

# Hong Kong Lawn Bowls Association



Bye-Laws

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## BYE-LAWS

These Bye-laws are provided in accordance with the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Hong Kong Lawn Bowls Association and, unless otherwise prescribed, words in these Bye-laws shall have the same meaning as defined therein.

### Definition

In these Bye-laws, any reference to "Association" or "HKLBA" shall mean the Hong Kong Lawn Bowls Association.

"club" shall mean a Member Club.

"convenor" shall mean the Representative of a Member Club.

## GENERAL BYE-LAWS

### 1.1. The World Bowls Laws of the Sport of Bowls Shall Apply

Except where its contents shall conflict with the General Bye-Laws of the National League Competition or National Championships, the current World Bowls Laws of the Sport of Bowls shall apply.

### 1.2. Dress of Players

Any players taking part in matches under the direct control of the Association must wear predominantly white or cream coloured, shorts, dress, skirts or trousers, belts, socks or stockings and brown or white smooth-soled heel-less shoes. Wet weather or sun protection clothing, hats or sweaters must also be predominantly white or cream.

For league games and national competitions, players when representing their clubs MUST wear matching team shirts, white or coloured, provided the shirts used are appropriate to the players club. In Singles competitions, all players must wear club shirts/uniforms. The markers, if they come from the same club, matching club shirts/uniforms must be worn. If the markers come from a different club, they may wear his/her own club shirt/uniform or appropriate bowls shirts.

For international competitions, matching team/club shirts, skirts or long trousers, must be worn.

### 1.3. Correspondence

1.3.a. All correspondence on general matters affecting the Association shall be addressed to the Honorary Secretary, Room 2010, Olympic House, 1 Stadium Path, So Kon Po, Causeway Bay, Hong Kong.

1.3.b. All correspondence relating to the National League Competitions shall be addressed to the Chairman of the National League Competition Panel at an address to be nominated by the said Chairman at the beginning of every season, which is at the first Council of Management Meeting immediately following the Annual General Meeting.

1.3.c. All correspondence relating to the National Championships shall be addressed to the Chairman of the National Championships Panel at an address to be nominated by the said Chairman at the beginning of every season, which is at the first Council of Management Meeting immediately following the Annual General Meeting.

### 1.4. Match Results

1.4.a. Each skip or player nominated by the Skip should keep a scorecard for every match played under the direct control of the Association. Each card shall be signed by both Skips or each player in the case of a singles match, and each copy so signed shall be regarded as a correct record of the game.

1.4.b. The Convenor of the home club in a National League Competition match shall be responsible for sending one set of the signed cards to the Chairman of the National League Competition Panel within 96 hours of the completion of the match;

- 1.4.c. The Convenor of the away side shall retain one copy of the scorecard which shall be forwarded to the Chairman of the National League Competition Panel at the Chairman's request.
- 1.4.d. If one copy of each of the signed score cards is not returned to the Chairman of the National League Competition Panel within 96 hours of the completion of a match, the said Chairman shall serve notice on both Convenors of sides concerned in writing or by facsimile, giving them 48 hours notice to return the score cards to him. If, upon expiry of such notice, the relevant score cards have not been returned, then the following shall apply:-
- Fours League  
both sides shall be awarded: - Men's Competition three points, Ladies Competition one point, and credited zero shots. If the scores have been notified or the cards are subsequently forwarded the home team shall be deducted: - Men's competition one point, Ladies Competition 0.25 point, from the match result and shots recorded as achieved.
- Triples League  
both sides shall be awarded: - Men's Competition three points, Ladies Competition one point and credited zero shots. If the scores have been notified or the cards are subsequently forwarded, the home team shall be deducted: - Men's competition one point, Ladies Competition 0.25 point from the match result and shots recorded as achieved.
- Mixed Disciplines League  
for each discipline both sides shall be awarded zero points and credited zero shots. If the scores have been notified or the cards are subsequently forwarded both sides shall be deducted: - Men's competition one point, Ladies Competition 0.25 point from the match result and shots recorded as achieved.
- 1.4.e. The winning competitor or the Skip of the winning team in a match in the National Championships shall be responsible for sending one copy of each of the signed cards:
- 1.4.e.1. To the Chairman of the National Championships Panel by the time specified on the letter sent to convenors giving details of the draw, time, date and venue relating to the match;
- 1.4.e.2. The competitor or skip of the home side shall retain one copy of the scorecards which shall be forwarded to the Chairman of the National Championships Panel at the Chairman's request.
- 1.4.f. Convenors, Skips or Players in singles games of the winning Team in National Championship Competitions shall also report the result of their matches to the relevant telephone recording number, e-mail address or by facsimile within one hour after the completion of the game.
- If a game is postponed or unfinished the Convenors, Skips or players in a singles game of the Home Club (or both at games scheduled at a neutral venue) shall advise of the postponement or non-completion of the matches to the relevant telephone recording number, e-mail address or by facsimile within one hour after the postponement of the game.
- The telephone/facsimile numbers/e mail addresses above shall be advised by the appropriate Chairman at least 2 days before the commencement of the game.
- 1.4.g. Convenors, or their representatives, of the Home Sides in National League Competitions shall input the results and details of their matches, in the appropriate manner, using the result data input facilities provided on the HKLBA website link within 44 hours of the completion time of the match.
- If the match is postponed or unfinished, the Convenor or Captain of the Home Side shall report such information to the Association in the appropriate manner by telephone or by fax or by e mail, within 24 hours of the time fixed for the start of the match.

The Convenor, or his representatives, of the Away Side shall verify the data, input on the HKLBA website link by the Home Side for the relevant match, within 96 hours of the completion of the match. In the event that the Convenor, or his representatives, of the Away Side cannot verify, or disagrees with, the data input by the Home Side, he/she shall report the matter to HKLBA by the appropriate manner within 96 hours of the completion of the match.

In the event that the input of the result information is not made by the Home Side within the time specified above or the correct result data is not verified by the Away Side within the time specified above or the Away Side fails to report its disagreement with the result data input by the Home Side within the time specified above, the respective offending Side shall be deducted 1.0 points for men's sides and 0.25 points for ladies sides for each match played.

The National League Panel shall advise all Convenors, prior to the commencement of the League Season, of the appropriate manner of reporting results and other match information to the Association, including telephone and fax numbers and e-mail addresses.

#### **1.5. Entry Forms**

- 1.5.a. All entries for competitions played under the direct control of the Association shall be made on entry forms approved by the Council of Management.
- 1.5.b. Entries will not be accepted if they are incomplete or if a competitor enters under a pseudonym.
- 1.5.c. Member Clubs shall be responsible to the Association for the payments of entry fees for all competitors entering under the name of the Member, with the exception of the National International Fours competition where the Skip of each side shall be responsible for all fees due.
- 1.5.d. Entries will not be accepted if they are not accompanied by the Convenor's endorsement, the required fee or if they are not received by the time indicated on the entry form.

#### **1.6. Typhoons, Rainstorm and Thunderstorm**

- 1.6.a. When typhoon signal No. 8 or above is hoisted or is expected to be hoisted at the scheduled starting time or during the course of the game, the following procedures will be followed:
  - 1.6.a.1. All matches which have not been started will automatically be postponed.
  - 1.6.a.2. All matches which have been started will automatically stop at the conclusion of the end in course of play. The match may continue however, if every player taking part agrees to play on, provided the venue remains open and is covered by related insurance.
- 1.6.b. When the Red / Black rainstorm warning signal or thunderstorm warning is issued or is expected to be issued at the scheduled starting time or during the course of the match, the following procedures will be followed:
  - 1.6.b.1. All outdoor matches which have not been started will automatically be postponed.
  - 1.6.b.2. All outdoor matches which have been started will automatically stop at the conclusion of the end in course of play. For indoor matches, the match may however continue, if every player taking part agrees to play on, provided the venue remains open.

#### **1.7. Bowls**

- 1.7.a.1. Any case of dispute arising from Law 9 of the Third edition of the Laws of the Sport of Bowls regarding the validity of a bowl must be made in writing to the Council of Management within 72 hours of the conclusion of the game.
- 1.7.a.2. Such a case will be referred to the Umpires Panel for deliberation and recommendation.

### 1.8. Breach of Laws

Any complaint about a breach of the Laws of the Sport of Bowls or these Bye-laws must be made in writing to the Council of Management through the club convenor within one week of the alleged occurrence, and the Disciplinary Panel shall then act upon the information received.

### 1.9. Disciplinary Panel

- 1.9.a. The Disciplinary Panel shall investigate any complaint concerning misconduct and/or dispute, and make judgement on the actions to be taken.
- 1.9.b. The Disciplinary Panel shall comprise an Officer as Chairman and a minimum of five members from the Council of Management. The Chairman also has the authority to co-opt persons into the Panel when necessary. The members of the Panel should, if possible, comprise:
  - 1.9.b.1. Umpires Panel Members, for his/her extensive knowledge of the Laws of the Sport of Bowls;
  - 1.9.b.2. Persons with legal experience, preferably a lawyer.  
On each occasion, no Panel Member who has an interest in the matter before the Panel is eligible to sit on the Disciplinary Panel. In an emergency situation any three members of the Panel may constitute a quorum.
- 1.9.c. The functions of the Panel shall be to:
  - 1.9.c.1. Hear and determine any allegation of misconduct or a dispute properly made to it under the Bye-law;
  - 1.9.c.2. Peruse, comment on and where necessary amend notices of motion submitted for consideration by the Council of Management;
  - 1.9.c.3. If delegated by the Council of Management, undertake any inquiry or investigation, on behalf of HKLBA.

### 1.10. Misconduct

The relevant body in Bye-law 1.9. shall take action for any alleged Misconduct upon receiving details of the allegation in writing from any person or organisation and as otherwise set out in the applicable regulations, whether or not that person or organisation is a Member Club or a member of a Member Club.

An allegation shall be submitted in writing and must be submitted as soon as possible and no later than 14 days after the alleged incident or incidents of misconduct occurred. The Disciplinary Panel in its discretion may accept an allegation after 14 days if exceptional circumstance exists.

Any matter of misconduct reported to the HKLBA shall be dealt with expeditiously.

