



Tuesday Contemporary Trios League Constitution and Rules



2023/2024 Season



Constitution and rules for the Tuesday Contemporary Trios Tenpin Bowling League

The league bowls at Riverside Bowl, Sunderland, hereinafter termed "The Centre".

These rules were adopted by the League at the AGM on 5th September 2023.

1. League format

The League is a mixed league which bowls on Tuesdays at 19:30.

The League consists of nine teams, bowling a 10-team schedule with one team having a bye each week.

The bowling season shall consist of five cycles of nine matches. There will be no position rounds.

There will be breaks for Christmas and Easter as shown in the Fixture list.

2. Sponsorship

Wherever possible, the Board shall endeavour to obtain sponsors for the League, in order to gain financial support in its activities. Where Sponsors are gained, they shall be deemed Honorary Members of the League and invited to attend all social activities, or other functions, as such.

3. Sanctioning

The League will be sanctioned by the BTBA (Sanction No applied for) and all players must be members of the BTBA with the exceptions noted in Section 2.1.

The League shall be played under BTBA general playing rules and regulations, BTBA League Rules subject to the agreed specific league rules as described below.

2.1 Non-BTBA members

A team may use a reserve bowler for one or two matches during the season. Such reserves, who are not members of the BTBA will pay a £1 fine for each match bowled up to a maximum of four matches (12 games). If more than 12 games are bowled, the player **must** join the BTBA prior to the 13th game. The £4 accrued in fines will be discounted from the membership fee. The fines accrued from bowlers who are not BTBA members and bowl 12 games or fewer will be donated to League Funds.

4. Management

The Management of the League shall be vested in the Board of Directors, which shall consist of the officers as listed below. The entire League membership shall elect Officers and adopt League rules. A majority of Teams shall constitute a quorum.

President:	William Jukes
Vice President:	Paul Wilkinson
Secretary/Treasurer:	Dave Malpas
Members:	Team Captains

The Board shall decide upon all disputes, complaints or protests arising in the League.

The decision of the Board shall be final.

5. Northumberland and Durham Tenpin Bowling Associations

The league shall elect a representative to each of the Northumberland and Durham Association Councils.

6. Start time

The league will commence at 7.30 pm on Tuesday evenings, previous Leagues notwithstanding. Squad time shall be determined as 7.15pm.

Teams will practise under INSTRUCTOMAT until switched to Matchplay by Centre Control.

Bowling must begin when the lanes are switched to Matchplay.

6.1 Late arrivals

A player who arrives after bowling has started will be allowed to catch up the missing frames if he is ready to bowl by the completion of the 5th frame, prior to the first ball being bowled in the 6th frame.

A player who arrives after the 6th frame has commenced will be permitted to bowl from the frame in progress, but his score will not be counted in the result for that game and his blind score will be used. The player will then be allowed to bowl the remaining games.

Absent bowlers (blinds) will be responsible for payment of lineage and prize fund. If payment is not received, the amount will be deducted from the final prize allocated to the team. (Refer to section 7).

A match may be delayed in order to wait for a late player with the agreement of both teams. The delay must be no longer than 15 minutes.

Teams and/or individuals who deliberately waste time in order to wait for late arrivals risk forfeiture of that game and possible discipline by the Committee.

7. Fees

The charges for bowling shall be paid by each bowler to their Team Captain and the combined total paid to the Treasurer upon demand or during the playing of the first game in the series that evening.

Full fees of £15 (3 games lineage plus £3,50 league fees) per person are due each time a team is scheduled to bowl. Where a team fails to appear or if a team postpones a match, league fees must in all cases be paid. In the event of an individual player failing to appear, with no replacement acting in his stead, those match and league fees will be paid by the team and the cost recovered from the individual by them.

The fees are currently £15.00 for each member taking part each week, such cost covering both lineage and prize fund.

8. Team Captain

Each team shall appoint a captain who will be responsible for the good conduct of the members of their team and ensure good lane discipline during play. They shall be responsible for the collection of fees from their team and for speedy payment to the Treasurer.

The captain will be the team representative on the Board and is able to appoint a substitute to attend meetings in their absence and to vote on their behalf.

In the event of the failure of the automatic foul-detecting lights, they shall, in conjunction with their opposite number, nominate a person to act as a foul judge to oversee such actions.

9. Scoring

The automatic system will be used to record the score. It is in bowlers' best interests to ensure that the score actually rolled corresponds with the score displayed.

The scores from each game bowled are to be entered manually on the scoresheet provided by the Secretary and signed by each Team Captain at the close of play.

Failure to complete the scoresheet fully, may result in the forfeiture of points and scores gained.

Captains should sign under their and endorse any Awards achieved.

9.1 Scoring errors

Errors in scoring by the automatic system shall be corrected manually following agreement by both team captains, If manual correction is not possible, the error shall be reported to the Centre control for correction.

The Secretary will correct any obvious errors in calculation on scoresheets. Team Captains will be advised at the first available opportunity.

