

The Back Yard Competition League Constitution

HISTORY AND PHILOSOPHY

The Backyard Competition League was established to provide an opportunity for individuals to compete on an equal level of competition of individuals of like ability in backyard (9-wicket) croquet. This differs from the formal USCA-affiliated (6-wicket) leagues.

Established in the summer of 2003 as the Backyard Croquet League to provide a local organization to hold championship tournaments, recognize top individual members, and promote BCL members, the league also emphasizes respect for competition and civility to one another on and off the playing field.

Article I. NAME (last amended 2009-07-01)

The name of the organization shall be The Backyard Competition League. The abbreviated name shall be the BCL.

Article II. PURPOSE AND GOALS

Section I: Purpose:

The purpose shall be to play backyard croquet on a regular basis making the sport available to the membership and interested non-members.

Section II: Goals:

Short-term goals shall include (but are not limited to) increasing the membership each year so that we have 24 or more active adult members and encouraging members to host tournaments as they are able.

Long-term goals shall include (but are not limited to) establishing permanent divisions, establishing conferences within the league, and local competition with other interested leagues and organizations.

Section III: Types of Activities: (last amended 2010-01-01 by Amendment 2009-3)

The BCL shall recognize the following activities:

- Backyard (9-wicket) croquet – Regular, golf, and half court formats
- Horseshoes
- Ladder Golf
- Cornhole

The BCL Regular Season shall begin the first weekend after Easter Sunday and end no later than the first Sunday in October. The BCL Championship is not part of the regular season.

Section IV: Rules of Play: (last amended 2010-01-01 by Amendment 2009-3)

Official Playing Rules shall be as follows:

- Croquet – The United States Croquet Association's current backyard rules as posted at <http://www.croquetamerica.com>. Note: Six wicket rules may be used to resolve matters not covered in the nine wicket rules.

- Horseshoes – The National Horseshoes Pitchers Association of America’s official rules as posted at <http://www.horseshoepitching.com/rules/PlayingRules.html>.
- Ladder Golf – The official rules as posted on <http://www.laddergolf.com>.
- Cornhole – The American Cornhole Organization’s current rules as posted at <http://www.americancornhole.org/cornhole-rules.shtml>. The BCL shall use either its own score sheet or a score sheet similar to the ACA score sheet posted at <http://www.playcornhole.org/pdf/ACA%20Tournament%20Scoring%20Sheet.pdf>.

The Backyard Croquet may adopt, revise, or rescind local rules for sanctioned activities, provided the proposed local rules have been adopted by a majority vote at the Annual Meeting. All local rules shall be posted on the league web site.

Misinterpretations and misapplications of rules may be protested. All judgment calls may not be protested. The protest must be made prior to the start of the next striking period; otherwise, all previous action stands as condoned. Multiple protests may be recognized to the extent they do not constitute a travesty (a situation that shall be penalized as unsporting behavior).

The protest committee is empowered to rule on any point not covered by any existing rule.

Article III. MEMBERSHIP

Section I: Eligibility:

All individuals shall be eligible for membership. An individual shall become a member upon submission of an application, a majority vote of the Executive Board, and the receipt of any annual dues.

Section II: Standards and Requirements:

To be an active member of the BCL, one must compete in at least one match every two years and pay any annual dues each season.

A member must also: subscribe to the BCL e-mail list or view the web site regularly to stay informed of current league news and regulations, inform the Executive board should he or she wish to change his or her membership type, and show respect and civility for the game and competition on and off the court.

Section III: Types of Membership:

- Full Member – The member receives BCL handicaps and has the privileges of voting, accumulating statistics and ratings, and receiving post-season honors.
- Associate Member – The member is assigned BCL handicaps and has no additional privileges, except for accumulating ratings.
- Junior Member – A minor, with consent of a legal guardian, may join the BCL. The junior member receives BCL handicaps and has all privileges of a full member, except for voting. Junior members shall be identified on the league web site by first name only, or with a last initial if needed for clarity.
- Non-Member – Non-members are welcome to participate in BCL tournaments. The non-member shall receive provisional handicaps for the current event. A non-member can receive event-specific honors, but has none of the privileges of a BCL member.

