Bowls Algarve Inter Club Winter League
Rules and Format 2025/2026

RULES

1. Each club affiliated to Bowls Algarve may enter one or more sides in the League. A Side is defined as three teams whose scores determine the result of a competition. A Team is defined as a Triple.

2. a. All players in each side must be bona fide members of their Club and registered with Bowls Algarve. Players may only represent one club in the Winter League.

b. Registration of players must be made to the League Secretary by no later than 13th October 2025 for the first half of the season, and between 10th and 20th December 2025 for the registration of additional players for the second half of the season. Requests for registrations outside these dates will not be accepted. A player who has been registered but who has not played for his/her club in this competition shall be eligible to have his/her registration changed to another club. This change can be made at any time, but only once for any player.

c. Players who have played twice for a side (including those who have played as a substitute) shall be ineligible to play for another side.

3. a. All fixtures are to be played on the stipulated date unless exceptional circumstances prevent this. The League Director must be notified of these circumstances and must decide whether or not to authorise the fixture to be rearranged. Exceptional circumstances are deemed to be something that is out of the ordinary, unavoidable or unexpected.

b. All rearranged matches must be rearranged within seven days or three days if it is the final game and be played within fourteen days of the date of the original match, excluding the Christmas break, or within seven days of the date of the original match if it is the final match of the season, unless exceptional circumstances prevent this.

c In the event of the circumstances involving the League Director's club, the decision shall be taken by the Management Committee Chairman (or a Club Representative from a non-affected club appointed by him where his club is also involved).

4. a. Players must comply with the following dress code:

Men: White shirt with collar or Algarve club/side shirt; Algarve club/side or white shorts/long trousers; white socks

Ladies: White shirt or blouse with collar or Algarve club/side shirt; Algarve Club/side or white cropped/long trousers, Algarve Club/side or white shorts/skirts/skorts; white socks

b. It is acceptable if no socks are worn if this means complying with these requirements.

c. All players must wear flat-soled ('heel-less') footwear when they play on the green. All other soles are not permitted as they have potential to cause damage to both lawns and carpets.

d. Wet weather clothing of any colour may be worn. Warm clothing must comply with the requirements set out in sub-paragraph 4.a.

5. The two captains must check and agree the eligibility of all players from their list of Registered Players. The League Secretary will issue all captains with a list of all registered players and will issue updates of any additional players registered as per sub-paragraph 2b. Captains are required to maintain an updated list of all registered players.

6. There will be a match fee of €8 per player. The visiting side will pay this amount to the home club and will be responsible for fees from any players failing to arrive. The home side may charge the match fee, or a proportion thereof, to their own players on a discretionary basis.

PENALTIES

7. Any side unable to fulfil a fixture (other than for those reasons set out in paragraphs 8 and 9) will forfeit all points available and these will be awarded to the opposition.

8. If a side is able to field only two triples, those triples will play their games in the normal way, and the opposing side will be awarded four points in respect of the missing third triple.

9. a. If a side is able to field two full triples and only a pair for the third triple, then the pair may play four bowls each and the opposing skip will play two bowls and his/her other two players will play their usual three bowls.
b. The pair will forfeit one third of their shots at the end of each set (after the game has finished).
c. Only one game may be played in this way, the other two games must be full triples.
10. a. If any side fields an ineligible player then, irrespective of the actual result of the match, the side will be disqualified and paragraph 7 above will apply.
b. However, where the captain of the non-defaulting side has failed, prior to the game starting, to check that all the players in the opposing side have been properly registered and have not played more than twice for another side, then the penalty set out in Rule 8 will apply, with the score of the defaulting triple not counting. (See paragraph 19.c re: notification of eligibility to play for a side).
11. a. Where a player is in breach of the dress code set out in sub-paragraph 4.a, he/she must be reported immediately by the non-defaulting captain to the opposing side captain and to the League Director immediately following the game, unless upon being warned of the imminent reporting he/she conforms to the code. Where a player thereafter subsequently breaches sub-paragraph 4a. the defaulting triple in which he/she plays shall forfeit one third of their shots in each set.
b. Side captains are responsible for ensuring that all players in their side adhere to the footwear code set out in sub-paragraph 4c. Any breach shall be dealt with as set out in sub-paragraph 11.a.
c. Where a player has been reported to the League Director for breach of sub-paragraphs 4.a or 4.c, the League Director must issue a formal written warning to the player (by email or by letter), with a copy to the side captain. The warning must state that a further breach by that player will result in the player's disqualification from the competition.
12. a. All fixtures are to start at the time shown in the schedule published by the League Director. The idea is that all games take place at the same time.
b. Should a side not be fully ready to play (that is, it has fewer than six players then present) within 30 minutes of the agreed start time, then they shall forfeit the match and the provisions of paragraph 7 shall apply.
c. Where 30 minutes after the start time a game commences with only two triples, then the game shall continue in that format notwithstanding that a third triple could be made by a player or players being available after the captains have agreed the game should commence.
d. Should a game begin and a player suffers an injury or illness with NO substitute available then the game must continue but:
i. the number of bowls played by each defaulting triple must be made up by the pair playing four bowls each and the opposing skip playing two bowls and his/her other two players playing their usual three bowls.
ii. for each defaulting triple one third of the total shots scored (including decimal places), in each of the ends where the defaulting team is playing one player short, must be deducted from their score in each set (after the game has finished).
e. The name of any substitute must be made known to the umpire (or in the absence of a nominated umpire, the opposing side captain) prior to the game commencing. The name of the nominated substitute must be shown at the top of all the scorecards and then noted on the appropriate scorecard when that substitute is introduced into the game.
13. a. Each club is responsible for its members' behaviour (including, but not limited to, foul language, abuse, arguing, bad sportsmanship or lack of hospitality) whether at their own club or when visiting another club.
b. Any complaint about a player's (or member's) conduct must be reported to the League Director within 24 hours and action then taken in accordance with the general principles set out in the Bowls Algarve Constitution and Rules, paragraph 5C.
c. Notwithstanding the provision of paragraph 21 of these Rules and Format, the Management Committee has the right to sanction any player (or member) found to have breached the provisions of this paragraph.