The Secretary cannot be held responsible for miscalculation errors on the part of individuals.

The Board will decide upon any questionable errors.

10. Handicaps

The League will be bowled on a handicap basis.

Handicaps will be based on 80% of the difference between the bowler's average and 230.

The handicap so determined will be included for each game bowled.

At the start of a new League schedule, each bowler's previous League average and handicap will be used for their first nine (9) games.

After this, the current season's scores will be used to calculate average and handicap and will be adjusted weekly.

In the case of new bowlers, and at all other times, averages and handicaps shall be calculated from the total scratch pinfall attained over the first series bowled.

There is no maximum handicap.

11. Blind Score

An absent member shall not prevent a team from bowling. Where no substitute or reserve is available, the team will bowl operating an absentee or "blind" score credited on behalf of a missing player.

The blind score will be 170 (without handicap).

A team may use a blind scores to replace only ONE team member only.

12. Scoring and determination of Position Standings

The number of points gained will determine the position of Teams in the League. Points will be awarded on the basis of two (2) points per game per 3 game series (6 points in total) with a further two (2) points in respect of highest overall pinfall inclusive of handicap.

Teams will be awarded one (1) point each for tied games and pinfall.

When teams have equal points, league positions will be determined by pinfall inclusive of handicap. If this still remains the same, positions are determined by wins percentage.

13. Deficient League Schedule

In the event of a Schedule showing a deficit of Teams, and an application being made by a Team for inclusion in the Schedule after its commencement, such

application is to be submitted to a full Board Meeting.

If such application is successful, it is on the understanding that the incoming Team will begin accumulating points with effect from their initial fixture, and that that Team would not be allowed to make up any deficit in points or Games played by virtue of the payment of retrospective League Fees.

14. Prizes

Trophies may be awarded to the Teams occupying first position in the League at the close of the season.

Cash prizes will be awarded to all teams, the amounts reducing from 1st to last place.

The agreed distribution of prizes is as follows:

1st Place - £100

2nd Place - £50

3rd Place - £25

Each team to receive £1 per point

The remaining prize fund will be divided equally between the teams.

This is subject to change, at the Committee's discretion, depending on League funds. Other positional achievements will be recognised at the discretion of the Committee.

Individual prizes of £15 will be awarded to:

High scratch game High scratch series

High handicap game High handicap series

High average

In order to be eligible for individual awards, a bowler must have played a minimum of 50% of the league schedule (65% for high average).

Only one award can be given for each score. That is, a high scratch score cannot take the award for high handicap based on the same scratch game.

Further trophies and/or cash will be awarded, also at the discretion of the Committee, in respect of individual achievement and a list of these will be made available on request.

15. Foul Judge

Automatic Foul Lights will be utilised in all League fixtures. Where these are inoperative, for whatever reason, the opposing Captain will call fouls or nominate someone to operate as a foul-judge. Any disputes must be brought to the attention of the committee immediately, and they will adjudicate the dispute. The committee, at their discretion, may appoint a suitable and impartial individual to adjudicate on their behalf.

16. Inguorate Schedule

Where 50% of the League is not present on the night to meet the scheduled fixtures, the total fixture list for that session will be postponed to the following week and the Schedule re-arranged accordingly. Those teams present may roll a separate tournament in order to obviate the Centre surcharging the League.

17. Inguorate Team

Each team may have a maximum of six members registered.

In the event that only two players are available for a particular fixture, those two players will constitute a team and the series played as scheduled including a blind score for the missing bowler (see above).

In the event that only one team member appears for a League fixture, the points available shall be awarded to the team with the full complement and forfeited by the opposing team. The team member may bowl their series and scores attained will count in League records and qualify for League awards.

18. Postponements

Teams requiring re-arranged matches, either postponements or pre-bowling, must abide by the following:

- 18.1 Requests for postponement must be made at least one week before the scheduled date of the match.
- 18.2 The Team requiring the postponement/pre-bowl must obtain agreement from the opposing captain.
- 18.3 Once the opposing captain has agreed, the league secretary and treasurer MUST be informed.
- 18.4. The League Secretary and League Treasurer must be informed as to the new date, and an official score sheet obtained. The score-sheet is to be endorsed with the date on which the original fixture was to have been played, in order to identify events, as well as the actual date on which the match is played.
- 18.5. The Team postponing is responsible for advising Centre Control of the new date and arranging lanes on which to play the rearranged match.
- 18.6 Failure to inform the League Secretary of any postponements could result in teams being charged for lanes not used at the scheduled time.
- 18.7 No postponements shall be granted for the last two fixtures of the season.
- 18.8 All rearranged matches must be played head to head. "Doubling up" will not be allowed.
- 18.9 The team asking for postponement must pay their fees to the League Treasurer in respect of the postponed game.

- 18.10 Where an alternative date for postponements cannot be agreed between the two parties, the Vice President and the Secretary together shall select a time and date on which the match is to be played. This decision is final. If the parties cannot meet this fixture, all points are forfeited, and the Teams will still be liable for the payment of League Fees.
- 18.11 All rearranged games must be played before the final week of the league schedule.
- 18.12 Handicaps for rearranged games are those current at the time the rearranged game is played NOT at the time the game was supposed to be played.
- 18.13 Envelope games are **NOT** allowed.

