

## **MIXED FOURS LEAGUE RULES OF PLAY**

1. Leagues will operate on a regional basis where possible and according to the number of teams entered. Where there are two or more leagues in an area, teams shall be drawn each year to decide in which league they shall play. ALL players must be affiliated to Suffolk Bowls (BE)
2. Matches will be played on Friday evenings. Play to start by 6.30pm unless otherwise agreed between the teams.
3. Teams to consist of three rinks of four players, two bowls each player. If the three rinks cannot consist of mixed players, then a minimum of two of either gender to play in separate rinks to make this a legitimate match. If you don't have at least 2 of each gender you cannot play the match.
4. All members of each club, for whom a Suffolk Bowls (B.E.) affiliation has been paid, shall be eligible to play for their club in all League matches. Clubs playing non-affiliated players will be fined a sum of £20.00 payable to Suffolk County (B.E.) and the club will be deducted 4 points from their accrued total each time such a person plays whilst not registered.
5. Clubs entering 2 TEAMS MUST REGISTER the names of the members of EACH TEAM squad (Minimum 12 players) with the Mixed Leagues Secretary at least 1 week before the league program commences.
6. In the event of a club not being able to field 12 players, then a minimum of ten players, at least two of whom must be of each gender must play. With a maximum of two rinks of three players against rinks of four players.

The rink(s) with four players shall be known as TEAM A, and the rink(s) with three players shall be known as TEAM B.

(In Team B team, lead & second have 3 bowls each)

When team A has the jack the order of play shall be

Lead A, Lead B. Lead A, Lead B.

Second A. Lead B. Second A. Second B.

Third A. Second B. Third A. Second B.

Skip A. Skip B. Skip A. Skip B.

When team B has the jack the order of play shall be

Lead B. Lead A, Lead B. Lead A,

Lead B. Second A. Second B. Second A.

Second B. Third A. Second B. Third A.

Skip B. Skip A. Skip B. Skip A.

A penalty of 25% of team B score being deducted at the end of the game and decimal points do count. In such circumstances the match result sheet must show the score PRIOR to any deduction with the 25% deduction clearly shown and the resulting reduced score also clearly shown

**N.B. Those rinks playing with 4 players will not have their shots reduced, just those playing with 3 players.**

6. 18 ends shall be played by each rink. If a game is abandoned for any reason and provided 14 ends have been completed by each rink the score at this stage shall count as a result of the game, otherwise unfinished or postponed matches will be rearranged within seven days (Law 32. Game stoppages 32.1 – 32.4 applies).

All games that are required to be postponed or cannot be played on the evening must be notified by the home captain to the League Secretary immediately this is known. The Mixed League Secretary must consent to any postponement and must be advised as soon as possible once a game has been rearranged.

7. No trial ends in league games. All shots scored on the first end will count. Trial ends are permitted in the Semi-Final and Final.
8. One point awarded to each winning rink plus two points for an overall win. Points to be halved for drawn rinks or game.
9. The completed result sheet, countersigned by the away club, to be sent to the Mixed League Secretary within two days. Teams failing to submit completed result sheets within the 2 day period will be fined £5.00
10. (a.) League winners to be decided by the team having most points. In the event of a tie for first place the winner will be the team with the best shots average.  
  
(b.) When there are 3 or more leagues, section winners and where applicable best runners-up will play off to decide the overall league winner. The best runner-up being based on the average points scored over all games. A draw will take place to decide opponents.  
  
(c.) When there are 2 leagues, the winners of league A will play the runner up of league B with the winner of league B playing the runner up of league A.  
  
(d.) The Semi-Finals and Final to be played in whites. The Semi Final and Final will be played on a shots difference basis. In the event of a tie in the Semi Finals and Final extra end(s) to be played until a decision is reached.  
  
(e.) The Semi Finals and Final will be played on nominated dates and on greens selected by the Executive. If a team is unable to play on the nominated date, then the next best runner-up will be given the opportunity to take their place and the offending club will be fined £20.00.
11. Every effort must be made to play games to the fixed programme and clubs register sufficient players to prevent games having to be called off through shortage of players **Following the issue of the fixtures list should any team be unable to play a scheduled match due to other commitments this must be notified to the League Secretary at least 28 days prior to the fixture and prior to any contact with the opposition.**
12. A team not fulfilling its fixtures by the completion date will have four points deducted for all games not played from their accrued total and a fine of £20.00 for each game not played. Should the game not be played the team prevented from playing will have 5 points and 20 shots awarded. Clubs will be allowed to withdraw teams from a league not later than 14 days prior to the date of the first league fixture without penalty. Withdrawal of any team from a league in the period between the league starting date and 14 days prior will incur a fine of £50.00. Withdrawal of a team after the league matches have commenced shall incur the penalties stated in the first and second sentences of this paragraph. In the event of a club have a pre-arranged commitment (such as a tour or Open Day/Event) the League Secretary must be informed in order to accommodate this prior to the fixtures being issued.
13. Any dispute to be made via the Secretary to the Mixed League committee. The committee decision shall be final. In the absence of a specific Mixed Leagues Committee all disputes requiring resolution shall be referred to the B.E. Suffolk County Secretary for resolution by the B.E. Suffolk County Management Committee.
14. Light refreshments optional.
15. If a club enters two teams, players may play for one team only during the season.
16. Players must have played at least TWO league games to be able to play in the Semi-Finals/Final and, in order for verification of compliance with this rule, team selections must be sent to the League Secretary at least 24 hours prior to the match.