

SCHEDULE 5

COMPETITION RULES

1 National Championships

1.1 County Championships leading to National Championships shall be administered by the County Association under the Rules and Regulations of Bowls England and in accordance with the current Laws of the Sport of Bowls.

1.2 All County Championships leading to National Championships shall be played either on weekdays in the evenings with a start time no earlier than 6pm or at weekends. For weekday games an earlier start may be arranged by mutual agreement between competitors, but in the absence of mutual agreement the start time of no earlier than 6pm will be adhered to.

1.3 A competitor shall not enter any competition under an assumed name, nor shall they represent or allow their name to be submitted by more than one Club in any one year.

1.4 The National Championships, hereinafter defined as Major Competitions, shall comprise:

- Singles
- Pairs
- Triples
- Fours
- Over 55 Fours
- Junior Singles
- Two Wood Singles
- Junior Pairs

All others are **Minor Competitions**.

1.5 It is a condition of entry that, on qualifying, players are expected to play in the National and County Finals of the Championship entered. (See also Rule 6.2).

1.6 Players selected for approved international or County duties, together with Officers and Officials on duty with the England or Devon teams, must be allowed to play in all stages of County Championships leading to National Championships should dates clash.

1.7 Should a club cease to exist after the entry date, the members may be permitted, for one season only, to compete under the name of that club irrespective of which club or clubs they have joined.

1.8 Fixed groundsheets are acceptable for National Championships/Competitions; however portable/moveable groundsheets are prohibited.

2 Championship Format

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

2.2 Singles

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

2.3 Pairs (Two players from the same club)

Each game shall consist of 21 ends - four bowls each player.

2.4 Triples (Three players from the same club)

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

2.5a Fours (Four players from the same club)

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

2.5b Over 55 Fours (Four players from the same club)

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

The Championship shall be open to all Members of Clubs affiliated to Bowls England who have attained their 55th birthday on 1st April in the year of the Championship.

2.6 Two-Wood Singles

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

2.7 Junior Singles

Each game shall consist of 21 shots - four bowls each player. The Championships shall be open to all Members of Clubs affiliated to Bowls England who have not attained their 25th birthday on 1 April in the year of the Championship.

2.8 Junior Pairs

Each game shall consist of 18 ends - four bowls each player. The Championships shall be open to all Members of Clubs affiliated to Bowls England who have not attained their 25th birthday on 1 April in the year of the Championship. The two players may belong to separate clubs within Devon, so long as both clubs are affiliated to Bowls England.

3 Dress Code:

3.1 The dress code in all rounds of County Championships leading to the final stages of the National Championships shall be as stipulated by the County Association having regard to BE Regulations 50.5.1.1 and 50.5.1.2. **All reference to white shoes, shirts, waterproofs etc should read predominately white shoes, shirts, waterproofs etc.**

3.2 Dress specific for men will be grey or white trousers and white, club or county shirts and for ladies, dress will be grey or white regulation skirt, culottes, and tailored trousers or tailored cropped trousers, white, club or county shirt provided that all members of the side or team wear the same and that the design of the clothing has been registered to the County/Bowls England.

3.3 Players wishing to wear shorts should note that only shorts bearing the Bowls England logo will be allowed in events under the jurisdiction of Bowls England. In team games, all players must wear the same colour below the waist.

3.4 Head gear, if worn, should be white or a registered colour.

3.5 White waterproof clothing may be used, or, providing all members of a side wear the same, registered colour waterproof/fleeces are permitted.

3.6 Brown, white or grey flat soled shoes will be worn on the green. Sandals will not be permitted in events under the jurisdiction of Bowls England, except in medical circumstances where a doctor's note has been provided.

4 Bowls

4.1 In the early stages when no umpire is present, the onus of checking the date stamp on bowls rests with the opposing player or players concerned.