- Corresponding Individual – A non-member who is currently subscribed to the BCL e-mail list and wishes to be informed of upcoming tournaments in the event he or she is interested in participating or observing.

To maintain membership, one must compete in at least one match every two years and remain on the BCL e-mail list (or view the league web site on a regular basis). Members who do not do so shall be marked as “inactive” and may be asked of their continued intent to remain a league member.

Section IV: Discipline and Removal of a Member:

Discipline: All irregularities and/or infractions shall be handled in a courteous and ethical manner. If a member fails to maintain the standards required for membership or fails in the area of ethics or eligibility, the Executive Board may take the following disciplinary steps:

- Supervisory Probation: This status constitutes a “watch” policy by the Executive Board. The length of the term shall be at least one year and no longer than two years. Under this status, there will be no restriction on a member’s participation. The member will maintain his or her previous level of membership.
- Restrictive Probation: This status shall restrict a member from both participating in championship competition and receiving league honors for at least one year and no longer than two years.
- Suspension: Status usually directed to a particular member to take effect at the end of the season. Members on suspension are not allowed to compete at the BCL level for at least one and not more than two seasons, including post-season play. No honors will be allowed for the member.

Following the designated period of discipline, the member may be reinstated to his or her previous membership level upon approval of the Executive Board.

Removal: A participating member (or his or her guardian for a minor) may voluntarily resign participation at any time upon notifying the Executive Board in written or electronic form. A member may also be expelled for persistent or flagrant violations for a minimum of two years upon a 2/3 majority vote of the Executive Board.

Rehearing: In any disciplinary case listed above, a member may petition the Executive Board in written or electronic form for a rehearing. The appropriate documentation and written justification must be submitted within one month of the decision to sanction. The member must also show steps taken to prevent recurrence of such actions. The rehearing process will normally take four to six weeks thereafter.

Article IV: OFFICERS

Section I: Requirements:

The officers of this organization must meet the following requirements:

- Be a full member for at least one year.
- Be an active member in good standing (not on probation, suspension, or expulsion).
- Be ineligible to hold an office should the member fail to maintain the requirements as prescribed above.

Section II: Officers and Duties (last amended 2009-07-01)

The Backyard Competition League shall be governed by an Executive Board that meets at least once per year. The Executive Board shall have three (3) officers. They and their duties shall be:

- One Commissioner (or two Co-Commissioners), whose duties include, but are not limited to:
 - Calling regular and special meetings of the Executive Board and the Annual League Meeting. Roberts Rules of Order (revised) shall serve as the final authority in all parliamentary procedures.
 - Serving as or appointing the protest committee chair for all events hosted by a BCL member.
 - Administrating the league office.
 - Assisting in the development of agendas for Executive Board meetings.
 - Publicizing or appointing someone to publicize league information (including but not limited to: news, statistics, and sanctioned members). A league web site may be used to satisfy this duty.
 - Setting the date and time for the Annual Meeting. Each participating full member in good standing shall have one vote for every item requiring a vote. The Executive Board shall meet after the conclusion of this meeting.
 - Maintaining 9-wicket membership with the United States Croquet Association to allow the BCL to inquire about rules interpretations and any other appropriate inquiries.
- One First Assistant Commissioner
 - Assuming the duties of the commissioner in his or her absence and is directly responsible to the commissioner.
 - Serving on the protest committee when appointed by the commissioner.
 - Performing any other reasonable task as designated by the commissioner.
- One Second Assistant Commissioner (unless there are co-commissioners)
 - Assuming the duties of the commissioner in his or her absence and the absence of the First Assistant Commissioner. This position is directly responsible to the commissioner.
 - Serving on the protest committee when appointed by the commissioner.
 - Performing any other reasonable task as designated by the commissioner.

