



IRISH WOMEN'S BOWLING ASSOCIATION

CONSTITUTION AND RULES

CONSTITUTION

1. TITLE

The name of the Association shall be the "IRISH WOMEN'S BOWLING ASSOCIATION" hereinafter referred to as IWBA.

2. OBJECTIVES

The IWBA shall be the National Governing Body for the sport of Lawn Bowls among girls and women in Ireland.

It shall facilitate the promotion, development and co-ordination of competition bowls to enable players to achieve their full potential and excellence at the highest level of sport.

3. MEMBERSHIP

Membership of the IWBA shall consist of four Associations:

Northern Ireland Private Greens League (NIWPGL);

Northern Ireland Women's Bowling Association (NIWBA);

Provincial Towns Women's Bowling Association (PTWBA); and

Ladies Bowling League of Ireland (LBLI).

All member clubs of the above shall be *affiliated* to the IWBA through their Association and shall be represented by one delegate from each club at all General Meetings.

4. HONORARY MEMBERS

The Association shall have the power to elect Honorary Members for special services rendered to the game of Bowls.

5. FEES

An annual affiliation fee must be paid by each Association and Club together with an annual capitation fee for each Club member (playing or not playing). The level of these fees will be decided at each AGM and must be paid before 1st May in each year.

6. EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

The business of the IWBA shall be conducted by an Executive Council comprising:

(a) Office Bearers ie. President, Vice-President, Honorary Secretary, Honorary Treasurer, Honorary Assistant Secretary and immediate Past President.

(b) U25 Manager.

(c) Delegates appointed annually by each of the four Associations should be empowered to act on behalf of their Associations. (Amendment AGM 27 Nov. 2015)

(d) Irish Senior Team Manager.

7. AGM

The Annual General Meeting and Extraordinary General Meeting shall be composed of the members of the Executive Council and one delegate from each affiliated club. The Annual General Meeting shall be held on the third Friday of November each year. A member of the Executive Council shall not be appointed nor act as a delegate for a Club at an Annual General or Extraordinary General Meeting. Fourteen days' notice shall be given of all General Meetings.

8. VOTING AGM/EGM

Each affiliated Club, whether represented by their delegate or by proxy at any General Meeting shall be entitled to exercise one vote. Members of the Executive Council including the six Officers shall each be entitled to exercise one vote. The President shall have a casting vote in the event of a tied vote.

9. EGM

An Extraordinary General Meeting may be summoned at the discretion of the Executive Council or on application from an affiliated Association. The notice convening the Meeting shall state the nature of the business to be considered and no other business shall be transacted at that Meeting. At least ten days' notice of the Meeting shall be given to each affiliated Club.

10. QUORUM

A quorum for all meetings shall be one more than one half of the number of members entitled to attend and vote.

11. NOTICE OF MOTION/AMENDMENTS

This Constitution cannot be amended, deleted or added to except by Notice of Motion at the Annual General Meeting. A Notice of Motion may be submitted by a Member Club to its representative Association in the first instance; and that Association, on approval, will submit it to the Executive Council. Notices of Motion may also be submitted by an Association and by the Executive Council. Such Notices of Motion, in precise terms, must be given in writing to the Honorary Secretary twenty-eight days before the Annual General Meeting. Any such amendment, deletion or addition can only be carried by at least a two-thirds majority of those present and voting.

12. FINANCE

The IWBA shall maintain current/deposit account(s) in the name of the IWBA at such bank(s) as the Executive Council shall decide. Cheques shall be signed by the Honorary Treasurer and such other Officer(s) of the Association as the Executive Council shall decide. The Books of Account shall be closed on 30th September. In the event of the winding up of the IWBA, the disbursement of the balance shall be the decision of the Executive Council.

13. STANDING COMMITTEES

- (a) **The Finance Committee** consisting of the President, Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer shall have power to deal with all financial matters connected with the Association subject to the approval of the Executive Council.
- (b) **The Competitions Committee** consisting of the Honorary Secretary of the IWBA and the Competition Secretaries of the NIWPGL, NIWBA, LBLI and PTWBA shall organise the National Competitions and events.
- (c) **The Selection Committee** shall consist of the Senior Irish Team Manager and two members from each of the four Associations who shall be nominated by their representative Association. These are joined by the Honorary Secretary of the IWBA who shall not vote. Five members will form a quorum. Each Association will nominate only one of their two selectors to travel with the International Team. A selector will not be eligible to play in International Matches. In the event of a selector withdrawing from her position during the season, her Association will have the power to co-opt a replacement. The selection committee shall appoint a Team Manager who shall have full control of the team for International Series, World Bowls, Commonwealth Games, Atlantic Rim and Invitation Tournaments.
- (d) **The U25 Committee** shall consist of five members, the Honorary Secretary, U25 Manager and three others, all to be elected at the AGM. This committee to act as selectors in addition to the organisation of the U25 team.
- (e) **Emergence and General Purposes Committee** shall be appointed by the Executive Council. It shall meet at times and places arranged by the Honorary Secretary to deal with matters of urgency between scheduled meetings of the Executive Council.

