

**LEAGUE RULES FOR  
THE HAPPY LEAGUE  
2021 Season**

The Happy League, starting at 6:15 pm on Thursdays, shall consist of teams with a playing strength of 2. Reserves for each team will be limited to 2. The League will commence bowling on 11<sup>th</sup> February 2021. Warm-up will start promptly at 6:15 pm and all scheduled matches will start no later than 6:30 p.m. The League will play at the Strike bowling centre at 399 Hutt Road, Petone.

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**Rule 1 - Management**

The management of the League shall be vested in the League Committee which shall consist of the Officers and Team Captains. The entire League shall elect Officers and adopt League Rules. A majority of registered team members shall constitute a quorum.

As long as the Wellington Competitive Bowlers Association (WCBA) exists we shall be an affiliated league. All league members must join the WCBA. Any member not joining within three months will be asked to leave the league. The WCBA Membership fees are currently paid by Strike Entertainment Centre for all permanent Happy League bowlers.

**Rule 2 - Election of Officers**

An election shall be held at the end of each season to fill the offices of President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer.

**Rule 3 - Secretary and Treasurer's Honoraria**

The Secretary's honoraria shall be \$10.00 of the weekly bowling fee and shall be paid at the completion of the schedule unless otherwise authorised by the League Committee. The Treasurer's salary shall be \$10.00 of the weekly bowling fee and shall be paid at the completion of the schedule unless otherwise authorised by the League Committee.

**Rule 4 - Fees**

The price for bowling each league night shall be paid by each bowler to his/her Team Captain, and the Team Captain shall pay the full team dues to the League Treasurer prior to 6:15 pm. Failure to do so will mean that the team will not be able to commence play until full dues are paid. \$4 is payable to the prize fund for each absent bowler. Each team shall be responsible for their entire team fee, even if they do not have a full line-up on any league night. The amount each bowler is to pay shall be \$30, of which \$26 will cover bowling fees, with the balance being placed in the League Treasury. Where a Vacancy Score is being used on a bowling night (see Rule 12), the team is not liable for the \$4 prize fund contribution with respect to each Vacancy Score used.

Any prize fund shortfall that has not been paid over by a team to the Treasurer by the end of the season will result in the total amount of the shortfall being deducted from the team's prize allocation from within the total prize pool.

**Rule 5 - League Funds**

A bank account shall be opened in the name of the League with a bank approved by the League Officers. The branch is to be arranged by the League Treasurer. Funds will be deposited weekly. Any two of the four elected Officers may sign for withdrawals. The President shall verify the balance each month.

### **Rule 6 – Prize Money Allocation**

All money in the prize fund, collected during the year and not used for League expenses, shall be distributed back to all teams at the end of the year. The total pool will be distributed to the teams in the same ratio as the total team points that have been won during the season.

### **Rule 7 - Entering Averages**

New bowlers joining the League will establish an average for the League based on the first four games played in the League.

Entering averages at the start of the season for existing bowlers will be reset and they will establish an average for the League based on the first four games played in the League.

Once a bowler has bowled at least 20 games in the season, the current average for that bowler is to be calculated based on the last 20 games bowled in the League.

### **Rule 8 - Handicaps**

The handicap allowance shall be 90% and shall be calculated on the difference between each individual's average and 200 scratch.

There shall be no maximum handicap.

### **Rule 9 - Substitutes**

The League shall designate, by name, a list of roving substitutes approved by the League Secretary. No-one may bowl with more than one team for the regularly scheduled games each week.

A substitute must establish and carry his/her own average throughout the League's schedule.

A substitute may be eligible for any individual prizes.

No substitute may be used in the final 6 weeks of the League schedule who does not carry a current average in this League. A substitute may play for an absent team member as a pacer during this time but a blind score shall apply.

### **Rule 10 - Legal Line-Up**

One player from a team's current roster must be present at the start of any game or the game will be forfeited.

### **Rule 11 - Blind Score**

Blind scores shall be allowed when a team has a legal line-up but less than a full line-up at the start of any game in a series. The blind score shall be the average less 10 points of the absent bowler on the team who has played the most games.

### **Rule 12 – Vacancy Score**

When a team has less than a full line-up of registered bowlers, either due to withdrawals from the team during the season, or because it starts the season with less than a full line-up, then a vacancy score shall be used to complete the line-up.

The vacancy score shall be set at the start of each season to the average of all bowlers in the League from the previous season. For the 2021 season the Vacancy Score shall be 151

Vacancy scores, when used, shall be counted as blind scores, i.e. will include handicap as though an actual bowler was present, less 10 pins.

A Vacancy score can only be used for 8 weeks, before another bowler must be found to join the team. If one has not been found, the team using the Vacancy score will disband and the person concerned will become a floating substitute. The application of the disbanding rule will be at the League Committee's discretion, which can choose to waive it or increase the time period above 8 weeks if desired.

### **Rule 13 – Player Leaving the League**

Team Captains are responsible for advising the Secretary as soon as any of their bowlers leave the League on a permanent basis.

Failing a bowler informing his/her Team Captain or any League Officer that he/she has left the League, after eight weeks of unexplained absence from the League a player will be deemed to have left the both the team and the League. No match results will be altered retrospectively (i.e. all previous match results, that may have been based on that player's blind score, will stand).

