



Premier League Rules 2026/27

The Premier League is a Handicap Tenpin Bowling League. The league committee is: - President: Sandra Simmonds; Vice President Hayley Russell; Secretary Paul Le Manquais and Treasurer Chris Le Manquais. The league prize money is deposited in an account at Lloyds Bank.

The general playing rules of the BTBA will govern the Premier League together with the following:

1. A team may register up to six players, all of whom must be members of the BTBA. De-registering of a player is done at the discretion of the league committee. No new bowlers may be registered after 2/3rds of the league season has passed. The Team Captain may only be de-registered under exceptional circumstances.
2. A team must consist of a minimum of 2 players. Failure to do so will result in a walkover for the opposing team. Blind scores will be the average of the missing player with the greatest number of games played, minus 20 plus their handicap. If players with an equal number of games played are missing, then the one with the higher average shall be used for the blind score.
3. The team playing against team 8, the bye team, Each bowler must play against their average minus 10 pins to win the point and minus 30 for the series. The team will play against the bowlers combined average minus 30 to win the 2 team points and average minus 90 for the team series points, Bowler 1 must not start the next frame until bowler 3 has finished the current frame.
4. Each team is contracted to play 35 weeks, at £60.00 per team per week. The team captain is responsible for ensuring that the correct money is placed in the envelopes and delivered to the treasurer or their representative by the fifth frame of the first game.
5. Handicaps are based upon 80% of the difference between the bowler's average and 230, with a maximum of 70. Rules for determining initial handicaps depend upon the category into which a bowler falls These are defined below:

Category 1: Bowlers who completed 15 games or more in the previous season will use their finishing handicap until nine games have been bowled.

Category 2: Bowlers not in category one, will use their three-game average for the first week, the six-game average for the second week and the nine game average for the third week. These handicaps are calculated after the games have been bowled.
6. The league payout will be based on £1 per point won collectively by the team. Additionally, a prize for the first five placed teams will be made. A bowler must complete 50% of the total possible games to qualify for an individual award.
7. When requested the team on the left lane must insert their lineup first.
8. Bowlers may be substituted at the end of a game only. If a bowler needs to withdraw mid-game, then 1/10th of the bowler's blind score will be used for each remaining frame. Tardy players may enter the first game and catch up missed frames up to the completion of the fourth frame. Thereafter a blind score will be used or if the bowler elects to play the scores counting for the bowled frames only will count. Slow play to permit a tardy player to enter a game is not permitted.

9. Re-arrangement of any fixture is at the discretion of the league committee. However, if a team captain who is asked to rearrange a fixture is happy to oblige, then endorsement by the committee will be waived. A minimum of seven days' notice is to be given of all bowl-off requests. Emergency situations, however, will be treated accordingly.

10. The league secretary must be informed of all non-contested postponements prior to the date on which the match should be bowled. Failure to do so may result in the team calling off the match being responsible for the total bowl-off lineage in addition to their normal league dues.

11. League dues for re-arranged matches MUST be paid on the Monday immediately following the date that the match is played. The re-scheduled date should be agreed and advised to the League Secretary within three weeks of the game being called off. Both rules are the responsibility of the respective team captain. If no date is agreed within these timescales the league committee will set a date giving due notice to the inconvenienced team.

12. The league secretary shall have their league dues paid from the league funds each week that they attend.

11 The league delegate to the Hampshire Area BTBA is Sandra Simmonds