

Competition Rules for Billingham League and Pullen Cup

Current Rules relating to the VPs Competitions are as detailed below:

Billingham League Shield (Donated by Denis Billingham – President 1979)

Billingham League Rules

1. Arrangements:

- a) The League will be played between each of the four Divisions with each Division playing each of the other Divisions in matches, both Home and Away.
- b) **Matches shall be played on six consecutive Fridays, commencing the 1st Friday in July, with all four divisions playing on the same day. The Assistant Secretary will issue, during the previous season, information as to which team will play which team on each of the six Friday dates. Who plays who to start the season, at home or away, will vary each year.**
- c) **On completion of a match a sheet showing the result and the players who took part, is to be forwarded to the webmaster and the signed cards for each match are to be forwarded – or a scanned copy emailed – to the Hon. Assistant Secretary for collation of points etc., within 24 hours of the completion of each match. Penalty for failure to comply - two point deduction.**
- d) In accordance with standard Competition Rules a draw shall take place for rinks.
- e) The winner of the League will be the team with the highest number of points and their Controller will be presented with the Billingham Shield. **In the event of total points scored by two or more divisions, being equal - the winner will be the team with the highest shot difference.**

2. Match Abandonment.

In the event of a match being abandoned due to adverse weather, if a minimum of 66 ends have been completed, irrespective of the number of ends played on individual rinks, then the result will stand on the scores of - each completed end on each rink - at the time the decision is made to abandon the match. To ensure complete clarity - once the decision is announced that the match is abandoned - only ends completed at that point shall count.

The decision to abandon a match shall be made either by the green keeper of the club that is hosting the match or by mutual agreement between the two controllers taking into account the condition of the green, current weather conditions and the safety of the players.

3. Match Points Awarded:

- a) A Total of 15 points will be awarded for each match.
- b) Two points will be awarded to each winning rink with one point being awarded to each team for each drawn rinks.
- c) Three points will be awarded for the team with the highest overall aggregate score and if the overall aggregate scores are the same, then 1.5 points will be awarded to each team.
- d) **When a match is not played due to weather conditions or a Green being unfit for play - or with less than the required 66 ends having been completed as per 2. Above - the points will be shared - 7.5 points will be awarded to each team. Once the season has commenced – no matches will be rearranged.**
- e) **Where a match is abandoned after a minimum of 66 ends have been completed points will be awarded as per a) - c) above.**

4. Eligibility:

- a) Only players registered with the Assistant Secretary prior to the commencement of the match will be eligible to play - but see c) below.

- b) **Players selected to play in Billingham League matches MUST HAVE PLAYED - IN THE CURRENT SEASON - in A MINIMUM OF TWO FRIENDLY VP MATCHES AGAINST CLUBS - PRIOR TO PLAYING IN ANY BILLINGHAM LEAGUE MATCH.**
- c) Where a friendly match is not played - due to adverse weather conditions on the day of the match - the players named on the latest team **as published on the County website** – at least one day prior to the cancellation - shall be deemed to have played and the fixture included as one of the two required matches for qualification for the competition.
- d) If a club can only provide, a specific number of rinks (less than the full 6) - **of their club players** - to play against the VP's, **then that reduced number of rinks, is the maximum number of rinks that the VP's can play on against the club, in order for those players to count as having played one qualifying game.**
- e) Only players who start in a full game against a club team (Rink/Triple) from a club in their division can be recorded as having played one of the two games towards qualification. Where a friendly game that has commenced, is rained off due to adverse weather, the players who commenced the game, shall be deemed to have played and the fixture included as one of the two required matches for qualification.

Penalty:

- I) If any unqualified player(s) is/are identified before the start of a match he/they **shall** be allowed to bowl but the Rink(s) on which he/they played will lose 25% of shots scored for each unqualified player on that rink.
- II) If any unqualified player(s) is/are identified after the game, the Rink(s) on which he/they played will lose 25% of shots scored for each unqualified player and the result adjusted accordingly.
- iii) Should the same player(s) take part in a further match as an unqualified player(s) - **the rink(s) on which he/they played** - shall be forfeited and for each rink 2 points and 4 shots shall be awarded to the opposition.

5. Formulation of Teams:

- a) One of the major aims of the VP's is for players to integrate and play on a rink **with players from other clubs. This is an accepted principle of the VPs. When formulating a team, controllers MUST ENSURE THAT NO MORE THAN A MAXIMUM OF TWO PLAYERS FROM THE SAME CLUB ARE SELECTED TO PLAY ON THE SAME RINK – but see d) below.**
- b) Three players from the same club - **shall not be selected to play on the same rink – other than in circumstances WHERE the number of players from any one individual club is more than twelve - THEN each rink MUST contain two players from that club** - and rinks increased to a maximum of three, as necessary. Other than for this reason, if a late substitute is brought in, rinks must be adjusted to prevent this occurring.
- c) **Failure to observe the restrictions in b) and c) above may result in a player being declared an ineligible player. (Meeting 26 Jun 18)**

6. Shortage of Players and Penalties:

- a) If a controller is aware that he will be unable to raise a full team for a match then he should notify the opposing Controller and the VP Co-ordinator, where possible, a minimum of five days before the scheduled date for the match. The opposing controller would then reduce his team accordingly whilst still ensuring that rink formats were within the agree guidelines. **(Meeting 30 Sep 16)**
- b) If on the day players failed to arrive causing a Controller to have less than a full team:
 - i) if the 'missing players' are in contact with the controller and it is known that they are going to arrive but are just delayed due to unforeseen circumstances, then the match

should be delayed, where possible, to enable them time to arrive. Agreement by Controllers and common sense must prevail but it must be accepted that some players may require to 'get away' to play in another match in the evening so the length of the delay must be acceptable. It should be remembered that a 30 minute 'grace period' is allowed anyway.

