



BRITISH CROWN GREEN BOWLING ASSOCIATION

RULES REVISION MEETING 2023

NOTICES OF MOTION (Revised)

Unless specifically indicated, any changes to the Bye-Laws and Rules of the Association passed at this meeting will take effect from the end of this meeting.

1 MEMBERSHIP – Individual Membership – Rule 1a

Proposed by the Management Committee

Add a new sentence to the end of the rule '*All players registered to one or more counties shall pay, via the county of their primary affiliation, an annual BCGBA fee of £1.00. The sum is to be paid by a date set by the Management Committee. Counties shall retain 5% of all such monies collected on behalf of BCGBA as an administration fee. Any player failing to comply by that date shall be suspended from playing any form of competitive Crown Green Bowls until the sum due is paid. Any player in default from the previous year shall remain suspended until all past dues are paid*'.

Rationale: Following the proposal to introduce a player fee based on £1 per player, per club, we have been asked for a justification for moving to a per-player fee.

BCGBA income has over the years been based on a basic club fee. In 2023 this will move to £40.00 per club. Costs over the last few years have continued to rise and as we do more as an Association, costs inevitably increase. The cost-of-living crisis and general inflation will no doubt have a similar increase in coming years, and we will have to work with rates that apply. Income received from the Player Fee will enable Association to plan on how we develop and grow the game.

Currently, we have relied on the development account surplus to keep the Association's head above water. We cannot continue like this. A simple flat club fee has been the preferred method of collecting fees, but this has a disproportional effect on the smaller clubs. The £1 a player is a fairer way to balance each club's contribution for the future and will enable us to agree on an appropriate level of fee for the future.

Bowls has always been a low-cost sport and other governing bodies charge significantly more than we have. Junior football fees to the FA start at £25 per year, Swimming £34 per year and Rowing £60.00 per year (all based on an individual player fee) for example.

As a Governing body, we must ensure that we are meeting the demands of the sport and raise appropriate monies from within if we are to stand a chance of gaining additional funding from the likes of the Government, Sport England and outside sponsorships.

2 BYE-LAWS – Promotion of Contests – Rule 8c

Proposed by the Management Committee

On line 2, delete '£6.00' and insert '£10.00'.

Rationale: To cover the cost of increased postage and administration.

3 BYE-LAWS – Rules - Rule 9b

Proposed by Wales

On line 8, after ‘*brought forward.*’ insert a new sentence ‘*No proposal will be accepted without a seconder*’.

Rationale: To save the National Administrator’s time preparing the agenda, to save time at the Rules Revision Meeting, to save paper and ink when Counties print out to agenda.

4 BYE-LAWS – Players Dress – Rule 15

Proposed by the Management Committee

Delete the existing rule in its entirety and replace it with;

- 1 The following is the only permitted dress for all bowlers in competitions organised or run by the British Crown Green Bowling Association.
- 2 (a) Shirts: Must be collared, with sleeves, and are to be worn for County representative games and finals days of all competitions.
(b) County Associations to determine the style and design of their county shirt, which must conform to 2a and may include the County’s insignia, player’s name, Club insignia, sponsor’s insignia and/or manufacturer’s insignia.
- 3 (a) Trousers: These shall be black or navy, single colour, full-length tailored trousers, tailored shorts (knee length), skirts (knee length), tailored cropped trousers and straight trousers.
(b) Nothing in the above rule shall be interpreted to allow the wearing of tracksuits, shell suits, denim, combat trousers, jeggings or skinny jeans. External pockets on the legs are not permissible.
- 4 Where necessary, and in accordance with the pertaining weather conditions, sweaters which conform to the above and/or wet weather gear may be worn (correct dress must be worn under wet gear).
- 5 In team contests uniform clothing must be worn by team members.
- 6 Where permitted practice on the day this will only be allowed to those conforming to this standard. Any player failing to conform to this standard will be prevented from playing (or continuing) in the competition and may be liable to forfeit any entry fee for, or prize money earned in, the competition.
- 7 In the case of team contests any offending player must be substituted before the commencement of the game. However, if the player’s game has commenced, the player shall score nil and the opponent shall receive the maximum score.
- 8 Nothing in this rule shall prevent exceptions from being made for individuals with a relevant disability.
- 9 It is strongly recommended that this be adopted by all subsidiary organisations and other organisers of competitions and that players’ notice be drawn to it on the entry forms for all such competitions.

Rationale: To bring together the Men’s and Ladies Dress Codes into one rule which will apply to both codes in all games.

