



COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS REGULATIONS 2020

1. ENTRIES

Entries to the various competitions must be made through Club Secretaries, and be forwarded, together with all Entrance Fees, to the Men's County Treasurer by the date shown on the Entry Form. The entrance fee for competitions will be that determined by Bowls Durham from time to time.

Each entry shall be made by one named player only, and that player shall be excluded from being a substitute in the same discipline. Should the named entrant in a County Championship event be unable to participate from the outset in the Championship due to exceptional circumstances, the team may request the use of an additional player if required (in addition to the original players that formed the team in the first match). Such a request must be made in writing to Bowls England via the County Association for consideration.

2. ELIGIBILITY AND USE OF SUBSTITUTES IN COUNTY COMPETITIONS

"In order to ensure that the County can confirm that all members of a particular team/s for which an entry is being submitted into a competition/s are affiliated members of Bowls England and are members of the club from which an entry is being made, in accordance with the closing date for entries, all entry forms, apart from the Singles Competitions, must bear the names of all players entered into a particular competition discipline. (For example, a Fours entry must contain the names of all four players etc.)

Any named entrant of a Team cannot be a member or substitute of any team in the same championship discipline."

The Competitors shall be confined to bona fide members who's Clubs have paid their subscriptions for the current year. No restriction shall be placed upon any member playing in more than one Competition, but no player shall enter any of the Competitions from more than one Club in any one season. All players in any Four or Triple and both players in any pair shall be members of the same Club.

Players entering the Bowls Durham County Championships Competition must be members of the Club, from which such entry is submitted, by 30th September, of the year preceding that in which the Championships are held. Substitutes used in the County Championships Competition must have been bona fide members of the club from which the entries have been made since at least 1st May in the year in which the Championships are held. Players whose membership of the club commenced subsequent to 1st May are therefore not eligible as substitutes in the Championships held that year. **Substitutes:** In pairs, triples and fours competition any team conceding the first tie will be considered to have 'played' in the Competition and therefore no member of that team may be used as a substitute for another team in that competition, their concession having influenced the competition in that their opponents have progressed to the next round.

3. CONDITIONS

a) The Competitions shall be played under the Rules of Bowls England, and shall be under the management of the Men's County Management Committee.

b) All Ties shall be played only upon greens as defined in the Laws of the Sport.

c) All Semi-finals and Finals to be played in whites. Club coloured shirts may be worn provided all members of the side wear the same colour and provided that the design and colour of the shirts has been registered by the Club with, approved by the County Association. All shirts regardless of colour must not be collarless. Anyone not conforming to these conditions will be disqualified from the competition.

d) The consumption of alcohol at any time during any stages of any County Competition or Championship Match either on the green or within its environs is **Strictly Forbidden**. Similarly in accordance with Bowls England and County Rules and Regulations smoking on the green is not permitted and only designated smoking areas shall be used. Anyone not conforming to these conditions will be disqualified from the competition.

4. STAGES OF THE COMPETITION

The Competitions shall be played in stages as follows:-

First Stage - For this stage the County shall be divided into Districts as from time to time determined by the Management Committee. In all Districts, entrants shall be drawn together, and with the exception of the Finals - which must be played on neutral greens, shall play off in rounds upon the green of the Single, Pair, Triple and Four first drawn.

In all Districts, for the First Stage, the Competitions shall be under the control of the District Secretaries, who shall make the draw on a round by round basis, select or agree the neutral greens for the respective Finals, and, be solely responsible for the completion of the stage by the dates shown on the Draw Sheets.

Second Stage - For this stage the total of 16 qualifiers from the Districts, with the proviso that every District is guaranteed at least one entry into the Second Stage of the Singles, Pairs, Triples and Fours Competitions, will be drawn together and the rounds shall be played on neutral greens with the exception of the Semi-finals and Quarter Finals. The Quarter-finals to be played on pre selected greens and on a date fixed by the Competition Secretary in consultation with the Men's Management Committee. County Officials, Markers and Umpires to be in attendance. The County Finals will be played on the green of the Men's President of Bowls Durham's choice.

Note: Where greens do not comply with the Rules of Bowls England, or are not in reasonable playing condition, the Men's Management Committee shall appoint a neutral green on which the game shall be played. The Men's Management Committee may delegate its powers for competitive purposes to the County or District Secretaries.

If any competitor(s) consider(s) that any rink(s) of his/their opponent(s) green on which the match is to be played does not comply with the above requirements they should not commence the game. They must then refer the issue to the County Competition Secretary for adjudication and arbitration in consultation with the County Secretary/District Secretaries. This may involve a visit to the green.

Should this procedure be not followed and the game is played then any subsequent claim under this rule will not be considered. (Also see Rule 9b).

