

**Suffolk Carpet Bowls Association (SCBA)**  
**RULES FOR WINTER LEAGUE, CUP AND PLATE MATCHES 2023/24**

**Definitions**

**Match:** A series of games played between two or more teams.

**Game:** **A series of ends played between two Fours or two Triples**

**Team:** **The required combination of Fours or Triples**

**1. Teams**

- a) A team where possible shall consist of **fourteen** bowlers but, anyway, shall be of a minimum of eight bowlers.
- b) All members of a Club are able to play in the League.
- c) In any Winter League season (1 September to 31 March) no bowler can knowingly play for more than one club, or team within that club, in SCBA league matches, without the express authority of the SCBA Executive Committee. Where a club has two teams in the same league, the two matches between those two teams must be played before 1 October.
- d) Rule 1d also applies to the two SCBA club cup competitions.
- e) However in any Winter League season a bowler is permitted to play for one club in SCBA league matches and a different club in the two SCBA club cup competitions.

**2. Matches/ Games**

- a) All matches shall be played to the English Carpet Bowls Association (ECBA) Rules with the exception of:
  - Rule 1.4 and 9.2: Ignoring reference to the “demarcated delivery area”;
  - Rule 1.9: Amended by the SCBA to read: The jack shall be 63.5mm (2.5”) in diameter and weigh between 8 and 16oz.
  - Rule 10.2: Replacing “independent referee” with “opposition captain”.

- b) Matches shall be played between 1 September and 31 March and shall begin at 7.30pm unless otherwise arranged. No matches should be played after 31 March without the express authority of the SCBA Executive Committee. In that situation teams should contact the SCBA Match Secretary.

**Cup and Plate:** Cup and Plate matches will take priority over league matches. No matches should be played after the allocated periods without the express authority of the SCBA Executive Committee. In that situation teams should contact the SCBA Match Secretary.

- c) **A match shall consist of 4 games, a four on both mats (each player bowling two woods each) in the first half, then a triple on both mats (each player bowling two woods each) in the second half.**
- d) **If a bowler has to bowl twice in a match, then they shall not bowl in the same position (with the exception of the lead bowlers), nor on the same carpet.  
First half Four Lead – Can play second half Triple Lead, Second or Skip**

**First half Four Second – Can play second half Triple Lead or Skip**

**First half Four Third – Can play any position in the Triple**

**First half Four Skip – Can play Triple Lead or Second**

- e) If a team has less than **fourteen** bowlers available for a match then those who shall play a second time shall be chosen by lottery from the first **eight** bowlers. Those names shall be drawn by the opposing Captain before the first game commences but after the teams and order of play for the first two games have been decided. Positions of play shall then be decided in the normal way with due regard being paid to Rule 2d).
  - f) The visiting team shall not be allowed any practice on their opponent's carpets before a match and neither shall the home team be allowed practice in the half hour preceding a match.
  - g) **Each game shall be of 10 ends with no trial ends.**
  - h) The team with the highest number of shots at the end of the game shall be the winners of that game. If the shots are equal then the game is drawn.
  - i) Two points shall be awarded for a game won, one point for a game drawn and no points for a game lost. An additional 2 points shall be awarded to the team scoring the most shots in the match. Should shots be equal then one point shall be awarded to each team.
  - j) Teams playing with less than **fourteen** bowlers will not be penalised for being bowler(s) short.
  - k) If at any point during a match a team is unable to field a full team of **fourteen** bowlers, i.e.: one or more bowlers play twice, for whatever reason, again there will be no penalty.
  - l) Should a team be unable to field a team of eight or more bowlers, as much notice as possible and not less than 24 hours notice must be given to the opposing team, the only exceptions being where sudden adverse weather conditions or unforeseeable circumstances make that not possible. The match should then be re-arranged. If it proves to be impossible to rearrange the match, after every effort and consultation with the SCBA, then the other team shall be awarded 10 points and 40 shots and the offending team no points or shots. (Cross refer Rule 4 regarding disputes)
- Cup or Plate:** In the event that a Cup or Plate match proves impossible to re-arrange, then the non-offending team will be awarded the match and proceed to the next round of that competition. Should the above happen in the Final, then the non-offending team will also be awarded the match.
- m) Positions in a League shall be determined by the number of points scored but, where they are equal, then the following shall decide the team taking the higher position:
    - Firstly, the highest total of shots scored in all League matches that season, if they are equal, then:
    - Lowest total of shots conceded in all League matches that season, if they are equal, then:
    - Highest total of ends won in all League matches that season.
  - n) The home team in any match shall:
    - i) Provide the necessary equipment.
    - ii) Have available up to date sets of the SCBA and ECBA rules.
    - iii) Arrange times and dates of matches which should be mutually agreed at least 7 days before each match.
    - iv) Provide their opposing teams with suitable information at least 7 days before each match, regarding:
      - The location of their venue;
      - The access to their venue;

- Any other feature that could affect a bowler's ability to bowl in their venue.
- Any relevant Covid related protocols in operation at their venue.

If after a match, a team considers that they were not provided with suitable information by the home team and that affected the final match score, they must notify the SCBA Executive Committee in writing within 14 days. The SCBA Executive Committee will then make the final decision and inform both teams accordingly.

