



MIDDLESEA VALLETTA LIFE

Assurance Company Limited

So much more to life

THE MIDDLESEA VALLETTA LIFE NATIONAL LEAGUE

STARTING DATES

DIVISION I : 13th January 2011

DIVISION II : 12th January 2011

DIVISION III: 17th January 2011

**Entries received after
3rd January 2011, 12:00hrs
will not be guaranteed a place**

Additional Rules

The Malta Tenpin Bowling Association Rules and regulations shall govern these leagues together with the following additions/exceptions.

- 1) These leagues are open only to current M.T.B.A. members. The score of any bowler who is not a current member or who has not duly completed their Team's Registration Form will be considered null and void, and not even a blind score awarded.
- 2) The format of the league will be decided once all applications are received, according to the number of teams.
- 3) The official starting time for all divisions is 21:00hrs and all teams must be prepared to start at this time irrespective of whether lane conditioning is required or not.
- 4) Handicap will be calculated at 80% of 190 scratch. Each division will have a maximum handicap of: Div III 35; Div II 25 and Div I 15.
- 5) A Blind score will count as 120 pins with no handicap awarded.
- 6) Teams of the 2nd and 3rd division must pay an Entry Fee of €25.00, while teams in the 1st division must pay an Entry Fee of €60.00.
- 7) All teams MUST have a minimum of 5 registered players at all times and may have up to eight registered bowlers at any one time. The upper limit of eight registered bowlers may be waived only in the case of teams, made up of bowlers in the officially recognised *Special Olympics* category. An official coach would also be permitted to be present in the lane area for such a team.
- 8) For the purposes of these leagues, registration of a bowler with a team is attained by the respective bowler completing and signing the relevant Registration Form.
- 9) On disqualification/withdrawal of a team, the points earned by that team will not be awarded to their previous opponents against whom they had won the points.
- 10) Teams competing with incomplete line-ups will be required to furnish the league secretary with the name/s of those bowlers who were expected to make an appearance and failed to do so. The team concerned will automatically be fined the lineage per missing bowler and the bowlers concerned will be liable to disciplinary action. The team captain is responsible for the payment of any fines, which must be settled prior to the team's next league match.
These fines will be doubled during the last three weeks.
- 11) Postponed games must be bowled prior to the next league match of scheduled competition for either team. However if a team has at least ONE of its registered bowlers abroad on M.T.B.A. National Duty, then the match/es involved can be rescheduled to another date up to 1 week after the next league match. Handicaps for the rescheduled games will be taken as at on the day that the match is bowled.
- 12) Should a team not have enough players available for a scheduled fixture, the team captain may either: 1) Request a 'make-up' from the other team involved. Or 2) make use of not more than two substitutes. Said substitutes can be bowlers from any other division other than that which the teams concerned form part of. Substitutes must have an average established over at least 12 games in the National Leagues and such average cannot exceed that which corresponds to the Division the competing teams form part of.
These are: Div I – 171ave Div II - 159ave Div III – 146ave.
- 13) A postponement must be requested at least twenty-four hours before the scheduled time on an MTBA Postponement Form, accompanied by an Administration Fee of **€12**. Should both team captains agree, postponements will also be accepted after this deadline. The league secretary must grant a postponement when a team cannot appear for reasons beyond its control and will not have the minimum required line-up. If a team asks for a

postponement because one (1) of the players is on National Duty or because a player is abroad to bowl for an International Open, then the opposing team **CANNOT** refuse the postponement. However the team captain has to advise the opposing team about the make-up **3 weeks** before the match is supposed to be played to provide ample time to set the make up. Form has to be filled 3 weeks in advance with both team captains' signature on it. In no case shall a league adopt legislation, which would have the effect of establishing an absolute no postponement rule throughout. Games have to be played before the next scheduled league matches except in the case of National Duty which can be played to 1 week after the next league match (Vide Rule 11 Above).

- 14) **During the final two weeks of the league, all make-ups must be played before the scheduled league match. Moreover should there be a third round in Div I, no make ups will be allowed during the championship/relegation round. However substitutes may be allowed.**
- 15) With a tie on points at the end of the league, total pinfall, including handicap, will decide the placing.
- 16) To win Hi-Average and most Improved Awards, a bowler must have bowled at least 51% of the games in that league. To qualify for any other individual award, a bowler must have bowled a minimum of 34% of the games in that league. An established bowler may win any individual trophy during the first four weeks of a league (i.e. when their handicap is still frozen). New bowlers, however, may only qualify for 'scratch' individual awards in this same period; to qualify for a 'handicap' trophy new bowlers must first establish their handicap by having already bowled at least twelve games in that league.
- 17) National Leagues together with the National Leagues' Knock-Out Competition, should the latter take place, terminate with the Presentation Dinner/Presentation of Trophies, and as such, any trophy winner who fails to participate in this event will forfeit his/her award and may also be made subject to disciplinary action, unless that person should have a valid reason for their non-appearance. This validity will be decided on by the M.T.B.A. Board of Directors after receipt of a written explanation, accompanied by an Administrative Fee of €5.00 (non refundable)
- 18) A team must retain at least three of its registered bowlers in order to maintain its status in that particular Division for the following League Season. These 3 persons must have bowled at least 12 games in the just concluded league.
- 19) The number of teams relegated and promoted from each division will be determined according to the total number teams registered therein, and all teams will be suitably advised by League Officials prior to the commencement of the league. Should a place become vacant for any reason whatsoever, then that place will be taken by the team in the highest relegation position of the division in question, followed by the team which finished in the penultimate place of that same division and so on. Should ALL the 'should be' relegated teams decline to fill the vacant place, then the teams in the next lower division will be offered this opportunity in their order of placing in the League just concluded.
- 20) A team which earns promotion **MAY NOT** refuse promotion.
- 21) Bowlers who have bowled more than 11 games with their team and who form part of a team which is relegated are not obliged to remain bowling with that team, but must bowl with a team participating in the Division to which they were relegated.
- 22) Any new teams which are accepted for entry into these leagues must commence by bowling in the lowest division.
- 23) All teams participating in the **1st & 2nd DIV must play with uniform tops**. Any team member not conforming to this rule will not be permitted to bowl and a blind score awarded.
- 24) Consumption of alcohol is strictly prohibited during all 1st division matches, including Make-Ups. Smoking is also strictly prohibited during all Div I matches, and if a bowler is

caught smoking during a game the penalty will be zero pinfall in that game. If a bowler is caught smoking in between two games of a block of games, the penalty will be zero pinfall for the succeeding game. Division 2 and 3 bowlers may smoke outside the bowling centre in between games. Any bowler caught infringing this rule will incur an immediate fine of €12.00, to be paid on the spot, failing which the score and handicap for that game of the offending bowler will be declared null and void and not even a blind score awarded. A second offence will incur a further immediate fine of €12.00 plus automatic loss of score and handicap for that game. Non-payment of second fine and or third offence will cause instant suspension from the match being played with no score whatsoever being credited to the offending bowler for that entire match, and the bowler concerned reported to the MTBA Disciplinary Board.

25) Should any extraordinary issues arise then the League Secretary is to discuss the issue with all Committee Members, who in turn will decide which is the best action to be taken, even if this decision is not exactly according to the rules. Should this be the case however, all team captains involved will be informed in writing beforehand.

26) Lineage will be charged weekly at €45.00 per team including VAT (under current Tax Laws).

Valid and complete registration forms (attached) accompanied by the required entry fee must be handed in to the League Secretary concerned or any other MTBA official by the dates specified in this application form. Only MTBA officials are authorised to accept these applications.