



COMPETITION RULES

OF

IRISH LAWN BOWLS Clg

The following rules govern the ILB Leagues, Cups, Championships and Winter League. An additional rule or an amendment to an existing rule may be introduced by way of a majority vote on a relevant resolution at an annual or special meeting. In 2024 the Management Committee may introduce a new rule or change an existing rule if deemed necessary.

GENERAL RULES

- Rule 1** The playing year of the ILB will be divided into two seasons Summer (1st April to 30th September) and Winter (1st October to 31st March). All competitions are open to all playing members of the ILB but a player can only play for one club in any season unless with the express permission of the Management Committee. An exception to this rule is the Leinster Lions/Academy, whose under 25 members may play on the Leinster Lions team as well as for their own club.
- Rule 2:** To participate in any ILB competitions, clubs and their members must be affiliated to the Irish Bowling Association (the IBA) and the Irish Women's Bowling Association (IWBA).
- Rule 3:** There will be an entry fee for each team entered in a cup competition, the amount to be determined by the Management Committee.
- Rule 4:** It will be the duty of the League Secretary and the Competition Secretary to prepare and submit to the Management Committee each year for approval:-
(1) a list of league, cup and championship fixtures.
(2) a list of dates for each round of the various championships.
- Rule 5:** All competition draws will be made by the ILB League or Competition Secretary with the Assistant League or Assistant Competition Secretary.
- Rule 6:** Umpires may be appointed by the Management Committee in conjunction with the Staff Umpire for any competition and they will perform their duties in accordance with the laws of the Sport of Bowls.
- Rule 7:** Before the 1st of April in any year each club must return on an Excel spreadsheet by email to the League Secretary and Competition Secretary a full list of the names of members listed to play for the club.
Failure to meet this deadline may incur a fine of €100.
The name of any member joining after that date must be returned by email to the League Secretary and Competition Secretary before such member takes part in any competition.
Where a club has more than one member of the same name, they should give the initial of a second name to distinguish them.
To be selected for an Inter Association or International team a player must be registered as a playing member of a club affiliated to the IBA or IWBA on or before the 1st June of the current year.

- Rule 8:** All cups and trophies for the League, Cup, ILB Championships, the Bowler of the Year and the Lady Bowler of Championship Week are the property of the ILB and should be returned to the Competition Secretary before or during the championship week each year for cleaning, restoration and engraving. They will be presented at the annual dinner to the relevant winners, who will sign for their safekeeping and return in the same condition as they received them. Any damage or loss incurred will be the responsibility of the club of the member who received them.
- Rule 9:** League, cup and championship matches will take precedence over club competitions and tournaments.
- Rule 10:** Any club wishing to host an open tournament in the following season must submit their request to the General Secretary in writing by 31st January for approval by the Management Committee. Requests for open tournaments will not be considered at any other time.
- Rule 11:** Clubs undertaking tours during the year are required to seek permission from the Management Committee.
- Rule 12:** All outstanding fines and monies must be paid within four weeks after a fine or invoice has been issued. Failure to do so will result in the club involved being suspended until such monies are paid from competing in any league or cup competition resulting in loss of points in the league or concession of a walkover in a cup match.

CHAMPIONSHIPS' RULES

Rule 13: The ILB championships will consist of the following competitions:

Competition	Cup/Trophy	Played to:
Ladies Senior Singles	Montgomery Cup	4 bowl - 21 shots
Ladies Senior Pairs	Moran Cup	4 bowl - 18 ends
Ladies Senior Triples	Rhona Eager Cup	3 bowl - 18 ends
Ladies Senior Fours	Robinson Cup	2 bowl - 18 ends
Ladies over 55 Fours	Ann Brophy Cup	2 bowl - 18 ends
Ladies Junior Singles	Mc Keown Cup	4 bowl - 21 shots
Ladies Junior Pairs	W. W. Robinson Cup	4 bowl - 18 ends
Ladies Junior Triples	Rose Ivie Trophy	3 bowl - 16 ends
Ladies Junior Fours	M & F Murphy Cup	2 bowl - 18 ends
Mixed Pairs	Millane Cup	4 bowl - 18 ends
Mens Senior Singles	Marper Cup	4 bowl - 21 shots
Mens Senior Pairs	Boyd Cup	4 bowl - 18 ends
Mens Senior Triples	Baird Cup	3 bowl - 18 ends
Mens Senior Fours	Sixsmith Cup	2 bowl - 18 ends
Mens over 55 Fours	O'Leary Cup	2 bowl - 18 ends
Mens Junior Singles	Nassau Cup	4 bowl - 21 shots
Mens Junior Pairs	Tyler Cup	4 bowl - 18 ends
Mens Junior Triples	BLI Cup	3 bowl - 16 ends
Mens Junior Fours	Mecredy Cup	2 bowl - 18 ends
Mens under 25 Singles	Railway Union Cup	4 bowl - 21 shots
Mens under 18 Singles	Bank of Ireland Cup	4 bowl - 21 shots