FORMAT

14. Each side will consist of three triples, and there are no restrictions on the composition of each triple.

15. a. Each league match will consist of two trial ends and two sets of nine ends of play. The home side will have choice of mat for the first set and the visiting side will have the choice of mat for the second set. All dead ends must be replayed.

b. Two points will be awarded for a set win and one point for a set draw. The side with the highest total number of shots across the three triples shall in addition be awarded two bonus points. In the event of a tie on total shots each side will be awarded one bonus point. Maximum points possible per fixture will be 14.

c. The order in which the three players play may be changed after completion of the first set but interchange between the triples is not permitted.

d. League Winners at the end of the season will be the side with the most points awarded. In the event of a tied situation shot difference will count. Where shot difference is also tied, total shots scored will count.

e. Should a player take seriously unwell or sustain a serious injury and cannot continue play then a substitute (having previously been declared as required by sub-paragraph 12e.) will be allowed; the substitute must be registered in accordance with Rule 2 and must comply with the conditions of Rule 4. The substitute must play in any position other than skip, and the other members of the team can rearrange their positions as necessary. It is the responsibility of the skip on the opposing team to check these conditions.

16. a. Rinks must be drawn from those available, by visiting captains before play commences. The home side will lay down their three cards and the opposition will place their cards at random on top of these.

b. Rink numbers will be allocated also on a random basis. Where possible the three rinks will play side by side.

17. a. If a game is stopped because of darkness, weather conditions or other valid reason by:

i. the umpire after an appeal has been made by the players; or

ii. agreement between the players when an umpire is not present;

all three triples must complete a minimum of 15 ends to constitute a completed fixture. If they have done so scores for ALL ends played will stand. Otherwise, the match shall be declared suspended and the game must be continued either on the same day or on a different day. The scores will be as they were when the game was stopped.

b. If an end has started but all the required bowls have not been played, it must be declared dead. (The end must be declared dead even if one or more players choose to remain on the green during the stoppage).

c. If all the required bowls in an end have been played but the process of deciding the number of shots scored has not been completed, the number of shots scored must be decided before the game stops.

d. Where the game is to be rearranged, the provisions of sub-paragraph 3.b shall apply.

e. The resumed match should preferably be played on the same rinks, but 2 more trial ends will be permitted and any triple which had not completed 15 ends before the stoppage, will play to the completion of 18 ends.

f. If any one of the original players in a team is not available for the resumed match:

i. one substitute will be allowed;

ii. the substitute may not play as skip; and

iii. a player or players must not be transferred from one team to another. If a player or players are transferred from one team to another, the defaulting team will forfeit the game to their opponents.

g. For the purposes of this paragraph an ‘appropriately qualified Umpire’ is deemed to be one previously qualified with the relevant Bowls Umpires Association. Clubs must provide the League

Secretary with the names of umpires their clubs intend to use and keep the information up to date throughout the competition.
18. a. The skip of each triple shall keep a scorecard for their game, which shall be agreed, with the time game was completed, and signed off by the two opposing skips after the match. Each side must retain their own scorecards in case of subsequent query. Both sets of scorecards MUST contain the FULL GIVEN NAME AND SURNAME (WRITTEN LEGIBLY AND IN BLOCK CAPITALS) of each player. Any side defaulting in meeting any of its obligations under this sub-paragraph may lose the right to challenge a subsequent default by the opposing team.
b. Where a challenge is made the League Director's decision is final and binding. Where the query involves the League Director's club, the decision shall be taken by the Management Committee Chairman (or a Club Representative from a non-affected club appointed by him where his club is also involved) whose decision shall also be final and binding.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS
19. a. The home side shall be responsible for advising the result of each fixture by email to the League Director, or to whoever the League Director has advised for results to be sent to, within twenty-four (24) hours of the completed match.
b. The email must include the full given name and surname of each player on each of the three rinks.
c. As soon as reasonably practicable after receipt of the email by the League Director (or the person nominated on his behalf to receive it) club captains will be advised of the names of those players who have played in more than one side; it is hoped this will ensure no team contravenes sub-paragraph 2c.
d. League result sheets and tables will be circulated to all clubs as soon as practicable.
20. The Laws of the Sport of Bowls (Crystal Mark Fourth Edition) shall govern all League matches (except where local and competition rules apply). It is, however, hoped that the spirit of fair play and common sense will prevail in the event that these Rules and the Crystal Laws do not cover a specific circumstance. Wherever possible the home side will provide an umpire (who may not be one of the players), whose aim will be to resolve any dispute at the time. If no umpire is supplied the matter will be resolved by the side captains. Where, however, resolution is not possible, disputes should be referred firstly to club captains who will then refer, if necessary, to the League Director, within 24 hours after failing to reach a decision, and the League Director shall make a binding decision. Where the dispute involves the League Director's club, the final and binding decision shall be taken by the Management Committee Chairman (or a Club Representative from a non-affected club appointed by him where his club is also involved.
21. These Rules, Penalties, Format and Administrative Matters were approved by the Management Committee at its meeting on 8th September 2024; they cannot and will not be varied (whether by addition, deletion or substitution) or overridden no matter what the circumstances.

August 2025