



Version 6 – February 2020

Changes shown in blue

Club Competition Rules

1. Introduction

This document is intended to provide guidance for club competitions, to assist the competition secretaries, and to remove any opportunities for confusion. The following rules have been drawn up to assist Club members who wish to participate in internal Club competitions to understand the current practices by which Club competitions take place.

From time to time the Management Committee will review the adequacy of these rules and may amend, add or delete some to reflect best practices and changing needs.

2. Entry and Eligibility

Entry into the Club competitions will be confined to members who have given the completed the official Entry Form to the Competition Secretary before the due date given on the form.

Competitions shall be confined to members of the club who have paid their subscriptions by 1st May for the current year. An additional fee of £1 per competition is required to enter the Club competitions

Entry in to the Novice competition is open to any playing member who has not won a singles competition at the club (or any previous club), but also excludes any currently registered A Team player who represented the A Team in the previous season. (Members who may have previously won a pairs or triples competition will be eligible, subject to the previous requirement).

3. Handicaps

Handicaps will be allocated by the men's and ladies' selection committees, based on players' experience and performance. Handicaps will be between 0 and 9, where 9 represents a "top player". Each round will won by the player who first reaches 21 shots.

The "better player" will start a match on zero shots, whilst the opponent will start on the difference between the two handicaps

4. Conditions

The Competitions Secretaries will organise all the competitions. All competitions shall be played under the rules, byelaws and regulations of Bowls England unless otherwise specified in this Competition Rules Document.

5. Questions and Disputes

The Competitions Secretary shall determine all questions or disputes. The decision of the Competitions Secretary shall be final.

In the case of a disputed tie, notice should be given to the Competitions Secretary within 24 hours of the dispute, stating the nature of the dispute and giving the names of the players (markers for singles to be included) involved. The Competitions Secretary will consider the dispute and a ruling will be made as soon as possible. Players, and marker, if the tie was a singles match, will be informed of the Competitions Secretary's decision verbally and in writing.

6. Competition Draws

The Competitions Secretary and two other members of the Club will make the draws from valid Competitions Entry Forms. The draws will take place by the middle of May. The listings of games to be played will be posted on the Notice Board as soon as possible after the draws, together with completion dates for each round. The name of the competitor first drawn out for each game shall be termed the 'Challenger' and the second competitor drawn out will be termed the 'Opponent'. In the case of the pair's competition, the first two names will be the Challengers and the second two names the Opponents.

The Competitions Secretary may independently alter the dates for completion of a round if the circumstances dictate.

7. Duties of the Challenger and Opponent

- In all singles competitions the challenger will be responsible for making initial contact with his/her opponent as soon as possible but no later than 7 days after the scheduled start date for that round. A date should be arranged for playing the tie as soon as is convenient. In the pairs competition the skip of the challengers shall assume responsibility.
- In any case of difficulty in making contact, the Competitions Secretary should be informed and will decide on the appropriate action. Attempting to make contact with the opponent and informing the Competitions Secretary will be held in your favour should the game not be played within the scheduled time.
- Opponents not notified within the 7-day period should likewise notify the Competitions Secretary.
- Competitors in default of the above rules who cause the tie not to be played on time will be eliminated from that particular competition. Competitors who ignore the above rules will be held in default.
- In case of difficulty in playing competitions (due, for example to ill-health or bereavement) members should approach the Competitions Secretary as soon as possible. Each case will be considered on its merit and a final ruling given.
- In the event of the green being declared unfit for play by the Green-keeper, matches will be re-arranged before the closing date. If this occurs on the closing date of a round an extension of 3 days is allowed from when the green is declared fit again. In a singles match if one player cannot play within the 3 days limit they forfeit the match. Where both players are unable to play the Competitions Secretary will decide what action will be taken.
- In a pairs match if one of the players in either pair cannot play, the rules on the use of substitutes (see Section 7 below) may come into play.
- The challenger shall arrange a marker for singles games.
- Either challenger or opponent may insist that trial ends be played before the start of a game.

8. Substitutes

- Singles competitions
 - If in exceptional circumstances a player cannot complete the competition then the player previously beaten may be advanced.
- Pairs competitions
 - One substitute in a pair's team may be allowed during the course of a competition.
 - Guidance on selection of substitutes follows:
 - A substitute must not have already played in the same pairs competition.
 - Pairs competitions are seeded into two groups of players. If the player being replaced is from the lower category then only someone who would have been in that lower category when the draw was made can be considered. If the player being replaced is from the higher category then any player may be considered.
 - Preference should be given to a player who did not play due to there being an odd number of players.
 - A substitute must play lead and must play for the remainder of the competition.
- The Competitions Secretary's decision is final.

9. Notifications of Results

The winner's name(s) shall be entered on the competition draw sheet immediately following the end of the game.

10. Postponed and Interrupted Games

Should it not be possible to start or complete a game, either through inclement weather conditions, or exceptional circumstances beyond the players' control, the Competitions Secretary should be notified as promptly as is feasible.

Approval will normally be given to arrange a new date. The game shall continue from the last fully completed end but trial ends are permitted.

11. Dress Code

Club dress code will apply in the club competitions, unless otherwise stated.

12. Rink Bookings

The challenger in the rink-booking book will enter rink bookings at least two days before the date of the match. As the choice of rinks for Club Competitions may impinge on other matches to be played at the same time the order of priority for choice of rinks is as follows:

- (i) National and County matches
- (ii) Inter-club league/competition/cup matches
- (iii) Inter-club friendly matches
- (iv) Club Competitions
- (v) Roll-ups

In each category above, should there be more than one competition, then rinks are to be drawn. On any one day, where a player has already played on a particular rink that day, they are not allowed to play again on the same rink in a Club Singles Competition unless agreed by both players.

