



WOMEN'S COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS RULES & REGULATIONS

(any changes are highlighted in yellow)

1. ENTRIES

Entries to the various competitions must be made through the club secretaries and be forwarded, together with the entry fees, to the Bowls Durham Ladies Treasurer by the date shown on the entry form. The entry fee 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 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

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

All competitors in National Championships must have paid affiliation fees through their club 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 Pairs, Triples or Fours Championship shall be members of the same club. Players entering the Championships 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 Championships must be bona fide members of the club from which the entries have been made before 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.

Under no circumstances can a player/s beaten by an ineligible player/s be reinstated into the competition.

SUBSTITUTION 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. One additional, and the same player, may be used as a substitute at any time provided they have not already played in the Championship. They may play in any position. 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

The competitions shall be played under the Rules of Bowls England and shall be under the management of Bowls Durham Ladies Management Committee. All ties shall be played only upon greens as defined in the Laws of the Sport of Bowls. 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. BOWLS

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. For rounds leading to the final stages of the National Championships, refer to Regulation 2 of the Bowls England Domestic Regulations in the Laws of the Sport of Bowls current edition.

5. INTERNATIONALS

Players selected for approved International duties, together with officials on duty with the England teams, must be allowed to play in all stages of County Championships leading to National Championships should dates clash.

6. DEFAULTS

If a player/team fails to appear and be ready to play within 30 minutes after the agreed time for the tie, the opponent may claim a "walk-over". If both sides default, the match shall be scratched altogether.

7. GREEN DISPUTES

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

If any competitor/team considers that the rink of their opponent's green on which the match is to be played does not comply with the above requirement, she/they should not commence the game. She/they must refer the issue to the County Competitions Secretary for adjudication and arbitration in consultation with the County/District Secretary. This may involve a visit to the green. Should this procedure not be followed and the game is played then any subsequent claim under this rule will not be considered. 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.

8. QUESTIONS AND DISPUTES

The Women's Management Committee shall determine all questions and disputes that may arise and which do not come within the scope of marker and/or umpire duties. The decision of the Committee shall be final and binding.

9. Smoking on the green will be prohibited during all rounds of National competitions. Failure to adhere to this will result in disqualification. This includes all electronic cigarettes.

10. Championship Format leading to Leamington

a) Singles

Each game shall consist of 21 shots – 4 bowls each player.

b) Pairs (*Two players from the same club*)

Each game shall consist of 21 ends – four bowls each player. In the event of the scores being equal when all ends have been played, an extra end or ends must be played until a decision is reached.

c) Triples (*Three players from the same club*)

Each game shall consist of 18 ends – three bowls each player. In the event of the scores being equal when all ends have been played, an extra end or ends must be played until a decision is reached.

d) Fours (*Four players from the same club*)

Each game shall consist of 21 ends – two bowls each player. In the event of the scores being equal when all ends have been played, an extra end or ends must be played until a decision is reached.

The four Championships above shall be played on a knock-out basis on fixed dates which will be consecutive Mondays or Wednesdays up to and including the quarter-finals. The starting time will be 2.30pm. This time is flexible and can be changed by mutual agreement to a time no later than 6pm. If necessary, working ladies must be allowed a start time of up to and including 6pm which will allow her/them to play her/their match after work.

If, for some valid reason, a player or team is not able to play on a specified date, the game may be played at an earlier date by mutual consent.

If, on the specified date, a green is unplayable due to inclement weather, the game must be played as early as possible before the date of the next round. If a game has started and then stopped because of weather conditions or any other valid reason, the game should be continued and completed as soon as possible before the date of the next round. The scores will be as they were when the game was stopped. If an end has started but all the required bowls have not been played, it should be declared dead. No extension will be granted whatsoever.

The challenger (whose name appears first in the draw) shall have the choice of green and will be responsible for all match arrangements. Green fees will be paid by the challenger up to and including quarter-finals. Semi-finals and final will be played on the green chosen by the President of Bowls Durham Ladies. Times and greens of semi-finals and final will be arranged by the Women's Management Committee.

e) Junior Singles

Each game shall consist of 21 shots – four bowls each. The Championship shall be open to members of clubs affiliated to Bowls England who have not attained their 25th birthday on the 1st April in the year of the Championship.

f) Junior Pairs

Each game shall consist of 18 ends – four bowls each player. In the event of the scores being equal when all ends have been played, an extra end or ends must be played until a decision is reached. The Championship shall be open to members of clubs affiliated to Bowls England who have not attained their 25th birthday on the 1st April in the year of the Championship. The two players may belong to separate clubs within the same county so long as both clubs are affiliated to Bowls England.

g) Senior Fours

Each game shall consist of 21 ends, two bowls each player. In the event of a tie an extra end or ends must be played, the shots of which are to count in the final score until a decision is reached.

Each member of the team must have reached their 55th birthday by 1st April in the year of the competition..

