

**COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP & COMPETITION RULES**  
**Amended January 2020**

All COMPETITORS are requested to familiarise themselves with the Championship and Competition Rules.

**1. Conditions**

1.1 The County Championships shall comprise

Singles  
Pairs  
Triples  
Fours  
Senior Fours  
Junior Singles  
Junior Pairs  
Two Wood Singles

All others are County Competitions

- 1.2 The County Championships leading to National Championships shall be administered under the Rules and Regulations of Bowls England.  
1.3 The Championships and Competitions shall be played under the current Laws of the Sport of Bowls and shall be under the management of the respective Executive Committees of the Royal County of Berkshire Bowling Association, hereinafter called the Association.  
1.4 All Trophies remain the property of the Association and must be returned to the respective Competition Secretaries no later than the 31<sup>st</sup> August of the following year.  
1.5 Final stages (including the Finals) of Championships / Competitions are to be played on fixed dates and at venues determined by the Association.  
1.6 Variations of the dates set for all rounds and finals of Championships/Competitions will only be varied under exceptional circumstances. Those circumstances would include for example a competitor being called to International duty or if a competitor is representing the County in a National Competition.  
1.7 The entrance fees for all Championships / Competitions, to which these Championship / Competition Rules apply, shall be fixed in a manner approved by the Annual General Meeting of the Association.

**2. Eligibility**

- 2.1 The Championships / Competitions shall be confined to such Clubs who have joined the Association and paid their subscriptions for the current year.  
2.2 All competitors must be fully paid-up Members of an affiliated Club. All Championships may only be entered from one Club. Competitions need not be entered from the same Club as Championships are entered from.  
2.3 No restriction shall be placed upon any paid-up Member playing in more than one competition.  
2.4 Team players in the Ladies' Benevolent 2-Wood Triples, the Junior Pairs and the Berkshire 55 and over Pairs Competitions need not be from the same Club, provided that all players are fully paid-up Members of Clubs affiliated to the Association.

**3. Questions and Disputes**

- 3.1 A clear statement in writing, of the point at issue shall be communicated to the Honorary Competition Secretary of the Association at the earliest possible date together with evidence, if such exists.  
3.2 The Competition Sub Committee (President, General Secretary and Competition Secretary) shall determine all questions and disputes that may arise and which do not come under the scope of the Umpires duties. The decision of the Committee shall be final and binding.

