

# COMPETITION RULES

*Updated January 2024*

1. All Competitions are open to bowlers registered in the Mid Shropshire Bowling League, unless any eligibility rules are specifically stated.
2. Entry fees shall be invoiced by the treasurer in September to the clubs who will pay them with the club invoice sent out in October.
3. Home bowlers are eligible in competitions excluding the Monday, Thursday and Senior Merits. Each home bowler owes 2 and the jack in each round.
4. All games to be 21up.
5. The entry fees and prize money shall be fixed by the Officers of the League. Entry fees are to be determined by the March Executive Meeting, and the prize money by the October Executive Meeting.
6. No substitutes are allowed once any qualifying has taken place.
7. Scratch time will be the start time, any player arriving after this time will not be allowed to take part and liable to pay the entry fee.
8. A designated person will be in charge of any qualifiers and their decision will be final.
9. Trophies must be returned to the Competition Secretary by the December Management Meeting at the latest.
10. Any clubs that host a competition qualifier or final, or a cup final, will be paid a green fee of £10 providing the green has been prepared for play on the day, ie. cut
11. Any referees that are needed for an individual or team competition final will be paid a fee agreed with the referee appointed

## **Senior Merit**

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

Players must have played either 6 games in the previous season or 2 games in the current season to be eligible to play by the date of the competition qualifier.

## **Monday Night Merit**

Players must have either played 6 Monday Night games the season before or 2 Monday Night games this season. They must have also not played 6 Friday Night games the season before, or 3 Friday Night games this season.

## **Thursday Night Merit**

Entry is open to all bowlers registered in the Mid Shropshire League who play in this division, having played at least four games in the current season to be eligible.

### **Dixon & Driscoll Doubles**

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 on that list at the time of the competition.

### **Mixed Doubles**

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 on that list at the time of the competition.

### **Under 25 Merit**

Players who have not reached the age of 25 on the 1<sup>st</sup> January of that year shall be eligible to play in this competition.

### **Under 18 Merit**

Players who have not reached the age of 18 on the 1<sup>st</sup> January of that year shall be eligible to play in this competition.

### **Under 15 Merit**

Players who have not reached the age of 15 on the 1<sup>st</sup> January of that year shall be eligible to play in this competition.

### **Junior Doubles**

Players who have not reached the age of 18 on the 1<sup>st</sup> January of that year shall be eligible to play in this competition.

### **Over 60s Merit**

Players who have reached the age of 60 before the day of the competition shall be eligible to play in this competition.

### **Harris Cup / Shield**

The competition is open to all members of the Shropshire Crown Green Bowling Association. There is no limit to the number of teams which can be entered from each club. Each team shall play on the green they use in their league.

The entry fee is £15. A closing date for entries will be set by the Competition Secretary at the March Executive Meeting.

The draw will take place within a week of the closing date. This will be drawn straight through. Any teams withdrawing after the draw shall pay a fine of £20.

Any non Premier League team that loses their game in the Preliminary or 1<sup>st</sup> round, shall be eligible to enter into the **Harris Shield** competition by notifying the Competition Secretary. The entry fee will be £10 and the competition will be drawn straight through. Any team that withdrew in the Harris Cup shall not be eligible to play in the Shield. Any teams withdrawing after the draw will be fined £20.

Clubs are handicapped according to their league position the previous season. Premier League teams will all give 15 shots, plus one shot for their finishing position for the previous season i.e. the team finishing 1<sup>st</sup> shall give  $15+14=29$  shots, the team finishing 14<sup>th</sup> shall be given  $15+1=16$  shots. Any team relegated the previous season will start on scratch. The team who finish 1<sup>st</sup> in Division One shall start off scratch, finish 2<sup>nd</sup> shall start on +1 and so forth. Any non Premier League from outside the Mid Shropshire League shall start off scratch.

Number of players shall be 10, to play 5 home and 5 away until the final.

Games shall be played on Wednesdays as set by the Competition Secretary at the March Executive Meeting. However games can be played before the date if agreed by both clubs and the Competition Secretary is notified. The two finals shall be played on a Saturday at a neutral two green venue.

Games to be decided on aggregate. In the event of a tie on aggregate, the match shall be decided firstly by the most number of wins per team, secondly by the best winner and thirdly by each team's best win in descending order. If the game is still tied after this criteria, a replay will take place with the date set by the Management Committee, except the final, where one player from each team will play up to 11 with the winner of this game winning the match.

Players for each team must have played at least one league game for that club in that season before any Preliminary or 1<sup>st</sup> round games. Players must then have played four league games before the Quarter Finals, six before the Semi Finals and eight before the Final for that club.

If a player plays for one team, they cannot play for another team in the competition.

Any player who is in a registered 12 or 6 cannot play for a team below the team that they are registered for.

Results should be entered in accordance with league rule 16.

### **Ashton Cup / Shield**

The competition is open to all Monday Night teams in the Mid Shropshire League. There is no limit to the number of teams which can be entered from each club. Each team shall play on the green they use in the league.

The entry fee is £10. A closing date for entries will be set by the Competition Secretary at the March Executive Meeting.

The draw will take place within a week of the closing date. This will be drawn straight through. Any teams withdrawing after the draw shall pay a fine of £20.

Any team that loses their first game in the Preliminary or 1<sup>st</sup> round, shall be entered into the Ashton Shield competition. This will be drawn straight through. Any team that withdrew in the Ashton Cup shall not be eligible to play in this competition. Any teams withdrawing after the draw will be fined £20.

Clubs are handicapped according to their league position the previous season. The team who finish 1<sup>st</sup> in Division Four shall start off scratch, finish 2<sup>nd</sup> shall start on +1 and so forth.

Number of players shall be 10, to play 5 home and 5 away until the final.

Games shall be played on Wednesdays as set by the Competition Secretary at the March Executive Meeting. However games can be played before the date if agreed by both clubs and the Competition Secretary is notified. The two finals shall be played on a Saturday at a neutral two green venue.

Games to be decided on aggregate. In the event of a tie on aggregate, the match shall be decided firstly by the most number of wins per team, secondly by the best winner and thirdly by each team's best win in descending order. If the game is still tied after this criteria, a replay will take place with the date set by the Management Committee, except the final, where one player from each team will play up to 11 with the winner of this game winning the match.

Players for each team must have played at least one league game for that club in that season before any Preliminary or 1<sup>st</sup> round games. Players must then have played four league games before the Quarter Finals, six before the Semi Finals and eight before the Final for that club.

If a player plays for one team, they cannot play for another team in the competition.

Any player who is in a registered 12 or 6 cannot play for a team below the team that they are registered for.

Results should be entered in accordance with league rule 16.