For the purposes of this Bye-law, the definition of "Misconduct" shall include, but shall not be restricted to situations where a Club or any other member or official of HKLBA, or a member or official of a Club, as the case may be:

- 1.10.a. Breaches any provision of the Laws of the Sport of Bowls;
- 1.10.b. Deliberately loses or attempts to lose a game of bowls or plays unfairly;
- 1.10.c. Alters a bowl after it has been stamped by a registered bowls tester without submitting it for retesting and restamping;
- 1.10.d. At any event, function or activity of HKLBA, or whilst on the property of HKLBA, uses any profane, indecent or improper language;
- 1.10.e. At any time or place engages in offensive or insulting behaviour towards HKLBA, or any person acting for or on behalf of HKLBA or a Club;
- 1.10.f. Breaches any provision of:
  - 1.10.f.1. These Bye-laws,
  - 1.10.f.2. Any policies of HKLBA
  - 1.10.f.3. Any reasonable direction of HKLBA
  - 1.10.f.4. Any decision of the Council of Management or Disciplinary Panel.
- 1.10.g. Acts in a manner which brought, or could bring HKLBA into disrepute;
- 1.10.h. Aids or abets any of the conduct specified in (a) to (g) above.

#### 1.11. Procedure for Misconduct

- 1.11.a. Upon the receipt of an allegation of misconduct, the Chairman of the Disciplinary Panel shall as soon as practicable determine the availability of the Panel members. The Panel shall notify the other parties affected by the allegation of the fact that notice has been received and send to them copies of the allegation and any documentation or materials received in relation to it.
- 1.11.b. If the allegation cannot be determined on the papers, a hearing will be required. A date, time and place for the hearing of the allegation will then be decided. At least 7 days notice of the hearing will be given to the parties affected by the allegation, unless the Panel considers that the allegation must be determined urgently, in which case it may vary the timeframes set out in these Bye-laws.
- 1.11.c. The notice of the hearing shall be in writing and state whether the party or parties concerned are required to appear or whether the allegation will be determined on the papers. It will state the nature of the hearing and the matters or alleged offence(s), the subject of determination, the possible penalty or penalties and the date, time and place of the hearing.
- 1.11.d. Persons appearing before the Disciplinary Panel shall be entitled to call witnesses but must present their case in person or through a representative of their choice. All parties and their witnesses shall be given a full opportunity to be heard.
- 1.11.e. If the person against whom the allegation is made is absent or fails to make any written submissions, or their witness is absent, a decision may be made by the Disciplinary Panel in their absence or an adjournment may be granted. Before making such a decision in the person's absence the Disciplinary Panel must satisfy itself that the person concerned was aware of the time, date and place of hearing and had been requested to participate in the hearing in accordance with these Bye-laws.
- 1.11.f. If, after hearing from the parties, the Disciplinary Panel finds an offence of misconduct has not been committed, it will announce its decision as soon as possible, or dismiss the matter, accordingly.
- 1.11.g. If the Disciplinary Panel finds an offence of misconduct has been committed, it may impose, in its discretion, an appropriate penalty as set out in Bye-law 1.12.
- 1.11.h. In addition, or in the alternative to imposing any penalty, the Disciplinary Panel may, announce its findings with the recommendation as it considers appropriate.
- 1.11.i. If a decision cannot be given by the Disciplinary Panel immediately after the hearing, the relevant party or parties must be advised of the date by which the decision will be given. The decision, any penalty, the reasons for the decision and notice of the person's appeal rights shall be given in writing to the parties.

#### **1.12. Recommendations and Penalties of Misconduct**

If the Disciplinary Panel finds that an offence under Bye-law 1.10. has been committed, it may impose any one or more of the following penalties:

- 1.12.a. A reprimand;
- 1.12.b. Suspension from such activities of HKLBA, including competitions, tournaments, events, meetings or functions, on such terms and for such period as it thinks fit;
- 1.12.c. Exclusion from a particular competition, tournament, event, meetings or functions of HKLBA;
- 1.12.d. Fines, imposed in such manner and in such amount as the Disciplinary Panel thinks fit;
- 1.12.e. Any other penalty specified in the Bye-law, or any policy, resolution or determination which the person/Member Club has breached, failed, refused or neglected to comply with;
- 1.12.f. Such other penalty as the Disciplinary Panel considers commensurate with the offence; and/or
- 1.12.g. Such combination of any of the above penalties as the Disciplinary Panel thinks fit. Every decision of the Disciplinary Panel shall, unless otherwise specified, take effect immediately upon the date the decision is dated.  
A decision of the Disciplinary Panel under Bye-law 1.12. may be appealed under Bye-law 1.15.

#### **1.13. Disputes**

For the purpose of this Bye-law, the definition of "dispute" shall include situations where a Club or any other member of HKLBA, or a member or official of a Club, as the case may be, has a grievance or difference about the meaning or effect of any Law, provision, decision, policy, practice, right, privilege or direction including this Bye-law and the Laws of the Sport of Bowls.

#### **1.14. Procedure for Dispute**

- 1.14.a. Where there is a dispute, any party to the dispute may refer it to the Disciplinary Panel, through their Club Convenors, for determination. The dispute shall be submitted in writing and must be submitted as soon as possible and no later than 14 days after the alleged incident or incidents giving rise to the dispute occurred. The Disciplinary Panel in its discretion may accept a dispute after 14 days if exceptional circumstances exist.
- 1.14.b. Upon the receipt of a notice of a dispute through the Club Convenor(s), the Chairman of the Disciplinary Panel shall as soon as practicable determine the availability of the Disciplinary Panel members. The Disciplinary Panel shall notify the other parties affected by the allegation of the fact that notice has been received and send to them copies of the allegation and any documentation or materials received in relation to it.
- 1.14.c. A date, time and place for the hearing of the allegation will then be decided. At least 7 days notice of the hearing will be given to the parties affected by the allegation, unless the Disciplinary Panel considers that the allegation must be determined urgently, in which case it may vary the timeframes set out in these Bye-laws.
- 1.14.d. The notice of the hearing shall be in writing and state whether the party or parties concerned are required to appear or whether the allegation will be determined on the papers. It will state the nature of the hearing and the matters or alleged offence(s), the subject of determination, the possible penalty or penalties and the date, time and place of the hearing.

- 1.14.e. If after enquiry and agreement of the parties, the Disciplinary Panel considers that there is a reasonable prospect of the dispute being resolved by further discussion and/or mediation, rather than by determination of the Disciplinary Panel, it shall mediate the dispute to see whether an agreement can be reached between the parties. The parties shall determine, by agreement, the time period in which they will attempt to resolve the dispute by mediation.
- 1.14.f. If by the agreed time period an agreement is reached on the outcome of the dispute, the Disciplinary Panel shall notify the Council of Management of the outcome. If an agreement cannot be reached within the agreed time period, the dispute shall be determined by the Disciplinary Panel.
- 1.14.g. If, after hearing from the parties, the Disciplinary Panel has determined the outcome of the dispute, the decision, and the reasons for the decision and notice of the person's appeal rights shall be given in writing to the parties.
- 1.14.h. If a decision cannot be given by the Disciplinary Panel immediately after the hearing, the relevant party or parties must be advised of the date by which the decision will be given.

**1.15. Appeals**

- 1.15.a. Where a party referred to in HKLBA Bye-law 1.10. and 1.13. wishes to appeal to the decisions of the Disciplinary Panel, the appellant must give written notice of their appeal to the President of the HKLBA within 14 days of the decision appealed against being advised in writing to the Appellant.
- 1.15.b. The appellant shall lodge a deposit of HK\$500 with the HKLBA.
- 1.15.c. Any appeal shall be limited to any one or more of the following grounds:
  - 1.15.c.1. That natural justice was denied;
  - 1.15.c.2. The decision making body acted ultra vires or beyond its powers;
  - 1.15.c.3. That substantially new evidence has become available after the decision which is being appealed;
  - 1.15.c.4. In respect of misconduct proceedings only, that the penalty was either excessive or inappropriate.
  - 1.15.c.5. Wrongful interpretation of the Bye-laws.
- 1.15.d. The notice of appeal must:
  - 1.15.d.1. Set out the grounds of appeal;
  - 1.15.d.2. Set out the outcome which is sought;
  - 1.15.d.3. Be accompanied by a statement or statements of evidence setting out the facts of the matter; and
  - 1.15.d.4. Be accompanied by a written submission setting out why and how the appellant considers the Disciplinary Panel's decision was wrong.

**1.16. Procedure for appeals**

- 1.16.a. Upon receiving the Notice of Appeal, the President shall as soon as practicable:
  - 1.16.a.1. Appoint three members from the Disciplinary Panel as Appeal Panel members none of whom should have sat on the original hearing;
  - 1.16.a.2. Notify the other parties affected by the appeal of the fact that the appeal has been referred to the Appeal Panel and send to them copies of the Notice of Appeal and any documentation or materials received in relation to it;
  - 1.16.a.3. In consultation with the members for the Appeal Panel, to determine a date, time and place for the hearing of the appeal;
  - 1.16.a.4. Give the parties affected by the appeal at least 7 days notice of the hearing, unless the Appeal Panel considers that the appeal must be determined urgently, in which case it may vary the timeframes set out in the Bye-law.

- 1.16.b. An appeal under the Bye-law shall not be by way of rehearing but shall be limited to the decision against which is being appealed. Notwithstanding this, the Appeal Panel may hear or rehear evidence which was heard before the decision making body, if in the interest of natural justice, it considers it appropriate to do so.
- 1.16.c. Having heard the appeal, the Appeal Panel may make the following orders:
  - 1.16.c.1. Allow the appeal, and reduce or increase any penalty which was imposed by the Disciplinary Panel; or impose any other penalty or sanction permitted by the Bye-law;
  - 1.16.c.2. Dismiss the appeal;
  - 1.16.c.3. Refer the matter back to the Disciplinary Panel to re-hear the matter, with any such directions as it considers necessary;
  - 1.16.c.4. The deposit stated under Bye-law 1.15.b. shall be refunded under order 1.16.c.1. or 1.16.c.3. Conditions above or confiscated the deposit under order 1.16.c.2. Condition above.
- 1.16.d. Once the Appeal Panel has determined the outcome of the appeal, the decision, and the reasons for the decision shall be given in writing to the parties.
- 1.16.e. If the Appeal Panel cannot give a decision immediately after the hearing, the relevant party or parties must be advised of the date by which the decision will be given at the conclusion of the hearing.
- 1.16.f. During any appeal relating to misconduct, the persons against whom an allegation of misconduct is made may be suspended, on such terms and for such period as the Appeal Panel thinks fit.

