

## **Bristol North-West Skittles League**

### **Rules**

#### **Section 1 – League Formation and Management**

1. That the League be called “The Bristol North-West Skittles League”.
2. The divisional structure of the League will be determined by the League Management Committee based on the number of registered teams entering in any one year. The Premier Division & Division 1 shall play their matches on a Front Pin First basis; Divisions 2 & 3 shall play All-In.
  - 2a. The top three teams in Divisions 1, 2 & 3 shall be promoted and the bottom three teams from the Premier & Divisions 1 & 2 shall be relegated, notwithstanding Rule 2 above.
  - 2b. Points shall be awarded as follows: - Draw: One Point each team, Home Win: Two Points, Away Win Three Points.
3. That the League Management Committee shall have full powers to reject any application for affiliation or registration and may withdraw the membership of any team or player, on being satisfied that such rejection or withdrawal is in the best interests of the League as a whole and may suspend any team or player for any period it may think proper and desirable. Any person found playing for more than one team will be suspended, subject to the findings of the League Management Committee. Offending teams shall be fined, have points deducted and shall not benefit from promotion.
  - 3a. A notice may be served on any League member either personally or by sending a prepaid letter through the post, addressed to such member at their registered address as it appears in the Register of Members.
- 4 That the League Management Committee consist of a Chairman, Honorary Secretary, Honorary Treasurer, Honorary Fixture Secretary and a Committee, all of whom must be registered members of the League and shall be elected at each Annual General Meeting.
  - 4a. The League Management Committee may at any time, appoint a registered member of the League as a member of the League Management Committee to fill a casual vacancy.
5. That the internal management of the League shall be vested in the League Committee, of which the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Honorary Secretary, Honorary Treasurer and Honorary Fixture Secretary shall be ex-officio members, and for that purpose full power is vested in them, the Chairman having the casting vote whenever necessary.
  - 5a. The League Management Committee taking all reasonable steps to protect the assets and property of the League shall be indemnified in the event of any loss.
6. That all monies due to the League shall be paid to the Honorary Treasurer who shall keep sufficient records thereof.
7. That the Honorary Secretary shall keep full and sufficient records of all business done by the League and Management Committee.

8. That the League accounts be closed annually on 30<sup>th</sup> April and audited once in every year and submitted for approval of the League delegates at the Annual General Meeting. Also, that a bank statement should be produced at each committee meeting.
9. That all disputes affecting affiliated teams or registered members shall be submitted in writing for the consideration of the League Management Committee, whose decision shall be final and binding on all concerned.
10. Any protest against the transfer of a registered player from one affiliated team to another, or the playing of an ineligible player, shall be submitted in writing to the League Honorary Secretary, within seven days of the alleged incident.
11. That the League Management Committee may out of League funds provide challenge cups, trophies and other prizes, to be awarded to the winners of such competitions as they may arrange and subject to conditions, they think necessary. Such cups are the property of the League and shall be held responsibly by the winners for one league season and returned to the League Honorary Secretary by 31st March. Any team failing to comply will be fined a minimum of £10.00, subject to the findings of the League Management Committee. Any team failing to return a trophy due to loss or damage will incur a fine of £100.
12. That the Committee shall meet once a month to transact all business requiring their attention, and that the quorum necessary at committee meeting shall be five; at all other meetings twenty shall be necessary.
13. All meetings, unless otherwise arranged, shall be held at the League Headquarters.
14. That the Annual General Meeting shall be held within six weeks of the date when all league games and competitions have been completed; 28 days' notice of such meeting shall be given to the teams. Date of the AGM will be published on the League Website



## **Section 2 - Registration of Teams and Conditions of Play**

15. That each Skittle team desiring to be affiliated to the League shall give notice thereof in writing to the Honorary Fixture Secretary: affiliation to be for twelve months at a time. Teams must be registered by 31st March: failure to comply with this will mean that offenders may be struck off the League list.
16. Every affiliated Teams secretary or appointed delegate shall represent his or her team at all general meetings, for non-attendance or representation that team shall be fined £25.00. Each team shall have one vote and all resolutions put to the vote shall be decided on a show of hands and carried by a majority vote. In the case of an equality of votes, the Chairman of the meeting shall be entitled to a second vote.
- 17a. Team Secretaries shall register a minimum of ten players at least 14 days prior to the commencement of the season, on the official Players Registration form.
- b. All players shall be duly registered in the 'Books of the League' and shall be registered with only one affiliated team at any one time
- c. No person under the age of 16 shall be accepted for Registration.

d. Additional players may be registered up to and including the last day of the current season, subject to rules 3, 3a and 3b of the Knock Out Competition Rules.

e. Transfers by registered players from one affiliated team to another, are permitted up to and including the last day of February, on payment to the League of £1.00 per transfer, subject to the rules 3, 3a and 3b of the Knock Out Competition Rules.

f. The transfer application shall be on the official Transfer Request form, obtainable from the League Fixture Secretary and/or league website. It shall be duly signed by the player and the secretary of both teams involved in the transfer.

g. Transfers shall not be effective until seven (7) days from the date the application has been received by the League Fixture Secretary.

