



SECTION

2

RULES

OF

PLAY

SECTION 2: RULES OF PLAY

1. Players and supporters are subject to the **Rules of the Association, Constitution, Code of Conduct, and Executive Committee whose decision shall be final.**
2. The referee must give a decision in accordance with the Rules.
3. Only the referee or the promoters or the Hon. Secretary have power to **cancel or postpone** a score, or postpone the finish of a score, or decide when a score may be stopped and resumed, in accordance with the rules.
4. **Practice Shots**
 - a. No practice shot shall be allowed from the starting line, or elsewhere, after the toss of the coin.
 - b. No practice shot shall be permitted at any time during a score.
 - c. No practice shot shall be allowed from or in the immediate vicinity of the starting line in the 30 minute period immediately before the advertised time for any Munster or All-Ireland championship score. The referee shall confirm both the time limit and the definition of the immediate vicinity of the starting line.
 - d. No bowls shall be provided for the purposes of practice for any Munster or All-Ireland championship score by the organising committee, the host club or any other party associated with the organisation of the score.
5. When the referee or the promoters or the Hon. Secretary decide that a score **cannot be finished**, all the 'tips' must be painted on the road where possible. Where painting of the tips is not feasible the referee, witnessed by the competing players or their representatives, shall measure the tips from some permanent object such as a tree, pole or pillar.
6. The referee shall decide when a bowl is '**for the score**' in a resumed score. In a resumed score, in no circumstances shall the competing player(s) be allowed take a practice shot from, or adjacent to the marked tips, or over any part of the road which their first shot after resumption is likely to cover.
7. Only the **official score** shall come under the jurisdiction of the referee.
8. All scores shall be played with the appropriate **weight bowls** as decreed by the Executive Committee or the promoters.
9. The referee shall **hold the stake**, which he shall accept from the player or his/her representative and at the conclusion of the score shall hand over the stake to the winner or his/her representative.
10. The referee may demand to see a **list of subscribers to a stake** and may refuse money subscribed by a person or persons, without giving any reason for so refusing.
11. **The promoters** shall in no way be held responsible or liable for accidents to players or spectators, howsoever arising.
12. **Scores, in championships and tournaments**, must be played whether there be a stake or not.
13. **Competitions must be completed on the roads** selected by the Committee unless they decide otherwise for a reasonable cause.
14. **No bowl shall be thrown** until the promoters are satisfied that the road is clear.
15. **Deliberate delay** in throwing may entail disqualification.
16. **If bowls are declared "evens"** by the referee at the end of a score, or for "bowl" or "bowl of odds" or at any time, each side must throw another shot, as directed by the referee, to decide which side has won the score, "odds" etc. (NOTE: Bowls should be marked on both sides of

the road to avoid uncertainty. If bowls are declared "evens" at the end of a score, the throw to decide the winner shall be thrown back from the marks or end line, as the referee decides, when it is impractical or dangerous to throw forward).

17. If bowls are declared **"evens"** at the end of a partner's score, the playing partners must throw in the direction announced by the referee and in the order in which they arrived at the last throw.
18. **Should the bowls be lost during the score**, the promoters may substitute suitable bowls. Players may not substitute bowls. Should all bowls be lost, the promoters shall fix a date on which the score shall be resumed.
19. **The referee shall mark** the tips after 10-minute search.
20. **If bowls rebound** from the same obstruction (wall, car wheel, pier etc.,) they shall be marked evens.
21. **The bowl shall be marked at the point where its forward run shall end.** The tip should be marked as soon after the bowl stops as possible, the referee and/or official marker may stop a bowl if it begins to run backwards on a slope or from a rebound after it has completed its forward run. The official marker shall at all times mark the tip, but the referee shall, at all times have the prerogative to decide where the tip should be marked, and his/her decision shall be final.
22. **The official marker or the referee** shall place a mark on the road to indicate the tip after each throw. The tip should be marked on both sides of the road where necessary to avoid uncertainty.
23. A player shall deliver the bowl from behind his/her tip at all times. No Videoing or photography will be allowed at the tip. In the event of a dispute NO Video or photograph evidence will be accepted under any circumstances.
24. A shot shall be declared **invalid** if called by the referee.
25. An opponent may exercise a **"call"** only on the first throw from the tip. This right shall extend to a shot taken from a tip after the referee has declared the previous shot from that tip a **"stuck bowl"**.
26. A **"call"** may be issued when either of the player's feet passes the tip. It must be issued before the bowl touches the road, fence, ditch etc.
27. The opponent's call shall only be valid when it fulfils the following requirements:
 - a) It shall be sufficiently loud to be clearly and unambiguously understood by the referee to be a **"call"**
 - b) The opponent is so positioned that he/she can, in the judgement of the referee, determine with certainty when his/her opponent has passed the tip.
 - c) The call must be issued before the bowl touches the road, fence, ditch etc.
 - d) When either or both of the players feet pass the tip before the bowl is delivered.
 - e) The referee shall over-rule the **"call"** if he/she is not satisfied that all these requirements are fulfilled.
28. The referee alone has the right to **"call"** a player on the second or third throw from the same tip

29.