#### **1.17. Umpires**

- 1.17.a. Anyone can apply to the Umpires Panel to be examined as a National Umpire.
- 1.17.b. The Umpires Panel shall consist of five National Umpires qualified under the HKLBA, subject to annual appointment approved at the first Council of Management Meeting following the Annual General Meeting. Following the appointment of five umpires, the Council of Management shall elect one of the umpires to be the Chairperson. The Council of Management as necessary shall replace any retirement or resignation from the Panel during the year, and such replacement shall hold office until the next regular election at the first Council of Management Meeting following the Annual General Meeting.
- 1.17.c. The Umpires Panel shall be empowered to conduct training courses and umpires examinations and shall keep a register of all qualified National and International Umpires and shall notify the Council of Management of all persons so qualifying.
- 1.17.d. The Umpires Panel shall decide on:
  - 1.17.d.1. Umpires for semi-finals and finals of all competitions under Bye-law 6.1.d. and 6.1.f. either by nomination or delegation.
  - 1.17.d.2. Markers for semi-finals and finals of all singles competitions under Bye-law 6.1.d. and 6.1.f.

#### **1.18. Hong Kong Team Selectors**

The Selectors Panel, for men and ladies, shall consist of a member of each gender nominated by each Club with a team competing in the current or most recent First Division Fours League Championships. The nominated selector shall either be a member of the First Division team or with vast experience in the sport and personal knowledge on the players' skill and character to assess the suitability of individual applicants. The Panel shall consist of not less than 3 members of the Council of Management, 1 of whom shall be an officer of the Association. The Chairman of the Selectors Panel shall be an HKLBA officer elected by the Council of Management.

**1.19. Hong Kong Team Selection Criteria**

- 1.19.a. Level of competition
- 1.19.b. Availability of players
- 1.19.c. Manner and etiquette
- 1.19.d. Personality and ambassadorship
- 1.19.e. Inter-personnel skill
- 1.19.f. Team spirit and harmony
- 1.19.g. Stress and pressure management ability
- 1.19.h. Choices of best position players
- 1.19.i. Chances of further development

**1.20. Hong Kong Squad and Team Selection Processes**

The Hong Kong Squad selection process and the Hong Kong Team selection process must both be agreed by the Council of Management and adopted for a period of at least one year. Each year's selected Hong Kong Squad members shall stand for one full year.

**1.21. Hong Kong Team Manager**

- 1.21.a. The Council of Management shall elect a Hong Kong Team Manager prior to each International events.
- 1.21.b. Once the Manager and the Hong Kong Team is sanctioned by the Council of Management, it will then be the sole responsibility for the Manager to manage and administer the team.
- 1.21.c. Within one month of their return to Hong Kong, the Manager of the National Team (or individuals representing Hong Kong overseas) will present a written report to the Council of Management.
- 1.21.d. Within two months of his/her return to Hong Kong, the Manager of the National Team shall submit a full, confidential report to the officers of the Association and National Selectors.

**1.22. Office Staff**

- 1.22.a. The Association may employ office staff to assist in the running of the Association.
- 1.22.b. Duties of the office staff will be laid down by the Council of Management and supervised by the Honorary Secretary.
- 1.22.c. Remuneration paid to the office staff will be approved by the Council of Management.

**1.23. Presentation of Prizes**

- 1.23.a. Presentation of Prizes will normally be held at the Annual Presentation Dinner organised by the Association.
- 1.23.b. An Organising Committee will be formed by the Council of Management to organise the said event.
- 1.23.c. In conjunction with the Presentation of prizes, a Year Book shall normally be produced.
- 1.23.d. Dress for the Presentation Dinner shall be respectable smart casual - no bowling attire.

**1.24. Greens**

- 1.24.a. The Greens Panel shall consist of a Chairperson and three persons appointed annually at the first Council of Management Meeting or as otherwise decided by the Council of Management following the Annual General Meeting. The Vice President - Technical shall act as Chairman for the Panel.
- 1.24.b. The Greens Panel shall report to the Council of Management on the condition of all greens upon which Association matches are to be played. For such purposes, they may co-opt any further people onto their Panel as and when they wish.

- 1.24.c. Any complaint from any Member Club concerning the green of any other member Club will be referred to the Greens Panel who will investigate the complaint and report to the Council of Management with a recommendation.
- 1.25. Groundsheets**
- 1.25.a. Groundsheets may be used during inclement weather, at the discretion of the home team in any match, and the club convenor in a National Championship where the ground is being used as a neutral venue.  
The groundsheets shall be placed with the back edge 2 metres from the ditch. The mat at the first and every subsequent end shall be placed at the back edge of the sheet - the mat's front edge being 2 metres from the ditch.
- 1.26. Playing Surface**
- 1.26.a. Choice of Playing Surface  
All competitions, unless specifically nominated otherwise, should preferably be played on a natural bowls surface if available. Where a club has a choice of playing surface, competition entries which are to use that club as a home venue must nominate the playing surface for the entry. If no nomination is made, the playing surface for the entry will be determined in the following order, natural surface, outdoor artificial surface, indoor surface.  
For League Competitions the highest ranked teams as set out in 3.1.c. or 4.1.c. or 5.1.b. shall play on the playing surface determined in the following order, natural surface, outdoor artificial surface, and indoor surface.
- 1.26.b. Revision to Choice of Playing Surface  
Where the nominated playing surface is not available due to inclement weather, the option to play on an alternative surface shall be given to the opposing league captain in a league match, the opposing skip in a National Championship or both skips where the ground is being used as a neutral venue. If the option to play on the alternative surface is not taken, the game shall be postponed.  
In the event any playing surface becomes unavailable for reasons other than inclement weather the National League Competition Panel or National Championships Panel should be advised and requested to change the order of playing surface choice.
- 1.27. Anti-Doping**  
All Anti-Doping policies issued by WADA (IOC), the World Bowls governing body, or SF&OC of Hong Kong, China should be strictly adhered to by this Association and its members.
- 1.28. Validity of Bowls**  
In National League Competitions and National Championship Competitions any bowl with a date stamp of not more than 20 years before the date of the competition may be validly used.  
For International competitions or qualifying tournaments for International Competitions, bowls shall comply with the provisions of the Laws of the Sport of Bowls as issued by World Bowls and WIBC or the competition organiser's requirements.
- 1.29. Conflict between National League and National Championship Fixtures**  
In the event of players being required to play in two or more matches arranged by the Association which have fixtures of the same date and approximate starting time, precedence shall be given to the National League Competition match and the other matches shall be re-arranged accordingly.

## **2. BYE-LAWS OF THE LEAGUE COMPETITION (GENERAL)**

The Bye-laws in this section will apply to all National League Competitions unless otherwise specifically modified within the specific provision of the particular League Competition. The National League Competitions shall be managed and controlled in accordance with these Bye-laws by the National League Competitions Panel which shall consist of a Chairman, who shall be the Vice President of the Association delegated the responsibility following the Annual General Meeting, and at least two other panel members who shall be members of the Council of Management.

### **2.1. Adjustments to Composition of Divisions**

Nothing in Bye-law 3.2. and 4.2 shall prevent the Council of Management, prior to the start of the League season, from altering the number of divisions, increasing or decreasing the number of sides in the divisions and adjusting the sides to be demoted/promoted to suit such changes.

### **2.2. Re-entry or First Entry into the Competition**

A side which did not play in the competition of the previous season shall play in the lowest division on re-entry or on first entry into the competition.

### **2.3. Withdrawal of Sides**

- 2.3.a. A member of the Association may withdraw a side from the competition provided that it has no other side in a division lower than the division from which the side is withdrawn.
- 2.3.b. If a side is withdrawn from the competition during the course of a season, the results of matches played shall be expunged as if the side had not taken part unless the Council of Management shall decide otherwise.

### **2.4. Position in League**

The League position of each side in each division shall be determined at the end of the season by the number of points won by each side. In the event of two or more sides gaining the same number of points, the position of these sides shall be determined by the differences between shots scored for and against. In the event of the shots difference being the same, the manner by which the winning team shall be decided, shall be determined by the National League Competition Panel and referred to the Council of Management for ratification.

### **2.5. Drawing of Rinks**

- 2.5.a. For gentlemen's matches, names of players in each team shall be entered onto the score cards, then paired-off face down. The away side Captain will then endorse each pair of cards with one of the three rink numbers assigned to him by the home side Captain.
- 2.5.b. Once the draw for rinks has been completed, no player changes between or within teams of the same side shall be permitted.

### **2.6. Matches Played under Artificial Light**

Matches may be played wholly or partially under artificial lights.

### **2.7. Matches Played on Artificial Surfaces**

- 2.7.a. Matches may be played on any artificial bowling green surface as approved by the Council of Management.
- 2.7.b. For the purpose of 2.7.a. use may be made of the heavy 382-453 g jack.

## **2.8. Postponed or Unfinished Matches**

- 2.8.a. All postponed or unfinished matches with the exception of those mentioned in 2.8.b. and 2.8.c. must be played within fifteen days of the original day appointed unless the National League Competition Panel directs otherwise.
- 2.8.b. In respect of the final league matches of the season, all postponed or unfinished matches must be played on a day specified by the National League Competition Panel.
- 2.8.c. Unless otherwise directed by the National League Competition Panel, all penultimate postponed or unfinished league matches must be played within seven days of the original day appointed.
- 2.8.d. Prior to the commencement of the season all teams shall nominate a preferred day of the week when postponed games may be played.
- 2.8.e. In case when a match has to be postponed, abandoned or is unfinished, then on the original scheduled day of the match, the home side must offer three alternative dates and/or time to the away side. The alternatives shall include the date as 2.8.d. together with two others all within fifteen days of the original scheduled day of the match or lesser period if required under Bye-law 2.8.c. The home side shall within 24 hours of the date and time of the original scheduled match, advise the league competition panel by the method stated in Bye-law 1.4.f. of details of the offer. The away side shall agree to one of three alternative dates within 24 hours of the offer or within 48 hours of the date and time of the original scheduled match, whichever is the later. In the event that agreement cannot be reached or no offer is made by the home side, the away side shall within 48 hours of the date and time of the original scheduled match, advise the National League Competition Panel of details of dispute together with details of counter offers of dates. The National League Competition Panel will decide on the date, time and venue for the re-scheduled match.
- 2.8.f. In the event that a re-scheduled match is postponed, abandoned or unfinished the procedure in 2.8.e shall be repeated.
- 2.8.g. Proposals to play a re-scheduled match at a neutral venue may be proposed subject to the proposer confirming agreement of availability of the venue from the venue convenor or authority for a public green.
- 2.8.h. In the event that an away side requests to postpone the approved day of a match and when such postponement caused financial lost to the home side, the League Panel shall, upon receipt of a complaint, study the prevailing circumstances and to determine whether a financial penalty shall be imposed. Such financial penalty should be a fixed amount determined by the League Panel to reflect the normal average public green fee and the financial penalty imposed shall be in addition to other ruling of the Panel or penalties applied under the Bye-laws. The financial penalty will be credited to the home side when HKLBA received it from the away side.