When postponed games are played **NO LINEAGE** should be paid to the Centre and all monies must be provided to the Treasurer or secretary, preferably in advance of the scheduled date of the postponed game.

19. **Emergency Postponements**

In some situations, it may not be possible to provide a weeks' notice of a required postponement. In such situations, a postponement may still be made providing the opposing team captain agrees. Failure to agree a postponement, depending on the reason for the postponement, may be considered as a breach of etiquette.

20. **Forfeiture**

Failure by any team to arrive at the Centre on, without having given prior notification, will be reason for the Committee to award such points as are available to the opposing team, although that team must still bowl their series. In the event of non-appearance of both teams all points available shall be forfeited and the match declared void. Both teams will still be liable for payment of League Fees and for all costs incurred by the League in payment for those lanes not used.

21. **Tie for League Championship**

in the event of a points tie in respect of the League Championship at the conclusion of the League fixtures, the two teams in dispute shall roll a further three-game series with 8 points at stake. The winner of this series shall be declared Champions. In the event that this series also results in a tie (4 points each), a further single game will be rolled to determine the position. In the event that this single game is also drawn, further single games will be played in succession until a winner emerges. This team will then be declared Champions.

Ties for other positions will be decided on total handicap pinfall.

22. **Disability, Injury or other Emergency**

When a player is unable to complete a game under these circumstances, and a qualified substitute is not available, the frames not bowled shall be calculated pro-rata to the Blind Score and included in the Team total, adjusted with the reduced handicap.

The game score shall not be included in the calculation of the player's average.

23. Withdrawals

Members of a league may withdraw from a league during a season. If one or more teams have to withdraw fully from the league, the actions to be taken depend on the number of remaining teams. A team which withdraws from the league may have their prize allocation reduced depending on the amount of prize fund they have contributed, at the discretion of the league board.

23.1 Odd number of teams remaining

All points won against the withdrawing team(s) up to the last complete cycle of matches will remain. All points obtained against the withdrawing team during the current cycle will be deducted. Each team will then have a "Bye" for the remainder of the season.

23.2 Even number of teams remaining

All points won against the withdrawing team(s) up to the last complete cycle of matches will remain. All points obtained against the withdrawing team during the current cycle will be deducted.

For the remaining full cycles, the fixture list will be adjusted according to the number of teams remaining to ensure that full cycles are bowled. The season may have to be extended or reduced to enable this to happen.

23.3 If a team or individual must withdraw, the following procedure is to be followed:

- a. Two weeks notice must be given along with sufficient cause for resigning.
 - i. A team shall give notice to the league secretary.
 - ii. A member resigning from a team shall give notice to the captain and the league secretary.

- b. The resigning member(s) must pay league fees for two weeks if the bowler is not replaced within that period.

23.4 If proper notice and sufficient cause is not given, all franchise, prize and any other money for which the team or individual may have been eligible will be forfeited, unless the league board determines otherwise.

24. Regular and Substitute Players

Team Captains will submit a list of their prospective team members to the League Secretary prior to the start of the season. Team members are to be limited to a maximum of SIX.

New members may be introduced into the League at any time during its schedule, subject to the rule pertaining to Handicaps and averages.

25. Substitutions during Matchplay

The Team Captain may replace any of his/her players by a qualified substitute at any time during a game, but once removed, that player cannot return to bowl in the same game. When a substitute is made during a game, the score for that game shall be credited to the starting player for average purposes but will not qualify for any League high-score awards.

26. Pacers

Team members may not transfer between Teams without the express permission of the Board, neither can they act as itinerant substitutes during a League Schedule. However, team members not included in their team for a particular fixture may offer themselves as Pacemakers to those teams who may be bowling with less than the required number of players, in order to achieve equality of conditions. The scores attained by the individual in these games shall not count towards the hosting team's total and shall not qualify for any League Award, unless, in the latter case, the prior permission of the Committee is obtained.

27. Etiquette

All bowlers will observe correct bowling etiquette as detailed in the BTBA Rule Book.

Correct etiquette includes being ready to commence play on time. Teams do not have to wait for late bowlers to arrive.

28. Financial obligations

Full fees will be paid to the Centre each week, regardless of postponed games or absent players (blinds). Team captains are to ensure that the monies for each player are provided to the treasurer by the end of the first game.

29. Amendments

Any of the above rules may be amended or repealed.

Prior to the start of the season, any changes must be agreed by a majority vote of the league members.

Once the League has begun, any changes must be agreed by a unanimous vote of the league members.

30. Board of Directors

The Management of the League shall be in the hands of the Board of Directors as described previously.

The Board shall decide upon all disputes, complaints or protests arising in the League.

The decision of the Board shall be final.

31. Data Protection

Refer to the League Privacy Policy, available as a separate document.