- a) Should the referee “**call**” the first attempt from any tip, that player shall be penalized by five metres. The referee shall measure the five metres penalty and mark it clearly
- b) Should the referee “**call**” the second attempt from any tip, that player shall be penalized by five metres. The referee shall measure the five metres penalty and mark it clearly.
- c) The referee shall then publicly warn the offending player that he/she will be disqualified from the competition and reported to the Executive Committee if he/she oversteps the tip on the third and final throw from that tip.
- d) The player shall be automatically disqualified from the competition if the referee “**calls**” him/her for overstepping the tip for a third time. The referee shall provide the Hon. Secretary with an account of the incident.

30. The referee may exclude a player or their supporters from a tip if he/she feels they are interfering with his/her duties or interfering with the sporting conduct of the score.

31. A bowl shall be considered as having been thrown when the player completes the actions necessary to throw the bowl and it leaves his/her hand and crosses the “**tip**” without outside interference.

Example: if a player slips, stumbles, etc., and allows the bowl to leave his/her hand and crosses the tip that bowl shall be deemed to have been thrown. If a player is tripped by a dog or other agents, and as a result of which he/she drops the bowl from their hand, they may throw the bowl again.

32. Once a player starts a score, he/she must finish on that day, otherwise their opponent must get the score (see also Rules 3, 33, 34, 35).

33. If a player does not throw for the **odds**, then he/she concedes the odds.

34. Concession of Scores

- a. A player(s) may offer to concede a score at any time. Offer of concession shall be effected by: i. shaking the hand of their opponent(s) and informing the referee that they have conceded; or ii. informing the referee that they have conceded.
- b. The referee may refuse to allow a concession and may instruct a player(s) to play to the finish line if it is deemed necessary.
- c. Once the referee declares that the score has been conceded it is deemed to have been finished and that the conceding party has granted victory to their opponent(s).
- d. The score shall not be resumed following concession. Any member who advocates for or attempts to facilitate a resumption shall be subject to disciplinary sanction by the Executive Committee.

35.

- a) If a player, at any time, leaves their bowl on or inside any part of a fence, wall, or paling, it shall be a **bowl of odds**. The player must again throw the bowl from the original **tip**.
- b) In partners score, the partner must throw from the original **tip** if the bowl be declared stuck.

36. The referee shall decide whether or not a bowl is to be declared stuck.

37.

- a) A bowl shall be declared a **stuck bowl** if, at any time, it lodges on or inside any part of a fence, wall, or paling. The player shall forfeit a bowl of odds and he/she must throw again from the original **tip**.
- b) It shall not be a **stuck bowl** if the bowl, having first passed over a fence, wall, or paling, lodges on the wall, fence or paling on the opposite side of the road e.g., over lofting a corner.
- c) If a bowl is declared a **stuck bowl** in a partners or team score, the other partner or the next team member must throw the bowl from the original **tip**.
- d) Only the referee can declare a **stuck bowl** and his/her decision shall be final.

38. The player hind bowl shall throw first (see however, Rule 17).

39. Motorcars, bicycles, or other **obstructions** may be removed by supporters of either side, at any time, with the owner's permission. Limbs or trees, paling posts or other permanent obstructions may not be removed. Loose stones etc., may be removed at any time.

40. In three-hand return scores, when turning, the position of the hindmost and foremost shall be reversed and suitable adjustment shall be made in the position of the **middle player**. All players must pass the return sign before the **turn**.

41. Except where there is widespread snow or frost, players must be ready to **throw off** 15 minutes after the time announced by the promoter. (Penalty: disqualification from the competition).

42. If the promoters or their representatives cannot, for any reason, **come to a decision**, the matter must be referred to the Executive.

43. If a point arises during a score, **which is not covered by the rules**, the referee may decide to refer such a point to the Executive.

44. A player who fails to adhere strictly to the rules shall be disqualified from the competition.

45. **No allowance** shall be made at bends or crossroads, where lines are placed, unless first agreed to, by the Executive Committee for the safety of all concerned.

46. **All club lines** on the bowling road must be painted with any colour other than white or yellow.

47. **The finishing line** shall be scored only when all the bowl has passed all of the finishing line.

48. Except where otherwise provided, players shall, in general, receive four days' notice of the date, time and venue of all scores if possible.

UNDER-AGE COMPETITIONS

All **Boys** competitions (Championship/Tournament) within the age-groups up to U14 (Boys U10, U12, U14) shall be played using the **24oz bowl** - This is mandatory.