## **2.9. Score in Unfinished Matches**

When a match is stopped by mutual agreement, by an appeal to a mutually agreed umpire, by darkness, by inclement weather, or for any other valid reason, it shall be resumed with the scores of all teams standing as they were when the match was stopped.

**2.10. Closing of Greens**

- 2.10.a. In the event of inclement weather prior to a match commencing, the home side Convenor shall make a decision regarding the availability of the greens not more than two hours and, if possible, not less than one hour before the appointed starting time and shall have a responsible person available during the two hours before the appointed time to answer queries on this subject. By agreement between the Captains of both sides, the starting time may be delayed to enable the greens to become playable.
- 2.10.b. In the event of inclement weather, such as heavy rainfall occurring during a match, every effort must be made to complete the head being played. If this is impossible due to closure of the greens, which decision shall be made by the home side, then the partially played head shall be abandoned and recognised as not having been played.

**2.11. Sides from One Member in Same Division**

When two or more sides from a club play in the same division, the sides will be considered as sides entered in separate divisions according to their rankings as defined by Bye-laws 3.1.c., 4.1.c. and 5.1.b.

**2.12. Substitutes**

- 2.12.a. Interrupted matches which were played in accordance with Bye-law 2.8.c. must be resumed with no more players than at any time the match was interrupted.
- 2.12.b. Interrupted matches which commenced with a complete team of four (three in triples) but resumed with only three players (two in triples) will result in 25% of the score being deducted only from the ends played with three (two in triples) players.
- 2.12.c. One substitute only per team will be permitted in resumed games, unless the National League Competition Panel permits otherwise, on the basis of illness, death or the unavoidable absence of a player from Hong Kong, or for other reasons which the National League Competition Panel may accept. No substitute may play in the position of Skip.
- 2.12.d. Except in respect of matters submitted in accordance with Bye-law 1.14, the decision of the National League Competition Panel on substitutes is final.
- 2.12.e. No player shall play in any match who has played for another side in a match having the same original fixture.

**2.13. Fees for Entry into League Competitions**

Prior to the commencement of the league season, the Council of Management shall set the fees to be paid by clubs for entry of sides in the National League Competition.

**2.14. Players Representing Hong Kong**

Should any club have a minimum of two gentlemen or one lady from the same side away from the SAR representing Hong Kong, their club may apply to the National League Competition Panel for approval to re-schedule any matches due to be played during their absence. Approval will be subject to the players having played or given a clear indication of playing in the National League Competitions scheduled during their proposed absence.

**2.15. Eligibility**

- 2.15.a. Participation in National League Competitions is confined to bona fide members and staff of clubs affiliated to the Association.
- 2.15.b. The names of participants shall be recorded with the National League Competition Panel. The names of players shall be advised to the Chairman of the National League Competition Panel no later than the time for submission of score cards as Bye-law 1.4.b in the first game played in any season.

### 3. BYE-LAWS OF THE NATIONAL PREMIER (FOURS) LEAGUE COMPETITION

#### 3.1. Composition of Teams

- 3.1.a. The National League Competitions Gentlemen's divisions shall be played between sides of three teams of four players with each player bowling two bowls per end entered by members of the Association.
- 3.1.b. The National League Competitions Ladies divisions shall be played between sides of a team of four players with each player bowling two bowls per end entered by member clubs of the Association.
- 3.1.c. If more than one side is entered by a club, the sides will be suffixed A, B, C etc., and this nomenclature will define the descending order of rankings of these sides within that club as agreed by the National League Competition Panel.
- 3.1.d. Convenors may nominate a member of his/her club as Captain of a side to act in his/her capacity in any league match.

#### 3.2. Composition of Divisions

- 3.2.a. The competition shall be divided into divisions. The number of sides in each division will normally not exceed ten.
- 3.2.b. Normally the first division shall consist of the following sides:
  - 3.2.b.1. All sides other than the bottom two sides of the first division of the previous league and
  - 3.2.b.2. The top two sides of the second division of the previous league.
- 3.2.c. Normally the second division and all subsequent divisions other than the lowest ranked division shall consist of the following sides:
  - 3.2.c.1. The bottom two sides of the higher division of the previous league;
  - 3.2.c.2. All sides other than the top two sides and the bottom two sides of the division of the previous league; and
  - 3.2.c.3. The top two sides of the lower division of the previous league.
- 3.2.d. Normally the lowest ranked division shall consist of the following sides:
  - 3.2.d.1. The bottom two sides of the higher division of the previous league;
  - 3.2.d.2. All other sides, other than the top two sides of the division of the previous league; and
  - 3.2.d.3. All sides which did not compete in the competition in the previous league.

#### 3.3. Programme of Matches

- 3.3.a. Each side shall play two matches, one at home and one away, against every other side in the same division. Any individual request for a change of venue shall be considered by the National League Competition Panel but any general long-term request or continuing individual requests shall be referred to the Council of Management.
- 3.3.b. Each side shall declare the venue for playing home games to the National League Competition Panel.
- 3.3.c. The commencement date of each league shall be decided by the Council of Management on the recommendation of the National League Competition Panel.

#### 3.4. Scoring of Points

- 3.4.a. Gentlemen's division  
In every match, eight points shall be contested. These shall be divided as follows:
  - 3.4.a.1. Two points to each winning team;
  - 3.4.a.2. One point to each team which ties with another team;
  - 3.4.a.3. Two bonus points to the side winning the highest total of shots scored;  
or
  - 3.4.a.4. One bonus point to each side if the total shots scored by each side are equal.

- 3.4.b. Ladies division
  - In every match, two points shall be contested. These shall be divided as follows:
  - 3.4.b.1. Two points to the team with the highest shots scored;
  - 3.4.b.2. One point to each team if the shots scored are equal.

### 3.5. Time of Starting Matches

- 3.5.a. The original fixture of all matches, including the venue, the appointed day and the appointed starting time, upon recommendations from the National League Panel, shall be agreed by the Council of Management prior to the commencement of the league season. All matches shall start on the original fixture unless some other time or day, in accordance with these Bye-laws, is mutually agreed between the sides concerned.
- 3.5.b. Under no circumstances may a game be postponed in advance of the original fixture unless written consent has been obtained at least 3 days in advance of the day of the game to be postponed from the National League Competition Panel. If the National League Competition Panel allows a postponement it must instruct postponements in a priority of lowest ranked team to highest ranked team.
- 3.5.c. If at the appointed time plus thirty minutes, less than twelve but at least nine players for Gentlemen and at least three players for Ladies are present, the offending side shall field teams of three players, the numbers 1 and 2 bowling three bowls each. If the players cannot use a Set of Bowls as defined in the Laws of the Sport of Bowls then one bowl may not be from the same set. Should a fourth team member subsequently appear, he may play in any position except Skip and 25% of the score shall be deducted from only those ends played with three players.
- 3.5.d. If for any reason, except those given in 3.5.a. and 3.5.b. above, a side fails to arrive, or arrive with less than nine players for Gentlemen and three for Ladies at the venue at the appointed time plus thirty minutes, and unless the captains agree to extend the thirty minute period, the match shall be treated as postponed. The circumstances surrounding the reasons for the postponement must be given in writing by both sides to the National League Competition Panel Chairman within 48 hours of the date of the postponed game. The National League Competition Panel will then rule on the postponed game by:
  - 3.5.d.1. Either, instructing the game to be replayed within 8 days of the date that the sides have been notified by the National League Competition Panel;  
or
  - 3.5.d.2. Giving a walkover to one side. This will only be given in exceptional circumstances. If a walkover is given, then the Gentlemen's non offending side shall receive 8 points and an additional aggregate score of plus 10 shots; the offending side shall be deducted an aggregate score of 10 shots; the Ladies non offending side shall receive 2 points and an additional aggregate score of plus 3 shots and the offending side shall be deducted 3 shots; and
  - 3.5.d.3. In the event that the game is played within the 8 days as instructed, by also instructing that the offending party should be deducted 4 points for Gentlemen and 1 point for Ladies; and
  - 3.5.d.4. Deciding whether the offending party should be deducted additional points.
- 3.5.e. In the event of the offending party failing to comply with the requirement of Bye-law 3.5.d.1. the side shall be reprimanded by the National League Competition Panel and deemed to have withdrawn from the competition in accordance with Bye-law 2.3. Withdrawal must be confirmed by the Council of Management.

### **3.6. Registered Players**

- 3.6.a. The convenors shall register for each side, in writing, with the National League Competition Panel the names of; - Gentlemen's Competition six or Ladies Competition two of its players, before it plays its fourth league match in any league season. These players must have played at least two games in the relevant side prior to registration.
- 3.6.b. A registered player shall not play for another side which is a lower ranking side in the same division within the club in accordance with Bye-law 3.1.c. or in a lower division unless in accordance with Bye-law 3.9.
- 3.6.c. A registered player is allowed to play in a side in a higher division regardless of the number of games he/she has played previously in a lower division.

### **3.7. Unregistered and Tied Players**

- 3.7.a. In any one season, a player shall be regarded as tied to the side in which he/she has played a total of 10 or more complete games for that side or for any other side ranked higher than that side in accordance with Bye-law 3.1.c.
- 3.7.b. Any player who has become tied to a side in accordance with Bye-law 3.7.a. shall not play for any side ranked lower in accordance with Bye-law 3.1.c.

