

BOWLS DURHAM CHAMPIONSHIPS
Men's Championships

Rules and Regulations relating to each of the Championships for all Rounds

1. SINGLES

- 1.1. Each game shall consist of 21 shots, four bowls each player or that approved by Bowls England
- 1.2. The Champion will hold the "Lord Joicey" Challenge Cup for one year and the Association will give a prize.
- 1.3. The runner-up will also receive a prize.

2. PAIRS

- 2.1. Each game shall consist of 18 ends, four bowls each player or that approved by Bowls England, the leads to play their four bowls before the skips. 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.
- 2.2. Each Pair shall consist of two men, who must be playing members of the same Club.
- 2.3. The two players taking part in the first game shall constitute the Pair and should normally play together throughout the competition. One additional - and the same - player may, however, be used as a substitute at any time provided he has not already played in the competition.
- 2.4. The winning Pair will hold the "J Wallace Taylor" Challenge Cup for one year, and the Association will give a prize to each of the Champions.
- 2.5. The Association will give a prize to each of the Runners-up.

3. TRIPLES

- 3.1. Each game shall consist of 18 ends, three bowls each player or that approved by Bowls England. 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.
- 3.2. Each triple shall consist of three men, who must be playing members of the same Club.
- 3.3. The three players taking part in the first game shall constitute the Triples and should normally play together throughout the competition. One additional - and the same - player may, however, be used as a substitute at any time provided he has not already played in the competition.
- 3.4. The winning Triple will hold the "Edgar W. Woodward" Memorial Trophy for one year, and each member of the Triple will receive a prize.
- 3.5. The Association will also give a prize to each member of the Runners - up Team.

4. FOURS

- 4.1. Each game shall consist of 18 ends, two bowls each player or that approved by Bowls England. 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.
- 4.2. Each four shall consist of four men who must be playing members of the same Club.
- 4.3. The four players taking part in the first game shall constitute the Four and should normally play together throughout the competition. One additional - and the same - player may, however, be used as a substitute at any time provided he has not already played in the competition.
- 4.4. The winning Four will hold the "Earl of Durham" Challenge Cup for one year, and the Association will give a prize to each member of the winning four.
- 4.5. The Association will also give a prize to each member of the Runners - up Four.

5. SENIOR FOURS

- 5.1. Each game shall consist of 18 ends, two bowls each player or that approved by Bowls England. 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.
- 5.2. Each four shall consist of four men who must be playing members of the same Club and have reached their 55th birthday by 1st April in the year of the competition.
- 5.3. The four players taking part in the first game shall constitute the Four and should normally play together throughout the competition. One additional - and the same - player may, however, be used as a substitute at any time provided he has not already played in the competition.
- 5.4. The winning Four will hold the "James F. Laidler" Trophy for one year, and the Association will give a prize to each member of the winning four.
- 5.5. The Association will also give a prize to each member of the Runners - up Four.

6. JUNIOR SINGLES

- 6.1. Each game shall consist of 21 shots, four bowls each player or that approved by Bowls England.

- 6.2. A Competitor must be under 25 years of age on 1st April of each year in which he competes.
- 6.3. The Champion will hold the "Tom Young" Challenge Cup for one year and the Association will give a prize.
- 6.4. The runner-up will also receive a prize.

7. JUNIOR PAIRS

- 7.1. Each game shall consist of 18 ends, four bowls each player or that approved by Bowls England.
- 7.2. Competitors must be under 25 years of age on 1st April of each year in which they compete and from the same Club.
- 7.3. The Champion will hold the "Prince Bishops" Trophy for one year and the Association will give a prize.
- 7.4. The runner-up will also receive a prize.

8. TWO BOWL

- 8.1. Each game shall consist of 21 ends, two bowls each player or that approved by Bowls England.
- 8.2. The Champion will hold the "Alwyn J. Alsop" Challenge Cup for one year and the Association will give a prize.
- 8.3. The Runner-up will also receive a prize.

Unless otherwise prescribed from time to time by Bowls England the Winners and Runners-up in the foregoing competitions will represent the County in the National Championships. County shirts must be worn in all rounds of National Championship events at the National Finals.

9. CHAMPION OF CHAMPIONS

- 9.1. Each game shall consist of 21 shots, four bowls each player or that approved by Bowls England.
- 9.2. The Champion will hold the 'George Turley' Memorial Trophy for one year and the Association will give a prize.
- 9.3. The Runner- up will also receive a prize.

Rules of the Competitions

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.

It is a condition of entry into the Bowls Durham Championships that, on qualifying all players are expected to play in the National and County Finals of the Championship entered, unless there are any extenuating circumstances which prevent competitors from doing so.

Should a player in a Singles Competition or a Team in all other Competitions 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, they shall not be permitted to play in any Competition/Championship during the following season unless a reasonable explanation is accepted by the appropriate Management Committee of the County.

Further, that any prize money or expenses which would have normally been awarded to, or received by, any competitor to attend the National Championships, shall be withheld and in the case of payment being made, will be reimbursed

Entrants into the Championships should also note the issue of the use of substitutes as detailed in the Rules of the Competitions.

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.) Failure to meet this requirement may result in the rejection of the entry (entries) and require re-submission within the timeframe for the submission process

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 whose 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.

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.

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.

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 two sections – North & South

Second Stage. For this stage the total of 16 qualifiers from the two area sections, will be drawn together and the rounds shall be played on a home and away basis with the exception of the Semi-finals and Quarter Finals. The County Finals will be played at Houghton Dairy Lane

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

The draws will be posted on the county website and a copy sent to clubs with entries

6. PERIODS OF ROUNDS

The various dates will be shown on the county website.

7. DUTIES OF CHALLENGER AND OPPONENT

- a) The first drawn of each Junior Single, Two Bowl, Single, Pairs, Triples, Fours, Champion of Champions and Senior Fours shall be termed the "Challenger", and the second the "Opponent".
- b) In the event of a tie having a to be played before date 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 6pm and not later than 7pm except by mutual agreement.
- c) 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.
- d) 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.
- e) No alteration of an accepted date shall be made unless mutually agreed on. Ties maybe played before the set date if both parties agree either way the tie must be played before the next round. Failing such agreement, the party desiring such alteration must give the other party a "walk-over".
- f) 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 Competition Secretary or online via the County website 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. Approved bowling shoes, white trousers, travelling 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. A County Pin Badge will be awarded to all players bearing details of the competition for which it is awarded ie Middleton Cup, John's Trophy etc.

Any player or players winning a County Championship will be awarded a County Playing Shirt for use in the National and Northern Counties Championships. It shall be the prerogative of the Executive Committee on the recommendation of the Management Committee to award a County pin badge in special circumstances.

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.