- o)** Woods waiting to be bowled shall be visible to those bowlers at the other end of the carpet.
- p)** All teams must be prepared to play away matches on any night of the week, excluding Saturday but including Sunday.
- q)** Any team failing to appear for an arranged match or arriving with less than the minimum of eight bowlers shall be responsible for any reasonable expenses incurred by their opposition. The match should then be re-arranged. If it proves to be impossible to rearrange the match, after every effort and consultation with the SCBA, then the other team shall be awarded 10 points and 40 shots and the offending team no points or shots. (Cross refer Rule 4 regarding disputes)

**Cup or Plate:** In the event that a Cup or Plate match proves impossible to re-arrange, then the non-offending team will be awarded the match and proceed to the next round of that competition. Should the above happen in the Final, then the non-offending team will also be awarded the match.

- r)** Each team shall play each of the other teams in their League both home and away. If a match is unable to take place at the designated venue, i.e.: home team's venue is unavailable, then teams should inform the SCBA Executive Committee.
- s)** A team must declare names of bowlers for all four games before the start of a match, even if they are still waiting for bowler(s) to arrive for the second half games. If bowler(s) have not arrived by the time the second half games are due to start, then those playing a second time shall be chosen by lottery from the first **eight** bowlers by the opposing captain, refer rules 2d and 2e. In that scenario, any draw out of bowler(s) done at the start of the match shall be ignored and a completely new draw out completed for the bowler(s) needed to play twice. Again refer rules 2d and 2e regarding the draw out and positions of play for the second half games.

If there has been a draw out done before the start of a match, a bowler(s) turns up late and therefore less bowlers are needed to play twice. Again, the draw out done at the start of the match shall be ignored and a completely new draw out shall be completed for the bowler(s) needed to play twice. Again refer rules 2d and 2e regarding the draw out and positions of play for the second half games.

Alternatively if bowler(s) have not arrived by the time the second half games are due to start a substitute(s) can play i.e.: club member(s) who has not played in the first half games. In accordance with ECBA Rule 3.4, a substitute may play in any position other than skip. If a substitute is not available to play and as a result a team is unable to field the minimum of 8 bowlers, refer rule 2q.

In the event that a bowler starts a game but is unable to finish it (i.e.: illness, injury or an unforeseeable event), they can be replaced by a substitute, i.e.: a club member who is not already playing or a bowler chosen by lottery from the other bowlers not playing at the time. If the bowler being replaced is a skip, the substitute bowler cannot go into the skip position, therefore the team order would have to be changed (with no bowler playing in the same position twice in the match). Also as per rule 2d, the substitute bowler cannot bowl in the same position, nor on the same carpet during the match.

If a substitute is not available to play and as a result a team is unable to field the minimum of 8 bowlers, refer rule 2q.

- t) Before the commencement of a match team captains shall:
  - i) Ensure that the home team captain's scoresheet is completed with all bowlers surnames and initial of first name. If there are bowlers in a team with the same surname, then their full first name shall be written.
  - ii) Toss a coin to decide which colour bowls they shall play with for the whole match.
- u) At the end of the match, it is the responsibility of both team captains to check that the home team captain's scoresheet is correct and then both sign it. The home team captain (or someone delegated by them) must email the final result (points and shots per team) or a copy of the signed scoresheet to the SCBA Match Secretary the day after the match. Upon receipt of that scoresheet, if the SCBA Match Secretary considers it to be incorrect, both teams will be consulted before any alteration is agreed and made. The home team captain should retain the signed scoresheet until the end of the Winter League season.
- v) All Clubs shall provide a list of the dates and venues of their League matches to the SCBA Match Secretary at the beginning of the season. Any matches not then arranged and any subsequent alterations to fixtures shall be notified to the SCBA Match Secretary without delay.

### 3. Playing

Each bowler in a Four and Triple shall bowl 2 woods. The leads (first bowlers) shall bowl their 2 woods singly and alternately with the opposing lead, and so on, each pair of bowlers in succession.

### 4. Disputes

Any disputes between Clubs should be advised to and will be settled by the SCBA Executive Committee and their decision will be final. During a match, team captains should do their utmost to ensure that any dispute between the teams is resolved amicably.

### 5. Cup and Plate

In Cup and Plate matches, rules (2j) and (2k) are also applicable in any game where a team(s) is unable to field a full team of **fourteen** bowlers.

Pre Quarter Final Cup and Plate games, as with league games are played for 10 points per leg. If after both legs the match is tied on points (10 – 10) then the total shots over both legs will be the deciding factor. If both points and shots scored are equal in a Cup or Plate tie after both legs have been played then the winner will be the team who has won the greater number of ends over the two legs. Should ends won be equal then the away team shall choose which carpet on which one end of bowls shall be played, between a team of four nominated by each team captain. A toss of a coin shall decide who goes first in that one end. Should that end be a dead end, then a further end(s) shall be played on the same carpet between the same nominated teams of four until there is a winner.

In Quarter, Semi and Final Cup and Plate games, if points are tied (5-5) then the above process shall be followed, i.e.: shots scored, then ends won to decide the winner. Should both be equal, then the SCBA will choose a carpet on which one end of bowls shall be played, between a team of four nominated by each team captain. A toss of a coin shall decide who goes first in that one end. Should that end be a dead end, then a further end(s) shall be played on the same carpet between the same nominated teams of four until there is a winner.

## **6. Finals Day**

To qualify to bowl on Finals Night in the County Championship or East Division play-off match, a bowler must have played in three or more matches for their team in that Winter League Season.

To qualify to bowl on Finals Night in the Joe Rice Cup or Chairman's Plate final, a bowler must have played in at least one match for their team in a cup competition in that Winter League Season.

SCBA rules apply to all games played on Finals Night.

If a final ends in a drawn match, then the SCBA organisers will choose the carpet on which the one end of bowls will be played, should that be required.

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