### **3.8. Penalties**

- 3.8.a. Where a registered player under Bye-law 3.6.b. or tied player under Bye-law 3.7.a. plays for a side which is ranked lower than the side for which he is registered or has become tied, the side for which he/she plays shall have Gentlemen 2 or Ladies 2 points deducted from its match score. The opposing side shall have Gentlemen 2 or Ladies 2 points added if the team in which the defaulting player was the opponent lost and one point added if the team drew.
- 3.8.b. In any fixture where a player is in default under Bye-law 2.12.e. plays for another side in a match which has the same original fixture, the side for which he plays the second match shall have Gentlemen 2 or Ladies 2 points deducted from its match score. The opposing side shall have Gentlemen 2 or Ladies 2 points added if the team in which the defaulting player was the opponent lost, and one point if the team drew.
- 3.8.c. Where necessary any penalty points shall be deducted from the total league points accumulated at that date, but no side shall gain more than Gentlemen 8 or Ladies 2 points from any one match.
- 3.8.d. Where the names of player/players is/are not advised to the Chairman of the National League Competition Panel as required by Bye-law 2.15.b. a penalty of Gentlemen 1 or Ladies 0.5 point for each player not recorded shall be deducted from the match score of the offending side.
- 3.8.e. Where a home side fails to make an offer for a re-scheduled game as 2.8.e. then that side shall be deducted one point. The National League Competition Panel may waive such penalty where the home club demonstrates to the satisfaction of the National League Competition Panel that any delay is due to the unavoidable inability to reserve or confirm availability of the home green.  
Where an away side fails to action an offer for a re-scheduled game as 2.8.e. the away side shall be deducted one point. In the event that an away side notifies the National League Competition Panel of a failure to agree to an offer and includes a compliant revised proposal then the National League Competition Panel may waive such a penalty.
- 3.8.f. In the event that a side withdraws its entry, without an acceptable reason, after the commencement date of the season has been endorsed by the Council of Management in accordance with Bye-law 3.3.c., the National League Competition Panel shall give warning to the member club and reserves the right to not allow that side to enter in the following season.

### **3.9. Transfer of Players**

A player who has played a complete game or more in any sides entered by one club in any one season, is not allowed to play in a side entered by another club unless the approval of the National League Competition Panel is first obtained. Applications for such transfers must be made in writing, explaining the reasons for the transfer, to the National League Competition Panel and three clear days notice must be given when such applications are made.

### **3.10. Champion Rink Tables Gentlemen's Only**

- 3.10.a. In association with the running of the National League, Champion Skip tables will be maintained by the National League Competition Panel for each Division and issued at regular intervals during the season.
- 3.10.b. For each match played, a Skip will be awarded:
  - 3.10.b.1. Two points for a win; and
  - 3.10.b.2. One point for a draw.
- 3.10.c. The Skip acquiring the largest number of points in each Division in a season will be awarded the title of Champion Team along with the three players with whom he has played the largest number of matches in that season.

## 4. BYE-LAWS OF THE NATIONAL TRIPLES LEAGUE COMPETITION

### 4.1. Composition of Teams

- 4.1.a. The National Triples League Gentlemen's Competition shall be played between sides of three teams of three players each player bowling 3 bowls per end entered by member clubs of the Association.
- 4.1.b. The National Triples League Ladies Competitions Ladies shall be played between sides of three players each player bowling three bowls per end entered by member clubs of the Association
- 4.1.c. If more than one side is entered by a club, the sides will be suffixed A, B, C etc., and this nomenclature will define the rankings of these sides within that club as agreed by the National League Competition Panel.
- 4.1.d. Convenors may nominate a member of his/her club as Captain of a side to act in his/her capacity in any league match.

### 4.2. Composition of Divisions

- 4.2.a. The competition shall be divided into divisions. The number of sides in each of the first, second and third divisions shall not exceed ten.
- 4.2.b. Normally the first division shall consist of the following sides:
  - 4.2.b.1. All sides other than the bottom side of the first division of the previous season and
  - 4.2.b.2. The top side of the second division of the previous season.
- 4.2.c. Normally the second division and all other divisions except the lowest ranked division shall consist of the following sides:
  - 4.2.c.1. The bottom side of the higher division of the previous season;
  - 4.2.c.2. All sides other than the top side and the bottom side of the division of the previous season; and
  - 4.2.c.3. The top side of the lower division of the previous season.
- 4.2.d. Normally the lowest ranked division shall consist of the following sides:
  - 4.2.d.1. The bottom side of the higher division of the previous season;
  - 4.2.d.2. All other sides, other than the top side of the division of the previous season; and
  - 4.2.d.3. All sides which did not compete in the competition in the previous season.

### 4.3. Program of Matches

- 4.3.a. Each side shall play one match against every other side in the same division, the venue to be as decided by the National League Competition Panel.
- 4.3.b. Any individual request for a change of venue shall be considered by the National League Competition Panel but any general long-term request or continuing individual requests shall be referred to the Council of Management.
- 4.3.c. The commencement date of each season shall be decided by the Council of Management on the recommendation of the National League Competition Panel.

### 4.4. Scoring of Points

- 4.4.a. Gentlemen's League
  - In every match, eight points shall be contested. These shall be divided as follows:
    - 4.4.a.1. Two points to each winning team;
    - 4.4.a.2. One point to each team which ties with another team;
    - 4.4.a.3. Two bonus points to each side winning the highest total of shots scored or,
    - 4.4.a.4. One bonus point to each side if the total shots scored by each side are equal.

4.4.b. Ladies League

In every match, two points shall be contested. These shall be divided as follows:

4.4.b.1. Two points to the side with the highest shots scored;

4.4.b.2. One point to each side if the shots scored by each side are equal.

4.5. Time of Starting Matches

4.5.a. The original fixture of all matches, including the venue, the appointed day and the appointed starting time, upon recommendations from the National League Panel, shall be agreed by the Council of Management prior to the commencement of the league season. All matches shall start on the original fixture unless some other time or day, in accordance with these Bye-laws, is mutually agreed between the sides concerned.

4.5.b. Under no circumstances may a game be postponed in advance of the original fixture unless written consent has been obtained from the National League Competition Panel. If the National League Competition Panel allows a postponement it must instruct postponements in a priority of lowest ranked team to highest ranked team.

4.5.c. If at the appointed time plus thirty minutes, less than nine but at least six players for Gentlemen's side and at least two players for a Ladies side are present, the offending side shall field teams of two players, bowling four bowls each. Should a third team member subsequently appear, he may play in any position except Skip and 25% of the score shall be deducted from only those ends played with two players. The lead in the side with three players shall play a second bowl immediately after his first bowl.

4.5.d. If for any reason, except those given in 4.5.a. and 4.5.b. above, a side fails to arrive, or arrives with less than six players for Gentlemen and two players for Ladies at the venue at the appointed time plus thirty minutes, and unless the captains agree to extend the thirty minute period, the match shall be treated as postponed. The circumstances surrounding the reasons for the postponement must be given in writing by both sides to the National League Competition Panel Chairman within 72 hours of the date of the postponed game. The National League Competition Panel will then rule on the postponed game by:

4.5.d.1. Either instructing the game to be replayed within 8 days of the date that the sides have been notified by the National League Competition Panel;

or

4.5.d.2. Giving a walkover to one side. This will only be given in exceptional circumstances. If a walkover is given then the Gentlemen's non offending side shall receive 8 points and an additional aggregate score of plus 10 shots. The offending side shall be deducted an aggregate score of 10 shots; the Ladies non offending side shall receive 2 points and an additional aggregate score of plus 3 shots and the offending side shall be deducted 3 shots; and

4.5.d.3. In the event that the game is played within the 8 days as instructed, by also instructing that the offending party should be deducted 4 points for Gentlemen and 1 point for Ladies; and

4.5.d.4. Deciding whether the offending party should be deducted additional points.

4.5.e. In the event of the offending party failing to comply with the requirement of Bye-law 4.5.d.1. the side shall be deemed to have withdrawn from the competition in accordance with Bye-law 2.3. This must be confirmed by the Council of Management.

#### 4.6. Registered Players

- 4.6.a. The convenors shall register for each side, in writing, with the National League Competition Panel the names of: - Gentlemen's four or Ladies two of its players, before it plays its fourth league match in any league season. These players must have played at least two games in the relevant side prior to registration.
- 4.6.b. A registered player shall not play for another side which is a lower ranking side in the same division within the club in accordance with Bye-law 4.1.c. or in a lower division unless in accordance with Bye-law 4.9.
- 4.6.c. A registered player is allowed to play in a side in a higher division regardless of the number of games played previously in a lower division.

#### 4.7. Unregistered and Tied Players

- 4.7.a. In any one season a player shall be regarded as tied to the side in which he/she has played a total of six or more complete games for that side or for any other side ranked higher than that side in accordance with Bye-law 4.1.c.
- 4.7.b. Any player who has become tied to a side in accordance with Bye-law 4.7.a. shall not play for any side ranked lower in accordance with Bye-law 4.1.c.

#### 4.8. Penalties

- 4.8.a. Where a registered player under Bye-law 4.6.b. or tied player under Bye-law 4.7.a. plays for a side which is ranked lower than the side for which he is registered or has become tied, the side for which he/she plays shall have Gentlemen's 2 or Ladies 2 points deducted from its match score. The opposing side shall have Gentlemen's 2 or Ladies 2 points added if the team in which the defaulting player was the opponent lost and one point added if the teams drew.
- 4.8.b. In any fixture where a player is in default under Bye-law 2.12.e. plays for another side in a match which has the same original fixture, the side for which he plays the second match shall have Gentlemen's 2 or Ladies 2 points deducted from its match score. The opposing side shall have Gentlemen's 2 or Ladies 2 points added if the team in which the defaulting player was the opponent lost and one point if the team drew.
- 4.8.c. Where necessary any penalty points shall be deducted from the total league points accumulated at that date, but no side shall gain more than Gentleman's 8 or Ladies 2 points from any one match.
- 4.8.d. Where the names of player/players is/are not advised to the Chairman of the National League Competition Panel as required by Bye-law 2.15.b. a penalty of Gentlemen's 1 or Ladies 0.25 point for each player not recorded shall be deducted from the match score of the offending side.
- 4.8.e. Where a home side fails to make an offer for a re-scheduled game as 2.8.e. then that side shall be deducted one point. The League Competition Panel may waive such penalty where the home club demonstrates to the satisfaction of the League Competition Panel that any delay is due to the inability to reserve or confirm availability of the home green.  
Where an away side fails to action an offer for a re-schedule game as 2.8.e. the away side shall be deducted one point. In the event that an away side notifies the National League Competition Panel of a failure to agree to an offer and includes a compliant revised proposal then the National League Competition Panel may waive such a penalty.
- 4.8.f. In the event that a side withdraws its entry, without an acceptable reason, after the commencement date of the season has been endorsed by the Council of Management in accordance with Bye-law 4.3.c., the National League Competition Panel shall give warning to the member club and reserves the right to not allow that side to enter in the following season.