14. SUB COMMITTEES

The Executive Council shall have power to appoint sub-committees for special purposes. Each sub-committee shall make its report or findings to the next Executive Council Meeting.

15. DOPING

Drugs Testing: The Council's Drug and Anti-Doping in Sport policy shall be that of World Bowls Ltd and WADA (World Anti-Doping Agency) which gives authority to UK Sport or its Agent to carry out random drugs tests during events organised and controlled by the Council - www.wada-ama.org/en/

16. CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

The IWBA believes that everyone, whether administrator, official, coach or bowler, has a duty of care to safeguard all children from harm. All children have a right to protection, and the needs of disabled children and others who may be particularly vulnerable must be taken into account. The IWBA will ensure the safety and protection of all children whilst in the care of the IWBA, through adherence to the Child Protection guidelines adopted by the IWBA. (Documents can be downloaded from www.iwba.co.uk)

17. EQUITY STATEMENT

The Irish Women's Bowling Association aims to ensure that all people, regardless of their religious beliefs, political opinions, racial groups, ethnic origin, age, ability/disability, marital status, social status or sexual orientation have a genuine and equal opportunity to participate in Bowls at all levels. This includes all present and potential members, instructors, coaches, competitors, officials and volunteers.

BYE-LAWS

1. MEMBERSHIP

A Club wishing to apply for Membership of the IWBA must do so through its Association, submitting names and addresses of its Office Bearers.

2. FEES

In the event of a Club failing to pay Affiliation and Capitation Fees within the time stated, that Club shall forfeit all the rights and privileges of membership so long as the fees remain unpaid.

3. EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

The Executive Council shall:

- (i) Act as Trustees of all monies and property, which belongs to the IWBA.
- (ii) Deal with any disciplinary matters and with disputes between Associations and its decision shall be final.
- (iii) Be ultimately responsible to the Annual General Meeting for all its actions and decisions.

All meetings of the Executive Council will be held in the greater Belfast area.

4. DELEGATES

(a) Executive Council

Each Association of Clubs shall appoint four delegates that is, Association Secretary, Treasurer and two others from its Association to serve on the Executive Council of the IWBA. The names of the Delegates must be received by the Honorary Secretary of the IWBA not later than 15th December each year. They will assume office at the first Executive Council meeting following the Annual General Meeting the following year, at which they will relinquish office unless they have been re-elected. If, through unforeseen circumstances a delegate cannot attend, the Association of Clubs thus unrepresented shall have the power to nominate a proxy. The place of a delegate unable to attend a General Meeting or Extraordinary General Meeting may be taken by a member of any club provided she is duly nominated to do so.

(b) **World Bowls**

The Honorary Secretary and/or Honorary Treasurer shall represent the IWBA at all International and World Bowls Meetings.

5. OFFICE BEARERS

(a) **President**

The President shall be the previous year's Vice-President and shall hold office for one year with effect from the Annual General Meeting. She shall act as chairperson of all Executive Council, Annual General and Extraordinary General Meetings.

(b) **Vice-President**

The Vice-President shall be nominated yearly in the following rota of Associations: LBLI, NIWBA, NIWPGL, PTWBA and repeat. The Association whose turn it is to nominate shall submit a name to the Honorary Secretary of the IWBA, and such name shall be received not later than 1 October of the appropriate year. The nominee must be a member of an affiliated Club. Should the office of President or Vice-President become vacant, the Association concerned shall have the option of filling the vacancy subject to the approval of the Executive Council.

(c) **Honorary Secretary**

The Secretary shall keep a record of all business transacted at the General, Extraordinary and Executive Council Meetings. She shall receive all sub committee reports and findings and communicate them to the Executive Council. At the Annual General Meeting she shall submit her report of the proceedings of that year.

(d) **Honorary Treasurer**

The Honorary Treasurer shall operate financial control and an accounting system for all funds, received and disbursed. She shall present a proper set of accounts, duly audited by an independent auditor, at the Annual General Meeting.

(e) **Honorary Assistant Secretary**

The Honorary Assistant Secretary shall carry out duties delegated by the Honorary Secretary.

All Office Bearers shall be elected at the AGM

6. INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS

To qualify for the International team a player must be of Irish parentage, Irish born or of British parentage and at the time of selection resident in Ireland. Any player who allows her name to go forward for selection to the International team and is selected, shall be liable for all expenses incurred on her behalf in the event of her withdrawing from the team without giving a reason deemed satisfactory by the Executive Council. No player may represent Ireland in any tournament, competition or exhibition game without the prior approval of the IWBA.