### **Rule 14 - Tardy Player**

A tardy player shall be permitted to begin bowling from the first frame with the score to count, provided the match has not progressed beyond the third frame.

### **Rule 15 – Injured Player**

The TBA tournament conditions and general playing rules shall apply to this league unless stipulated differently in these rules.

### **Rule 16 - Position Standings**

Position standings shall be determined on the basis of points won and lost.

Two points will be awarded for each team game won and two points will be awarded for the higher team series, including handicap, in the match.

In the event of a tie, in the same game or series, points will be divided equally between the teams.

In addition, points will be awarded for the two individual head-to-head matches. One point will be awarded for each individual game won and one point will be awarded for the higher individual series, including handicap, in each such match. The points from the two individual matches will be added to the team match points to decide the overall match result.

Individuals will be matched against each other based on the ranking of their averages within the team, such that the player with the higher average on one team is matched against the player with the higher average on the other. Where both players in the same team have the same average, the player with the higher pinfall shall be deemed to have the higher average. Where both players have the same pinfall, then the order of players in the head-to-head matches is at the Team Captain's discretion.

In the event of a tie, in the same game or series, points will be divided equally between the individuals.

When two bowlers who are absent, one from each team, are matched in an individual head-to-head match, or where an absent bowler is matched with a vacancy score, they will share the points equally, regardless of their averages.

### **Rule 17 - Replacement Teams**

A team that enters the competition after the season is in progress shall assume the position standing and points of the team it replaces.

### **Rule 18 - Awards**

A player cannot receive end of year awards, in the same category, for both scratch and handicap. If this situation arises the next highest scratch shall receive the award.

### **Rule 19 - Byes and Forfeitures**

When a bye or forfeiture occurs due to any reason whatsoever, the team that is present and not at fault must bowl any and all games. They must be bowled as if they were actually contested. Every member bowling on such a team must have completed his/her frame on one adjoining lane before the team can commence its next frame on the adjoining lane.

When a team has a bye the members of that team present and ready to bowl must bowl their combined average less 20 points in order to receive any team points. Any points not won by the team shall not be credited to the other team. Similarly, each individual member must bowl his/her average less 10 points in order to receive any individual points. Any points not won by an individual shall not be credited to the other team.

When a team wins by default, due to a forfeit from the opposing team, or plays against a bye, the maximum number of points awarded for the match will be the average of the number of points won by all other winning teams on that night.

When a team forfeits a match, the members of that team are still responsible for the prize fund fees of \$8.

If a team arrives to bowl more than 15 minutes after the start of play, they will forfeit the match.

### **Rule 20 - Protest**

Any protest affecting the eligibility of general playing rules must be confirmed in writing to a responsible League Officer or Area Association official no later than 72 hours after the series in which it occurred has been bowled. If no written protest is entered prior to the expiration of the 72 hour period the series must stand as bowled.

If a check is made of the records of one team or individual in support of the protest, then a check must be made of records of all other teams and/or individuals in the League.

### **Rule 21 – Pre-Bowl**

Any prebowls must not be on the same pair of lanes as the previous set of games. Consecutive weeks of prebowling during a single session must change pairs for every four game block. A bowler will be able to record one emergency prebowl. Emergency prebowls must be used the first time that a bowler is absent.

### **Rule 22 – Post-Bowls**

Post-Bowls are NOT allowed under any circumstances.

### **Rule 23 - Play-offs**

When a tie occurs for FIRST place, a series of four games must be bowled to determine the League championship. This play-off must be bowled under the same conditions that govern regular League play, on a pair of lanes selected by a draw.

In the event of a tie at the end of the play-off series, an extra complete frame shall be bowled until the tie is broken.

Should other positions end in a tie, prize money for the positions affected shall be divided equally among those tied.

Scores bowled in such play-offs shall not count toward individual or team averages, or special prize awards offered by the League.

**Rule 24 - League Business**

Any administrative business, including fees, shall be completed with the Secretary or other executive member prior to 6:10 pm, or left until the League has finished bowling for the night.

**Rule 25 – Season Schedule**

Wherever possible, a positional night should be played at the end of each round as part of the League schedule, with the team currently placed first playing the team in second place, third playing fourth and so on.

**Rule 26 - Adoption and Amendments**

The rules have been adopted by a majority vote of League members prior to the start of the schedule.

After commencement of competitive play, the rules may be amended or replaced at a meeting of the League Committee and such action must be governed by the UNANIMOUS vote of the members of the League Committee.

(Note: If a Team Captain, or his/her authorised representative on the League Committee disagrees with any change in the League rules then the original rule must remain unaltered.)

Adopted...../...../.....

President.....

Secretary.....

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**Index of Responsibilities**

League Committee .....*See Rule 26, See Rule 3, See Rule 1*  
Officers..... *See Rule 20, See Rule 5, See Rule 2, See Rule 1*  
President.....*See Rule 5, See Rule 2*  
Secretary..... *See Rule 24, See Rule 9, See Rule 3, See Rule 2*  
Team Captain .....*See Rule 26, See Rule 4, See Rule 1*  
Treasurer ..... *See Rule 5, See Rule 4, See Rule 3, See Rule 2*  
Vice-President .....*See Rule 2*