 5 and no promotion nor relegation from Division 6.

VETERANS LEAGUE

Confined to members over 55 on April 1st. Two fours shall form a side. 18 ends shall be played.

The League shall consist of the required number Divisions such that each Division has between 8 and 10 teams, depending upon entries received.

The First Division shall, initially, be composed of the top 4 teams from the existing 2 Sections, with the proviso that clubs may not have more than one team in each Division, except for the lowest Division; the Second Division will be teams 5-8, with the same proviso and the Third Division will be the remaining teams plus any new entries.

The winner of the Veterans League will be the top team in Division 1, as decided by the provisos for the Stephen's Cup, and will receive the Veteran's League trophy. Promotion and relegation will be in effect also as prescribed for the Stephen's Cup. Trophies and medals will be awarded for Divisions 2 and 3 in the same manner as all other BLI divisions.

Clubs with more than one team in the League must register 8 names for each team and those players will not be allowed to play for any other of the club's teams in the Veterans League. Other players, from the list submitted to the BLI, will be allowed to play in 2 matches for any of that club's teams, but once having played 3 matches for a specific team, will then be restricted to that team for future matches.

RON SHELLARD TROPHY - SOUTHERN LEAGUE

The league shall be played between St. Michael's, I. C. I. C. Y. M. A., Causeway, and Rosslare three fours shall form a side and 18 ends shall be played. The matches shall be played on a Sunday and will commence at 2.00pm.

GENERAL

The Council shall have the power to divide any of the foregoing divisions in to two or more sections, to decide in what manner such sections shall be played. A playoff between section winners shall take place at a neutral venue to decide the winner of any division. The decision on allocation shall be made at the August Council meeting.

CUP FORMAT

OPEN CHALLENGE CUP

Competition for league sides on knockout principle

Four fours shall be played by each side and matches shall be decided on the aggregate number of shots scored over 21 ends.

In all rounds up to but not including the semi-finals, the first side drawn shall have choice of green. The semi-finals will be played on greens fixed by Council. A player may play on only one side in this competition except as permitted under Rule 13, second paragraph.

CRUMLIN CUP

A Cup side shall consist of four fours and open challenge cup rule shall apply. Registered Senior Division 1 players and players who have played in the Open Challenge Cup are ineligible to play in the Crumlin Cup in the same season, except as permitted under Rule 13, second paragraph

O'D CUP

A side shall consist of four fours and Open Challenge Cup rules shall apply except that 18 end's to be played. Registered Senior Division 1 and Division 2 players and players who have played in the Open Challenge Cup and Crumlin Cup are ineligible to play in the O'D Cup in the same season, except as permitted under Rule 13, second paragraph

SHOTT CUP

A side shall consist of three fours and Open Challenge Cup rules shall apply except that 18 ends to be played Registered Senior Division 1, Division 2 and Division 3 players and players who have played in the Open Challenge Cup, Crumlin Cup and O'D Cup are ineligible to play in the Shott Cup in the same season, except as permitted under Rule 13, second paragraph

GENERAL

In all rounds up to but not including the semi-finals, the first side drawn shall have choice of green. The semi-finals and finals will be played on greens fixed by Council. Where a grass and synthetic club are due to meet a draw will be made and first drawn will be allocated a green with a similar surface to their home green

A player may play on only one side in this competition except as permitted under Rule 13

BOWLING LEAGUE OF IRELAND CHAMPIONSHIPS

Marper Cup – Singles.

Boyd Cup – Pairs

Baird Cup – Triples

Sixsmith Cup – Fours

Nassau Cup – Junior Singles

Tyler Cup – Junior Pairs

Bowling League of Ireland Cup – Junior Triples

Mecredy Cup – Junior Fours

O’Leary Cup – Over 55

Railway Union Cup – Under 25 Singles

Bank of Ireland Insurance and Investment cup – Under 18 Singles

A previous winner or a substitute who receives a winner’s medal (at his own expense) of a junior BLI competition shall not be allowed to enter that competition for a period of three years. A winner of any of the Senior Competitions with the exception of the Senior Fours may not enter any of the four junior competitions for a period of five years.

For each of the competitions the winners receive a trophy and a winner’s medal and losing finalists receive a runner’s up medal.