

# LEAGUE GAMES GENERAL RULES

**(INCLUDING JOHN SPRIGGS LEAGUE.)**  
**(Revised at AGM 14<sup>th</sup> October 2004)**  
**(Amended at AGM 13<sup>th</sup> October 2005)**  
**(Amended at Executive Meeting 9<sup>th</sup> April 2009)**  
**(Amended AGM 6<sup>th</sup> October 2011)**  
**(Amended AGM 1<sup>st</sup> October 2015)**  
**Issue Four October 2015**

1. The League shall be a Mixed League: i.e. members, male and female, of clubs associated to the league are eligible to play in all Mid Sussex or John Spriggs Leagues games during any one season.
2. All League Games will be played according to Bowls England Laws except where affected by these rules.
3. All League games will consist of 3 Rinks with each team including at least one player of the opposite sex on each rink. In the event of default, the defaulting rink or rinks forfeit 25% of their score (rounded up to the nearest whole shot) and the two points are awarded to their opponents.
4. Dress shall be white above the waist, unless mutually agreed to be all whites. Registered coloured shirts/blouses may be worn providing every member of the team wears an identical shirt/blouse otherwise white shirts/blouses must be worn. Correct bowls footwear must be worn, as required by Bowls England Laws.
5. All League games will be played on Tuesday evenings commencing the second Tuesday in June. The League Secretary will circulate a fixture programme which may only be rearranged if the home club's green is unavailable in which case the game must be played within seven days, before or after the scheduled date. Such rearranged dates must be notified to the League Secretary at least two weeks before the commencement of the league programme. League matches shall be played over 18 ends starting by 6.30pm. including two trial ends. If weather conditions or light are likely to restrict play the captains may agree to (a) play only one trial end or (b) play only fifteen ends with one trial end or (c) play eighteen ends scoring one shot only on each of the first two ends. The Captains to toss for the Jack for all rinks.
6. Scoring of League games is to be as follows:
  - 4 points awarded for the winning team
  - 2 points awarded to each team in a drawn match
  - plus 2 points for each winning rink
  - and 1 point for each drawn rink

In the event of two or more clubs having the same number of points at the end of the programme the final positions shall be decided on each club's total shots difference. The winners of all divisions below the top division will be promoted to the division above and the bottom team of each division above the lowest division will be relegated to the division below.

7. In the event of a team being in default by fielding a triple against a rink the game may be played. The triple will play as a lead, three and skip each playing with two woods. The leads will play their two woods alternately, the number two of the complete rink will then bowl his/her two woods consecutively, the number threes and skips will then bowl their woods alternately. (There will be no deduction of shots). The triple must include one player of the opposite sex, if not rule 3 will apply.  
In the event of a player being forced to retire from a game for any reason a substitute is not allowed and the team will continue as a triple as defined above but if the remaining players are all the same sex rule 3 will not be applied.  
Under no circumstances may a player join his rink after the lead has cast the jack for the first end.
8. In the event of a team failing to turn up for, or complete, a match within the rules the opposing team will be awarded the maximum of 10 points. The defaulting team will forfeit any claim to points for the game and, except where the circumstances are beyond the Club's control, have 10 points deducted from their total.
- 9a. If any match, prior to the last game, is rained off or postponed for any acceptable reason, the Captains are to arrange, within 3 days of the original date, a re-play within two weeks of the original date and before the last scheduled game of their respective division's season and notify the League Secretary and divisional steward accordingly. In the event that the postponed game is the last game of the season, then the home team must give three dates and times for the game to be played within the next seven days. If this game has to be played during the evening the captains may arrange for the match to commence at 6.00 p.m. and/or be of 15 ends with one trial end. If the clubs are unable to agree a date to play, the League Secretary must be consulted immediately, and he will take appropriate action to resolve the dispute.  
Note postponed games may be played on any day and at any time with the approval of both participating Clubs.
- 9b. In the event of a game being rearranged any member who played in one league on the original date may not play in the other league on the rearranged date, (i.e. an individual cannot effectively play in both leagues on the same day.) In the event of this rule being contravened the defaulting rink or rinks shall forfeit 25% (rounded up to the nearest whole shot) of their score and the two points will be awarded to their opponents
10. If a match is abandoned after a minimum of 12 ends has been played by each rink, whoever is in the lead will receive the points. If the match is abandoned before 12 ends have been played, the Captains will re-arrange the match (see Rule 8). It must be agreed by both Captains when to stop play.
11. The home club Captain shall be responsible for:
  - (i) communicating the result of the match to the League Secretary before 10.00 am the morning after the match
  - (ii) ensuring that both sets of cards are correctly completed and signed by both skips involved.
  - (iii) posting both sets of cards to the League Secretary the day after the match (If not sent electronically).
12. A player may represent only one club for the duration of the season. A club failing to comply with this rule will lose any points gained from that particular match.