All **Girls** competitions (Championship/Tournament) within the age-groups up to U16 (Girls U10, U12, U14, U16) shall be played using the **24oz bowl** -This is mandatory.

1 OTHER

- i. Each **club** shall be allowed to run a total of 10 benefit scores annually. They shall also be allowed to run one benefit tournament to include, not more than, 9 players. Permission for all benefit scores and tournaments will have to have been granted by the Executive Committee. In the event of a club running more than 10 benefit scores 50% of all stake money must be paid to Ból Chumann na hÉireann Treasurer.
 - ii. A **club** must advertise a minimum prize fund before the commencement of a tournament.
 - iii. **Each club** shall pay to the Executive Committee such annual affiliation as shall be prescribed by the Executive Committee
 - iv. **Each player** shall pay to the Executive Committee such annual affiliation fee as shall be prescribed by the Executive.
 - v. In **all scores** a deduction of 5% of the total stake shall be made by the referee.
 - vi. All **regions** shall pay to the Association an annual Regional levy of €350 or as agreed by the Executive Committee.
 - vii. All **Senior** and **Intermediate** players shall pay to the Association an annual affiliation fee and championship entry fee, such sums to be as the Executive shall, from time to time may decide.
 - viii. All **vintage** players shall pay to the Association an annual championship entry fee, such fee to be as the Association, from time to time, decide.
 - ix. **All other grade of players** shall pay to the Association through the Regional Treasurer an annual affiliation fee, such fee to be determined, from time to time, by the Association itself. Championship entry fees for all such grades shall be determined by the Regional Committee.
 - x. Permission for Regional fundraising activities shall be sought and obtained from the Executive Committee.
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- i. **An unaffiliated player** who takes part in any score involving a Ból-Chumann na hÉireann player(s) shall pay to the association's honorary treasurer a levy of €300 before his/her application for membership of Ból Chumann na hÉireann shall be considered.
 - ii. **A player** (having pleaded the gaming act) who serves notice of his/her intention of returning the official stake to the association shall be required to serve a period of 12 months suspension from the date of such repayment before his/her application for membership of Ból Chumann na hÉireann shall be considered and pay a fine of €500 to the Association.

MODEL CLUB/Social RULES

1. NAME:

The Club shall be known as _____

2. AFFILIATION TO Ból-Chumann na hÉireann OBJECTIONS AND RULES

- A.** The Club shall be an affiliated unit of Ból-Chumann na hÉireann (hereinafter "The Association).
- B.** The club shall have the same objects as those of the Association.
- C.** The club and these rules shall be subject in all respects to the rules of the Association.

3. MEMBERSHIP AND SUBSCRIPTION

(NOTE: see The Associations rules and in particular Rule iv)

- A.** Any person may apply for club membership on the written nomination of an existing club member.
- B.** All members shall pay an annual club subscription fee which shall be due on the date on which a member joins a club and thereafter on the 1st of January of each year.
- C.** The Club Committee shall from time to time determine the amount of the annual club subscription and in so doing may make special provision for such member and/or categories of members as shall to it seem fit.
- D.** A club member shall cease to be a club member if at any time he ceases to be a member of the Association.

4. CLUB COMMITTEE AND OFFICERS

- A.** The business and affairs of the club shall be under management of the Club Committee which shall be the controlling body of the club, and which shall be comprised of the following officers:
 - President
 - Chairperson
 - Vice-chairperson
 - Honorary Secretary
 - Honorary Treasurer
 - Registrar
 - Fixtures Secretary
 - Youth Officer
 - Child Protection Officer
 - PRO

- Committee Members

- B. The officers shall be elected by the members, other than youth members, present entitled to vote and voting at the annual general meeting on the nomination in each case of 2 such members, youth members shall be not eligible for election as officers.
- C. The officers shall hold office for one year or until the following annual general meeting whichever is the sooner.
- D. The Club Committee may fill any casual vacancy in their number by co-option from among their own number or from the other members of the club except for youth members.
- E. The Club Committee shall have all such powers that may be necessary or desirable for the regulation and management of the activities of the club and the furtherance of its objects and in particular and without prejudice to the foregoing shall have power to:
 - 1. Administer the business affairs of the club and deal with any property of Ból-Chumann na hÉireann.
 - 2. Make contracts on behalf of the club.
 - 3. Appoint and define the duties of sub-committees and shall have complete power to overrule decisions of sub committees. All sub-committees shall periodically report their proceedings to the Club Committee and conduct their business in accordance with the directions of the Club Committee.
- F. Members of the Club Committee shall be indemnified by all the members of the club jointly and severally against all liabilities properly incurred by them or any of them in or on account of the management of the affairs of the club or its activities. Such indemnity shall initially be provided out of the funds and assets of the club and thereafter, and if necessary, jointly, and severally by all club members. No person shall be entitled to such indemnity if the liability has arisen from his/her own fraud or will default.
- G. Club Committee meetings shall be held not less than once in each quarter and shall be convened by the Honorary Secretary in consultation with the Chairperson. Voting shall be by simple majority by those present and voting and four members shall constitute a quorum. The Chairperson shall have a casting vote in the case of a tie, in addition to his/her ordinary vote.
- H. The Club Committee shall not exercise its power to suspend or discipline a member unless before doing so it gives such member a reasonable opportunity to address the Committee in that regard.
- I. Each club should have an appeals process

