



# **BRITISH CROWN GREEN BOWLING ASSOCIATION**

## **2025 Rules & Revision Meeting Notices of Motions**

**At Winnington Park Recreation Club on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2025**

**Unless specifically indicated, any changes to the Bye-Laws and Rules of the Association passed at this meeting will take effect from the end of this meeting.**

### **1 DEVELOPMENT PLAYER FEE – NEW RULE**

**Proposed by the BCGBA Board**

**Seconded by Derbyshire**

To introduce an Annual Development Player Fee.

Such annual charge would be ringfenced by the Association and would only be available for spending in-line with the National Development Strategy.

All expenditure, and development progression, will be reported annually through a Development Review document.

The Annual Development Player Fee would come into being for an initial minimum of a three-year cycle commencing in 2025, to enable the strategy to be actioned.

The proposal for the fee is £1 per player, per Club. This fee to be paid by the 31<sup>st</sup> May. All Counties have been consulted and this is the preferred method to enable easy collection.

#### **RATIONALE:**

The BCGBA has identified the lack of a National Development Strategy as a key priority in enabling us to grow participation and support our member Clubs and Associations. This strategy document has been presented to our National Advisory Council, in both July and November, and has been circulated to all Counties and Associations in its entirety.

The strategy has also been circulated across our social media platforms, alongside a video explaining its content, to enable bowlers to see what our request entails.

The strategy document is fully costed, giving full visibility of significant investment back into Counties and Associations, and will be updated on a regular basis to allow us to adapt to an ever-changing modern landscape and will be reviewed annually.

To enable the necessary development to happen, we have to review the funding of our support and activities. Year One alone in the strategy has a potential expenditure of almost £110,000.

At present we lag behind almost every other sport in terms of development. Football, Cricket, Rugby, Hockey, etc... all have significant 'monthly' fees paid that enable Clubs and Associations to support development.

Our cross-code peers at Bowls England pay £12 a year to enable development to be done throughout the sport. We are asking for £1 – a quarter of the price of a high-street coffee, a quarter of a pint. Being honest, that most asked question has been 'why only £1 and not more?'

The answer is that as a governing body we want to build trust, honesty and openness. We want to show you that a £1 investment can produce significant results and participation across the sport – and we'll report them back to you for you to decide if the £1 was well invested.

Our sport is at a cross-roads. We have seen decline in Clubs for many years and we need to stop this from happening. Our sport is one of the most inclusive sports that there is – and people are starting to recognise that. By the introduction of an Annual Development Player Fee, we can stop this decline and sow the seeds of progression.

**The opportunity, and direction of our sport, is decided with your votes**

## **2 THE FOOTER – RULE 1.3 - PAGE 243**

**Proposed by British Crown Green Referees Society**

**Seconded by Lancashire**

Insert after the “155mm.” a new sentence to read –

“The footer is not part of the green and any bowl or jack travelling over, or touching the footer, must be returned to be played again.”

### **RATIONALE:**

To clarify what happens if a jack or bowl touches or runs over a footer from another game.

## **3 A BOWL – RULE 1.5 - PAGE 243**

**Proposed by British Crown Green Referees Society**

**Seconded by Lancashire**

After the word “dispensation.” on line 3 add a new sentence to read -

“The maximum weight of a bowl shall be 1.30kg (2lb 14oz).”

### **RATIONALE:**

To prevent the use of flat green bowls in crown green matches.

## **4 STILL JACK or BOWL – RULE 7.1b - PAGE 249**

**Proposed by British Crown Green Referees Society**

**Seconded by Lancashire**

In line 1 after the word “jack” insert “or bowl”.

### **RATIONALE:**

Describes what happens regarding a disturbed bowl. The existing Law only describes what happens to a disturbed jack.

## **5 SMOKING – RULE 10.2 - PAGE 252**

**Proposed by British Crown Green Referees Society**

**Seconded by Lancashire**

Add the words “nicotine inhaler” by amending the first sentence to read -

“Smoking: Smoking, vaping, the use of an electronic cigarette and/or a nicotine inhaler is not allowed whilst participating in the game of Crown Green Bowls.”

### **RATIONALE:**

To prohibit the use of a nicotine inhaler.

## **6 FOOTWEAR – RULE 10.3 - PAGE 252**

**Proposed by British Crown Green Referees Society**

**Seconded by Lancashire**

Delete the words ADDENDA (10.3)

### **RATIONALE:**

To include the wording “No interpretation.....bare feet.” into the body of the Law.