4.2 All bowls used shall be stamped in compliance with the current Laws of the Sport of Bowls, Crystal Mark Edition.

5 Substitutes

5.1 In Pairs, Triples and Fours, the players taking part in the first game shall constitute the team and shall normally play together throughout the Championship.

5.2 One additional, and the same player, may be used as a substitute at any time provided that they have not been named in a team or have already played in that competition. They may play in any position.

5.3 The named entrant conceding a walkover before their first game in any championship cannot act as a substitute, as this is considered a game played and lost.

5.4 If a substitute is required during a game then the rules in the Laws of the Sport of Bowls apply.

5.5 In the event of any substitution, the Section Competition Secretary or, where appropriate, the Ladies or Men's Administrator, shall be informed. Opposing players shall be told of the substitution before play commences.

5.6 In all Pairs, Triples and Fours Competitions, a player who has not withdrawn his/her entry prior to the date of the Section draw shall be ineligible to play as a member of another entry or act as substitute.

5.7 A player who is a member of two or more Clubs shall not enter or allow their name to be submitted from more than one Club in County Competitions. A player who enters any of the individual County Competitions may only represent that same Club in the Ladies Inter Club Two Fours Competition and Grace Mathews Top Club

Competition and in the Men's County Trophy, Foxlands Two Fours and Top Club Competitions.

5.8 A player who has entered the County Singles Competition and then transfers to another Club during the close season shall be eligible to continue that Competition if transferring to a Club within the same Section.

5.9 A Pair/Triple/Four who have entered the County Competitions and then transfer **EN BLOC** during the close season shall be eligible to continue in their Competitions if they transfer to a Club within the same Section. They will, however, not be allowed to act as a substitute in any other Pairs/Triples/Fours entry.

5.10 A player as in 5.8 or a player transferring to another Club during the playing season shall be eligible to play for his/her new Club in the Ladies Inter Club Two Fours Competition and the Grace Mathews Top Club Competition and the Men's County Trophy, Foxlands Cup Two Fours and Top Club Competitions.

5.11 A player transferring to another Club during the playing season shall not be eligible to play for his/her new Club if he/she has already played in any of the Competitions referred to in 5.10 above.

5.12 If a player resigns from a Club after reaching the qualifying stages of the County Competitions, so long as he/she has not been affiliated to a new Club, he/she can still play for the old Club at the Finals. If, however, an affiliation fee has been transferred to his/her new Club then he/she cannot play for his/her old Club.

6 **General**

6.1 All competitors in National Championships must have paid affiliation fees through their Club for the current year.

6.2 Should a player not take their place in a match in the last 16 of a Major Competition, or subsequent rounds in the case of a National Championship, or the last eight of a Minor Competition, they shall not be permitted to play in the like Competition during the following Season unless a reasonable explanation be accepted by the Competition Committee, for such non appearance.

6.3 In all Pairs, Triples and Fours Competitions, the Pair, Triple and Four shall be named, in full, to the Section Competition Secretary by 1 October.

6.4 Players may concede at any stage of any match. However, matches must be conceded where it is not mathematically possible for the opponent to win.

6.5 Players should report at the prescribed time and place and comply with the guidance relating to "slow play".

6.6 Entrance fees, prizes, dates for the close of Sectional play and dates and venues of Quarter Finals and Semi Finals, shall be determined by the Competitions Committee annually.

6.7 Within Section play only, competitors must be prepared to play up to three rounds per day in any competition (except the Two Wood Singles Competition where competitors may be required to play four games), at the discretion of the Section Competition Secretary/person running the green. No more than two games shall be played on a set date in the Over 70s Pairs Competition. A minimum break of 30 minutes shall be allowed between games in all Competitions, other than by mutual agreement of the players concerned.

6.8 In Competitions using play by dates, the Challenger shall offer three dates to their opponent, one of which shall be a weekend. The time for commencing a match shall be mutually agreed but no player/team shall be compelled to accept a time earlier than 6.00 pm Monday - Friday or 3.00 pm on Saturdays or Sundays and not later than 6.30 pm on any day.