Rule 14: Entries to the ILB championships must be on the official entry forms, which must be emailed to the Competition Secretary not later than 5.00 p.m. on the closing date as notified on the official entry form. Any entry that is not on the official form will not be accepted. All names for each competition must be stated and be clearly legible. If a club intends to amend or add to their original entry before the closing date, they must email the new entry and contact the Competition Secretary to confirm receipt.

Rule 15: The fee for each player will be €7.00 unless otherwise changed at an annual general or special meeting. Under 18s will be free of charge. No money is to be sent with the entry form. The Competition Secretary will send the Treasurer the number of entries for each club within four days of the closing date. The Treasurer will invoice each club with the competition fees and the affiliation fees.

Rule 16: Underage Championships are confined to players who are under the relevant age on the 1st April in the year they enter the competition.

Rule 17: The over 55 Fours is confined to players who have reached the age of 55 on or before the first of April in the year that they enter the competition.

A player who plays in the Over 55 Fours can play in Junior ILB Competitions and the Junior Cups unless excluded under rule 23.

Rule 18: Players who play in the Evening League may enter the Senior Championships.

Rule 19: All Championship matches must commence not later than twenty minutes after the time fixed for the start of the match and if not so commenced the match may be awarded to the competitor/s ready to commence play at the scheduled time.

Once a game has commenced the original player cannot participate in the game. The start of the game will be the delivery of the jack by the first player to play in the first end.

If a player has to leave the green during the course of a game due to illness or some other reasonable cause, the match may be adjourned for ten minutes. If the player cannot return within ten minutes, a substitute may be introduced. The substitute may play in any position other than skip, and the other members of the rink can rearrange their positions as necessary.

Rule 20: Where a walkover is conceded, or a withdrawal, the opponent will be awarded the match.

Rule 21: Only approved bowling footwear may be worn on the green. For Championship semi-finals and finals the dress code will be whites or club colours.

Rule 22: All ILB Championship fixtures, in each round of the various Singles, Pairs, Triples and Fours competitions will be shown on the ILB website but not including the semi-final stage.

Rule 23: Any player who is an original entrant in or plays in any Senior Championship competition will be ineligible to play in any Junior Championship competition in the same year.

Rule 24: Players due to play an ILB championship match and who are engaged in an ILB selection, British Isles Championship, international competition, international practice or a League match on the same date will be given an extension of five

days from the date of the competition match. Seven days written notice of their intention to seek an extension must be given to the Competition Secretary.

Players required to play a championship match in a green more than 100 kilometres from their home green will have until the Sunday following the closing date to play their match. Where this rule is invoked the starting time for the match is 2.30 pm. or at a time agreed by both parties.

- Rule 25:** Players, who have played more than four league matches in either the Premier Division, Division 1 (Saturday or Wednesday), or a combination of more than four matches in these divisions, will not be eligible to play in Junior ILB Championship Competitions in that season.
- Rule 26:** An entry that has A.N. Other as a player shall be void. Members of each club may make their own arrangements with reference to the formation of Pairs, Triples and Fours but any entry not containing the required number of names to complete a Pair, Triple, or Fours will be void. The entry will constitute the original players.
- Rule 27:** Before the start of the first round should one entrant in the Pairs, Triples or Fours competition be forced to withdraw through illness or other unforeseen circumstances which would prevent them from taking part in the competition, another member of the club who has not entered or played in the competition may be nominated and automatically becomes the original entrant for the competition. In Pairs, Triples and Fours, the player who has withdrawn will no longer be considered an original entrant and may act as a substitute as defined in rule 29. Such nomination with full details must be received in writing by the Competition Secretary not later than the closing date of the first round of the competition.
- Rule 28:** Not more than one player may be used as a substitute in Pairs, Triples and Fours except in the Mixed Pairs (Millane Cup) where a substitute can be used for the man and the lady but both substitutes cannot play together. The player acting as substitute must not already have entered nor played in the required competition in which they act as the substitute. The original player must be reinstated for subsequent games if they so desire. The same substitute must be used for any Pairs, Triples or Fours if again required.
- Rule 29:** In the Mixed Pairs if a man needs to be substituted then the substitute must be a man, if a lady needs to be substituted then the substitute must be a lady.
- Rule 30:** The first drawn in any round of the Singles, Pairs, Triples, Fours and Senior Fours competitions will have home advantage with the exception of the semi-finals and finals, The choice of rinks will be drawn for.