**4. Duties of Challenger and Opponent**

- 4.1 At all stages of County Championships / Competitions the first named in the draw shall be the 'Challenger' and the second named the 'Opponent'.  
4.2 It is the responsibility of the 'Challenger' to ascertain their 'Opponent' for the next round. Competition Compiler/Delegate should not be contacted before 9.00 or after 10.00 pm.  
4.3 In the early stages of all singles Championships / Competitions it is the responsibility of the 'Challenger' to provide a competent marker.  
4.4 When no umpire is present the onus on checking the date stamp on the bowls rests with the player or players concerned.
- 4.5 Fixed Date Championships / Competitions:  
(a) The 'Challenger' shall confirm the fixture and the commencement time with their 'Opponent' after receiving either (i) the draw or (ii) the details of their next 'Opponent'.  
(b) In the event of (a) not happening it is the responsibility of the Opponent to contact the Challenger.  
(c) Except in respect of the final stages of Championships / Competitions at venues determined by the Association it shall be competent for the 'Challenger' or the 'Opponent' to seek a variation of the fixed date provided the proposed new date is not later than the original date fixed for the round. If both parties cannot agree to the proposed variation, the match shall be played on the date originally fixed.
- 4.6 Play By Date Championships / Competitions:  
(a) Where Championship / Competitions are not on a fixed date the 'Challenger' shall offer their 'Opponent', within 48 hours of the closing date of the previous round at least three dates for play, one of which must be a Saturday or a Sunday. The offering of two different start times on a single date does not count as two dates. A minimum of 48 hours' notice is required for any dates to be eligible.  
(b) The 'Opponent' shall within 24 hours of receipt of the challenge, reply and accept one of the dates offered unless they are already playing in a County Championship / Competition or National Competition, in which case another date must be offered.  
(c) If a challenge has not been made within the specified period, the 'Opponent' shall become the 'Challenger' and make all match arrangements including the offering of dates and the choice of venue.  
(d) For preliminary / first round matches, where the draw is known prior to the start of the Competition, the 'Challenger' does not need to offer dates until 21 days before the closing date of that round, nor does the opponent need to accept a date until 19 days before the closing date of that round.
- 4.7 A 'Competitor' failing to comply with either 4.5 or 4.6 shall be scratched upon the successful application by the opposing player, side or team and failing such application before the last day of the round, both shall be scratched.  
4.8 The time for the commencement of a match shall be mutually agreed but no player, side or team shall be compelled to accept a start time earlier than 6.00pm (Monday to Friday) or 9:30am (Saturday or Sunday), nor later than 6:30pm on any day.  
4.9 For the Men's Club Championship & Double Fours the start time shall not be later than 6.30pm other than for the quarter finals and semi-finals where it shall be 6.00pm.  
4.10 In accordance with Law 5.3.1 of the 'Laws of the Sport of Bowls' the start of any match shall be deemed to be when the jack is delivered by the first player to play the first end.  
4.11 The result of the match, together with the names of players must be conveyed by the Winner(s) to the respective Competition Compiler / Delegate within 24 hours of the completion of the match. The score cards showing the names of all the players and Club signed by both players/skips must be forwarded to the Competition Compiler/Delegate. They should not be contacted before 9.00am or after 10.00pm.  
4.12 Any player, side or team giving their 'Opponent/s' a walk over must notify the relevant Competition Compiler / Delegate.

## 5. Venue of Ties

- 5.1 In the Early Stages the 'Challenger' shall have the choice of 'Green' and make all arrangements for the game. The draw for rink(s) to be played on to be made in accordance with the current Laws of the Sport (Law 3) and the information contained in the glossary of the current Bowls England Rules & Regulations 50-70.
- 5.2 Final Stages and Finals of all Championships / Competitions shall be played on greens nominated and at times specified by the Association.
- 5.3 The Competitions Sub Committee reserves the right to change the published dates and venues of the Final Stages and Finals of individual competitions due to player commitments in International, Bowls England duties or Final Stages of other County Competitions.
- 5.4 Should the 'Challengers' nominated green be closed, the 'Challenger' should first ascertain whether his/their opponents green is fit for play. If the opponents green is unfit for play and there is not a playable green close by, then permission to play on another day must be sought from the Competition Sub Committee. The first point of contact shall be the Honorary Competition Secretary.
- 5.5 When games are stopped because of inclement weather etc. The Honorary Competition Secretary should be informed and the players shall mutually agree a date to complete the game as in "Laws of the Sport of Bowls". This shall not apply to the Men's Double Fours, Men's Club Championship, Mixed Double Fours.
- 5.6 In the non-zoned stages of the Ladies' Championships / Competitions, if Competitors' are drawn 30 or more miles apart (Club to Club) they must meet as near half way as possible, unless the opponent is willing to travel the whole distance.

## 6. Dress for County Championship/Competitions

**Please note all reference to white clothing should read predominately white.**

### 6.1 Ladies

- (a) Shirt style blouse, cream, white or registered Club colour. If Club colours are preferred, they must be worn by all members of the team / side. Regulation grey skirt, tailored full length or cropped trousers or shorts up to and including the last 16 stages. Shorts if worn must be Bowls England Licensed and approved apparel.
- (b) For Quarter Finals onwards, regulation cream / white skirts / tailored full length or cropped trousers /shorts and top or Club colour. Shorts if worn must be Bowls England Licensed and approved apparel.
- (c) Coloured shirts if worn must be specifically of a design approved by the Association, and must be worn by each and every member of the side / team selected.
- (d) Cropped trousers must not be the lycra type but be of an opaque material and must fall mid-calf length.
- (e) Hats are optional at all times. However, if worn, or should protective head covering be necessary through weather conditions, it must be an approved style. Plain white baseball caps may be worn on the green.
- (f) Stockings or tights are optional but, if worn must be in shades of brown. For early stages of the competitions brown, grey or white flat soled bowling shoes must be worn. White flat soled bowling shoes to be worn for the Quarter Finals, Semi Finals and Finals.
- (g) Hair must be neat, fastened back securely if shoulder length or longer. Stud earrings only will be allowed.

