

# **Bowls Hampshire Championship and Competition Regulations 2025**

## **1. CONDITIONS**

The Bowls Hampshire County Championships and Competitions shall be played under the World Bowls Laws of the Sport of Bowls Current Edition and be administered by the County Secretary under the Rules and Regulations of Bowls England.

## **2. ELIGIBILITY**

- (a) County championships and competitions are confined to members of affiliated clubs and those who are members of more than one Bowls Hampshire affiliated club must enter championships and competitions from one club only, with the exception of the junior pairs.
- (b) All entries must be made through Club Secretaries on the appropriate forms and accompanied by the appropriate fees to reach the Area Secretaries not later than the date determined by the Area Secretary.

## **3. MANAGEMENT**

- (a) Early rounds of the championships and competitions up to and including Area Finals shall be played in areas under the management of the Area Secretaries who are responsible to the County Secretary for the conduct of competitions in their respective areas.
- (b) Dress shall follow the principles in BE Regulation 50.
  - (i) Dress above the waist shall be white shirts or coloured shirts registered with the County.
  - (ii) Where players wear registered shirts all players in a team/side must wear them, the exception being where two single gender clubs play together in the Mixed Top Club.
  - (iii) In all rounds leading up to the Area Final dress below the waist shall be whites (women) grey (men and mixed) although coloured apparel may be worn provided it has been registered with the County.
  - (iv) A mixture of trousers, skirts, culottes, shorts etc. may be worn but all players must wear the same colour and shorts (if worn) should conform to Bowls England uniform regulations so that we can present a consistent image for the sport. Shell Suits, jeans and shorts other than those manufactured for the sport of bowls are not acceptable. Shorts may not, however, be worn if the Club has a rule prohibiting their use. (It is incumbent upon competitors to check before play commences).
- (c) Area Finals
  - (i) These will be played on a green selected by the Area Secretary. He/she shall, as far as practicable avoid putting matches on a player's home green.
  - (ii) The Area Secretary shall ensure Umpires are present at Area Finals and that there are neutral markers for Area Singles Finals.
  - (iii) Club stickers will normally be used.
  - (iv) In those Area Finals leading to National Championships there will, with the exception of the Senior fours, be two finalists from each Area going to County Finals.
  - (v) In BH Competitions and the Senior Fours, the Area winner will go forward.
- (d) In the event of unforeseen exceptional circumstances, the Secretary / Assistant Secretary shall have the power to alter dates and venues.

## **4. DRAWS, CHALLENGERS AND OPPONENTS, BEHAVIOUR**

- (a) The draw for each competition shall be in the respective Areas. The first drawn shall become the challenger who shall have choice of green and rink. Where a Club has both a grass and a synthetic surface the challenger must, if the game is to be played on the synthetic surface, inform the opponent(s) at least 48 hours in advance of the game.

- (b) The draw for the Last Eights of Championship events (other than Senior Fours) and for the Semi Finals of the Senior Fours and Competitions shall take place at the meeting in late January / early February, also referred to in the Selection Regulations.
- (c) Where the green of the challenger is, for any reason, deemed unfit for championship play, the tie shall be played on the opponent's green or a selected green by mutual agreement.
- (d) Except where a specific date has been fixed for the playing of a round, the challenger, immediately upon receipt of notice (or in the case of a first game in the competition fourteen days prior to the completion date for that round), shall offer his/her opponent two dates, within the period allowed, one of which must be a weekday (Monday to Friday) and one must be a weekend (Sundays included) neither of which shall be a fixed County competition date, although ties may be played on these occasions by mutual agreement.
  - (i) The opponent must, within 48 hours, accept one of the dates offered.
  - (ii) The challenger shall make all the arrangements for the game and in the case of Singles, provide a marker.
  - (iii) The home player or team is responsible for any green fees in all competitions leading to the National Championship, National Competition or County Finals. This does not affect the BE rules regarding play on a neutral green.
  - (iv) If a challenger fails to challenge within the two days, he/she shall forfeit the privileges of a challenger and his/her opponent may request the Area Secretary that he/she, the opponent, become the challenger. If approved by the Area Secretary, he/she will then offer two dates within two days.
  - (v) Failure to accept dates or come to some mutual arrangement will result in the tie being awarded to the person deemed to be the challenger at the time. No alteration of an accepted date and time shall be made unless mutually agreed. Failing such agreement, the competitor requiring such alteration must concede the game.
  - (vi) Smoking on the green is prohibited. This includes electronic cigarettes. Failure to adhere to this regulation will result in disqualification.