#### 4.9. Transfer of Players

A player who has played a complete game or more in any sides entered by one club in any one season is not allowed to play in a side entered by another club unless the approval of the National League Competition Panel is first obtained. Applications for such transfers must be made in writing, explaining the reasons for the transfer, to the National League Competition Panel and three clear days notice must be given when such applications are made.

#### 4.10. Champion Player Tables

- 4.10.a. In association with the running of the National League, Champion Player tables will be maintained by the National League Competition Panel for each Division and issued at regular intervals during the season.
- 4.10.b. For each match played, a Player will be awarded:
  - 4.10.b.1. Two points for a win; and
  - 4.10.b.2. One point for a draw.
- 4.10.c. For Gentlemen, the six Players acquiring the largest number of points in each Division in a season will be awarded the title of Champion Player or first to fifth reserve Champion Player. In the event of equality the players will be sorted in the same priority as for the league table.
- 4.10.d. For Ladies, the three Players acquiring the largest numbers of points in each Division in a season will be awarded the title of Champion Player or first and second reserve Champion Player. In the event of equality the players will be sorted in the same priority as for the league table.

## 5. BYE-LAWS OF THE NATIONAL LEAGUE COMPETITION (MIXED DISCIPLINES)

THIS SECTION OF THE BYE-LAWS WILL BE UPDATED AND PROVIDED WHEN DEMAND ARISES.

### 5.1. Composition of Sides

- 5.1.a. The National League shall be played between sides of ten players entered by members of the Association. The ten players shall consist of one singles player, one pair, one triple and one four.
- 5.1.b. If more than one side is entered by a member Club, the sides will be suffixed A, B, C etc. and this nomenclature will define the descending order of ranking of these sides within that Club as agreed by the National League Competition Panel.

### 5.2. Composition of Divisions

- 5.2.a. The competition will be divided into divisions. The number of sides in each division will not exceed ten.
- 5.2.b. Normally the first division shall consist of the following sides:
  - 5.2.b.1. All sides other than the bottom side of the first division of the previous league; and
  - 5.2.b.2. The top side of the second division of the previous league.
- 5.2.c. Normally the second division and all subsequent divisions other than the lowest ranked division shall consist of the following sides:
  - 5.2.c.1. The bottom side of the first division of the previous league;
  - 5.2.c.2. All sides other than the top and bottom sides of the second division of the previous league; and
  - 5.2.c.3. The top side of the third division of the previous league.
- 5.2.d. Normally the lowest ranked division shall consist of the following sides:
  - 5.2.d.1. The bottom side of the higher division of the previous league;
  - 5.2.d.2. All other sides, other than the top side of the division of the previous league; and
  - 5.2.d.3. All other sides which did not compete in the competition in the previous league.

### 5.3. Programme of Matches

- 5.3.a. Each side shall play one match against every other side in the same division. If a side is drawn at home, the singles and fours shall play at home and the pairs and triples shall travel to the opposing side's venue. Conversely, if a side is drawn away, the pairs and triples shall play at home and the singles and fours shall travel to the opposing side's venue.
- 5.3.b. Any individual request for a change of venue shall be considered by the National League Competition Panel but any general, long term request or continuing individual requests shall be referred to the Council of Management.
- 5.3.c. Each side shall declare the venue for playing home games to the National League Competition Panel before the first match. The commencement date of each league shall be decided by the Council of Management on the recommendation of the National League Competition Panel.

### 5.4. Scoring of Points

In every match, eight points shall be contested. These shall be divided as follows:

- 5.4.a. Two points to each winning discipline i.e. singles winner, pairs winner, triples winner and fours winner; and
- 5.4.b. One point to each discipline, except singles, which tie the score.

### 5.5. Time of Starting Matches

- 5.5.a. All matches shall start at a time to be agreed by the Council of Management prior to the commencement of the league, unless some other time is mutually agreed between the sides concerned.
- 5.5.b. Under no circumstances may a game be postponed in advance of the day appointed unless written consent has been obtained at least 3 days in advance of the day of the game to be postponed from the National League Competition Panel. If the National League Competition Panel allows a postponement it must instruct postponements in a priority of lowest ranked team to highest ranked team.
- 5.5.c. If for any reason, a member of one of the disciplines fails to arrive at the venue at the appointed time plus thirty minutes, and unless the team captains agree to extend the thirty minute period, the match affecting that discipline shall be treated as postponed.  
The circumstances surrounding the reasons for the postponement must be given in writing by both sides to the National League Competition Panel Chairman within 48 hours of the date of the postponed game. The National League Competition Panel will then rule on the postponed game either by:
  - 5.5.c.1. Instructing the match affecting that discipline to be replayed within 8 days of the date that the teams have been notified by the National League Competition Panel; or
  - 5.5.c.2. Giving a walkover to one team. This will only be given in exceptional circumstances. If a walkover is given then the team receiving 2 points will receive an additional aggregate score of plus 10 shots. The offending discipline will be deducted an aggregate score of 10 shots; and
  - 5.5.c.3. Instructing that the offending party should be deducted 2 points; or
  - 5.5.c.4. Deciding whether the offending party should be deducted additional points.
- 5.5.d. In the event of the offending party failing to comply with the requirement of rule 5.5.c. the team shall be reprimanded by the National League Competition Panel and deemed to have withdrawn from the competition in accordance with Bye-law 2.3.. Withdrawal must be confirmed by the Council of Management.

### 5.6. Registered Players

- 5.6.a. Each side shall register in writing with the National League Competition Panel the names of five of its players, before it plays its third league match. These players must have played both games in the relevant side prior to registration.
- 5.6.b. A registered player shall not play for another side which is in a lower ranking side in the same division within the Club in accordance with Bye-law 5.1.b. the same or lower division unless in accordance with Bye-law 5.8.
- 5.6.c. A registered player is allowed to play in a side in a higher division regardless of the number of games he has played previously in a lower division.

### 5.7. Unregistered Players

- 5.7.a. An unregistered player who has played 5 complete games or more for one side in any one season, shall not play for another side which is in a lower ranking side in the same division within the club in accordance with Bye-law 5.1.b. the same or lower division unless he is authorized by the National League Competition Panel in accordance with Bye-law 5.8. or unless it is in accordance with Bye-law 2.11.
- 5.7.b. Any unregistered player who has played any combination of complete games for the sides of his club shall not play for another side which is, under the terms of these Bye-laws, in a lower division.

## 5.8. Transfer of Players

A player who has played two complete games or more in any of the sides entered by one member in any one season is not allowed to play in any lower sides of divisions entered by another member unless the approval of the National League Competition Panel is first obtained. Applications for such transfers must be made in writing to the National League Competition Panel and three clear days notice must be given when such applications are made.

## 5.9. Penalties

- 5.9.a. Where a registered player under Bye-law 5.6.b. or an unregistered player under Bye-law 5.7.b. plays for a side which is in a lower division than that for which he is registered or has become tied the lower division side shall have 2 points deducted from their match score. The opposing side shall have 2 points added if the discipline in which the defaulting player was the opponent lost and one point added if the game was a draw.
- 5.9.b. In rearranged fixtures where a player is in default under Bye-law 2.12.e. plays for another side on the date of the original fixture, the side for which he plays the second match shall have 2 points deducted from their match score. The opposing side shall have 2 points added if the discipline in which the defaulting player was the opponent lost and one point added if the game was a draw.
- 5.9.c. Where necessary, any penalty points shall be deducted from the total league points accumulated at that date, but no team shall gain more than 2 match points for a game in any one discipline.
- 5.9.d. Where a home team fails to make an offer for a re-scheduled game as 2.8.e. then that team shall be deducted one point. The National League Competition Panel may waive such penalty where the home club demonstrates to the satisfaction of the National League Competition Panel that any delay is due to the unavailability to reserve or confirm availability of the home green.
- 5.9.e. In the event that a side withdraws its entry, without an acceptable reason, after the commencement date of the season has been endorsed by the Council of Management in accordance with Bye-law 5.3.c., the National League Competition Panel shall give warning to the member club and reserves the right not allowing that side to enter in the following season.  
Where an away team fails to action an offer for a re-scheduled game as 2.8.e. the away team shall be deducted one point. In the event that an away team notifies the National League Competition Panel of a failure to agree to an offer and includes a compliant revised proposal then the National League Competition Panel may waive such a penalty.

## 6. BYE-LAWS OF THE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

### 6.1. List of National Championships

- 6.1.a. The National Championships and Competitions of the Association will be controlled by the National Championships Panel.
- 6.1.b. The Chairman of the National Championships Panel will be an Officer of the Association delegated the responsibility following the Annual General Meeting. He will form a Panel with not less than two additional Council of Management members.
- 6.1.c. The following annual Gentlemen National Championships and Competitions shall be managed and controlled by the National Championships Panel:
  - 6.1.c.1. Singles Championship (Bradbury Challenge Cup).
  - 6.1.c.2. Pairs Championship (K.C.C. Trophy).
  - 6.1.c.3. Triples Championship (R.Tay Trophy).
  - 6.1.c.4. Fours Championship (Omar Trophy).
  - 6.1.c.5. Knock-Out Singles Championship (Geoff Murphy Trophy).
  - 6.1.c.6. Champion of Champions Championship.
  - 6.1.c.7. Indoor Singles Championship (Vincent CHEUNG Trophy).
  - 6.1.c.8. Inter-Hong Pairs (H.U.D. Trophy).
  - 6.1.c.9. International Fours (Gutierraz Shield).
  - 6.1.c.10. 2x4x2 Pairs (Lawn Bowls East).
  - 6.1.c.11. 2x2x2x2 Pairs (Pat O'Dea Trophy).
  - 6.1.c.12. Under-25 Singles Championship.
  - 6.1.c.13. Fah Wong Singles Championship (Botelho "Ho Yeh" Cup).
- 6.1.d. The premier Gentlemen National Championships are the:
  - 6.1.d.1. Singles Championship. (Outdoor grass)
  - 6.1.d.2. Pairs Championship. (Outdoor grass)
  - 6.1.d.3. Triples Championship (Outdoor grass)
  - 6.1.d.4. Fours Championship. (Outdoor grass)
  - 6.1.d.5. Knock-Out Singles Championship (Outdoor grass)
- 6.1.e. The following annual Ladies National Championships and Competitions shall be managed and controlled by the National Championships Panel:
  - 6.1.e.1. Singles Championship (YEUNG Ching, Lena Trophy).
  - 6.1.e.2. Pairs Championship.
  - 6.1.e.3. Triples Championship.
  - 6.1.e.4. Fours Championship.
  - 6.1.e.5. Knock-Out Singles Championship (Philip CHOK Trophy)
  - 6.1.e.6. Champion of Champions Championship (YEUNG Ching, Lena Trophy).
  - 6.1.e.7. Indoor Singles Championship.
  - 6.1.e.8. 2x4x2 Pairs Championship.
  - 6.1.e.9. 2x2x2x2 Pairs Championship.
  - 6.1.e.10. Under-25 Singles Championship.
- 6.1.f. The premier Ladies National Championships are the:
  - 6.1.f.1. Singles Championship. (Outdoor grass)
  - 6.1.f.2. Pairs Championship. (Outdoor grass)
  - 6.1.f.3. Triples Championship. (Outdoor grass)
  - 6.1.f.4. Fours Championship. (Outdoor grass)
  - 6.1.f.5. Knock-Out Singles Championship. (Outdoor grass)
- 6.1.g. The following annual Ladies & Gentlemen National Championships and Competitions shall be managed and controlled by the National Championships Panel:
  - 6.1.g.1. Mixed Pairs Championship (Hetherington Trophy).
  - 6.1.g.2. Mixed Fours Championship (Scott Trophy).
  - 6.1.g.3. Mixed Triples Championship.
  - 6.1.g.4. Aitkenhead Fours Competition for the Aitkenhead Shield.

