

COMPETITION RULES

(updated after the 2023 AGM)

League Individual Merit, Dixon-Driscoll Doubles, Mixed Doubles, Under-18 Merit, Under-15 Merit, Junior Doubles, Under-25 Merit, Over-60 Merit, Monday Divisions Merit, Harris Cup and Ashton Trophies. Code of Conduct will apply to all competitions.

1. (a) The League Merit, Dixon-Driscoll Doubles and Mixed Doubles shall be open to all registered players in the Mid-Shropshire League.
 (b) All competitors shall play off scratch but the League may handicap home bowlers if it is not practicable to hold the competitions on a neutral green.
 (c) The handicaps shall be agreed by the Management Committee.
 (d) All games shall be 21 up.
2. The entry fees and amount of prize money shall be fixed by the League.
3. No substitutes shall be allowed in the Merit after the closing date for entries or in the Doubles after the preliminary rounds.
4. Qualifying rounds shall be played on neutral greens with 16 to qualify for the Merit and 8 pairs in the doubles, unless lack of entries negates the need for qualifying.
5. Disputes arising in the qualifying rounds shall be settled by the players nominated by the League to control that green and such decisions will be final.
6. Referees for the finals shall be appointed by the League.
7. Trophies shall be presented to the competition winners at the final, therefore current holders shall return trophies to the Competitions Secretary at least 7 day's prior the final.
8. Competition winners shall return trophies to the Competitions Secretary at the October meeting of the Executive for engraving.
9. Clubs that host a competition must agree, when called upon by a League officer, to ask any bowler barred from League competitions to leave their premises.

10. Any Club that hosts a competition final or qualifier, or a cup final, will be paid a green fee of £10. This fee will only be paid if the green has been prepared for play on the day.

Individual Merit:

1. Players on the named list as per rule 21(c) shall not be permitted to play in the Mid Shropshire Merit at the closing date of entries.

Monday Divisions Merit:

1. Entry is open to all bowlers registered in the Mid Shropshire League, but those who played six games or more in any Friday division the previous season shall not be eligible to play in this Merit.

Under-25 Merit:

1. Entry to the Under-25 Merit is open to all bowlers registered in the Mid-Shropshire League.

Over-60 Merit:

1. Entry to the Over-60 Merit is open to all bowlers registered in the Mid-Shropshire League.

Dixon-Driscoll Doubles:

1. Players on the named list as per rule 21(c) shall be permitted to play in the Dixon-Driscoll Doubles, but limited to one per pair from that list.

Mixed Doubles:

1. Players on the named list as per rule 21(c) shall be permitted to play in the Mixed Doubles, but limited to one per pair from that list.

Under-18 Merit and Under-15 Merit Rules:

1. These competitions shall be open to all registered bowlers in the Mid-Shropshire League who satisfy the following conditions:

Under-18 Merit - Competitors shall not have reached the age of 18 years in accordance with the definition approved by the BCGBA in the rules for the Junior Merit Championship.

Under-15 Merit - Competitors shall not have reached the age of 15 years on January 1st in the year of the competition.

2. All games shall be 21 up. All competitors shall play off scratch but the League may handicap home bowlers if it is not practicable to hold the competitions on a neutral green.
3. The handicaps shall be agreed by the Management Committee.
4. Rule 2 (entry fees) and 6 (referees) of the main competition rules shall apply.

Junior Doubles:

1. Eligible to all juniors who are under 18 years of age on the 1st January, in the year of Competition.
2. To be played off in one day on a neutral green.
3. All other rules are the same as the Mid-Shropshire Management and League Match Rules.

W. G. HARRIS CUP:

1. Competition is open to all member clubs of the Shropshire Bowling Association. No limit to the number of teams. Clubs with more than one green must state green to be used at the time of entry. Any team that enters the competition but then later withdraws will be fined £20.
2. Winners to hold the W.G. Harris Cup for 12 months.
3. Entry fee to be fixed by the Committee and a donation shall be paid to the Hadley Senior Citizens Rest Room in memory of the donor.
4. (a) Number of players shall be 10, to play 5 home and 5 away on the same day. Winners to be decided on aggregate score.

4 (b) Teams shall receive a handicap score according to their League position the previous season. Premier League sides will all give 15 shots, plus one shot for their finishing position the previous season - so the reigning champions would be handicapped $15+14=29$, the runners-up $15+13=28$ etc. Any team promoted to the Premier League for the current season shall be handicapped 15 shots. Any team relegated from the Premier League the previous season shall be off scratch. The top side in division one would be off scratch, second place +1, third place +2 etc. and players shall be those normally associated with that team. Any non Premier League club from outside the Mid Shropshire League that enters shall play off scratch.
 - (c) All games to be played on or before the dates set by the League. Changes of dates or nominated greens may only take place if

both teams agree and the Competitions Secretary is notified in advance. At no time may the fixture be re-arranged to take place after the original date and if no agreement is reached the match shall take place on the date specified.

5 A player may play in only one team, the team for which he plays being the nominated team.

6 Winners of ties will be decided by aggregate. If that is drawn, the victors will be the team with the most winners from the 10 games. If that is level, the outcome will be decided by the best card – and if that is the same it will be the second best card etc

7. Home teams shall ensure the result details are entered on the website within 48 hours of ties being played. Failure to comply with this rule will result in a fine of £5. The details should then be checked and approved by the away team within five days of the tie being played. Clubs should retain the match cards for 7 days in case of a dispute.

8. The Final shall be played on a Saturday at a neutral green decided by the Management Committee.

9. In the event of the Final being a tie, both the aggregate result and the games won, the prize money shall be equally shared and the trophy held for 6 months each.

ASHTON TROPHIES:

1. Competition is open to Monday night teams from Division 4 and below. Any team that enters the competition but then later withdraws will be fined £20.

2. Teams who enter must select a squad that must be submitted to the competition secretary 48 hours before the first league games of a new season. Only players from this squad will be eligible to play in ties, and any changes to squads must be approved by the competition secretary in consultation with the scrutineer.

3. Any bowler who is registered on their club's Named Players list(s) for the Friday divisions or Premier League, when the squad(s) are named, is ineligible to play in the Ashton Trophies. Once a bowler has played for a team

in the competition, he or she will be cup tied from joining another team if their club has more than one entry.

4. To be eligible to play in the semi-finals and final of both competitions, all bowlers must have played at least 4 Monday night league games.

5. Winners shall hold the Ashton Cup for 12 months and receive a monetary award. Teams losing in the preliminaries or first rounds shall be entered in a consolation competition, to be played under the same set of rules, the winners of which shall hold the Ashton Shield for 12 months and receive a monetary award. Prize money shall also be paid to runners-up and losing semi-finalists.

6. Numbers of players shall be 10, playing 5 at home and 5 away on the same day. Teams shall receive a handicap score according to their League position at the time of the first draw, top side in Division 4 off scratch, second place 1, third place 2 etc.

7. Winners of ties will be decided by aggregate. If that is drawn, the victors will be the team with the most winners from the 10 games. If that is level, the outcome will be decided by the best card – and if that is the same it will be the second best card etc.

8. Winning teams shall ensure the result details are entered on the website within 48 hours of ties being played. Failure to comply with this rule will result in a fine of £5. The details should then be checked and approved by the losing team within five days of the tie being played. Clubs should retain result sheets until the end of the season in case of disputes.

9. The 10-a-side finals will be played on a neutral green decided by the Management or Executive Committee.