- ii) If there is no contact with the players the match shall commence on time - or after the grace period.
 - iii) The absentee player shall be allowed to take his place in the team as recorded on the match card, provided he arrives prior to the jack being bowled for the commencement of the sixth end. If he fails to arrive by that time the team shall continue to play as per para d) below - one player and two woods short for the entire game.
- c) Whenever a full team is not present the following shall apply:
- i) If a team is short of more than EIGHT players **the match shall be declared void and the Division shall be excluded for the competition and its record expunged.**
 - ii) If a team is short of EIGHT players TWO rinks shall be forfeited and for each rink 2 points and 4 shots shall be awarded to the opposition.
 - iii) If a team is short of SEVEN players ONE rink shall be forfeited and 2 points and 4 shots shall be awarded to the opposition. Rinks shall play with three players as necessary.
 - iv) If a team is short of SIX players or less all rinks shall be played with three players on rinks as necessary.
- NB** In ii) and iii) above both Controllers shall be entitled to adjust the composition of their rinks to allow for the dropping of one or two rinks *if necessary on the day*. Controllers should still attempt to ensure that the rink format is within the guidelines - but - this may not be possible for the team short of players and the opposing Controller may also wish to adjust his team to allow players from the same club to depart if not required. Common sense and a sense of fair play MUST prevail.
- d) Where any rink is short of one player, then the team with a player short on that rink, shall bowl two less woods and the order of play shall be:
- i) The leads shall bowl in the usual manner;
 - ii) The number two from the team with four players will then bowl his two woods consecutively;
 - iii) The Three's and Skips will then bowl their woods in the normal manner;
 - iv) The rink will be played as six woods against eight and there will be no deduction of shots for the team with three players.
- e) If any unqualified players are identified after the game, the Rink(s) on which they played will lose 25% of shots scored - for each unqualified player - and the result adjusted accordingly.

Costs:

- a) Costs for the hosting of Billingham League matches shall be borne by the home Division.

Pullen Cup (Donated by Mrs Beryl Pullen – Frank Pullen – President 2005)

Pullen Cup Rules

1. Arrangements:

- a) Play is between the Four Divisions and the draw for the following year's semi-finals is made on Pullen Cup Final Day each year. The Laws of the Sport will apply.
- b) The Semi-finals will normally be played on the first Friday in September.
- c) The final will normally be played on the second Friday in September and will be played sequentially in each of the Divisions over a period of four years - commencing with Division 1 in 2021.
- d) In accordance with standard Competition Rules a draw shall take place for rinks.
- e) Prior to the start of the match the opposing Controllers [or Captains] shall make a draw to determine a Single rink which shall play a deciding end in the event of a tie in the match proper.
- f) The Regulations as quoted in Para 2 of the Billingham League Rules as above, re matches abandoned part way through, apply equally to the Pullen Cup Semi Finals or Final.

2. Result of Match:

- a) The winning team in both the Semi Finals and the Final shall be the team that achieves the highest overall aggregate shot score.
In the final, the Controller of the winning team will be presented with the Pullen Cup.
- b) If a Semi Final is unable to be played on the agreed date - due to weather conditions or a Green being unfit for play the Assistant Secretary must be notified at the earliest opportunity. He will arrange with the Presidential team for a draw to be made to decide who will progress to the final.
- c) If the Final is unable to be played on the agreed date - due to weather conditions or a Green being unfit for play the result shall be record as no winner for that season (Unplayed).

3. Eligibility:

- a) To qualify for the Competition Vice Patrons must have played in at least two of the Six inter Divisional (Billingham League) fixtures in the same season.
- b) Where an inter Divisional match is not played, the players named on the latest team as published on the County website - at the time the match is cancelled - shall be deemed to have played and included in those qualified for the competition.

4. Formulation of Teams:

- a) The Regulations as quoted in Para 5 of the Billingham League Rules as above, apply equally to the formulation of teams for all Pullen Cup matches.

5. Shortage of Players and Penalties:

- a) The Regulations as quoted in Para 6 of the Billingham League Rules as above, apply equally to the formulation of teams for all Pullen Cup matches
- b) If any unqualified player(s) is/are identified before the start of a match he/they should be allowed to bowl but the Rink(s) on which he/they played will lose 25% of shots scored for each unqualified player on that rink.

- c) If any unqualified player(s) is/are identified after the game, even though the trophy may have been presented, the Rink(s) on which he/they played will lose 25% of shots scored for each unqualified player and the result adjusted accordingly.
6. **Costs:**
- a) Costs for the hosting of Pullen Cup Semi Final and Final matches shall be shared by the two competing Divisions.
- NB Payment to host club Semi-Final and Final matches is currently an agreed figure of £120 split between the two competing Divisions - £60 each – plus for the Final, an additional £10 each Division, for payment to the umpires.**