13. Any dispute will be dealt with by a committee comprising of the League Secretary, and two other League Officers not connected with the Clubs involved in the dispute and their decision will be final. In the event of the League Secretary's Club being involved in the dispute the League Secretary will form a committee of three League Officers and the League Secretary will act in a secretarial and advisory capacity only. Any dispute must be notified, in writing, to the League Secretary, which he must receive within five day of the match.
14. The League will comprise of divisions, each consisting of 5 or 6 clubs playing each other on a home and away basis.
15. Each Club must display, or have available for reference, a set of the League Rules at every league match.

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## **RULES INTERPRETATION**

Following the recent rain affected games it has become obvious that some clubs are misinterpreting the rules regarding reducing the number of ends played and abandoning matches.

**Rule 5** states if weather conditions or light are likely to restrict play the captains may agree to play only FIFTEEN ends with one trial end.

There is no option to reduce the game to twelve ends.

If the conditions are such that the game may not be completed (either eighteen or fifteen ends) then it should not be started but an alternative date be arranged as in rule 9a.

The decision should be by mutual agreement after consultation between the two captains

**Rule 10** states that if a game has to be abandoned after a minimum of twelve ends have been bowled by each rink the score at that point shall stand.

This rule only applies when conditions get worse during the game.

If the conditions are no worse at twelve ends than they were when the game was started the agreed number of ends should be completed.

Again the decision should be by mutual agreement after consultation between the two captains.

I have noted from match reports that I have received that the captains have "agreed to play only twelve ends" which is contrary to rule 5.

Also some clubs have commented that some games have been abandoned when the conditions were no worse than when they had started (some actually said they were better!)

I realise that green conditions are subjective and players have different ideas as what is playable, however I trust that common sense will always prevail and that health and safety will always be a prime consideration.

I hope that this now clarifies the matter and that you will please ensure that all your captains are made aware of the contents of this letter.

Regards, Peter - Wednesday July 12th. 2017

**LEAGUE GAMES GENERAL RULES**  
**TEMPORARY ADDITIONAL RULES FOR THE JOHN SPRIGGS LEAGUE**  
**Approved Special General Meeting 25 January 2018**

1. A member club with a team already playing in the John Spriggs League may apply to enter a second, "B" team, subject to there being a vacancy without having to create a new division and on the payment of the relevant fee.
2. Players would only be allowed to play for one team in any season and therefore would need to be registered. The team playing in the first match would be considered to be the "registered team". Additional players may be added to a team throughout the season but may only play for that team. Players may play in the Mid Sussex team but must return to their original John Spriggs team.
3. It will not be possible to ensure that a club only has one team at home on any one Tuesday. In this event the John Spriggs game may be re-arranged to be played at a mutually acceptable time six days before or after the scheduled date. The re-arranged date must be notified to the League Secretary, in writing, at least two weeks before the first league match.  
Note in this situation a player may not play in another team that week Rule 9b will apply.  
NOTE Rule 3 will only apply to games involving Hurstpierpoint B and West Hoathly B
4. In the event of a Club playing in the Mid Sussex League wishing to enter a team in the John Spriggs League and there is no vacancy the Club with the lowest placed second team will be asked to withdraw that team.
5. These temporary rules to apply for the 2018 season only but may be renewed for a further season or incorporated into the League Games General Rules by a proposition made at the AGM.

MSBL – 03 26 Jan 2018