5. ANNOUNCEMENT OF DRAWS

Stage 1 - The draws for the Junior Singles, Two Bowl, Singles, Pairs, Triples and Fours Competitions will be communicated to the Club Secretaries, by the District Secretaries.

Stage 2 - The draws of the Second Stage of above-named Competitions, with dates for playing will be made and published by Bowls Durham.

6. PERIODS OF ROUNDS

The closing dates of the various Rounds will be shown, for the 1st Stage on the District Draw Sheets, and for the 2nd Stage in the Official County publication. The dates shown must be strictly adhered to.

7. DUTIES OF CHALLENGER AND OPPONENT

a) The first drawn of each Junior Single, Two Bowl, Single, Champion of Champions Pair, Triple and Four shall be termed the "Challenger", and the second the "Opponent".

b) The Challenger shall offer his Opponent at least two dates, neither of which shall be the last day of the period of the round, nor be on the same day as either an international and/or county match fixture, if the Opponent is involved in the County or International fixture, either as a player, reserve or acting as an official. A Sunday shall not be one of the two dates offered, but games may be played on a Sunday by mutual agreement. Games will not commence before 6p.m. and not later than 7p.m. except by mutual agreement.

c) The Opponent shall, within 48 hours of the receipt of the challenge, reply accepting one of the dates offered and shall be responsible in the second stage of the Competition, for booking a rink on the neutral green, allocated by the Men's Management Committee.

d) It shall be the duty of the 'Opponent' in ALL Singles matches up to and including the quarter finals to ensure a competent 'Marker' is available.

e) A Challenger or an Opponent failing to comply with (b) or (c) above shall be scratched upon the successful application of the opposite party, and failing such application before the last day of the period of the round, both parties shall be scratched.

f) No alteration of an accepted date shall be made unless mutually agreed on. Failing such agreement the party desiring such alteration must give the other party a "walk-over".

g) If a player/team fails to appear and be ready to play within 30 minutes of the agreed start time, the other player / team may claim a "walk-over". (Challenges and acceptances should be made in writing to furnish evidence in the event of a dispute).

8. NOTIFICATION OF RESULTS

The results of ties must be communicated to the District Secretary for the first stage and the Men's County Competitions Secretary for the second stage, immediately after the match. The onus of making such return shall lie with the winner, and the result should be sent on the same day as the game is played.

9. QUESTIONS AND DISPUTES

- a) The Men's Management Committee shall determine all questions and disputes that may arise and which do not come within the scope of Markers and/or Umpires duties. The decision of the Committee shall be final and binding.
- b) No appeals against the condition of the playing surface or "banks" and ditches of any green will be considered if the game has been started. All Bowls used in Competition or County Matches must be stamped in accordance with Bowls England Rules and Regulations, and should be produced for inspection by Umpires or by players in opposing teams, if desired.

10. DEFAULT

Any Competitor in default of the Rules of the Competitions will be excluded from taking part in the County Championships for that year. Any defaulter so eliminated from the Competition shall be banned from the County Championships in the following season, at the discretion of the Men's Management Committee. Under no circumstances can player(s) beaten by in-eligible player(s) be re-introduced into the Competition.

Competitors are especially requested to play off their ties, and to make returns, as early as possible in order that there may be no delay in publishing the next round.

11. COUNTY COLOURS AND RECOGNITION

Colours - White shoes, white trousers, dark blue blazer or traveling jacket/shirt, or at the discretion of the Men's Management Committee in circumstances as may be determined from time to time by that Committee.

Recognition - Full County blazer badges will be awarded on a points system. Qualifying number of points, nine. 'A' Team game, 3 points. 'A' Team Reserve in attendance 1.5 points. 'B' Team game 1.5 points 'B' Team Reserve in attendance 1 point.

County Badges will be awarded for playing four U25 Team games. Any player or players winning a County Championship will be awarded a County Playing Shirt for use in the National and Northern Counties Championships and points equivalent to one "A".

Any player or players being a losing Finalist in a County Championship will be awarded a County Playing Shirt and points equivalent to one 'B'. For the purpose of the above Rule an 'A' game shall be a Middleton or Muras Cup game. A 'B' game shall be an Alsop Trophy game.

It shall be the prerogative of the Executive Committee on the recommendation of the Management Committee to award full County Blazer Badges or County ties in special circumstances.

Members of a County Touring Party and/or playing for County Presidential Team are allowed to purchase a County Tie.

12. SMOKING.

This is not permitted on the green or its environs at any time.

13. BOWLS.

All bowls used in the Competitions must comply with the provisions and requirements of Bowls England Regulation 6.1 to 6.3 inclusive.