



Founded 1984

County Competition Rules

(as of 13/07/2023)

- 1) North Lincs & Fylde County Bowling Association will hold number of competitions during the calendar year, of which several are qualifiers for BCGBA Competition Finals. These are open to entrants from playing members of Affiliated Clubs.

The competitions are as follows:

- i. Hugh Hornby Senior County Individual Merit*
- ii. Jack and Jean Isherwood Veterans*
- iii. County Pairs
- iv. County Centenary Mixed Pairs*
- v. Junior Individual Merit*
- vi. 18-23yrs BCGBA Open Competition*
- vii. County Team Competition*
- viii. Champion of League Champions

N.B. Competitions denoted with a * are qualifiers for BCGBA Competitions Finals Day

- 2) All County competitions are Mixed. Open to both male and female players who must be paid playing members of a North Lincs & Fylde CBA affiliated club. Only exception to the rule is for the Hugh Hornby Senior County Individual Merit which is for male entrants only.
- 3) All county competitions are to be played annually.

4) The Management Committee will decide on which county finals day/s will require referees. North Lancs & Fylde Bowling Referees Association shall be invited to provide referees as and when required.

5) Players dress code shall apply for all North Lancs & Fylde County Competition Finals Day, BCGBA Competition Finals Day and all County team competition matches. Players shall wear clothing as defined in the BCGBA Handbook, Bye Law rule "Players Dress" and this must be strictly adhered to.

Any player failing to conform to this standard will be prevented from playing (or continuing) in the competition and may be liable to forfeit any entrance fee, or prize money earned in the competition.

In the event of a team competition, the offending player must be substituted before the commencement of the game. However, if the game has commenced, the offending player shall score minimum and the opponent will be awarded the maximum score.

6) Entrance fees and prize monies for all competitions will be determined by the Management Committee.

7) All entrance fees must be paid to the County Financial Officer one week prior to the date of the competition.

8) Entry will only be confirmed once payment is received and player/s or team, will then be entered into the competition draw.

9) Any player/s failing to turn up to play in either a qualifying round and/or County Competition finals day without formally notifying the Competitions Secretary of their unavailability, will forfeit any entrance money they paid and will also be subject to being prohibited from playing in any County Competition for a period of 12 months.

10) Any Player/s withdrawing themselves from any Competitions shall be liable to forfeit any prize money which they would be entitled to at the time of the withdrawal.

- 11) The qualifiers for all County Competition Final days, shall be put into a hat and drawn out successively. The draw must take place prior to the Final Day, at the latest 48hrs prior, and the draw is to be published on the North Lancs & Fylde website and social media platforms.
- 12) Prize money for winners and beaten Finalists/Semi/Quarter-Finalists etc in all competitions promoted by the County, will be paid out as decided by the County Management Committee. All prize monies will be paid out at the presentation ceremony at the end of the competition.
- 13) Competitions Secretary will consult with Regional Chairman to arrange suitable venues to host County Competitions. All venues must be visited to ensure that they are 'fit for purpose' to hold such events.
- 14) Venues for all County Competitions and BCGBA qualifying competitions will be shared equally across the five NL&F Regions and a rota will be devised and published by the Competitions Secretary.
- 15) All games will be played under the 'BCGBA Laws of the Game,' with standard stamped match jacks and will be 21-up unless otherwise stated.

Hugh Hornby Senior County Individual Merit Competition

- 1) Qualification to the BCGBA Senior Individual Merit Final Day shall be in accordance with the decisions of the BCGBA Management Committee who will advise on the number of qualifiers for each county based on the number of entries received from the previous season.
- 2) Players can only compete for one County in the Individual Merit Competition. Any player in membership with Clubs in more than one County, shall be allowed to enter in one County only. A player having been selected to play for one

County Association in the County Championship cannot play in another County's Merit Competition that season or vice versa. Any violation of this rule will entail disqualification.

- 3) The format of qualifying for the Finals Day will consist of regional qualifying rounds, with players qualifying from each venue. The number of players qualifying for the finals day from each venue will be dependent upon the number of entries received.
- 4) Regional Chairman & Committees (as per Regional Rota) will assist the Competitions Secretary with the selection of venues to host and organisation of the qualifying and finals day. These greens must be situated within the confines of the NL&F County boundaries.
- 5) All qualifying rounds and finals day must be held on or before the last Saturday in May.
- 6) No player will be allowed to play on a green that is selected for qualifying or finals day if they are a playing member of that Club.
- 7) Should any qualifier/s be unable to attend the BCQBA Merit Final Day, then the protocol will be to follow BCQBA guidance.
- 8) All games shall be 21-up off scratch.