5 BYE-LAWS – Players Dress - Rule15a

Proposed by Warwick & Worcester

On line 1, delete ‘*Junior*’.

Rationale: To encourage the uptake of Junior Players we should eliminate the obstructions imposed by the BCGBA to Juniors wearing players dress code. Children are growing throughout the year and the dress code imposes restrictions and costs that could prevent them from playing the game. Each Junior Competition could have the expectations that smart clothes and County/Team Shirts are preferred.

Commentary: It would be recommended that the Ladies Competition Dress Code Bye-Laws are harmonised with BCGBA Bye-Laws as these cannot be changed in this forum.

6 SENIOR AND JUNIOR INDIVIDUAL MERIT - Rule1

Proposed by Shropshire

On line 1, after 'Management Committee' insert 'and with the Junior merit at least one place be given to each county with the remaining places allocated according to the number of qualifying competition entries.'

Rationale: This would ensure that Counties who promote Junior Bowling get a fair representation at the Junior Merit, this would be the entries in line with the Senior Merit. It seems unequitable that Counties with only 2 entries are entitled to the same number of places as Counties with 20 entries and does nothing to promote growth in an area that is sadly lagging behind with our great game.

7 VETERANS COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP – Rule 10(vii)

Proposed by the Management Committee

On Line 1 delete from 'consideration will be given to inviting the British Parks Veterans County Champions.' And replace with 'the BCGBA Competitions Committee can invite members to fill any remaining places.'

Rationale: With the Federation of Crown Green Bowls now full members of the Association they should be afforded the same entry opportunities as the British Parks Crown Green Bowling Association. As this may cause a competition to be oversubscribed, rather than name both organisations the BCGBA Competitions Committee will decide on how any shortfall of entries will be filled.

8 VETERANS COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP – New Rule

Proposed by the Management Committee

A player can only represent one County Association in the current year's competition.

Rationale: To bring in line with other team competitions (Senior County Championship/World Club Championship). A player can play for one county in the qualifying rounds and then play for another county in the final.

9 WORLD CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP – Rule 1

Proposed by the Management Committee

Delete the existing rule and replace it with 'The World Club Championship shall be held annually with the preliminary rounds played on the second Sunday in October. The final is to be held on the third Sunday in October. The final venue shall have no less than two greens and will be decided by the BCGBA Competitions Committee.'

Rationale: The rule is to be updated following the Management Committee's decision that all competitions must no longer carry over from the previous season.

10 WORLD CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP – Rule 2

Proposed by the Management Committee

Delete the existing rule and replace it with 'Each of the 15 County Associations in membership shall nominate two Clubs to the Association National Administrator by the 1st January each year, the Isle of Man Crown Green Bowling Association will be invited to nominate one Club by the same date. Nominations should be Cup or League winners. If insufficient entries are received in our competitions, the BCGBA Competitions Committee can invite members to fill any remaining places.'

Rationale: With the Federation of Crown Green Bowls now full members of the Association they should be afforded the same entry opportunities as the British Parks Crown Green Bowling Association. As this may cause a competition to be oversubscribed, rather than name both organisations the BCGBA Competitions Committee will decide on how any shortfall of entries will be filled.

11 COMPETITIONS – New Rules

Proposed by the Management Committee

To include items A to B in all relevant competition rules

- (a) Any county that fails to submit the required information by the due date will be excluded from representation in the (respective competition). An appropriate fine will be imposed on any defaulting county.
- (b) Unless otherwise stated, all counties must hold a qualifying competition to determine their representatives at BCGBA finals. Qualifying must take place in the year of the competition and before the date requested for counties to submit their representatives.
- (c) Each county will pay a fee, agreed by the Management Committee, in respect of their representatives qualifying for (the respective competition).
- (d) The appointment of Referees and Green Managers will be made in conjunction with the British Crown Green Referees Society (BCGRS).

Rationale: (a) Counties are given the Notification Dates for when information is required for each competition with plenty of notice. They also receive a 'Polite Notice' at least one week before the closing date of the information required as a reminder.

(b) It is alleged that some counties just nominate their representatives in BCGBA finals. Some counties have been using the previous year's competition as their qualifier which has caused a few issues this season.

(c) To bring in line with the Senior Individual Merit, Junior Individual Merit and 18-25 (18-23) Open Championship. Counties will know before the start of the season the fees for each competition and can budget accordingly.

(d) Some competitions don't refer to referee appointments. Green Managers will be appointed in all competitions in 2023.