

THE NEW SURREY BOWLS LEAGUE

(Revised October 2014)

Weekend Fours League Rules

- ML1. General :** Clubs will play each other once a year, Home or Away, on alternate years.
- ML2. Match Arrangements :** A league match will consist of each club playing three "Fours" rinks.
The duration of the match will be 21 ends. Matches will be played on Saturdays or Sundays as agreed between the clubs. Midweek evening fixtures are permitted but only if Clubs are unable to arrange weekend matches or in the event that weekend matches have been abandoned or cancelled (see ML4 & ML5).
- ML3. Scoring (see also Rule ML6) :**
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| <i>Four points</i> | will be awarded for an overall aggregate shots win. |
| <i>Two points</i> | will be awarded for an overall aggregate shots tie. |
| <i>Two points</i> | will be awarded for each winning rink. |
| <i>One point</i> | will be awarded to each team on each drawn rink. |
- ML4. Abandoned Matches :** If a match is abandoned, the score will be taken if a minimum of 15 Ends have been played by each rink, and the score will be taken at the lowest number of Ends played by all rinks. If a match is abandoned before the minimum number of ends has been played, the match re-arrangement provisions of Rule ML5 will apply.
- ML5. Matches Cancelled :** League matches shall only be cancelled because of bad weather, or if Greens are deemed unfit for play due to bad weather. The Home Club Green-keeper or his deputy will be responsible for declaring the green unfit for play. If a match is cancelled for this reason, both Clubs must make immediate and vigorous attempts to re-arrange the fixture, including, if necessary, arranging to play matches on weekday evenings or weekend mornings. The fixture may be played at any time in the season, but the re-arrangement must be concluded within ten days of the date of the cancelled match and the new date notified to the Press Officer immediately.
- If an evening match is the only possible resolution and, late in the season, there is insufficient daylight to complete 21 Ends, the scoring as for abandoned matches (Rule ML4) will normally apply, i.e. at least 15 ends should be played. However, Clubs may agree before play commences the number of ends to be played in such situations, but there must be at least 10 ends played for a result to be declared.
- If it is not possible to re-arrange the fixture, (for example, because it is too close to the end of the season or if a minimum of 10 ends cannot be played), six points will be awarded to each club by the League Officers. However, if the League Officers consider that insufficient efforts to re-arrange the fixture have been made points may be withheld from either or both clubs. No shots award will be made for unplayed matches.
- If a match is cancelled for any other reason Rules G10 and G11 apply.
- ML6. Players Short :** A maximum of 2 players may be absent from a team. When both clubs are players short in a match then a triples will play a triple and 4's play 4's, i.e. this is decided before the match rinks are drawn so that drawing of the match rinks take place separately between triples and between 4's. When a triple plays the number of bowls used by the triple will be made up by the Lead and Second players playing 3 bowls each. When a triple plays a 4, one third of the total shots scored by the triple shall be deducted from its score rounded-down to the nearest whole number. When a triple plays a triple their rink scores shall not be rounded-down.
- If more than 2 players are absent from a team or if one team is unable to commence play 30 minutes after the appointed start time the club in default will be penalised 10 shots and the club not in default will be awarded 10 shots. Additionally, the defaulting club will be penalised by the average number of points it has scored per match during the current season, and the Club not in default will be awarded the average number of points it has scored per match during the current season. These calculations will be made by the Press Secretary every time the league tables are updated and published throughout the season following the default so that the number of points penalised and awarded will be continuously updated and their effect on league standings can be readily observed. If both clubs are more than 2 players short both clubs will be in default and penalised as above.
- ML7. Results of Matches :** Results shall be recorded on the League Score Sheet and sent by post or e-mail by representatives of the both clubs to the Press Officer immediately after the match. Results not received within seven days may not be accepted. Score cards should be retained by both Clubs in case they are needed for scrutiny.
- ML8. League Champions :** The Club with the highest number of points at the end of the season will be declared Fours League Champions and hold the Fours Championship Trophy and The New Surrey League Flag for one year.
- If there is a tie on points, the Club that has the highest positive shots difference will be declared Champions.
- If there is a tie on points and shots difference, the Club that has won the most matches will be declared Champions.
- The Runners-up will be determined in the same manner and will hold the Runners-up Trophy for one year.