In the case of a singles match the home player will provide a marker. In the event of no rink being booked or available or in the case of a singles match no marker has been provided, the tie will be awarded to the opponent.

Once the draw for rinks has taken place the rink settings cannot be changed. Where all rinks are not included in the draw, it is not acceptable for club members to play on the rinks not included after the draw is made.

The player with home advantage will arrange with the opponent for the playing of the match drawn on or before the closing date fixed for the round. If for any reason no such arrangement has been made the match will be played on the green of the player with home advantage at 6.30 p.m. on the day of the closing date and if either fails to appear the match will be awarded to the other, and if both fail to appear both will be eliminated from the competition.

If the green is unfit for play by reason of inclement weather or otherwise unplayable, then the match must be played within six days. The result of the postponed match should be notified to the Competition Secretary on the same evening it is played.

Score cards giving results of all matches together with the names of all the participants must be kept by the winners until after the following round in case of a dispute. Results should be submitted and posted online immediately after the match but not later than 24 hours following the match. The web form should contain competition name, match number, all players' names and substitutes if used. It is the duty of the winners to send in the results.

If the result is not submitted within 24 hours of the match being played then the match will have been deemed not to have taken place and both sides will be eliminated from the competition.

The semi-finals and finals will be played on the green of the President if suitable. If the green is not suitable the Management Committee will decide which green.

Rule 31: A winner of a Junior ILB competition will not be allowed to enter that competition for a period of two years.

A winner of any of the Senior Competitions with the exception of the Senior Fours (over 55s) may not enter any of the Junior Competitions for a period of three years.

SUMMER LEAGUES' RULES

Rule 32: The ILB Summer Leagues will consist of:

League	Division	Rinks	Ends	Senior/ Junior	Trophy
Saturday	Premier	4	18	Senior	Stephens Cup
Saturday	Saturday 1	4	18	Senior	Nutley Cup
Saturday	Saturday 2	4	18	Junior	Cullen Cup
Wednesday	Wednesday 1	4	18	Senior	LBLI Perpetual Trophy
Wednesday	Wednesday 2	3	18	Junior	Bessie Sharp Memorial Trophy
Thursday*	Thursday	2	16	Junior	McIntyre Cup
Evening	Monday 1	3	16	Junior	Cooper Cup
Evening	Monday 2	3	16	Junior	Cassoni Cup
Evening	Wednesday 3	2	16	Junior	Deceased Members Cup
Veterans	Veterans 1	2	16	over 55	Veterans Trophy
Veterans	Veterans 2	2	16	over 55	Sean Doyle Cup
Veterans	Veterans 3	2	16	over 55	Westmanstown Cup
Veterans	Veterans 4	2	16	over 55	Jim Bradshaw Trophy
Saturday morning	Saturday morning	1	16	N/A	Tormey Cup

* Ladies only

Rule 33: Clubs will submit to the League Secretary before 1st March, their entries for leagues for that summer season. After that date, clubs that withdraw teams will be required to submit a written explanation to the League Secretary for review.

Failure to provide a satisfactory explanation may incur a fine of €100.

Rule 34: On the recommendation of the League Secretary, the sides of affiliated clubs will be formed into leagues by the Management Committee who may divide a division into sections, if there are more than 10 teams in that division.

