

HIBA INTER-CLUB COUNTY LEAGUE – MEN’S LEAGUE RULES 2026-27

**AMENDED 26/08/2026*

Rule a)

- 1) The County League Championship shall be open to all Affiliated Clubs who shall play a league match against each other on prearranged dates between the 1st October and 15th April each season. These dates once fixed may not be altered except in extreme circumstances and by agreement with the competition secretary.
- 2) For this season each match to be played with 18 ends on 4 rinks at the venue of the first named club as printed on the HIBA website. Next season venues to be reversed.
- 3) Matches to be played in “whites” or EIBA registered club shirts with white trousers or registered / approved Club colours. All players in one side must be similarly dressed
- 4) All games shall start at 10.00 am and will last for a maximum of 3½ hours. If rain ends are to be played then they must start at 9.45 am.
- 5) Players are requested not to visit the head until 8 bowls have been delivered.
- 6) The away teams will pay the required rink fees to the home club
- 7) “Re-spotting the Jack” If the jack passes outside the side boundary of the rink it should be placed on a pre-arranged spot on the rink which is 2 metres from the front ditch and 1½ metres to the left or right of the centre line on the side of the rink of play. If a bowl is on the re-spot, the jack will be placed as near as possible to the bowl without touching it between the spot and the centre of the rink. If any other bowls are in the way, the jack will be placed as near to that without touching them and the centre of the rink, in other words, directly between the two spots without touching a bowl

Rule b)

Each club will be represented by 4 teams of 4 players all of whom shall be bona fide members of that club. A club represented by a player who has previously played for another club in this competition in the same season shall forfeit any points gained in the match or matches in which any such player takes part.

Rule c)

2 Points will be awarded for each winning team on each rink (draw 1 point each), and 5 points for the match winner (match drawn 2.5 points each), making a total of 13 points to be awarded.

Rule d)

All games will be played on registered greens and unless specifically indicated otherwise in these Rules shall be played in accordance with the Rules and Regulations of the EIBA

Rule e)

1) In the event that a club arrives at a venue with less than 16 players, then that club may field up to four triples to play against four rinks. The triples team will bowl 8 woods with the lead and two bowling 3 woods each and the skip Bowling 2 woods. At the end of the game the triple team will have 25% of its match score deducted.

In the event that both clubs arrive with player(s) short, both clubs will be subject to the 25% match score deduction on the relevant rinks.

2) If a club arrives at a venue with less than the minimum required number of players (12), then the defaulting team will forfeit the match and points will be awarded as per Rule E.3.

3) In the event of a match being cancelled without good reason the non-defaulting club will have 13 points plus 20 shots added to its accumulated total for the season. The defaulting Club(s) will have 0 points and 20 shots deducted from their accumulated total for the Season. Also if 7 days' notice of cancellation was not given then the defaulting club may be requested to pay the host clubs rink fees for that match.

4) A grace period of 30 minutes from the match start time is allowable for unforeseen circumstances such as traffic etc.

Rule f)

Clubs shall ensure that ALL of their players have the club's own distinguishing markers on their bowls

Rule g)

The result of each game MUST be sent to the Association's Hon. Competition Secretary by both captains at each venue as soon as possible.

Rule h)

In the event that a dispute arises between the two clubs during the competition the matter must be notified to the Association's Hon. Competition Secretary in order that the matter may be resolved.

Rule i)

An umpire or competent person shall be present at all matches and shall be arranged by the home club

Rule j)

*The team with the most points following conclusion of all ties will be declared the winner. If the number of points is equal, the following shall apply (in order).

1. Team with the greater shot difference
2. Team with the most shots scored
3. The winner of the match when teams met during the season
4. If still no winner, the league will declared tied

Note - When deducting shots decimal rounding applies - if the digit is less than 5, round down and if the digit is 5 or more than 5, round up.