## **7 BCGBA LADIES COMPETITION RULES, SENIOR COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP – RULE 6 – PAGE 160**

**Proposed by Wales**

**Seconded by Merseyside**

Change rule to

Home teams and reserves shall be allowed practice up to the day of the match and also 15 minutes on the day of play which will terminate 5 minutes before the away team practice is due to start.

15 minutes practice (which shall terminate 10 minutes before the agreed start time of the match) shall be allowed the visiting team and reserves on the day of play.

### **RATIONALE:**

1. Brings the Ladies Senior Championship more in line with the Men’s which is fair and appropriate.
2. Will assist in a higher standard of bowling and competition.

## **8 BCGBA 18 to 23 OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP GUIDELINES – RULE 1 – PAGE 72**

**Proposed by Wales**

**Seconded by Merseyside**

Change rule to - but is under the age of 25 years

### **RATIONALE:**

To encourage greater participation and a larger entry at qualification level.

## **9 BCGBA WORLD CLUB TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP - PAGE 65**

Proposed changes to rule: 4, 6, 8, 9 and 12

Delete the above rules and insert the proposed below into the competition rules

**Proposed by British Parks**

**Seconded by Warwick and Worcester CGBA**

**Qualifying Rounds and Match Rules:**

### **Group Structure:**

For the qualifying rounds, teams will be drawn into groups (A, B, C, D, etc), each comprising four teams (labelled 1, 2, 3, 4). The number of groups and teams may be adjusted based on the number of entries. Teams from the same county affiliate will not be drawn into the same group.

On match day, two groups will play at a two-green venue, or one group will play at a single-green venue.

Each group of four will compete in a round-robin format on one green, and the winner from each group will qualify for finals day.

### **In the event of a Group with Three Teams:**

In the case of a group containing three teams, the first match will be played between the first two teams drawn. The second match will feature the losing team from the first match against the non-playing team. The final match will then be played between the winner of the first match and the non-playing team from the first round.

### **Player and Team Eligibility:**

(i) A player may not be selected to play for more than one team in the Championship.

(ii) No team or player may play on their own green.

### **Practice Restrictions:**

Teams or players may not practice on a green where they are due to play for 14 days before the match.

### **Qualifier Match Rules:**

#### **Match Format:**

All matches in the round-robin stages will be played to 21 up. Proceedings to start at 11am

Five games must be in progress at all times until the completion of each match:

Games 1, 2, and 3 from Match One and games 1 and 2 from Match Two will be played first.

Games 4 and 5 from Match One and games 3, 4, and 5 from Match Two will follow.

This format must be maintained until all matches are completed.

### **Order of Play:**

The order of play for each match will be determined by an exchange of scorecards numbered 1 to 8, with players called to the green in this order.

Players must report to the green manager or referee when called. If a player is absent when called, they will be replaced by a reserve and won't be eligible to play in that match.

The allocation of jacks to odd and even-numbered players will be decided by a coin toss after the draw is made.

### **Qualifier Match Outcome:**

The team with the highest total score in each match will be declared the winner and awarded 2 points. In the event of a draw, each team will receive 1 point.

After the completion of all round-robin matches, the team with the most points in each group will advance to finals day.

### **Tiebreaker Rules:**

In the case of a tie in either the group stages or the finals, the following criteria will be applied, in order:

1. The team with the higher aggregate score will advance.
2. If still tied, the team with the most individual match winners will advance.
3. If still tied, the team with the best individual match winner will advance.
4. If still tied, the team with the next best individual match winner will advance, and so on.

### **RATIONALE:**

The introduction of additional qualifying matches will have a significantly positive impact on both the competition and the sport, providing teams with more opportunities to compete, develop, and engage while also offering greater value for their entry fee.

The round-robin format offers multiple chances for each team to succeed, reducing the impact of a single poor performance and rewarding consistency. This promotes fairness and competitiveness, ensuring the best-performing teams emerge through sustained success.

Host clubs will also benefit, with more time spent at the venue increasing potential revenue—a crucial advantage, particularly during times of financial uncertainty for many of our bowling and social clubs.

The current rules are not applied at this time i.e. Rule 1 and 2 and going forward we need to be more flexible with the approach for competitions to make changes where it can further enhance the competition.

## **10 BCGBA WORLD CLUB TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP - PAGE 65**

### **Proposed by British Parks**

### **Seconded by Warwick and Worcester CGBA**

Change of name of competition to BCGBA CLUB TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP

### **RATIONALE:**

We feel that the current name does not suit the competition it's not like we have teams from around the world entering it only teams from the UK and Isle of Man who are not part of the United Kingdom.

Ideally going forward we need a sponsor for this competition which will go before the name.