Rule 35: Before the 1st April for the summer season each club must send the League Secretary and the Competition Secretary on an Excel spreadsheet the names of:-
 12 registered players in respect of a team in the Premier Division, and Divisions 1 Saturday and Wednesday league
 10 registered players in respect of a team in Saturday league Division 2
 8 registered players in respect of a team in Division 2 Wednesday League and Evening League Divisions 1 and 2

6 registered players in respect of all teams in Veterans' divisions

A player may be registered for only one division across all the leagues, excluding Veterans' League divisions.

A club with only one team in the leagues (apart from the Veterans' League) need not register players.

Failure to meet this deadline may incur a fine of €100.

Rule 36: During the playing season the League Secretary will examine the lists of registered players returned by the clubs and if any player is found to be not playing for the registered team or ineligible their club will be required to register another player in their place.

If a club fails to amend their list of registered players, the League Secretary may do so based on matches played by unregistered players.

Rule 37: Clubs wishing to alter their lists of registered players must notify the League Secretary in writing stating the reason for the change. Alterations to the list will be effective on receipt of an email from the League Secretary approving the change.

Rule 38: The League Secretary will post a list of registered players on the ILB website and will update the list when required. The League Secretary will endeavour to post the list before the first fixture in any season

Rule 39: Any club playing a member ineligible under these league rules and requirements will forfeit the match, and the points at stake will be awarded to their opponents.

The League Secretary will notify both the offending club and their opponents of any forfeiture incurred under this rule within 28 days of the match in which the offence occurred.

Any allegation or complaint by a club that an ineligible member has played must be received in writing by the League Secretary within 14 days of the alleged offence.

Playing an ineligible player may incur a fine of €100.

Rule 40: Apart from the Veterans' League and Saturday Morning League:

- Players registered for the Premier Division will not be eligible to play in any other divisions or cups associated with these divisions.
- Players registered for Wednesday League Division 1 will not be eligible to register or play for Saturday League Division 1.
- Players registered for Saturday League Division 1 will not be eligible to register or play for Wednesday League Division 1.

- Unregistered players who play more than four matches on Wednesday Division 1 may no longer play Saturday Division 1.
- Unregistered players who play more than four matches on Saturday Division 1 may no longer play Wednesday Division 1.
- Players registered for Divisions 1 and 2, Saturday or Wednesday, will not be eligible to play in any Evening League divisions or the Shott Cup.

Registered players may play up in a higher division but may not play down in a lower division.

Players who play more than four games in the Premier Division or either Divisions 1 and 2 Saturday or Wednesday or a combination of four matches between the five divisions will be ineligible to play in the Evening Leagues or the Shott Cup.

Where a club has more than one team in a league division, the registered players for one team may not play for another team in that division.

Rule 41: Where a player has played more than four matches in a higher division, they are no longer eligible to play for a lower division.

A club with only one Wednesday and/or Saturday League team will not be subject to this rule.

Rule 42: The Veterans League will be confined to members aged 55 and over on April 1st of the season.

Rule 43: The Thursday Afternoon League (McIntyre Cup) is a ladies only league consisting of two rinks starting at 2.30 p.m.

Rule 44: The Saturday Morning League will start at 11.00a.m. with one team per club.

As this league is designed to introduce junior players to competitive bowling a maximum of two players registered for other league divisions, excluding veterans' leagues, are allowed per match.

Rule 45: League matches can be postponed by decision of the Management Committee or when either side is on the same day engaged in a National Challenge Cup game, have one registered player from that team engaged in an ILB selection, National Championship, British Isles Championship, international competition, or international practice. A minimum of seven days' notice in writing must be given to their opponents and to the League Secretary by the club invoking this rule. The League Secretary must sanction this postponement.

A postponed match must be played on or before 2.30 p.m. on the Sunday of the following week. In the event of unusual circumstances, the Management Committee may extend this deadline by 7 days.

Members of the ILB Management Committee and Officers of the IBA and IWBA can be included in the number needed for a postponement if they are registered players on the team seeking the postponement.

In the event of a clash on a Sunday between a scheduled cup match and a rescheduled league match the League Secretary will decide which takes place and when.

Rule 46: League daytime matches on Wednesday and Thursday will start at 2.30 p.m. except where two matches are scheduled for the same green on the same day. In this case the lower division match will start at 10.30a.m.

Saturday League matches will start at 2.30 p.m. except where two matches are scheduled for the same green on the same day. In this case the lower division match will start at 10.30 a.m. Clubs may play at an earlier time by mutual agreement unless another Saturday League match is scheduled to play at the same time.

