***SAPPHIRE CUP COMPETITION***

**Rules**

Reviewed in January 2025

1 The Sapphire Cup Competition will be played in accordance with Bowls England laws and in conjunction with West Surrey Bowling Association Saturday League Fixtures. No individual may play in the Sapphire Competition for more than oneclub in any one season.

2. The Sapphire League is an Open Competition and teams will consist of **THREE** Triples and can be of any combination, mixed or same gender. All Club Sapphire Cup fixtures must be played on the same day, date and time as the Club West Surrey Saturday League fixtures, unless due to exceptional weather conditions and approved by Knaphill BC. Failure to follow this rule will result in the Sapphire game being declared void.

3. Points will be awarded as follows:

**1point** for **each winning Rink.**

**½ point** for **each drawing Rink.**

**2 points** for the **Team with an overall higher aggregate number of shots.**

**1 point** for each Team with **equal total aggregate shots.**

**The WINNING CAPTAIN should email the result to** sylviabeck2022@gmail.com **within 36 hours.**

**The details of score, players full names and overall aggregate result must be included. The hard copy of the cards should be retained for future reference. Email delivery will be receipted by return email. AS A LAST RESORT hard copies of BOTH cards can be posted FIRST CLASS within 36 hours to: Sylvia Beck, Ambleside, Poplar Grove, Woking, GU22 7SD**

**Note: IF RESULTS ARE NOT RECEIVED WITHIN 5 DAYS OF THE MATCH, NIL POINTS MAY BE APPLIED.**

4. The top two teams in each division will qualify for the Semi Finals. In the case of tied teams in either division the team with the highest shot difference will qualify. If this should be tied, the winner would be based on ends won in the competition and thereafter the results between the two clubs.

5. In case of cancellation due to weather conditions etc., Rule 2 must be complied with when re-arranging the match. The final date for re-arranged matches is the 15th August 2025**. If clubs cannot rearrange the match before 15th August, then the clubs must either treat the match as not played or decide to share the points.**

6. In the event of adverse weather conditions during a game, an aggregate total of 39 ends played will be considered a complete game. If less than 39 ends have been played the game shall be re-arranged within 14 days, commencing from whence it was previously terminated, and in conjunction with the West Surrey Saturday League. In a re-arranged game, 1 substitute per rink is permitted.

7. Any team defaulting in the number of triples in attendance will concede 1 point and 10 shots per defaulting rink to their opponents. Only full triple teams will be allowed to play. Any club not fulfilling a fixture other than due to inclement weather will forfeit all 5 points and 30 shots.

8. Any Club conceding THREE complete Sapphire fixtures to their opponents will be withdrawn from the Competition at that point for the remainder of the season. In the event of a team withdrawing or being withdrawn from the Competition before the end of the season, all results and shots conceded to their opponents will be discounted.

9. If the last game of the season is cancelled due to adverse weather conditions then another date must be arranged, however if it is impossible to arrange a date when West Surrey league and Sapphire can play on the same day then on this occasion they may play on different days.

10. If a club has qualified to play in the Finals, but cannot raise a team owing to being in isolation due to Covid 19 or another pandemic, then the next highest club in that division will be invited to play. If a club cannot raise a team for any other reason they must notify Sapphire Secretary at least 2 weeks before the Finals and then the next highest team will be invited to play.

11. (a) No individual man may play in the Sapphire Semi final or Final, if he has played more than two games in the West Surrey League

(b) **Anyone selected to play in the Semi-Final and Final must have previously played in at least one Sapphire Match of the current season.**

(c) Each team MUST display matching stickers in all matches.

The Semi Finals and Final will be played at Knaphill Bowling Club on Saturday 30th August 2025.

The Semi Finals will be played at 10am:

Division 1 Winner will play Division 2 Runner Up

Division 2 Winner will play Division 1 Runner Up

The Final will be played at approximately 2.00pm.

The Winner of 1st Semi Final willplay the Winner of 2nd Semi Final.

There will be no play-off for 3rd and 4th places.

1. If in the Semi Finals or the Final, on completion of the nominated number of ends, the game is drawn, then all three rinks will play an extra end with one point per winning rink to count.   If one of the rinks ties the extra end, and an over-all match result has still not been reached, that rink will play another extra end to determine the winner.
2. The Dress code for the Semi Finals and Final is Whites or club colours.
3. If the result in either Semi or Final competitions is a draw then an extra end will be played by all triples with 1 shot awarded to each winning rink this will decide the winning team.

***\* Please note that a Reserve Day of Saturday 13th September2025 will be used if a problem arises for any reason.***