### 6.2 Men

- (a) For all the rounds of the County Championships / Competitions up to and including the Semi Finals the dress shall be grey trousers or tailored grey shorts, white tops or approved Club colours, and flat soled bowling shoes.
- (b) For the later/final stages, at previously designated venues, directly administered by the Executive Committee, shorts if worn must be of the appropriate colour (grey or white) and must be Bowls England licensed and approved apparel.
- (c) Some clubs do not allow the wearing of shorts and if so, the local ruling must be adhered to- please check before play starts.
- (c) Dress for finals shall be determined by the Executive Committee.
- (d) Coloured shirts if worn must be specifically of a design approved by the Association, and must be worn by each and every member of the side / team selected.

## 7. General

- 7.1 No Championship/Competition shall be played earlier than 1<sup>st</sup> May.
- 7.2 On entry forms submitted to the Association, for County Championships the Contact Person (Named Entrant) must be clearly identified (Bowls England Reg. 50).
- 7.3 Each competitor entering a County Championship/Competition, which ever it maybe, must purchase a Competitors' Yearbook.
- 7.4 The use of mobile phones whilst playing is prohibited.
- 7.5 During Final Stages and Finals of singles Championships / Competitions, subject to the agreement of the players concerned, Markers may give an indication of the state of the score by the use of visual indicators.
- 7.6 Smoking (including electronic cigarettes) on & around the green will be prohibited during all rounds leading to National Championship Finals. Failure to adhere to this will result in disqualification.

## 8. Substitutions in County Championships/Competitions

- 8.1 In Team matches involving Pairs, Triples and Fours, the players taking part in the first game shall constitute the Team and shall normally play together throughout the Championship.
- 8.2 One additional, and the same player, may be used as a substitute at any time provided, they have not already played in the Championship. They may play in any position.
- 8.3 The named entrant conceding a walk-over before their first game in any Championship cannot act as a substitute, as this is considered a game played and lost.
- 8.4 The named entrant of a team cannot be a member or substitute of any other team in the same Championship.
- 8.5 In Competitions involving Club Sides, substitutes/changes are allowed in the Side and disciplines between rounds, provided the players are members of the same Club and have not played for another side during the current competition.

## 9. Competition Formats

### SINGLES CHAMPIONSHIP

The game shall consist of 21 shots - four bowls each player.

### PAIRS CHAMPIONSHIP (Two Players from the same Club)

The game shall consist of 21 ends - four bowls each player. The leads to play their four bowls before the skips.

In the event of the scores being equal when all ends have been played, an extra end or ends must be played until a decision is reached.

### TRIPLES CHAMPIONSHIP (Three Players from the same Club)

The game shall consist of 18 ends - three bowls each player.

In the event of the scores being equal when all ends have been played, an extra end or ends must be played until a decision is reached.

### FOURS CHAMPIONSHIP (Four Players from the same Club)

The game shall consist of 21 ends - two bowls each player.

In the event of the scores being equal when all ends have been played, an extra end or ends must be played until a decision is reached.

## **TWO WOOD SINGLES CHAMPIONSHIP**

The game shall consist of 21 ends - two bowls each player.

In the event of the scores being equal when all ends have been played, an extra end or ends must be played until a decision is reached.

## **JUNIOR SINGLES CHAMPIONSHIP**

The game shall consist of 21 shots - four bowls each player

The championship is restricted to those members who have not attained their 25<sup>th</sup> birthday on the 1<sup>st</sup> April in the year of the Championship.

## **JUNIOR PAIRS CHAMPIONSHIP**

The game shall consist of 18 ends - four bowls each player. The leads to play their four bowls before the skips.