Evening matches will start at 6.30 p.m. except before the second Monday of May and after the first Monday in August evening matches will start at 6.00 p.m. due to lack of light.

Veterans' matches will start at 10.30 a.m. except at venues agreed by the Management Committee.

A league match may be brought forward by mutual agreement and written confirmation of such agreement must be sent by the appropriate team captain and/or secretary of each club to the League Secretary or in their absence an officer of the ILB for approval. If no such correspondence is received it is presumed that the match is to be played as scheduled and whichever team does not attend is considered to have conceded a walkover.

An extension may be granted by the League Secretary at his /her discretion.

Rule 47: Mastercards in respect of all league matches will be signed by the captains of each side playing on the day and it will be the responsibility of the winning captain to keep the card until the date of the A.G.M.

It is the responsibility of both captains to send via electronic message as posted on the ILB website the results of all league matches including a copy of the mastercard within one hour of the match finishing.

Failure to return a mastercard may incur a fine of €100.

Rule 48: If a club gives a walkover in a league match, then such walkover must be in the lowest division i.e., the higher league fixtures must be fulfilled first.

A club whose teams give a walkover or withdraw from a league match will be required to provide a written explanation to the League Secretary. Should such

explanation be deemed to be unacceptable to the Management Committee they will be deducted match points relevant to their divisions per walkover.

Rule 49: Teams may not forfeit home advantage without prior approval of the League Secretary.

Rule 50: In the event of a league game that has commenced being stopped as per the Laws of the Sport of Bowls, the game must be completed no later than fourteen days from the date of stoppage or on a date as decided by the League Secretary as appropriate. If the clubs concerned cannot agree a mutually agreeable date, then the League Secretary will fix a date for the match to be played and his/her decision will be final. If one of the clubs fails to turn up to play on the date fixed by the League Secretary, then they will be deemed to have given a walkover. If both clubs fail to turn up on the date decided by the League Secretary, no points will be awarded.

One substitute per rink will be allowed in a game that has been stopped as per the Laws of the Sport of Bowls.

Failure to turn up for a postponed fixture may incur a fine of €100.

Rule 51: All League matches must commence not later than twenty minutes after the time fixed for the start of the match and if not so commenced the match may be awarded to the competitor/s ready to commence play at the scheduled time.

If after the relevant period from the original start time of a match one or both clubs have not a full rink the match should be played with the number two and three of the short rink playing three bowls each and 25% of the score being deducted from the rink not having four players.

Once a game has commenced the original player cannot participate in the game. The start of the game will be the delivery of the jack by the first player to play in the first end.

If a player has to leave the green during the course of a game due to illness or some other reasonable cause, the match may be adjourned for ten minutes. If the player cannot return within ten minutes, a substitute may be introduced. The substitute may play in any position other than skip, and the other members of the rink can rearrange their positions as necessary.

If no substitute is available, the match will continue with the number two and three of the short rink playing three bowls each and 25% of the score being deducted from the rink not having four players from that period.

Rule 52: For Saturday afternoon and Wednesday Leagues, the dress code will be whites or club colours. Only approved bowling footwear may be worn on the green.

Rule 53: Each side will play every other side in a division twice, once at home and once away, subject to any exceptions the Management Committee may decide.

Rule 54: Matches will be decided on the aggregate number of shots scored by the respective sides.

Three points will be awarded to the winning side in the Premier Division and Divisions 1 and 2 Saturday and Division 1 Wednesday.

Two points will be awarded to the winning side in Wednesday Division 2 and Evening Divisions 1, 2 and 3.

Two points will be awarded to the winning team in the Veterans League and Thursday Afternoon league.

One point for each winning rink will be awarded to each side and 0.5 points for each side in a drawn rink.

In the Saturday morning league, one point will be awarded to the winning team. Points will be divided by two in a drawn match.

Both captains must sign a master result card for each match played and must mark on the card the points claimed for the match.

The side finishing with the highest number of points on the completion of the league will be deemed the winner.

If two or more teams end up with an equal number of points, then the team with the highest number of match points will be deemed the winner.

Where match points for teams are equal the team with the highest shot difference (total shots for minus total shots against throughout the league) will be declared the winner. Should these figures be equal then the team that has scored the highest number of shots in the league will be deemed the winner.