- 6.1.h. The following annual Ladies & Gentlemen Novice Championships and Competitions shall be managed and controlled by the National Championships Panel:
  - 6.1.h.1. Men's Novice Singles
  - 6.1.h.2. Men's Novice Pairs
  - 6.1.h.3. Men's Novice Triples
  - 6.1.h.4. Ladies Novice Singles
  - 6.1.h.5. Ladies Novice Pairs
  - 6.1.h.6. Ladies Novice Triples
  - 6.1.h.7. Mixed Novice Fours

#### **6.2. Responsibilities of National Championships Panel**

- 6.2.a. The National Championships Panel shall decide:
  - 6.2.a.1. Closing dates for entries;
  - 6.2.a.2. Times, dates and venues for all matches.
- 6.2.b. The National Championships Panel shall manage all competitions subject to the following conditions:
  - 6.2.b.1. For all competitions where no sectional play is involved, the draw will be made in such a way that byes can only occur in the first round.
  - 6.2.b.2. For all competitions except the Aitkenhead Fours, the Knock-Out Singles Championship, the Indoor Singles Championship, Under-25 Mixed Singles Championship, the Fah Wong Singles Championship, and the Champion of Champions competition, all matches before the semi-final round will be played at the home green of the first-drawn competitors or teams. Matches in the rounds of semi-final and final will be arranged on neutral grass greens where possible.
- 6.2.c. The National Championships Panel is empowered to deal with all appeals from competitors. Any competitor has the right to appeal to the Council of Management if he or she is dissatisfied with the decision of the National Championships Panel.

#### **6.3. Entry Fees for National Championships**

Prior to the commencement of the National Championships and Competitions in any bowling year, the Council of Management shall set fees to be paid by competitors in competitions managed and controlled by the Association. Any request for refund of fees for any reason will be directed to the National Championships Panel which will make a recommendation to the Council of Management.

#### **6.4. Decisions in Matches**

Except for sectional play in the Aitkenhead Fours and International Fours, if the scores are equal in an elimination match when the normal number of ends has been completed, an extra end or ends shall be played until a decision is reached.

#### **6.5. Entry of Competitors**

- 6.5.a. Entries of any competition will be included in the draw for that competition only if received on or before the closing date for entries and on an official entry form.
- 6.5.b. No competitor may enter twice in the same competition. If separate team entries name the same player, all such teams will be excluded from the draw for the competition.
- 6.5.c. A competitor must liaise with his or her Club Convenor for details of the competition for which he or she is entered.
- 6.5.d. Entries for National Championships and Competitions will only be accepted from bona fide members of clubs affiliated to the Association, children of such members, or any player who has participated in a coaching course at a public green.

#### **6.6. Replacement of Competitors**

- 6.6.a. Prior to the draw for any competition, Member Clubs may request the National Championships Panel to replace a team or singles competitor correctly entered into the competition with an alternative team or competitor. Providing the National Championships Panel approves the request for replacement, such teams or competitor will be considered to be an original entrant for the competition.
- 6.6.b. No replacements, other than bona fide substitutes will be allowed after the draw has been completed.

#### **6.7. Substitution of Competitors**

- 6.7.a. The same competitors entered as a team must play for the team but not necessarily in the same order in each game throughout the competition.
- 6.7.b. In the event of illness, death or absence from Hong Kong of one competitor, the team may apply to the National Championships Panel for permission to substitute, either temporarily or permanently, another competitor who has not played in the competition. Only one substitute shall be permitted for each team in each game of the competition.
- 6.7.c. No substitute shall play in the position of Skip.
- 6.7.d. Substitutes are not allowed in any singles competition.
- 6.7.e. If a substitute plays more than one game, he shall be considered as a permanent member of the team and the original entrant for whom he substituted shall take no further part in the competition.
- 6.7.f. Should a substitute be necessary in the final of a competition for a reason stated in Bye-law 6.7.b., that substitute and the original team member shall be jointly registered with the Association as winner or runner-up.
- 6.7.g. The National Championships Panel is empowered to deal with all requests for replacements under Bye-law 6.6. and requests for substitutions under this Bye-law, and their decision regarding same is final and binding upon all members and is not subject to appeal under Bye-law 6.2.c., above. Any disqualification or request for disqualification resulting from infringements or alleged infringements of the Bye-laws covering replacement and substitutions may be subject to appeal to the Council of Management.
- 6.7.h. This Bye-law does not apply to the International Fours Championship in which a substitute must comply with Bye-law 6.19.

#### **6.8. Disqualification of Competitors**

- 6.8.a. Any team or competitor failing to appear on the green ready to play a match on the date, at the venue, and within thirty minutes of the time specified by the National Championships Panel shall be automatically disqualified.
- 6.8.b. For the purpose of Bye-law 6.8.a. only. For singles competitions the marker shall be part of the team for the competitor responsible for arranging the marker. A team of player or marker failing to appear as 6.8.a. shall result in the automatic disqualification of that team for the competition. This shall not preclude a member of the team as acting as a marker for another team.
- 6.8.c. Any member of such a team so disqualified without playing in the competition shall not be permitted to play as a substitute in accordance with Bye-law 6.7.b..
- 6.8.d. Any competitor or team whose opponent(s) fail to appear within thirty minutes of the specified time must submit to the National Championships Panel a card signed to that effect by another competitor playing at the venue or by a responsible bowling member of the venue club.
- 6.8.e. This Bye-law does not apply to the Knock-Out Singles Championships for which Bye-law 6.13. shall apply.

#### **6.9. Venues, Dates and Times of Matches, Markers for Singles, Trial Ends and Declaration of Home Green**

- 6.9.a. Competitors may by mutual agreement arrange to play matches at venues, dates and times other than those arranged by the National Championships Panel, except for the semi-finals and final, provided that the National Championships Panel is notified and is satisfied that the progress of a competition is not thereby impeded. This Bye-law does not apply to the following competitions:
- 6.9.a.1. Knock-Out Singles Championship,
  - 6.9.a.2. Champion of Champions Championship,
  - 6.9.a.3. Aitkenhead Fours Competition,
  - 6.9.a.4. Under-25 Singles Championship,
  - 6.9.a.5. Fah Wong Singles Championship.
- 6.9.b. The venue for competitions of the premier National Championships listed in 6.1.d & f. shall be as designated.
- 6.9.c. Competitors who re-arrange a venue must, as a matter of courtesy, also advise the convenor of the club originally designated as the venue regarding the rearrangements approved by the National Championships Panel.
- 6.9.d. For singles competitions, the player on the left hand side of the draw shall be responsible for arranging the marker. The National Championships Panel may direct other arrangements for the provision of the marker.
- 6.9.e. Before the start of play in any National Championships game, or before continuing an unfinished National Championship game on another day, the National Championships Panel can allow a maximum of one trial end to be played in each direction.
- 6.9.f. Each player shall play two bowls in each trial end, unless otherwise specified.
- 6.9.g. Competitors or teams of a club may declare only one home green for each competition, (competitions without home greens excluded). The home green so opted shall be the green they use for league games or can be so used for league games. Once opted, the home green shall be used throughout that competition.
- 6.9.h. Competitors or teams of a club who wish to declare no home green must have the approval of the National Championships Panel prior to the draw of fixtures. Approval of no home green shall only be considered if such greens are genuinely unavailable or not suitable for the competition.

#### **6.10. Closing of Greens**

- 6.10.a. In the event of inclement weather prior to a match commencing, the home side Convenor shall make a decision regarding the availability of the greens not more than two hours and, if possible, not less than one hour before the appointed starting time and shall have a responsible person available during the two hours before the appointed time to answer queries on this subject. By agreement between the Captains of both sides, the starting time may be delayed to enable the greens to become playable.
- 6.10.b. In the event of inclement weather, such as heavy rainfall occurring during a match, every effort must be made to complete the head being played. If this is impossible due to closure of the greens, which decision shall be made by the home side, then the partially played head shall be abandoned and recognised as not having been played.

**6.11. Unfinished Matches**

- 6.11.a. When a match is stopped by mutual agreement of the Skips or competitors, by appeal to a mutually agreed Umpire, by darkness, by inclement weather, or for some other valid reason, it shall be resumed with the score as it was when the match was interrupted.
- 6.11.b. In the event of heavy rainfall occurring during a match, every effort must be made to complete the end being played. If this is impossible due to closure of green, then the partially completed head shall be abandoned and regarded as not having been played.
- 6.11.c. Unfinished matches, including matches which could not be started due to closure of the greens, must be completed within six days of the day originally appointed for the match unless the National Championships Panel otherwise directs. It will be the responsibility of the first-named team or competitor to ensure that contact is made with their opponent in this situation.
- 6.11.d. When completing an unfinished match, or one that could not be started, the venue should be the venue at which the match was commenced or originally scheduled. Every effort should be made to complete an unfinished match on the rink used for the start of the match.