In the event of the scores being equal when all ends have been played, an extra end or ends must be played until a decision is reached.

The start time will be no earlier than 7pm on a weekday (unless mutually agreed otherwise)

The Championships shall be open to all Members of Clubs affiliated to Bowls England who have not attained their 25th birthday on the 1st April in the year of the Championship.

The two players may be from different clubs, but they must be both affiliated to clubs within the same county and have entered all other National Championships events from the same county.

## **SENIOR FOURS CHAMPIONSHIP (Four Players from the same Club)**

The game shall consist of 18 ends - two bowls each player.

In the event of the scores being equal when all ends have been played, an extra end or ends must be played until a decision is reached.

The Championships shall be open to all Members of Clubs affiliated to Bowls England who are 55 and over on the 1st April in the year of the Championship.

## **SINGLES COMPETITION FOR UNBADGED PLAYERS**

The game shall consist of 21 shots - four bowls each player.

This is a Singles Competition restricted to those members who have not been awarded a County Badge in this or any other County, except if the player has applied for and doesn't qualify for a badge transfer.

Should a player who has entered the competition be awarded a County Badge after the closing date for entry into the competition, he should immediately concede the game to his opponent as soon as the draw has been published.

A player receiving his County Badge on Finals Day will not be required to concede any subsequent rounds to an opponent.

## **CHAMPION OF CHAMPIONS COMPETITION – SINGLES**

The game shall consist of 21 shots - four bowls each player.

This is a Singles Competition, restricted to the Singles Champions of affiliated Clubs.

## **MEN'S CHAMPION OF CHAMPIONS COMPETITION – TWO WOOD SINGLES**

The game shall consist of 21 ends - two bowls each player.

This is a Singles Competition, restricted to the Two Wood Singles Champions of affiliated Clubs.

In the event of the scores being equal when all ends have been played, an extra end or ends must be played until a decision is reached.

## **LADIES' SECRETARIES'/TREASURER'S/DELEGATES' SINGLES COMPETITION**

The game shall consist of 21 shots - four bowls each player.

This is a female only Singles Competition, restricted to Hon. Secretaries, Hon. Treasurers and Council Delegates.

The entrants must hold office on the 1<sup>st</sup> May in the year of the Competition.

## **MEN'S HONORARY SECRETARIES SINGLES COMPETITION**

The game shall consist of 21 shots, four bowls each player.

This is a Singles Competition, restricted to Hon. Secretaries, Assistant Hon. Secretaries, Hon. Match Secretaries and Hon. Treasurers of affiliated Clubs (one only from each Club).

This is a male only Competition limited to two entries per Club.

The entrants must hold office on the 1<sup>st</sup> May in the year of the Competition.

## **LADIES' OVER 55 SINGLES COMPETITION**

The game shall consist of 21 shots - four bowls each player.

This is a Singles Competition, restricted to those members who have reached their 55<sup>th</sup> birthday by the 1<sup>st</sup> April in the year of the Competition.

## **LADIES' OVER 55 PAIRS COMPETITION**

The game shall consist of 18 ends - four bowls each player. The leads to play their four bowls before the skips.

This is a Pairs Competition, restricted to those members who have reached their 55<sup>th</sup> birthday by the 1<sup>st</sup> April in the year of the Competition.

Both players do not necessarily have to be from the same Club (Rule 2.4).

In the event of the scores being equal when all ends have been played, an extra end or ends must be played until a decision is reached.

## **LADIES' BENEVOLENT TWO WOOD TRIPLES COMPETITION**

The game shall consist of 15 ends - two bowls each player.

Each Team to consist of three players, who do not need to be Members of the same Club (Rule 2.4).

All 15 ends must be played in each round of the Competition.

In the event of the scores being equal when all ends have been played, an extra end or ends must be played until a decision is reached.

## **LADIES' COUNTY TOP CLUB COMPETITION**

A club side shall consist of ten players from the same affiliated Club. The disciplines are Four wood singles (21 shots), Four wood pairs (21 ends), Three wood triples (18 ends), and Two wood fours (21 ends).