## 5. TIMES AND DATES

- (a) Where an Area has fixed a specific date for the playing of a round, no extension of time will be granted for the playing of that round except where greens are deemed to be unfit due to inclement weather. If a green is considered by either player/team to be dangerous or unplayable then, in the absence of the greenkeeper, the umpire (if present) shall decide whether to continue or suspend play. Fixed groundsheets (those laid down for the duration of the match) are acceptable for National Championships. Portable groundsheets are permitted subject to the approval of the host club and/or greenkeeper. When games are abandoned, players shall mutually arrange to play the tie and notify the result to the Area Secretary within six days of the original specified date, unless a new date is set by the Area Secretary. Failure to comply may result in both challengers and opponents being struck from the competition.
- (b) By mutual agreement, ties may be played before the date specified for the round.
- (c) Dates of ties and "play before" dates in the early rounds of a competition will be determined in Areas and notified to Clubs by the Area Secretaries.
- (d) The time for the commencement of both Championship and Competition ties shall be mutually agreed but no competitor shall be compelled to agree a starting time on weekdays earlier than 6.00pm or later than 6.30pm or weekends – start time no earlier than 9.30am or later than 6.30pm.

This is to comply with Bowls England Competition Regulation 50: National Championships (County Stages).

- (e) Quarter Finals, (other than Senior Fours), Semi Finals and Finals of Championship events shall be played under the management of the Secretary/Assistant Secretary in the Southern Area. The dates of the Championship Finals shall be week 36 each year and be played on the Saturday as designated in the County calendar. In the event of inclement weather or player(s) being in multiple finals, some finals may be played or concluded on the Sunday following the aforementioned Saturday.

Should a competitor not be available for the County Final as per the issued date in the County calendar, their opponent(s) will be awarded the match and title

- (f) If a game in a previous round cannot be completed World Bowls Laws shall apply. In the event of players being unable to agree on the completion of a round both sides will be eliminated.

Fall Back dates in case of inclement weather for Championship Last Eights will be included in the programme to ensure names of County representatives at the Nationals can be notified to Bowls England by the closing date.

Only in the instance of inclement weather should a final(s) not be completed before the end of September the Secretary/Assistant Secretary shall arrange for the game to be played/completed on an outdoor synthetic surface

- (g) If a player fails to appear or is not ready to play within thirty minutes of the agreed time for the game, his/her opponent can claim a 'walk over'
- (h) If a team or player will not be available for all championship and competition dates, they should withdraw at the outset. Players who have advanced in a competition and then concede, without an acceptable reason, agreed by the Area Secretary or Secretary will be excluded from the following year's competition.
- (i) At Last Eights stage players must concede a game once it is no longer mathematically possible for them to win.
- (j) The Secretary/Area Secretary will arrange with the Umpires Co-Ordinator for Umpire(s) to be present at Championship Last Eights and Competition Semi Finals and Finals.

## **6. QUESTIONS AND DISPUTES**

All questions and disputes which arise and which do not come within the scope of the umpire's duties shall, in the first instance be referred to the Area Secretary who may seek the guidance of the Emergency and Disputes Committee if necessary.

Protest against any condition under which a tie is played must be made to the opponent and recorded on the scorecard before six ends have been played and notified to the Area Secretary immediately after the game. The game should be completed as if no protest has been made. The result of the game may stand if the protester so wishes but, once made, the protest must be proceeded with.

Appeals against any decision by the Area Secretary must be made in writing within 24 hours of the receipt of such a decision, making a clear statement of the point in issue and accompanied by any evidence available.

The decision of the Emergency and Disputes Committee shall be final and binding.

## **7. CONSTITUTION OF TEAMS AND SUBSTITUTION**

- (a) In all competitions the entry need contain only one name. That named entrant shall not play in any other entry in that particular competition.
- (b) The players taking part in the first game of the respective competition shall constitute 'the team' for the remainder of the competition. Only one additional player may be used as a substitute at any time providing he/she has not already played in the competition.
- (c) A substitute may play in any position except where substitution occurs during a game when WB Law 33.4 applies. The named entrant of a team cannot be a member or a substitute of any other team in the same competition.

- (d) A player who changes clubs after entries have been submitted may, provided his new club has paid an affiliation fee for him/her, continue in the singles championship. He/she, if the named entry in other events, shall not be permitted to join other teams at the new club, nor may he/she participate in County side events (County Club Championship, Thornbery and Mixed Top Club).

## **8. FEES**

The entry fee for all competitions shall be decided by the Annual General Meeting.

## **9. NOTIFICATION OF RESULTS**

- (a) The result of ties in all competitions including the club championship is to be communicated to the Area Secretary immediately after the game if possible and in any case within 24 hours.
- (b) The scorecard is to be sent to the appropriate Area Secretary to arrive within three days of the tie being played and the onus for doing so is on the winner.
- (c) The scorecards must bear the names and initials of those taking part and shall be signed by the losing player or skip. Skips are reminded that they are certifying not only the accuracy of the score but also the names of those taking part.