**6.12. Special Bye-laws**

Bye-laws 6.12 to 6.24. shall apply only to the specific competition named in the title of the Bye-law and such Bye-laws shall take precedence over all other Bye-laws.

**6.13. Knock-Out Singles**

- 6.13.a. A competitor who fails to appear at the venue, time and date specified by the National Championships Panel shall not be included in the draw.
- 6.13.b. A competitor who fails to appear on the green ready to play a match within ten minutes of the time arranged shall be disqualified. This shall not apply in the case of a competitor in the process of completing a previous match.
- 6.13.c. All matches other than the semi-finals and final shall be decided when one player reaches the number of shots set by the National Championships Panel prior to the commencement of the competition.
- 6.13.d. The semi-finals and final shall be decided when one player reaches the number of shots set by the National Championships Panel prior to the commencement of the competition.

- 6.14. Champion of Champions Championship**
- 6.14.a. Entries shall be restricted to the current holders of:
- 6.14.a.1. The Champion of Champions Championships of the Association
  - 6.14.a.2. The Singles Championships of the Association.
  - 6.14.a.3. The Knockout Singles Championships of the Association.
  - 6.14.a.4. The male or female as applicable Singles Champions of each Member Club for the current season.
    - 6.14.a.4.1. If a Member Club's Singles Championship competition for the current season has not been completed before the entries are closed then such Member Club shall not be eligible to enter a competitor.
    - 6.14.a.4.2. Entries will be accepted only from the winners of the Singles Championship competition of a Member Club if that winner represents that Member Club in the National Premier League Competition. In the case of non-league players, an entry will be accepted from a winner of a Singles Championship competition of a Member Club provided that this player entered the Singles Championship competition in only one Member Club and would have been eligible under these Bye-laws to play in that Member's National League side.
    - 6.14.a.4.3. In the event of the winner of a Member's Singles Championship having entered for that Member's Single Championship only, and not for any other Member's Singles Championship, but having played in the National League for another Member, the Council of Management, upon appeal, is empowered to reconsider the application to enter the Champion of Champions Championship which would have been automatically rejected under Bye-law 6.14.a.4.2. above, depending upon the reasons given.
- 6.14.b. In the case of Champions of the Association, entries shall be made by the Honorary Secretary of the Association.
- 6.14.c. In the case of Champions of Member Clubs, entries shall be made by the Member's representative on the Council of Management.
- 6.14.d. Each competitor shall play one match against every other competitor or other format of sectional round robin play as decided by the National Championship Panel.
- 6.14.e. The winner of the Championship shall be determined by the number of matches won. If two or more competitors win the same number of matches, the winner among them shall be the competitor with the greatest positive difference between shots scored for and against throughout the competition. If two or more competitors are still tied, the winner among them will be the competitor who scored the most shots throughout the competition. If two competitors are still tied, the winner among them shall be the winner of the match between the two players during the competition.
- 6.14.f. The winner of each match is the first competitor to score the number of shots set by the National Championships Panel prior to the commencement of the competition (shots in excess shall not be counted).
- 6.14.g. If a competitor fails to play in a match or withdraws from the competition, all results relating to that player shall be expunged, as if the competitor had not played in the competition, and, if no satisfactory explanation for such a withdrawal is given, the Council of Management shall debar such competitor or Member Club from competing in the competition in the following season.

- 6.14.h. Each competitor must be prepared to provide one marker for each round if requested to do so by the National Championships Panel.
- 6.15. Inter-Hong Pairs Championship**  
Entries shall be restricted to teams in which both competitors are members of what, in the opinion of the National Championships Panel, are generally recognised as firms, companies, government departments, units or other similar organisations consistent with the meaning of the word "Hong".
- 6.16. Mixed Pairs Championship**  
In this competition each team shall comprise one lady and one man, and either shall play as Skip.
- 6.17. Mixed Triples Championship**  
In this competition each team shall comprise at least one lady and one man, and either shall play as Skip.
- 6.18. Mixed Fours Championship**  
In this competition each team shall comprise two ladies and two men, and anyone shall play as Skip.
- 6.19. International Fours Championship**
- 6.19.a. All entries in a team must be from the same country or territory which, in the opinion of the National Championships Panel, is generally recognised as being a national entry.
  - 6.19.b. At the discretion of the National Championships Panel, more than one team may be accepted from any country or territory.
  - 6.19.c. A competitor must qualify to play for a team by reason of birth, naturalisation, citizenship or descent.
  - 6.19.d. A competitor shall be deemed to have represented a team if he has been officially nominated for, and has accepted nomination for, that team, whether or not he in fact plays for that team.
  - 6.19.e. A competitor may not play for a team if he has represented, or been deemed to have represented, another team.
  - 6.19.f. The National Championships Panel shall appoint a convenor for each country or territory. This convenor will be responsible for selecting the players and substitutes from among the entries for that country or territory, and for ensuring that players comply with the requirements of this Bye-law.
  - 6.19.g. At least three days prior to the date of the first round or as directed by the National Championships Panel, each convenor shall submit the names of his players and substitutes for approval by the National Championships Panel, together with the appropriate fee.
  - 6.19.h. The manner of play of the competition will be determined by the National Championships Panel based on the number of entries received.
  - 6.19.i. For this competition there are no restrictions on the number of substitutes allowed, or on the positions in which they may play.

**6.20. 2-4-2 Pairs Championship**

Each match is played over 18 ends. For each team on each end, the first player plays two bowls, his partner plays four bowls, then the first player play his two remaining bowls. The player to play first for each team alternates with each end. The same player will therefore play the first two and last two bowls for his team on odd-numbered ends and the third, fourth, fifth and sixth bowls consecutively on even-numbered ends. His partner will play the first two and last two bowls for his team on even-numbered ends and the third, fourth, fifth and sixth bowls consecutively on odd-numbered ends.

In the event that an extra end is played, the order of play shall be as for the first end.

**6.21. 2-2-2-2 Pairs Championship**

Each match is 18 ends. For each team on each end, the Lead plays the first two bowls, the Skip plays the next two bowls, the Lead play his two remaining bowls followed by the two remaining bowls of the Skip.

**6.22. Aitkenhead Fours Competition**

6.22.a. Each match will be restricted to a certain time limit to be specified on the day of the competition.

6.22.b. Teams will play a round robin in sections to determine the qualifiers for the quarter-finals. A normal elimination will then determine the winning team.

**6.23. Under-25 Singles Championship**

6.23.a. Entries are restricted to those who have not reached the age of 25 on the date of the competition.

6.23.b. Depending on the number of entries, it may be played as round-robin competition or elimination competition at the discretion of the National Championships Panel.

**6.24. Fah Wong Singles Championship**

6.24.a. Entries are restricted to employees of Member Clubs who are specifically employed in the maintenance and upkeep of lawn bowls greens.

6.24.b. The format for the competition is dependent on the number of entries and will be determined at the discretion of the National Championships Panel.

**6.25. Bowler of the Year Award**

6.25.a. Points are awarded, in accordance with the following table, for results in the premier National Championships as listed in Bye-law 6.1.d. & f.:

For winning each match prior to the quarter-final:- 1 point

For winning a quarter-final:- 2 points

For winning a semi-final:- 4 points

For winning a premier National Championship:- 8 points

6.25.b. The winner of the Bowler of the Year Award is the player who finishes the season with the highest number of points.

## **7. YOUTH DEVELOPMENT**

### **7.1. Coaches and Co-ordinator**

A number of coaches, one of whom shall be the Youth Development Co-ordinator, are deployed to manage and to train the Youth Development Team (YDT) until they reach the age of 25. The YDT co-ordinator shall initiate and implement training programmes and conduct recruitment events at periodic intervals.

### **7.2. Entry Into Youth Development Programme**

Any persons under the age of 25 can enter the Youth Development Programme through : -

- 7.2.a. Open recruitment.
- 7.2.b. Introduction by members/bowlers of HKLBA; and
- 7.2.c. Introduction by members of the YDT.

### **7.3. League Matches During School Final Examination Period**

Once in the team, apart from training in the skills, manner and etiquette of bowls, members' school studies shall be taken into consideration and shall take precedence over league matches. The YDT may rearrange their league game to a date beyond the limit set in bye-law 3.8.e. only for the matches scheduled during their final examination period.

### **7.4. YDTs in National League**

On the recommendation of the coaches, YDT team(s) will be formed to take part in the National League Championship.

### **7.5. YDT Members Loaned to Member Clubs**

In the event when YDT league teams are fully filled and there are still extra YDT members available as reserves, such extras can be loaned to member clubs who are short of players in the league competitions coming-up. Clubs requiring YDT assistance should contact the YDT co-ordinator on or before the Wednesday before the match giving required numbers only. Specific players may not be requested. The YDT co-ordinator will arrange YDT reserves to play for clubs on a first-come-first-served basis. Clubs using YDT reserves shall pay HKLBA a fee set the by Council of Management per head per game. Clubs using YDT reserves shall not incur any expenditure related to that game upon any of the YDT players. When youth team players are on loan to other clubs they should wear youth team uniform.

### **7.6. No Player to Play In the Re-arranged and Original Fixture**

Whenever a YDT member has played a game for YDT or was loaned to play for another club, rules set out in bye-law 2.12.e. shall apply.

### **7.7. National Under-25 Competitions**

All National under-25 competitions are open to all YDT members and bowlers who are under the age of 25 at the time of the competition.

### **7.8. YDT Member Development by Member Club**

If a member club wishes to take over the development of any YDT member from the HKLBA, the general committee of the member club can apply to HKLBA in writing setting out their conditions which are:-

- 7.8.a. Beneficial to the future development of the YDT members;
- 7.8.b. Not contravening any rules and regulations of the member club or HKLBA; and
- 7.8.c. Willingly accepted by the YDT member(s).

**7.9. Conditions on YDT Member Development by Member Club**

Once the application in 7.8 is approved by the HKLBA, the YDT members will be handed over to the member club who shall undertake to:-

- 7.9.a. Fulfil the conditions set out in 7.8.a. ;
- 7.9.b. Provide HKLBA with progress reports on the YDT member ;-
  - 7.9.b.1. After the first half of the premier league;
  - 7.9.b.2. Completion of the premier league; and
  - 7.9.b.3. Completion of the triples league.

**7.10 Over 25 Years of Age YDT Members to Member Clubs**

On reaching the age of 25, actions will be taken by HKLBA for YDT members to be absorbed into member clubs.