18. League fees shall be paid by 1st October each year. Clubs failing to do so will be fined £10.00 and may incur further penalties if this rule is not observed. Subject to the findings of the League Management Committee.

18a. All fines shall be paid to the treasurer within 30 days of notification from the league.

19. That in all League or other matches arranged by the League, each side shall consist of ten registered members.

20. All matches shall commence at 8.00pm unless agreed otherwise by both Captains or his/her designate, due to extenuating circumstances of that evening. Any player who arrives after a pair has commenced shall not be eligible to play in that pair.

21. That the cost of the skittles alley in League matches shall be borne by the home side. In all other matches arranged by the League, each shall pay one-half of the cost.

22. That the home team secretary shall report to the League Fixture Secretary the results of all HOME LEAGUE FIXTURE MATCHES played, and give the names of players, scores and totals. The score sheet must be duly signed by a member of each team.

22a. All results shall be in the hands of the League Fixture Secretary within 48 hrs of the game being played: Failure to comply within 48 hrs will result in a £10.00 fine to the team concerned, for the first offence. Should that team commit a further offence that team shall be deducted two points from their current league position. Subject to the findings of the League Management Committee

23. That the Front Pin on every alley shall be marked with a RED band on the TOP and/or the BOTTOM and the Quarter Pins with a WHITE band at the TOP and /or the BOTTOM. Pins must be down, and stay down, to count as a score. No team shall be allowed to change their pins once the season has commenced unless permission be granted by the League Management Committee.

24. That the skittle balls shall be of "lignum vitae". The visiting team may bring their own balls, which can be used by either side provided that such balls are in the chute before the commencement of the match. No more than six balls to be in the chute at one time – three from the home Team and three from the visiting team. No team shall be allowed to change their balls once the season has commenced without the permission of the League Management Committee. The League Management Committee may allow other suitable materials to be used in the making of Skittles balls for use in League and other competitions providing that no team shall be allowed to use such balls without prior permission of the League Management Committee.

24a Any Team receiving permission from the League Management Committee to change their ally or night of play during the playing season must give their opponents at least fourteen clear days' notice of the alteration in writing and a copy sent to the League Secretary.

24b Where a Pub or Club skittles alley has cause to close immediately, due to internal matters of that Pub or Club, Rule 24a above shall not apply.

25. That two lines be drawn upon the alley, one at six feet from the footboard and a second white line ten feet from the first white line. The whole of the front foot must not cross (pass beyond) the first white line before the ball is delivered and the ball must touch the alley before the second white line. Protests cannot be upheld unless both teams agree upon a line judge before the match commences. Cush pins shall count and not be reset.

25a. For the Front Pin section of the League: Knock Out Competition Rule 4 shall operate.

26. That if the points of two or more Teams shall be equal at the top or bottom of any Division at the conclusion of the season, the positions shall be decided by the average number of pins scored away games, disregarding matches between teams concerned, and in the case of any position still being undecided, deciding game or games shall be played on the Headquarters alley unless a Team regularly using such alley as a home alley shall be concerned. In such case a neutral affiliated alley to be selected by the Committee.

27. Any team found guilty of playing an unregistered player shall be fined £10.00 and that players score deducted from the total pins scored. If the guilty team is the winning team they shall forfeit the points for that match. If the guilty team is the losing team they shall have two points deducted from their current league total. Following the deduction of the player/s score, the opposing team shall claim the match only if their total pins scored for that match are greater than the guilty team. Where a match ends in a draw, the above rules shall apply. Subject to the findings of the League Management Committee.

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## 28. League Fixture Programme

Matches to be played as published on the league website with the exception of:

- a) Bank Holidays, unless agreed otherwise by both teams
- b) Double booking of an alley
- c) Serious inclement weather.

**Unless agreed by the League Management Committee, teams not fulfilling a home fixture for any other reason will have a two point penalty deducted from their current league points. Teams not fulfilling an away fixture for any other reason will have a three point penalty deducted from their current league points, all teams shall comply with the following rules.**

- d) Notify the League Secretary or Fixture Secretary, in writing immediately.
- e) Failure to comply will result in a fine of £10.00 for the offending team.
- f) Notify the opposing team secretary at least 72 hours prior to the match date as shown on the league website. Failure to comply will result in a fine of £10.00 for the offending team. Subject to the findings of the League Management Committee.
- g) All postponed matches must be played within two weeks of the closure of the Fixture Programme, unless agreed otherwise by the League Management Committee.