5. GENERAL MEETINGS

- A.** The club shall hold an annual general meeting arranged by the Executive Committee and of which at least 28 days' notice shall be given to all members.
- B.** The club shall hold a special general meeting only on foot of a decision of the Club Committee or on the requisition of not less than 10 full members. Not less than 5 days' notice of such meetings shall be given by the Executive Committee to all members. No business shall be conducted at this special general meeting save that stipulated in the decision of the Club Committee or members requisition as the case may be, and any matter bona fide arising there from.
- C.** Nominations for office must be made in writing to the Honorary Secretary before the annual general meeting is convened. Motions for the consideration of an annual general meeting may be put at any time prior to the conclusion of an annual general meeting and shall be considered by the meeting save that the Chairperson and at his/her discretion shall be entitled to stipulate that any such motion be taken at such time during the meeting as shall to him seem fit.
- D.** The Vice-Chairperson will act in the absence of the Chairperson. The Honorary Secretary will act in the absence of the Vice-Chairperson.
- E.** The following business shall be transacted in the Annual General Meeting.
 - Consideration amendment and approval of the minutes of the previous annual general meeting and any other subsequent special general meetings.
 - The Honorary Secretary's annual report.
 - The Honorary Treasurer's annual report
 - The election of officers
 - The election of delegates to regional convention and annual convention
 - Any other business

6. FINANCE BORROWING AND PROPERTY

- A.** The Club Committee may borrow money on the club's behalf and for the clubs' purposes only if and insofar as authorized so to do by a general meeting of the club.
- B.** The Club Committee shall in any event have no power to pledge the personal liability of any club member for the repayment of any sums so borrowed.
- C.** Save as is otherwise provided by the rules of the Association all monies payable to the club shall be received by the Honorary Treasurer and deposited in a bank account in the name of the club. No money shall be drawn from any such account save by cheque or other appropriate authorisation signed by the Honorary Treasurer and either the Chairman or the Honorary Secretary.

- D. The income and property of the club shall be applied only in the furtherance of the clubs' objects.
- E. The Honorary Treasurer shall keep a proper set of books recording the clubs' financial transactions and affairs and shall make a quarterly report thereon for the consideration of the Club Committee and an annual report thereon for the consideration of the annual general meeting.
- F. The property of the club other than cash at the bank will be vested in not more than three custodians who shall deal with it as directed by resolution of the Club Committee and entry in the minute book shall be conclusive of evidence of such a resolution. The custodians shall be elected at a general meeting of the club and shall hold office until death, resignation, or removal by resolution of a general meeting. Custodians shall be entitled to be indemnified by the members of the club jointly and severally in respect of all liability properly incurred by them or any of them, in respect to their discharge of their duties. Such indemnity shall initially be provided out of the funds and assets of the club members. No custodian shall be entitled to such indemnity if his liability has arisen from his own fraud or wilful default.

7. DISSOLUTION

- A. A resolution to dissolve the club shall only be considered by a special general meeting and shall be carried only by a $\frac{3}{4}$ (75%) majority of those present and entitled to vote.
- B. A dissolution shall take effect from the date of the said resolution and the Club Committee shall be responsible for winding up the assets and liabilities of the club and shall have all powers desirable for that purpose.
- C. Any property or assets remaining after the discharge of the club debts and liabilities shall be divided equally among those persons who were members of the club at the date of dissolution.

8. ALTERATIONS TO THESE RULES

Alterations and additions to these rules may be made only by general meeting and if the resolution proposing such alteration or addition is carried by the vote of $\frac{2}{3}$ of the members present and voting and if such an alteration and addition does not conflict with the rules of The Association. Motions to alter or add to these rules must, if they are to be considered at an annual general meeting, be proposed by notice in writing to be received by the Honorary Secretary not less than 14 days before the Annual General Meeting.

9. INTERPRETATION

The Club Committee shall have authority to interpret these rules and the decision of

the Club Committee on any question of interpretation or upon any matter affecting the club and not provided for in these rules is binding on the members, subject to the decision of a general meeting and to the rules of the Association. In no circumstances shall any such decision be subject to appeal to a court of law.