This process will be used to decide upon all league places.

In the Premier Division, Divisions 1 Saturday and Wednesday, Evening League 1 and 2 and the Veterans Divisions, the side finishing in last place will be relegated to the next lowest division if possible.

In Divisions 1 and 2 (Saturday) and Veterans (excluding Veterans 1) the side finishing first will be promoted.

Rule 55: Promotion and relegation will be automatic unless the Management Committee decides, on the advice of the League Secretary in consultation with the clubs involved, that due to lack of number of teams or any other matter, promotion or relegation in any division would not be in the best interests of the League.

The League Secretary may similarly recommend to the Management Committee for decision a proposal for a team to be placed in a higher or lower division than that in which it had competed in the previous season having consulted the club(s) involved.

Rule 56: In all cases league matches will take precedence on rinks designated by the club. Where designated rinks are not in consecutive order in a league match, no other game will be played on intervening rinks.

Only ILB matches may take place when the Premier Division or Divisions 1 and 2, are being played. Any other ILB match being played must conform to the dress code.

CUP RULES

Rule 57: The League Cups will be:

Premier Division	Open Challenge Cup
Divisions 1 Wednesday and Saturday	Crumlin Cup
Divisions 2 Wednesday and Saturday	O' Dee Cup
Evening Divisions 1, 2 and 3	Shott Cup
Senior Ladies	Senior Challenge Cup
Junior Ladies	Junior Challenge Cup

Rule 58: Clubs will submit to the League Secretary before 1st March, their entries for the Cup competitions for that summer season. After that date, clubs that withdraw teams will be required to submit a written explanation to the League Secretary for review.

Failure to provide a satisfactory explanation may incur a fine of €100.

Rule 59: All Cup matches must commence not later than twenty minutes after the time fixed for the start of the match and if not so commenced the match may be awarded to the competitor/s ready to commence play at the scheduled time.

If after the relevant period from the original start time of a match one or both clubs have not a full rink the match should be played with the number two and three of the short rink playing three bowls each and 25% of the score being deducted from the rink not having four players.

Once a game has commenced the original player cannot participate in the game. The start of the game will be the delivery of the jack by the first player to play in the first end.

Rule 61: If a player has to leave the green during the course of a game due to illness or some other reasonable cause, the match may be adjourned for ten minutes. If the player cannot return within ten minutes, a substitute may be introduced. The substitute may play in any position other than skip, and the other members of the rink can rearrange their positions as necessary.

If no substitute is available, the match will continue with the number two and three of the short rink playing three bowls each and 25% of the score being deducted from the rink not having four players from that period.

Rule 61: Teams may not forfeit home advantage without prior approval of the League Secretary.

Rule 62: Cup matches can be postponed by decision of the Management Committee or when either side is on the same day engaged in a National Challenge Cup game, have two registered players from that team engaged in an ILB selection, National Championship, British Isles Championship, international competition, or international practice. A minimum of seven days' notice in writing must be given

to their opponents and to the League Secretary by the club invoking this rule. The League Secretary must sanction this postponement.

Members of the ILB Management Committee and Officers of the IBA and IWBA can be included in the number needed for a postponement if they are registered players on the team seeking the postponement.

A postponed match must be played on or before 2.30 p.m. on the Sunday of the following week. In the event of unusual circumstances, the Management Committee may extend this deadline by 7 days.

Rule 63: In the event of a clash on a Sunday between a scheduled cup match and a rescheduled league match the League Secretary will decide which takes place and when.

Rule 64: If the green is unfit for play by reason of inclement weather or otherwise unplayable, then the match must be played within six days. The result of the postponed match should be notified to the Competition Secretary on the same evening it is played.

Rule 65: For all Cup matches the dress code will be whites or club colours. Only approved bowling footwear may be worn on the green.

Rule 66: Players, who have played four matches in either the Premier Division, Division 1 (Saturday or Wednesday), or a combination of four matches in either divisions, will not be eligible to play Junior Challenge Cup, O'Dee Cup or Shott Cup in that season.

Rule 67: Any club playing a member ineligible under these rules will forfeit the match.

The League Secretary will notify both the offending club and their opponents of any forfeiture incurred under this rule within 28 days of the match in which the offence occurred.