6.9 If a player/team fails to appear and be ready to play within 15 minutes after the agreed time for the tie, the opponent/team may claim a "walk over". The period of grace is extended to 30 minutes in the Ladies Inter Club and Grace Mathews Top Club Competitions.

6.10 Smoking on the green will be prohibited during all rounds leading to National Championship Finals including the use of electronic cigarettes.

6.11 The use of mobile phones whilst playing is prohibited.

6.12 Trial ends are permitted in all Competitions in all rounds.

7 Minor Competitions - Men

7.1 The following County Competitions will all have HOME advantage at the Quarter Final Stage:

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

7.3 THE GRATER PAIRS COMPETITION

Each game shall consist of 21 ends - four bowls each player. Each Pair shall be members of the same affiliated club.

7.4 OVER 60s SINGLES COMPETITION

21 shots up - four bowls each player. For players who have attained their 60th birthday on 1 April in the year of the competition.

7.5 UNBADGED PAIRS COMPETITION

21 ends - four bowls each player. Once a player has satisfied the requirements of Schedule 7 Rule 1.1 he shall not be eligible to play in the Unbadged Pairs Competition. A player who declines to play in a Senior County game will not be allowed to play in the Competition.

7.6 UNBADGED TRIPLES COMPETITION

18 ends - three bowls each player. Once a player has satisfied the requirements of Schedule 7 Rule 1.1 he shall not be eligible to play in the Unbadged Triples

Competition. A player who declines to play in a Senior County game will not be allowed to play in the Competition.

8 Minor Competitions - Ladies

8.1 The following County Competitions will all have HOME advantage at the Quarter Final Stage:

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

8.3 UNBADGED SINGLES COMPETITION

21 shots up – four bowls each player. Entry is confined to any member of Bowls Devon who has not achieved a County Badge. Once a player has satisfied the requirements of Schedule 7 Rule 1.1 she shall not be eligible to play in the Unbadged Singles Competition.

8.4 OVER 55s SINGLES COMPETITION

21 shots up – four bowls each player. For players who have attained their 55th birthday on 1 April in the year of the Competition.

8.5 UNBADGED PAIRS COMPETITION

21 ends - four bowls each player. Once a player has satisfied the requirements of Schedule 7 Rule 1.1 she shall not be eligible to play in the Unbadged Pairs Competition.

8.6 OVER 55s PAIRS COMPETITION

Each game shall consist of 21 ends - four bowls each player.

For players who have attained their 55th birthday on 1 April in the year of the competition. Players must belong to the same Club.

8.7 OVER 70s PAIRS COMPETITION

Each game shall consist of 18 ends - four bowls each player.

For players who have attained their 70th birthday on 1 April in the year of the competition. Players must belong to the same Club.

8.8 BENEVOLENT TRIPLES COMPETITION

Each game shall consist of 18 ends – three bowls each player.

8.9 TWO WOOD TRIPLES COMPETITION

Each game shall consist of 18 ends – two bowls each player.

9 Other County Competitions

9.1 COUNTY TROPHY (Men's Club Team Championship)

Each game shall consist of 21 ends - four rinks of four players - two bowls each player. Open to one entry from each Affiliated Club. Each team must play with the full quota

of bowlers. Only in exceptional circumstances will less than 16 players be allowed and this will be limited to one player only. In this event the rink with one player short will lose 25% of their final score. If a team is more than one person short that team shall forfeit the game. The playing format of this Competition shall be determined by individual Sections and each of the Sections shall play to a winner.

Each Section shall put forward two qualifiers. The Section's top team shall be designated "A" and the runner up "B". Eight matches shall be played on the morning of the Round of 16 with the winners making up the four Quarter Finals in the afternoon. The draw will be made "A" versus "B" but "A" and "B" teams from the same Section will not be drawn against each other in the Round of 16.