Other Officers:

The Executive Board at any time and from time to time may appoint such other officers as it shall deem necessary, which shall hold their offices for such terms as shall be determined by the Board and shall exercise such powers and perform such duties as shall be determined from time to time by the Executive Board or the Commissioner.

Section III: Qualifications:

An officer shall have been an active full member in good standing for at least one (1) year. Officers shall be current members of the BCL.

Section IV: Selection Process and Training:

Eligible members who wish to be on the Executive Board shall declare their interest in the final year of the term. The membership present at that year's Annual Meeting shall then elect the next term of officers from the eligible candidates with a secret ballot tallied by the Executive Board. In the event of a tie for First Assistant Commissioner Elect, the current Executive Board shall break the tie with a secret ballot. Terms begin January 1 and end on December 31.

Selection of other offices shall begin with an application process. The Executive Board shall review each application, interview the applicants(s) if necessary, then vote on and select with a 2/3 majority vote.

Section V: Term of Office:

The term of office for Executive Board members shall be three years. Officers are eligible for multiple consecutive terms. Other officers shall hold office until a successor is chosen or until his or her earlier resignation, death, or removal. Other officers must also maintain active status within the organization.

Any officer may resign by giving written notice to the commissioner. The resignation shall be effective on receipt unless the notice specifies a later time for the effective date of such resignation, or if the BCL would be left without the minimum number of duly elected officers, in which even the resignation shall be effective upon the election of a successor. If the resignation is effective at a future time, a successor may be elected before that time to take office when the resignation becomes effective.

Section VI: Removal of an Officer:

The Executive Board may declare a position vacant and remove an Officer for cause on the occurrence of any of the following events:

- The Officer has been declared of unsound mind by a final order of the court.
- The Officer has been convicted of a felony.
- The Officer has failed to attend any meeting of the Board for at least a year and a half.
- The Officer is no longer a BCL member, or
- The Officer has been presented with one or more written charges, has been given at least ten days notice of a hearing at which he or she may have legal counsel present, and has been given opportunity for such hearing at a meeting of either the Executive Board or Committee.

The Executive Board may declare a position vacant and remove an Officer without cause by a two-thirds majority vote. Election or appointment of an Officer shall not of itself create any contract rights.

A vacancy on the Executive Board shall exist on the death, resignation, or removal of any member; whenever the number of members authorized is increased; and on the failure of the Board to elect the full number of members authorized. Such vacancies may be filled for the remainder of the term by the majority vote at a meeting of the Executive Board, and if the total number of remaining Officers is less than a quorum, by a unanimous vote of the two remaining Officers or the vote of a sole remaining Officer.

Article V. FINANCES

Section I: Dues:

The Executive Board shall approve any dues structures. Annual dues are due on May 1 and are payable thereafter. They are delinquent if not paid by May 15 of each year. If dues are not received by the deadline, the participating member may be disqualified from participating in league tournaments as a member during that calendar year.

Article VI. AMENDMENTS AND RATIFICATION

New amendments to the constitution shall be ratified only by a 2/3 majority vote of the participating members at the Annual Meeting. Local rule amendments shall follow the procedure as described in

Article II, Section IV. Any full member in good standing, officer, or committee may propose an amendment. The amendment shall be in written or electronic form and submitted to the Executive Board for review. The constitution shall be reviewed annually by the Executive Board.

Appendix A: CHARTER MEMBERS

The following individuals are recognized as charter members of the Back Yard Croquet League (they were members for the inaugural season):

- Tim Anstett
- Mike Brault
- Bill Burns III & Emily Burns
- Michael P. & Heidi Callan (plus one junior member)
- Tom Callan III & Pam Callan (plus four junior members)
- Mike Falk
- Russ Hofman
- J. Scott Siegel (plus two junior members).

Ratified: 2007-05-20

Revised: 2009-07-01 (Amended by Amendments 2009-1 and 2009-2)

Revised: 2010-01-01 (Amended by Amendments 2009-3)

Framers of the BCL Constitution:

Tim Anstett – Co-Commissioner