In the three above Championships, the challenger shall have the choice of green and will be responsible for all match arrangements including rink fees up to and including the quarter- finals. The challenger must offer their opponent at least three dates for play, one of which must be a Saturday or a Sunday. Semi-finals and final will be played on the green chosen by the President of Bowls Durham Ladies. Times and greens will be arranged by the Women's Management Committee. **Dress** – For the six championships above, the dress code for games up to and including quarter-finals is as Bowls England Regulation No.50: Law 5.1.2. For the semi-finals and final, dress will be predominantly white.

g) Two-Wood Singles

Each game shall consist of 21 ends – two bowls each player. In the event of the scores being equal when all ends have been played, an extra end or ends must be played until a decision is reached. This competition is played on a knock-out basis and completed over one day (or possibly two days if the number of entrants is high), the date/s being decided by the Executive Committee. Dress is predominately white.

11. Qualifiers for National Championships – see Bowls England Regulation 50 Law 3 Rules and Regulations of Bowls

Durham Ladies Competitions Double Rink Competition

1. This is a knockout competition which is open to all clubs affiliated to Bowls Durham and Bowls England.
2. Each club shall be represented by a side consisting of 2 rinks of 4 players, all of whom shall be affiliated members of the same club. No player shall play for more than one club in this competition in any one year.
3. Failure to field 8 players will result in a walk-over.
4. The match will consist of 21 ends, 2 bowls each player. Before the commencement of the match, the nominated managers will toss a coin for choice of jack (first end), the winner having the choice of keeping or giving the jack away. The managers will then toss a coin to nominate which rink will play the extra end. This must be declared prior to the match commencing. A further toss of coin for choice of jack (extra end) should one be needed. The winner has the option to make the choice immediately after the 21st end has been played.
5. The number of shots on both rinks will determine the result. In the event of a tie after 21 ends, an extra end will be played by the nominated rink to determine the overall winner.
6. In the event of the green becoming unplayable due to inclement weather, matches in which the total number of ends played equals or exceeds 24 will be deemed to have been completed and the score will stand. In matches where the total number of ends played is less than 24, the tie will be deemed to be void and the match will be replayed at a later date unless a result is mutually agreed. When a match is stopped, play will cease on both rinks simultaneously and ends commenced but not competed shall be declared null and void.
7. Dress will be club colours.
8. The time for commencing a match shall be mutually agreed but no later than 6 pm on any day.
9. If a player has to leave the green during the course of a game due to illness or some other reasonable cause, and they cannot return within ten minutes, a substitute can be used. The substitute should play in any position other than skip and the other members of the team can rearrange their positions as necessary.

Australian Pairs

1. This is a Pairs Competition which is open to all members of clubs affiliated to Bowls Durham and Bowls England. It is played on a date set by the Women's Management Committee. The competition may need to be played over two days if the number of entries is high.
2. The two players in the pairs must be affiliated members of the same club.
3. The first part of the competition will be played on a round-robin basis. Each team will play three games of 7 ends with each player bowling 4 woods. In the event of inclement weather, the number of ends played may be reduced. If a team withdraws during the round-robin stage, its points will be deducted and the teams in the group will receive 2 points plus a shots difference which will be dependent on the number of ends played in each round.
4. The latter part of the competition will be played on a knockout basis.
5. Dress will be club colours

Two-wood Triples

1. This is a one-day Triples Competition which is open to all members of clubs affiliated to Bowls Durham and Bowls England. It is played on a date set by the Women's Management Committee.
2. The three players must be affiliated members of the same club.
3. The first part of the competition will be played on a round-robin basis. Each team will play three games of 8 ends with each player bowling two woods. In the event of inclement weather, the number of ends played may be reduced. If a team withdraws during the round-robin stage, its points will be deducted and the teams in the group will receive 2 points plus a shots difference which will be dependent on the number of ends played in each round.
4. The latter part of the competition will be played on a knockout basis.
5. Dress will be club colours

Norma Shaw Competition

1. This is a one-day Pairs Competition which is open to all members of clubs affiliated to Bowls Durham and Bowls England. It is played on a date set by the Women's Management Committee.
2. The two players in the pairs need not necessarily be members of the same club.
3. The first part of the competition will be played on a round-robin basis. Each team will play three games of 8 ends with each player bowling 3 woods. In the event of inclement weather, the number of ends played may be reduced. If a team withdraws during the round-robin stage, its points will be deducted and the teams in the group will receive 2 points plus a shots difference which will be dependent on the number of ends played in each round.
4. The latter part of the competition will be played on a knockout basis.
5. Dress will be club colours.

Secretaries and Treasurers Competition

1. This is a one-day 4-wood Singles Competition which is open to Secretaries and Treasurers of clubs affiliated to Bowls Durham.
2. The number of ends played in each game will be determined by the number of entrants.
3. Club colours will be worn.

Bowls Durham Ladies Champion of Champions

1. The competition shall be open to all clubs affiliated to Bowls Durham and Bowls England.
2. Players eligible to enter are as follows:- Club 4 wood Singles Champion – a club competition must have been played within the last year. County 4 wood Singles Champion County Junior (under 25) 4 wood Singles Champion Current Champion of Champion of Bowls Durham Ladies
3. Each match shall be 21 shots, 4 bowls each player.
4. The challenger shall have the choice of green and will be responsible for all match arrangements including rink fees up to and including the quarter-finals. The challenger must offer her opponent at least three dates for play, one of which must be a Saturday or a Sunday. Semi-finals and final will be played on the green chosen by the President of Bowls Durham Ladies. Times and greens will be arranged by the Women's Management Committee.
5. Dress will be club colours.