Following play in the Sections, remaining matches shall be played on nominated greens as determined by the Competition Committee. In the event of a tie from the Round of the last 16 onwards, all rinks shall play extra ends until a winner is determined.

In the event of a match not being completed owing to exceptional weather conditions, if the number of ends played equals or exceeds 48, the match will be deemed to have been completed and the scores will stand. In matches where the total number of ends played is less than 48, the match will be declared null and void and replayed at a later date. Ends commenced but not completed shall not count.

On a resumed game only two substitutes may be used.

9.2 MEN'S TWO FOURS COMPETITION (Foxlands Cup)

Each game shall consist of 21 ends - two teams of four players - two bowls each player. Open to one entry from each Affiliated Club. One rink shall play on the home green and, simultaneously, one rink shall play on the opponents green. Each team must play with the full quota of eight players. Any less will mean disqualification.

The result of the game shall be decided on the total scores of both the home and away rinks. In the event of a tie, the result shall be decided by the total scores on the twentieth end or, if the scores are still tied, by the total scores on the nineteenth end. Should this still fail to provide a result, the game shall be replayed.

Each of the Sections shall play to a winner on a knock-out basis.

The Semi Final and Final shall be played on a nominated green as determined by the Competition Committee. In the event of a tie in the Semi Final or Final, both rinks shall play extra ends until a winner is determined.

In the event of a match not being completed owing to exceptional weather conditions, if the number of ends played equals or exceeds 24, the match will be deemed to have been completed and the scores will stand. In matches where the total number of ends played is less than 24, the match will be declared null and void and replayed at a later date. Ends commenced but not completed shall not count.

9.3 CORONATION CUP (Men's Inter Sectional Team Competition)

Each Section taking part in the Competition shall be represented by a team of four rinks of four players - two bowls each player - selected by the Section.

In the event of a tie from the Quarter Final stage onwards, all rinks shall play extra ends until a winner is determined.

In the event of a match not being completed owing to exceptional weather conditions, if the number of ends played equals or exceeds 48, the match will be deemed to have been completed and the scores will stand. In matches where the total number of ends played is less than 48, the match will be declared null and void and replayed at a later date. Ends commenced but not completed shall not count.

On a resumed game only two substitutes may be used.

9.4 MEN'S TOP CLUB COMPETITION

Open to one entry from each affiliated Club. Each game shall be played by a team of 11 players on each side. The Competition must be played as a five event game. Any less than the full quota of players will mean disqualification. A side shall consist of players in the following events:

- Two Wood Singles (21 shots)
- Four Wood Singles (21 shots)
- Four Wood Pairs (21 ends)
- Triples (18 ends)
- Fours (21 ends)

All players shall be present at the agreed start time. Before the commencement of the match, the nominated captains shall toss a coin to decide the choice of jack for the first and extra end (if required), such decision to apply to all five events; make the draw for rinks for each discipline and decide if the two Singles matches will be played on the same rink, one after the other. If not, all disciplines will commence at the same time. Each discipline will be played to a result – no drawn matches. The winning side will be the one winning the most disciplines.

9.5 LADIES TOP CLUB COMPETITION (Grace Mathews)

Although Clubs are allowed to enter more than one team, if a Club has more than one entry the team and two reserves must be named and players are not interchangeable from team to team. The Ladies Administrator and the Section Competition Secretary (who shall receive all scorecards within her Section) must be advised of the 13 players named, in writing, before the first game is played.

All players shall be present at the agreed start time. Before the commencement of the match, the nominated captains shall toss a coin to decide the choice of jack for the first and extra end (if required), such decision to apply to all five events; make the draw for rinks for each discipline and decide if the two Singles matches will be played on the same rink, one after the other. If not, all disciplines will commence at the same time. Each discipline will be played to a result - no drawn matches. The winning side will be the one winning the most disciplines. A side shall consist of players in the following events:

- Two Wood Singles (21 ends)

Four Wood Singles (21 shots)
Four Wood Pairs (21 ends)
Triples (18 ends)
Fours (21 ends)

Where a game has to be arranged between two Clubs, the CHALLENGER shall make all the arrangements. Each of the eight Sections shall play to a winner on a knock-out basis. After completion of play in the Sections, remaining matches shall be played on dates set by the Competition Committee on a knock-out basis.