- h) Failure to turn up on a night of play without prior notice will result in the offending team having to incur the cost of the sticker up fees.
- i) **Under no circumstances shall any team be permitted to forfeit a match and /or the points for a match**
- j) All postponed matches involving Promotion and/or Relegation shall be played
- k) Any team refusing to play a match where Promotion and/or Relegation are at stake shall be subject to positive action being taken against the team. The League Management Committee may, if deemed necessary, deduct points from the offending team/s current league position. The League Management Committee also reserve the right to withdraw or reject any team's membership where it is found to be in the interests of the League.
- l) Any team not completing their full fixture programme shall be fined £10.00 for each match not played, unless agreed otherwise by the League Management Committee.

29. That the foregoing rules may be altered, amended, deleted or added to by a vote of a Special General Meeting called for that purpose, or at the Annual General Meeting. Any proposed alteration to these rules shall be in the hands of the League Honorary Secretary at least fourteen clear days before such meeting. All proposals must be seconded and signed by both proposer and seconder.

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### **Highest Away Score and Highest Away Average**

Claims for these prizes must be submitted to the League Fixture Secretary by 23<sup>rd</sup> May.

To qualify for the Highest Away Average the player must have played at least 80% away League matches.

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### **All Knockout-Out Competitions Rules**

1. All teams affiliated to the League will be entered into either the Front First or the All in Knock Out Competitions. Teams in the Premier Division and Division One will be entered into the Front First Knock Out, teams in Divisions Two & Three will be entered into the All in Knock Out. The entire control and management of these competitions shall be vested in the League Committee. All knock out matches shall be played on or by the dates as instructed by the League Management Committee. Failure to comply with this rule may result in the offending team/s being eliminated from the competition. Subject to the findings of the League Management Committee.

2 All cup matches shall be drawn in pairs and played on the home alley of the first named team, up to and including the Quarter Finals. Subsequent matches shall be played on neutral affiliated alleys selected by the League management Committee, no postponements will be permitted. In the event of a tied match the results shall be decided the same night by the following: The Team Captain shall select 2 players from his team who have played in the match, 3 ups will be bowled by each player, if the result is still undecided the same 2 players from each side will bowl ups until a result is obtained.

2a Teams drawn at home must arrange the night of play and notify the away team secretary at least (10) days prior to the match date, except for matches arranged by the League and the Quarter Finals where the home team must notify the away team immediately. One date in the re-arranged cup weeks shall be sufficient.

3 Unless registered with their team, no player shall be eligible to play in the Front Pin First Knock Out or the All in Knock Out competitions.

3a Any player who transfers from one team to another within the League shall not be permitted to play in the Front Pin Knock Out or the All in Knock competitions if the player has already played for their original team in either of these competitions during the current season.

3b Any player or team who resigns from the League, by their own choice, and who has played in the Front Pin First Knock Out or the All in Knock Out competitions, shall not be permitted to play in either of these competitions for any other team in the League during the current season.

4. In the Front Pin K.O. the front pin must be knocked down first, and stay down, before any score can count and if any other pin is hit first and the front pin falls, then only the front pin must be reset. If a player should strike a pin or pins other than the front pin and then afterwards clear the frame by striking the front pin, thus making a spare, any pins knocked down by that second ball only to be reset. After making a spare any pins knocked down shall count.

5. The Champion of Champions Trophy shall be played on a Front Pin First basis and contested by the Champions of the Premier Division and Division 1 only. The Hedley Varcoe Trophy shall be played on an All-in basis and contested by the Champions of Divisions 2 & 3 only

6. Final matches to be played on a neutral alley to be selected by the Committee.

7 The secretary of the winning team shall be responsible for sending in the score sheet to the League Fixture Secretary within 48 hrs of the match being played. Failure to comply will result in a £10.00 fine to the guilty team. Subject to the findings of the League Management Committee.

8. All Knock Out cups are the property of the League and are perpetual trophies. All trophies shall be returned to the Vice Chairman by 31<sup>st</sup> March. Any team failing to comply will be fined a minimum of £10.00 subject to the findings of the League Management Committee.

9. That the foregoing rules may be altered, amended, deleted or added to by a vote of a Special General Meeting called for that purpose or at the Annual General Meeting. Any proposed alterations to these rules shall be in the hands of the League Honorary Secretary at least fourteen clear days before such meeting. All proposal must be seconded and signed by both proposer and seconder.