13. Additional Rules for each Competition

(i) Men's Championship

- A singles competition for the gentlemen members.
- The draw shall be made on a completely random basis.
- The winner shall be the first player to reach 21 shots. Four bowls each player.

(ii) Ladies' Championship

- A singles competition for the lady members.
- The draw shall be made on a completely random basis.
- The winner shall be the first player to reach 21 shots.
- Four bowls each player.

(iii) Men's Handicap Singles

- An open singles competition for men.
- The draw shall be made on a completely random basis.
- The winner shall be the first player to reach 21 shots.
- Four bowls each player.

Handicaps will be allocated in line with Appendix A.

(iv) Ladies' Handicap Singles

- An open singles competition for ladies.
- The draw shall be made on a completely random basis.
- The winner shall be the first player to reach 21 shots.
- Four bowls each player.

Handicaps will be allocated in line with Appendix A.

(v) Men's Novice Singles

- An open singles competition for men. A novice bowler is any member who has not won a singles competition at the club (or any previous club), but also excludes any currently registered A Team player who represented the A Team in the previous season.
- The draw shall be made on a completely random basis.
- The winner shall be the first player to reach 21 shots.
- Four bowls each player.

(v) Ladies' Novice Singles

- An open singles competition for ladies. A novice bowler is any member who has not won a singles competition at the club (or any previous club), but also excludes any currently registered A Team player who represented the A Team in the previous season.

- The draw shall be made on a completely random basis.
- The winner shall be the first player to reach 21 shots.
- Four bowls each player.

(vi) Men's Two Wood Singles

- An open singles competition for men.
- The draw shall be made on a completely random basis.
- The winner is the first player to reach 21 shots.
- Two bowls each player.

(vii) Ladies' Two Wood Singles

- An open singles competition for ladies.
- The draw shall be made on a completely random basis.
- The winner is the first player to reach 21 shots.
- Two bowls each player.

(viii) Men's Pairs

- Prior to the draw the Competitions Secretary will place players into two equal groups representing (group A) and the remaining players (group B). Pairs will then be drawn at random one from each group. This pair will fill the first place in the draw sheet. Further pairs shall be drawn and placed in the draw sheet in the same way. Who plays skip and lead shall be determined by the pair.
- Players in each pairing may change positions of play (lead or skip) from round to round but not within a match.
- The game consists of a maximum of 18 ends except for the final which shall be 21 ends maximum.

(ix) Ladies' Pairs

- Prior to the draw the Competitions Secretary will place players into two equal groups representing (group A) and the remaining players (group B). Pairs will then be drawn at random one from each group. This pair will fill the first place in the draw sheet. Further pairs shall be drawn and placed in the draw sheet in the same way. Who plays skip and lead shall be determined by the pair.
- Players in each pairing may change positions of play (lead or skip) from round to round but not within a match.
- The game consists of a maximum of 18 ends except for the final which shall be 21 ends maximum.

(x) Mixed Pairs

- Prior to the draw the Competitions Secretary will place both men and ladies players into equal two groups each representing (group A) and the remaining players (group B). Four groups overall. Pairs will then be drawn at random one from Men group A and Ladies group B. The next pair will then be drawn at random one from Men group B and Ladies group A. Further pairs shall be drawn in the same way. The draw sheet shall then be filled at random using the drawn pairs. Who plays skip and lead shall be determined by the pair.
- Players in each pairing may change positions of play (lead or skip) from round to round but not within a match.
- The game consists of a maximum of 18 ends except for the final which shall be 21 ends maximum.

(xi) Stockton Mixed Singles – Three Wood

- A mixed singles competition open to all members.
- The draw shall be made on a completely random basis.
- The winner shall be the first player to achieve a score of 21.
- Three bowls each player.

14. General Information

The effects of holidays should be considered before entering the Club competitions. Make allowance for holidays when arranging dates for matches so as not to overly restrict the choice of dates for your opponent(s).

Please try to arrange and play Club competition matches as early as possible. Do not leave it to the last minute as this does cause problems, especially if you can't book a rink or there is inclement weather around on the date you have agreed.

The smooth running of competitions is dependent on the common sense and goodwill of the players.

Appendix A - Revised Handicap Assessment

The following criteria will be used to allocate each player his/her handicap.

The nett difference between opponents in each match will be shown on the scoreboard at the start of the game, and the match will be won by the first player to reach 21 shots.

A maximum of 9 points will be allocated to any player

Registered "A" team player	3 points
Winner of Championship	2 points *
Winner of Handicap	2 points *
Winer of 2 Wood	2 points *
Winner of Stockton	2 points *

Points awarded for the winners of trophies will be carried for 2 years and then dropped. Points for "A" team players will be retained as long as the player remains registered.

This system will be reviewed before the commencement of the following season.

* NB If a player wins a trophy two years running, that player will carry 4 points in the second year, reducing to 2 the following year, before being dropped thereafter.

Examples

George Clooney is a current A Team player, and won the championship two years ago, and the 2 Wood last year. His handicap is therefore 7 (3+2+2).

Brad Pitt is a current B Team player, who won the Novice Competition last year. His handicap is 0.

George & Brad are drawn to play each other in the handicap, so Brad starts with 7 shots, George with zero, and the winner is the first to reach 21.

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