On a resumed game (due to either weather or illness) only TWO substitute players may be used. Should a Club be unable to compete with the full team of eleven players plus two reserves, and for varying reasons only have ten ladies available to honour the fixture, then one of the Singles disciplines may be given to the opponents and the four other disciplines played to determine a result. If, in exceptional circumstances, a Club is unable to field the ten players necessary the game must be given to the other Club.

9.6 LADIES INTER CLUB COMPETITION

Each game shall consist of 21 ends - two teams of four players – two bowls each player on a neutral green midway between the two Clubs. An Open Draw Competition involving all participating teams. The CHALLENGER shall make all the arrangements. Each team must play with the full quota of eight players. Any less will mean disqualification.

The venue for the Semi Finals and Final shall be arranged by the Competition Committee. In the event of a tie, in all Rounds, both rinks shall play extra ends until a winner is determined. If a Club has more than one entry, the team and two reserves must be named and are not interchangeable from team to team. The Ladies Administrator must be informed of the names of the ten players for each team, in writing, before the first game is played. For daytime play Dress shall be WHITES and for evening play GREYS. On a resumed game (due to either weather or illness) only TWO substitute players may be used.

In the event of a match not being completed owing to exceptional weather conditions, if the number of ends played equals or exceeds 24, the match will be deemed to have been completed and the scores will stand. In matches where the total number of ends played is less than 24, the match will be declared null and void and replayed at a later date. Ends commenced but not completed shall not count.

9.7 LADIES INTERSECTION TEAM COMPETITION (Jubilee Trophy)

Each Section taking part in the Competition shall be represented by a team of four fours - two bowls each player - selected by the Section.

In the event of a match not being completed owing to exceptional weather conditions, if the number of ends played equals or exceeds 48, the match will be deemed to have been completed and the scores will stand. In matches where the total number of ends played is less than 48, the match will be declared null and void and replayed at a later date. Ends commenced but not completed shall not count.

10 Mixed Competitions

10.1 BURMA STAR MIXED TRIPLES COMPETITION

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

Entry shall be by members of the same Affiliated Club and shall include at least one male and one female. **Where a Club has no lady members, the lady players may be from another Club within the same Section.** Substitution: the three players taking part in the first match constitutes the original team and shall normally play together throughout the competition. One and the same male and/or one and the same female player may be used as a substitute at any time, providing that they have not already played or entered the Competition. However, at least one of the original triple must play in every Round.

10.2 MIXED PAIRS COMPETITION

Each game shall consist of 21 ends – four bowls each player.

Entry to consist of one male and one female of the same Affiliated Club. **Where a Club has no lady members, the lady player may be from another Club within the same Section.** Substitution: the two players taking part in the first match constitutes the original team and shall normally play together throughout the Competition. One and the same male and/or one and the same female player may be used as a substitute at any time, providing that they have not already played or entered the Competition. However, at least one of the original pair must play in every Round.

11 Play Interruptions

11.1 ALL OTHER COMPETITIONS (including TOP CLUB)

In the event of a match not being completed owing to exceptional weather conditions, if five ends have been completed the match should be continued on a different day with the scores and ends being as they were when the match was stopped. If an end has started but all the required bowls have not been played, it should be declared dead. The end should be declared dead even if one or more players choose to remain on the green during the stoppage. Should five ends not have been completed, the match should be declared dead and replayed on a different day. If any of the original players in a team are not available on the new date, two substitutes will be allowed. Players, however, cannot be transferred from one team to another.

12 Disputes

12.1 All disputes shall be referred to the appropriate Ladies or Men's Competition Committee.