Jack and Jean Isherwood Veterans Competition

- 1) Qualifying for the BCQBA Jack and Jean Isherwood Championship will be open to both male and female members of Affiliated Clubs who have attained the age of 60 years.
- 2) Each county will be allowed a minimum of one qualifier, provided there are a minimum of twelve entries, but the BCQBA will advise on the number of competitors based on the current years' entries.
- 3) Players can only qualify for the final stages of the event from one of the 16 County Associations as per the BCQBA rules.
- 4) No player will be allowed to qualify for the final's day from a green of which he or she is a playing member.
- 5) Regional Chairman & Committees (as per Regional Rota) will assist the Competitions Secretary with the selection of the venue to host the competition. The green must be situated within the confines of the NL&F County boundaries.
- 6) Each player must pay an entrance fee. The amount will be determined by the BCQBA Management Committee. NL&F

County are allowed to determine any additional fees for prize monies.

- 7) All games shall be 21 up off 3 as per the BCGBA rule for this competition.

County Pairs Competition

- 1) Players must be members an Affiliated Club, although not necessarily from the same club.
- 2) The venue (preferably neutral), number of entrants, entrance fee, along with the format of the Competition rules and prize monies, must be formalised and documented.
- 3) Regional Chairman & Committees (as per Regional Rota) will assist the Competitions Secretary with the selection of the venue to host the competition. The green must be situated within the confines of the NL&F County boundaries

County Centenary Mixed Pairs

- 1) Qualifying for the BCGBA Centenary Mixed Pairs will be open to partnerships of one female and one male player. All entrants must be members of Affiliated Clubs.
- 2) Players can only qualify for the final stages of the event from one of the 16 County Associations.
- 3) The BCGBA will advise on the number of competitors based on the current years' entries and the number of qualifiers for each county.
- 4) No player will be allowed to qualify for the final's day from a green of which she or he is a playing member.
- 5) Regional Chairman & Committees (as per Regional Rota) will assist the Competitions Secretary with the selection of the venue to host the competition. The green must be situated within the confines of the NL&F County boundaries.
- 6) Each pair must pay an entrance fee. The amount will be determined by the BCGBA Management Committee. NL&F County are allowed to determine any additional fees for prize monies.
- 7) All games shall be 21 up off 3 as per the BCGBA rule for this competition.

Junior Individual Merit

- 1) Qualification to the BCQBA Junior Individual Merit Final Day shall be in accordance with the decisions of the BCQBA Management Committee who will advise on the number of qualifiers for each county based on the number of entries received from previous season. Currently this is two per County (Winner and Runner-up)
- 2) Any Female or Male Junior member of Affiliated Clubs shall be entitled to enter and is confined to players who shall not have reached the age of 18 years on the 1st of January of the year of the competition.
- 3) No player is entitled to play in one or more County Association Merit. Any violation of this rule will entail disqualification.
- 4) The NL&F Junior Committee shall formalise and document the rules of the competition, including any entrance fee, trophies, and prize monies etc. Regional Chairman & Committees (as per Regional Rota) will assist the Junior Committee with the selection of the venue to host the competition. The green must be situated within the confines of the NL&F County boundaries.
- 5) All qualifying rounds and finals day must be held before the last Sunday in June.
- 6) No player will be allowed to play on a green that is selected for qualifying or finals day if they are a playing member of that Club.
- 7) Should any qualifier/s be unable to attend the BCQBA Junior Merit, then then the protocol will be to follow BCQBA guidance.
- 8) All games shall be 21-up off scratch.

18 to 23 Open Competition (BCQBA Qualifier)

- 1) Entry will be open to any BCQBA registered player, male or female, who has attained the age of 18 years but is under the age of 24 years on the 1st of January in the year of the competition.
- 2) All games will be 21up, off 3 as per the BCQBA rule for this competition.
- 3) BCQBA will advise Counties of the number of entrants, entrance fees qualifying format and competition rules.
- 4) At no stage of this competition will any player be allowed to play on a green of which he/she is a playing member. They must play their competition on a green, or greens, situated within the confines of their county boundaries, other than the one on which is chosen is host the final.
- 5) Players can only compete for one County in the competition. A player having been selected to play for one County Association in the County Championship cannot play in another County's competition. Any violation of this rule will entail disqualification.

County Team Competition

- 1) This team competition is also a qualifier to represent the NL&F County at the annual BCQBA World Team Championships.
- 2) Entrance fee to be decided annually by the Management Committee.
- 3) Players can only register with one team, and registration forms must be in the hands of the Competitions Secretary no later than the date set for the first matches; after that, no further additions will be accepted.
- 4) The competing teams shall number 8 players each and can be either all male, all female or mixed. Teams shall be a 'bona-fide' registered 'League team.' They must contain playing members of the club represented by such team and they must have played at least three times by the date of the Semi-Finals for their team in either League or Cup competitions that season. Registered club players can reside within or outside of the North Lancs & Fylde designated

boundary. All Players must have played for the 'Club' in the same season.