7. IWBA FIXTURES

Fixtures such as International trials or practice games take precedence over Association fixtures or competitions. Players involved in both fixtures must be allowed to rearrange Association fixtures.

8. TOURS

All applications received or invitations extended to incoming tours to Ireland must in the first instance be submitted to the IWBA Honorary Secretary for approval.

9. LICENSING

All open tournaments must be approved and licensed by the IWBA Executive Council. The organisers of all events must apply to the IWBA Honorary Treasurer for a licence application form at least thirty days before the event. The date, location and format (singles, pairs etc.,) and the value of the total rewards and expenses must be stated. Where the total prize fund for women does not exceed £300, a standard licence fee of £5 is payable. Where the total prize fund exceeds £300 the licence fee shall be 5% of the

total prize money. In the event of a tournament being a mixed tournament (men and women) a licence must be applied for from both IWBA and IBA Secretaries. Any player taking part in an unlicensed tournament may be suspended from taking part in all forms of bowling organised by or under the auspices of the Irish Women's Bowling Association.

The byelaws can be amended or deleted or added to by a simple majority at an AGM.

GENERAL COMPETITION RULES

1. IWBA Competitions are open to all players of affiliated clubs. A player can represent only one club in any one year.
2. All rounds shall be drawn by ballot.
3. When it is proved that a Club has played an ineligible player, such club shall forfeit the match, and the points shall be awarded to the opponents.
4. IWBA Championship Pairs, Fours and Over 55 Fours shall consist of 21 ends, Triples 18 ends, and Singles to 21 shots. If the position then is a tie, an Extra end shall be played, a coin having been tossed to decide which side shall deliver the jack. Should the result again be a draw, another end shall be played, a coin having been again tossed, and so on until a decision has been reached.
5. Uniform as defined by the IWBA must be worn at all IWBA matches, ie. cream/white trousers/skirt, club top and proper bowling shoes.
6. Qualified Umpires and Markers may be appointed for matches or ties. It shall be their duty to settle disputes that may arise between the competitors, and in the case of inclement weather, to decide in conjunction with a responsible official, whether the green is in a condition for play.
7. The Trophies for various competitions shall be presented to the winners on a date to be fixed by the Executive Council, and the winners shall, on receipt of same, give the IWBA Honorary Secretary a written guarantee for their safe custody and return on or before 1 September the following year.
8. All bowls used by players in the British Isles International Series and British Isles Championships must have a current WBB stamp. This rule will also apply to bowls used by players in World Bowling Championships, Commonwealth Games or other International Championships.

Domestic Competitions Only

With effect from 1 April 2008 all composition bowls for play in the Inter-Association Championships or the semi-finals and finals of the National Championships must bear a legible IBB, WBB or World Bowls Stamp which has an expiry date of 1985 or later.

Composition bowls used in games other than those listed above must bear a legible IBB, WBB or World Bowls Stamp which has an expiry date of 1971 or later.

SENIOR INTER-ASSOCIATION CHAMPIONSHIPS

Trophy : Jean Hayes Cup
Runner-up : Sadie Little Trophy

1. The competition shall be open to the NIWPGL, NIWBA, PTWBA and LBLI comprising the Irish Women's Bowling Association. Under no circumstances shall it be permissible for any club to nominate or play members in more than one League or Association in this Championship.

2. Each Association competing shall be represented by a side of six rinks consisting entirely of members of its affiliated clubs. Players who are in membership of clubs not affiliated to the IWBA are not eligible for selection.
3. Each side shall play every other side a game of 18 ends.
4. The four Associations shall play each other in a two day event which shall be arranged and organised by the **Association Secretary and Committee** of the current IWBA President.
5. A win shall count as one point, a draw as ½ point and a loss as nil for each team. Five points for overall win for Seniors. The side gaining the greatest number of points shall be declared the winner. In the event of two or more sides being equal on points, the side having the greatest number of shots up against shots down shall be declared the winner of the Championship. Should two sides be equal in points and also in shots, the winner shall be ascertained by the result of the match already played between the two sides. The winner of the Senior Inter-Association Championships shall be entitled to hold the Trophy for one year. (A Plaque will also be presented to the winners which they can keep).
6. Uniform as defined by the IWBA must be worn at all Inter-Association matches, ie. cream/white skirt or trousers with Association tops and proper bowling shoes.

JUNIOR INTER-ASSOCIATION CHAMPIONSHIPS

Trophy : Hazel Harrison Trophy
 Runner-up : Alice Roebuck Trophy

Rules as for Senior Association except that each Association shall be represented by a side of four teams and the overall score for a win being **three points**.