Any allegation or complaint by a club that an ineligible member has played must be received in writing by the League or Competition Secretary within 14 days of the alleged offence.

Playing an ineligible player may incur a fine of €100.

Rule 68: Mastercards in respect of all cup matches will be signed by the captains of each side playing on the day and it will be the responsibility of the winning captain to keep the card until the date of the A.G.M.

It is the responsibility of both captains to send via electronic message as posted on the ILB website the results of all cup matches including a copy of the mastercard within one hour of the match finishing.

Failure to return a mastercard may incur a fine of €100.

Rule 69: Cup matches will be played on Sundays and will start at 2.30 p.m. except where two matches are scheduled for the same green on the same day or if the home team has designated a start time of 10.30 a.m. as approved in advance by the Management Committee and is specific to one division. In this case the lower division match will start at 10.30a.m.

Rule 70: In all cases cup matches will take precedence on rinks designated by the club. Where designated rinks are not in consecutive order in a cup match, no other game will be played on intervening rinks.

Rule 71: In the event of a cup game that has commenced being stopped as per the Laws of the Sport of Bowls, the game must be completed no later than fourteen days from the date of stoppage or on a date as decided by the League Secretary as appropriate. If the clubs concerned cannot agree a mutually agreeable date, then the League Secretary will fix a date for the match to be played and his/her decision will be final. If one of the clubs fails to turn up to play on the date fixed by the League Secretary, then they will have deemed to have given a walkover. If both clubs fail to turn up on the date decided by the League Secretary, both teams will be eliminated.

One substitute per rink will be allowed in a game that has been stopped as per the Laws of the Sport of Bowls.

Failure to turn up for a postponed fixture may incur a fine of €100.

Rule 72: If a team concedes a walkover or withdraws from a match, their opponent will proceed to the next round. Such a walkover must be in the lowest cup competition, i.e. the higher cup match must be played first.

A club whose team gives a walkover or withdraws from a cup match will be required to provide a written explanation to the League Secretary. Should such an explanation be deemed to be unacceptable to the Management Committee, a penalty may be imposed.

Rule 73: Cup matches will take place on the third Sunday of May, June, July and August.

Rule 74: In all rounds up to but not including the semi-finals, the first side drawn will have home advantage. Teams may not forfeit home advantage without prior approval of the League Secretary.

Rule 75: The semi-finals and finals will be played on neutral greens.

In the Finals and Semi-Finals where a grass and synthetic club are due to meet the first drawn will be allocated a green with a similar surface to their home green if possible.

Rule 76: Competition for league cups are on a knockout principle.

Rule 77: Where a player has played in a higher league cup competition, they are no longer eligible to play in a lower league cup competition.

Rule 78: Open Challenge Cup

Four fours will be played by each side and matches will be decided on the aggregate number of shots scored over 18 ends.

Rule 79: Crumlin Cup

A side will consist of four fours and Open Challenge Cup rules will apply. Registered Premier Division players and players who have played in the Open Challenge Cup are ineligible to play in the Crumlin Cup in the same season.

Rule 80: O'Dee Cup

A side will consist of four fours and Open Challenge Cup rules will apply. Registered Premier Division, Divisions 1 players and players who have played in the Open Challenge Cup or Crumlin Cup are ineligible to play in the O'Dee Cup in the same season.

Rule 81: Shott Cup

A side will consist of three fours and 16 ends will be played. Registered Premier Division, Divisions 1 and 2 players and players who have played in the Open Challenge Cup, Crumlin Cup or O'Dee Cup are ineligible to play in the Shott Cup in the same season.

Players who play more than four games in the Premier Division, or either Divisions 1 and 2 Saturday or Wednesday, or a combination of four matches between the five divisions, will be ineligible to play in the Shott Cup in the same season.

Rule 82: Senior Challenge Cup

A side will consist of four fours and 18 ends will be played. This competition is confined to ladies only.

Rule 83: Junior Challenge Cup

A side will consist of two fours and 16 ends will be played. Registered Premier Division and Division 1 players, and players who have played in the Senior Challenge Cup, the Open Challenge Cup or the Crumlin Cup are ineligible to play in the Junior Challenge Cup in the same season. This competition is confined to ladies only.

WINTER LEAGUE RULES

These rules will be added based on the experience of the 2023-24 League.

