

# 2026 Competition Rules

*(updated after the 2026 AGM - changes in bold)*

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. Dress code to apply in the finals of the Senior and Monday Night Merit Finals only.
7. No substitutes are allowed once any qualifying has taken place.
8. 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.
- 9. Any player who does not turn up to a finals day, without a valid reason, will be banned from entering Mid Shropshire League Competitions for 12 months.**
10. A designated person will be in charge of any qualifiers and their decision will be final.
11. Trophies must be returned to the Competition Secretary by the **October** Executive Meeting at the latest. **Failure to do so may result in a £25 fine.**
12. 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
13. 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 who have played a specific number of games in the Premier League at the time of entry, determined at the **March Executive Meeting**, shall not be eligible to play.

Players must have played either 6 games in the previous season or **a set number of games, as decided at the March Executive Meeting**, 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 **a set number of Monday Night games, as decided at the March Executive Meeting, in the current season** to be eligible to play by the date of the competition qualifier.

They must have also not played 6 Division 1 and/or Division 2 games the season before, or a set number of Division 1 and/or Division 2 games, **as decided at the March Executive Meeting, in the current season** by the date of the competition qualifier.

### **Thursday Night Merit**

Entry is open to all bowlers registered in the Mid Shropshire League who play in this division, having played **in** at least **half** of the **total** games in the **previous season**, or a **set number of games this season**, as decided at the **March Executive Meeting**, to be eligible at the time of the competition date.

### **Dixon & Driscoll Doubles**

Players who have played a specific number of games in the Premier League, determined at the March Executive Meeting, shall not be eligible to play in this competition. .

### **Mixed Doubles**

Players who have played a specific number of games in the Premier League, determined at the March Executive Meeting, shall not be eligible to play in this competition.

### **Under 25 Merit**

Players who have not reached the age of 25 on the 1st 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 1st 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 1st 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 1st 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.

### **Ladies Merit**

Entry is open to all female bowlers registered in the Mid Shropshire League.

### **League Novices**

This competition is open to all bowlers who have newly registered with the SCGBA **or had their first ever game** within the last two seasons.

### **Junior & Adult Doubles**

Entry is open to all bowlers registered in the Mid Shropshire League. Each pair shall consist of one player who is under 18 on the 1<sup>st</sup> January the year of the competition and one that is 18 or over on the 1<sup>st</sup> January the year of the competition.

**Junior bowlers must set the mark at all times.**

### **League Handicap**

This competition is open to all bowlers registered in the Mid Shropshire League.

The handicap will apply to the Division the bowler has played the most in at the time of the competition.

The handicaps will be determined at the March Executive Meeting.

## **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 1st round, shall be eligible to enter into the Harris Shield competition by notifying the Competition Secretary at least a week before the preliminary round date.

The entry fee will be £10 and the competition will be drawn straight through. A draw will take place at least 5 days before the preliminary round.

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.

**HARRIS CUP - Premier League teams will all give 15 shots, plus one shot for their finishing position for the previous season i.e. the team finishing 1st shall give 15+14=29 shots, the team finishing 14th shall be given 15+1=16 shots. Any team relegated from the Premier League the previous season will start on scratch. The team who finish 1st in Division One shall start off scratch, finish 2nd shall start on +2 and so forth. Any non Premier League from outside the Mid Shropshire League shall start off scratch. (HARRIS SHIELD – the handicaps remain the same as in the Harris Cup.)**

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 at least a week before the next round date **(in the Harris Cup or Shield)** 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. Dress code will apply.

Teams should be sent in order to the Competitions or General Secretary at least **60** hours prior to the final commencing. **Failure to do so will result in a fine of £20.**

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 1st round games.

Players must then have played 4 league games before the Quarter Finals, 6 before the Semi Finals and 8 before the Final for that club.

If a player plays for one team, they cannot play for another team in **this competition or the Harris Shield**.

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

Results should be entered in accordance with league rule 16, by the home team, excluding the final.

### **Ashton Cup / Shield**

The competition is open to all Monday Night teams in the Mid Shropshire League.

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 1st round, shall be entered into the Ashton Shield competition. This will be drawn straight through. The draw will take place at the July Executive Meeting.

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 1st in Division Four shall start off scratch, finish 2nd shall start on +2 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 at least a week before the date of the next round date (**in the Ashton Cup or Shield**) 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. Dress code will apply.

Teams should be sent in order to the Competitions or General Secretary at least **60** hours prior to the final commencing. **Failure to do so will result in a fine of £20.**

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 Mid-Shropshire game for that club in that season before any Preliminary or 1st round games.

Players must then have played 4 Mid-Shropshire games before the Quarter Finals, 6 before the Semi Finals and 8 before the Final for that club. **Half of these games must be played on a Monday night.**

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

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

Results should be entered in accordance with league rule 16 by the home team, excluding the final.