McMASTER CUP

Winner : McMaster Open Cup

1. This competition is open to all affiliated Senior and Junior Clubs. The first round usually played on the third Friday in May and following rounds when they can be arranged. Winning side to telephone the result to IWBA Secretary immediately after the game and the home team to send the cards to her as soon as possible after the match has been played. All rounds shall be drawn by ballot.
2. Each side shall consist of three rinks and eighteen ends shall be played.
3. (a) In the event of two teams from the one Club securing 'home' draws on the same green, the second 'home' club shall play on a date and at a time to be fixed by the Competitions Committee, unless otherwise mutually arranged.
 (b) A Club unable to fulfil a Cup Match fixture must notify their opponents to be received at least 48 hours prior to the time for the playing of the game. Failure to comply with this rule may involve the defaulting Club in payment of expenses.
4. Clubs with two sides entered in above Cup shall submit members names who shall during that season play matches for the No.1 and No.2 side. These players shall not be interchangeable.
5. Each side must consist of twelve players plus a travelling substitute.
6. No alteration in dates shall be considered unless a green is unplayable.
7. The winning side shall receive, along with the Cup, a Plaque which they keep.
8. Semi-finals/Finals shall be played on greens at the discretion of IWBA Officers.

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Singles, Pairs, Triples and Fours Championships

Singles Trophy	Hall-Thompson Cup
Singles Runner-up	Mae Stevenson Salver
Pairs Trophy	Lady Baird Cup
Pairs Runner-up	Margaret Marks Trophy
Triples Trophy	Dora Nickel Cup
Triples Runner-up	Pearl Donnelly Salver
Fours Trophy	Lady Neill Cup
Fours Runner-up	Eileen Nicholl Trophy
U25 Singles Trophy	Sherwood Cup
U25 Runner-up	Florrie McIlwaine Trophy
U25 Pairs Trophy	Boyle/McNeill Cup
U25 Pairs Runner-up	Craig/Hunter Cup

1. National Championships shall be held annually in two stages, in co-operation with the Associations, who shall each conduct Singles, Pairs, Triples and Fours Championships in its own area in conformity with IWBA Rules.
2. A Player therein shall not represent or allow her name to be submitted for more than one League or Association in any one year.
3. The Honorary Treasurer of NIWPGL, NIWBA, LBLI and PTWBA shall forward to the Honorary Treasurer of the IWBA on or before 30th June each year, the number of entrants in each of the Championships in their respective areas, together with the entrance fee.
4. (a) Each game in the Singles Championships shall consist of 21 shots.
(b) Each game in the U25 Singles Championship shall consist of 15 shots.
5. Any player, having entered the Singles Competition of her Association and who KNOWINGLY is unavailable to compete in the Championships Final, is requested to withdraw as early as possible, in the interest of sportsmanship, and not later than the quarter-final. No substitute is permitted in Singles.
6. The Umpires appointed and the competitors shall attend at the places and times fixed.
7. All matches shall be arranged so that any individual player is able to play in more than one Championship.
8. In the Fours, if the registered skip is unable to play, her place must be taken by the third of that four, in a triple the second player should become skip. A substitute may not act as skip but can be played in any other position. Members of each club may make their own arrangements for the formation of Fours, Triples and Pairs. The same players must compete throughout the competition unless a satisfactory reason is given for the substitution of not more than one player. The substitute must be a member of the same club and must not have already taken part in the competition. No other player can replace the first named substitute in any one championship.
In fours or triples, positions, other than skip are interchangeable.
In pairs, a substitute may play in either position.
In fours, triples and pairs those who play in the first game are the registered players.

SEMI-FINALS & FINALS

1. Each Association Championship shall be played to a finish and, if eligible, the winners shall compete in the corresponding stage of the IWBA Championship.
2. The names and clubs of Association winners shall be forwarded to the Secretary of the IWBA as soon as possible after their championships have ended.

3. The Competitions Committee appointed by the IWBA shall determine all questions or disputes that may arise and which do not come within the scope of an Umpire's duties and its decision shall be final and binding. The green-keeper, the Umpire and the IWBA Secretary shall determine whether or not the green is playable.
4. The semi-finals and finals of the National Championships shall be played at a weekend Saturday and Sunday (Friday if needed). Dates to be arranged by the Competitions Committee.
5. The venue shall be at a green that represents the Association of that year's IWBA President.

LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIPS

National League Championships shall be held annually in two stages, in co-operation with the Associations who shall each conduct a Senior and Junior League Championships in its own area in conformity with IWBA rules. The semi-finals and finals of these competitions shall be played under the control of the Executive Council General Competition Rules.

TROPHIES

Senior League Trophy	Nesbitt Shield
Runner-up	Eileen Hanna Trophy

A Senior League side shall consist of four teams.

Junior League Trophy	Aiken Shield
Runner-up	Dun Laoghaire Shield

A Junior League side shall consist of two teams.