



Version 7 – April 2022

Changes shown in red

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 into 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 ¹

Handicap points will be allocated to players by the two competitions secretaries based solely on Appendix A

In the Ladies Handicap both players will start a match on zero shots with the handicapped player having to reach a score of 21+ the difference of their handicaps.

In the Men's Handicap the "better player" will start a match on zero shots, whilst the opponent will start on the difference between the two handicaps. Each round will won by the player who first reaches 21 shots

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

¹ *For the 2022 Season Only*

Handicap points will be allocated to players based on their previous experience and performance:

- For the Ladies Handicap Competition this will be done by the Ladies Competition Secretary and the Ladies Captain neither of whom will then participate in the competition.*
- For the Men's Handicap Competition this will be done by the Men's Captain and the Club Secretary neither of whom will then participate in the competition.*

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 **for the lower handicapped player and 21+ the handicap difference for the higher.**
- 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.

Note: Markers are to be taken from the approved list on the notice board

(vi) 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

Note: Markers are to be taken from the approved list on the notice board

(vii) Men's Two Wood Singles

- An open singles competition for men.
- The draw shall be made on a completely random basis.
- **The match will be played over 21 ends. If the match is tied then an extra end is to be played to determine the winner.**
- Two bowls each player.

(viii) Ladies' Two Wood Singles

- An open singles competition for ladies.
- The draw shall be made on a completely random basis.
- **The match will be played over 21 ends. If the match is tied then an extra end is to be played to determine the winner.**
- Two bowls each player.

(ix) 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 18 ends except for the final which shall be 21 ends. If the match is tied then an extra end is to be played to determine the winner**

(x) 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 18 ends except for the final which shall be 21 ends. If the match is tied then an extra end is to be played to determine the winner.**

(xi) 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 18 ends except for the final which shall be 21 ends. If the match is tied then an extra end is to be played to determine the winner.**

(xii) 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 - Handicap Assessment

Maximum for any player 7 points

COUNTY BADGED PLAYERS		3 points ad. Infin.
REGISTERED 'A' Team players		3 points as long as they are registered as 'A' Team
CLUB COMPETITION TROPHY WINNERS		
CHAMPIONSHIP	Winner	2 points for 3 years (Reducing to 1 point thereafter)
	Runner up	1 point (Cancelling after 1 year.)
TWO WOOD SINGLES	Winner	2 points (Cancelling after 2 years)
	Runners up	1 point (Cancelling after 1 year)
STOCKTON	Winner	2 points (Cancelling after 2 years)
	Runners up	1 point (Cancelling after 1 year)
HANDICAP	Winner	2 points (Cancelling after 2 years)
	Runners up	1 point (Cancelling after 1 year)

If a player wins a trophy 2 years running, that player will carry 4 points in the second year reducing to 2 the following year before being dropped altogether in line with above.

NOTE: In 2022 The 'A' Team criterion for the 2020 and 2021 seasons will not be included and only results for the trophies played in 2019 and 2021 will be included.

Handicap Version 2 April 2022

Document Updates

Created 27-04-17

Updated 02-05-17

Updated 05-09-17

Updated 13-11-17

Updated 23-04-18

Updated 04-03-20

Updated 12-04-22