## **10. THE BOWLS ENGLAND CHAMPIONSHIPS:**

Singles	21 shots	4 Bowls
Two Wood Singles	21 ends	2 Bowls (extra end if necessary)
Junior Singles	21 shots	4 Bowls
Junior Pairs	18 ends	4 Bowls each player (extra end if necessary)
Pairs	18 ends	4 Bowls each player (extra end if necessary)
Triples	18 ends	3 Bowls each player (extra end if necessary)
Fours	18 ends	2 Bowls each player (extra end if necessary)
Senior Fours	18 ends	2 Bowls each player (extra end if necessary)

- (a) The Bowls Hampshire representatives at the National Championships will be:
- (i) The winners of the Junior Pairs and Senior Fours
- (ii) The Semi Final winners of all other Championships events
- (b) Junior Singles and Pairs players must be under the age of 24 and Senior Pairs and Fours players over the age of 55 on the 1<sup>st</sup> of April in the year of the competition.
- (c) The County finalist emerging from the top half of the Last 8 draw will represent Bowls Hampshire as Hampshire "A".
- (d) When representing Bowls Hampshire at National Finals, dress must be in accordance with Bowls England National Championship rules. County Shirts, as registered with Bowls England, shall be worn in National Championships.

## **11. THE BOWLS ENGLAND COMPETITIONS:**

Bowls England run several competitions, the Senior Singles, Senior Pairs, Mixed Pairs, Mixed Fours, Family Pairs, Men's Foundation Pairs, Women's Foundation Pairs, Under 17's and Champion of Champions where individuals enter directly through Bowls England.

These competitions are not administered by Bowls Hampshire

## **12. THE BOWLS HAMPSHIRE COMPETITIONS (MEN):**

### **(a) COUNTY CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP**

- (i) A four-rink competition of 18 ends, with one entry per Bowls Hampshire Club. All rinks playing on the same green. Failure to field 16 players will result in a walk over.
- (ii) The side with the highest aggregate of shots at the end of the game to be declared the winner.
- (iii) Should the total scores of each side be equal after 18 ends, one extra end will be played on one rink only. The rink to play the extra end will be determined by draw at the same time as the initial draw for rinks is made. Any extra end will commence only after all four rinks have completed play.

- (iv) Should a match be abandoned because of inclement weather then, provided a total of 44 ends have been played, the result shall stand.
- (v) In the event of the scores being level when play is abandoned the side which has won the most ends shall be declared the winner. If ends are also tied, then the result shall be determined by the toss of a coin.

(b) **TWO WOOD TRIPLES**

A competition of 18 ends with two bowls per player (extra end if necessary). The winners from each Area final will play in the semi-final and final on a neutral green in each of the Areas on an alphabetical rota basis on a day to be arranged by the Secretary/Assistant Secretary.

(c) **GOLDEN PAIRS**

A competition of 18 ends with 4 bowls each player. Open to all players over the age of 70 on 1<sup>st</sup> April in the year of the competition.

**13. THE BOWLS HAMPSHIRE COMPETITIONS (WOMEN):**

(a) **THORNBERRY TROPHY**

A two-rink competition of 18 ends, with one entry per Bowls Hampshire club. The match to be played on the same green with the side with the highest aggregate of shots at the end of the game being declared the winner. Failure to field 8 players will result in a walk over. In the event of a tie an extra end(s) shall be played by one rink, the captains to toss for Jack.

The rink to play the extra end will be determined by draw at the same time as the initial draw for rinks is made. Any extra end will commence only after both rinks have completed play.

Should a match be abandoned because of inclement weather then, provided a total of 22 ends, has been played the result shall stand. In the event of the scores being level when play is abandoned the side which has won the most ends shall be declared the winner. If ends are also tied then the result shall be determined by the toss of a coin

(b) **TWO WOOD TRIPLES**

A competition of 18 ends with two bowls each player. The match should be conceded where it is not possible for the losing team to win the match.

(c) **GOLDEN GIRL'S PAIRS**

A competition of 18 ends with four bowls each player. Open to all players over the age of 70 on 1<sup>st</sup> April in the year of the competition.

(d) **DOLLY GORE**

A competition of six rinks from each Area to be held at a Club with two adjacent greens nominated at the start of the season. The game will consist of 18 ends with two bowls per player and the two sides with the highest aggregate of shots at the end of the first game to play in a final. There will also be a play off for third and fourth places.

**14. THE BOWLS HAMPSHIRE COMPETITIONS (MIXED)**

**MIXED TOP CLUB**

A team competition, with one entry per Bowls Hampshire club. Comprising 11 players who shall play singles (men) 21 shots, singles (women) 21 shots, pairs – 4 woods each, 18 ends (one of each gender), triples – 3 woods each, 18 ends (one of each gender plus one) and fours – 2 woods each, 18 ends (two of each gender). Failure to field 11 players will result in a walkover. All disciplines shall be played to a result – no drawn matches.

Clubs shall play the competition in the Area to which the women are affiliated members of Bowls Hampshire. If a single gender women's Club wishes to combine with men from another single gender Club, it may do so but the men can come from only one Men's Club. No Club may enter players in more than one team.

A player taken ill during a game may be replaced by a substitute of the same gender. If the affected player is a skip, one of the remaining players shall take his/her place and the substitute may then play in one of the other disciplines. For this competition only, a substitute is allowed for the singles player.

Where greens have only four rinks the singles shall be played consecutively. Should a match be abandoned because of inclement weather then, provided a total of 55 ends has been played, the result shall stand.

**15. COMPLIANCE WITH REGULATIONS**

Failure to comply with these regulations may result in the defaulting competitor or teams being scratched.