N.B: The special conditions of the Rule are meant to protect the Competition from 'outside' infiltration to the benefit of all teams competing. Any complaints made in relation to this rule will be decided by the Management Committee.

- 5) All qualifying rounds and matches will commence on dates and times arranged by the team captains and prior to the published deadline date as specified by the Competitions Secretary.
- 6) Qualifying matches up to the Semi-Final, shall be played on a basis of four players from each team at the home leg and four players from each team at the away leg. All four games at each venue must be played on the same day and time.
- 7) All games shall be 21 up off scratch.
- 8) All games shall be played under BCGBA rules. The captains will function as joint Referees. Result of the match to be decided by aggregate scores, with the highest score shall be the winner.
- 9) On Qualifying rounds, standard jacks provided by the host Club will be used. On Final Day, the County will provide the jacks and scoreboards. All jacks to comply with BCGBA standards.
- 10) In every match, the toss of a coin shall determine the cast of the jack (odd and evens) and will alternate between the two teams concerned.
- 11) No practice is allowed prior to the commencement of the match.
- 12) Selection of opponents will be made by ballot conducted by the two Captains.
- 13) In all matches, only 5 minutes grace may be allowed for any competitor after being called upon to play, unless mutually agreed by the two Captains.
- 14) In the event of a 'tied' match, the winners will be decided in the following order:
 - Tie on aggregate – the team with the most winners
 - If still a tie – the team with the best winner
 - If still a tie – the team with the 2nd, 3rd, 4th best winner etc

- 15) The winning Club shall be responsible for sending the official result sheet to the Competition Secretary by email no later than the morning following the date of the match. Defaulting Clubs may be fined the sum of £5.00 and may be scratched from the Competition.
- 16) If a team/s fail to play or agree a date to play their qualifying matches before the published deadline date set by the Competitions Secretary, they will be scratched from the competition and will forfeit their entrance fee.
- 17) The final four teams will play for the County Team Championship on a neutral green within one of the Regional Districts as per the Rota, and thus ensuring that no player is ineligible to play. The two Semi-final matches are to be played concurrently. The order of the draw will be the order of play and the first throw of the jack will alternate between the two teams concerned following the toss of a coin.
- 18) In the Semi-Finals, teams to play as submitted to the Competitions Secretary in playing order before the commencement of the match. In the Final, team Captains may alter the order of play if they so wish.
- 19) Should any Club raising an objection under these Rules have any Member/s on the Management Committee, the said Member/s shall not be eligible to sit on the Committee whilst such a dispute or protest is being considered.
- 20) Any Club raising any objection under these Rules shall do so within 48 hours after the match, and shall lodge £10 with the County Secretary, which shall be forfeited should the Management Committee consider the objection frivolous or groundless. The decision of the Committee, in all cases, shall be final.
- 21) The winners and runner-up of the North Lancs & Fylde Team Championship shall have their entry fees to the BCQBA World Club Team Championship paid for by the NL&F County Association.
- 22) Prize money for the winning team, beaten finalists and the semi-finalists, shall be paid out as decided by the Management Committee.
- 23) The Management Committee are the sole interpreters of these Rules and from their decision there shall be no appeal, either at law or otherwise.

CHAMPION of LEAGUE CHAMPIONS

- 1) Qualifiers must be members of an Affiliated Club.
- 2) League Secretaries should notify the Competition Secretary of their nominated player by the NL&F A.G.M. The following criteria is given as a guide:-

(League Secretaries should be aware of the qualifying criteria)

- a) League Merit Competition Winner
- b) Senior Division Average / Merit Winner
- c) President's Day Winner

i.e., the qualifier MUST be a recognised Champion from the above criteria, and they can be male and female

- 3) Entrance of £10 must be payable by the League to the County Financial Officer for their nominated player.
- 4) The League must also supply contact details (telephone number and email address) of the entrant to the Competition Secretary
- 5) The Competition Secretary will notify to and publish the start times for all entrants, once the competition draw is made
- 6) If a player fails to turn up on the day to represent his/her league and compete in the competition without prior informing their League or the County Competition Secretary of their unavailability, the entrance fee will be non-refundable. The player may also be subject to disqualification from entering next year's competition and may also be excluded from entering any NL&F competitions in the current season.
- 7) If advance notice is given to the Competitions Secretary of the Leagues' nominated player unavailability due to unforeseen circumstances, then a reserve player can be entered, but we ask that they must meet the qualifying criteria of a selecting a 'Champion,' but this could be from a lower division, as an example.
- 8) It is compulsory for a League to nominate a player for entry in this competition