Failure to field 10 players will result in a walk-over.

For this competition only, substitution during play is allowed for the singles player in case of illness or injury. The score being resumed at the score existing prior to the interruption.

During the Competition one point is scored for each game won, there being a total of 4 point to be won in any match. In the event of a drawn game each team is awarded 0.5 point.

If the overall match finishes 2-2 after the completion of all four disciplines, the winning club will be decided from the aggregate shot score from all four games.

The Club that has scored the greatest number of shots being declared the winner.

In the event of a tie in the shot scores as well as the match score, there will be an extra end played in the Pairs, Triples and Fours games to decide the winning team. Shots do not count on these extra ends, only the result of the three games.

### **MEN'S DOUBLE FOURS COMPETITION**

Each Club will be represented by two Fours, with all eight players being members of the same affiliated Club.

During early stages of the Competition, one rink will play at Home while the other rink will play on their 'Opponents' green, both matches to be played simultaneously.

The game shall consist of 21 ends, but an extra end must be played on the green of the 'Challenger' only (except in the final), the points of this end to count only in the case of a tie in the game proper.

In the Final a draw shall be made to select which of the Fours' plays against those of the opposing side.

A separate draw will be made to ascertain which of the Fours will play the extra end in the event of a tie in the game proper.

In the event of a match being unable to be completed owing to exceptional weather conditions the accumulative score in uncompleted matches in which both teams of a side have played ten ends or more will stand as a result.

### **MEN'S CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP COMPETITION**

Each Club will be represented by four Triples with all twelve players being members of the same affiliated Club.

During early stages of the Competition, two Triples will play at Home while the other two Triples will play on their 'Opponents' green, both matches to be played simultaneously.

The game shall consist of 18 ends, but an extra end must be played on the green of the 'Challenger' only (except in the final), the points of this end to count only in the case of a tie in the game proper.

The extra end must be played by two Triples (one representing each Club) who played against each other in the game proper.

Before the commencement of the game proper, a draw must be made to select which of the Triples on the side plays against those of the opposing side.

A separate draw will be made to ascertain which of the Triples will play the extra end in the event of a tie in the game proper. In the early rounds this draw will only involve the Teams playing on the 'Challengers' green but for the Final all four Teams will be included.

In the event of a match being unable to be completed owing to exceptional weather conditions the accumulative score in uncompleted matches in which all teams of a side have played ten ends or more will stand as a result.

### **MENS' BENEVOLENT FUND TRIPLES COMPETITION**

The game shall consist of 18 ends - three bowls each player.

In the event of the scores being equal when all ends have been played, an extra end or ends must be played until a decision is reached.

Clubs to hold an internal Competition with a minimum entry of 2 triples. The winners of this internal Competition to represent the Club in the following years Benevolent Fund Triples Competition.

The entrance fee for this Competition to be set by the committee on the Benevolent Fund with all proceeds being donated to the Benevolent Fund.

### **MIXED DOUBLE FOURS COMPETITION**

Each Club will be represented by two Fours, each four consisting of two Ladies and two Gentlemen who must be members of the same affiliated club.

Both Fours must play simultaneously and at the same venue. All matches to commence at 10.00am unless directed by the Competition Committee.

The game shall consist of 21 ends, but an extra end must be played by one of the Fours, the points of this end to count only in the case of a tie in the game proper.

Before the commencement of the game proper, a draw must be made to select which of the Fours on the side plays against those of the opposing side.

A separate draw will be made to ascertain which of the Fours will play the extra end in the event of a tie in the game proper.

In the event of a match being unable to be completed owing to exceptional weather conditions the accumulative score in uncompleted matches in which both teams of a side have played ten ends or more will stand as a result.

For the Semi Finals and Final the dress code shall be white trousers/shorts (Men), white skirts/trousers/cropped trousers/shorts (Ladies), white tops or Club colours (as approved by their respective Associations) and white flat soled bowling shoes. Shorts if worn must be Bowls England licensed and approved apparel.