



NATIONAL COMPETITION RULES (INDIVIDUAL) Issued: April 2021

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1. Summary of Events

Senior Singles	
Players	One
Eligibility	Over 55 on 1st April in year of event
Format	Four bowls each per player
Scoring	First to 21 Shots
Substitutes	Not permitted

Senior Pairs	
Players	Two
Eligibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Over 55 on 1st April in year of event • Players must be members of an affiliated club within the same county • Players must represent the same county in National Competitions and National Championships
Format	Three bowls each per player
Scoring	18 Ends
Substitutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One substitute per team who can play in any position • Substitutes can be from any affiliated club within the same county • Substitutes shall not have already played or been a named entrant in the same competition

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Champion of Champions Singles	
Players	One
Eligibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Club Four-Wood Singles Champion • County Four-Wood Singles Champion • County Junior Four-Wood Singles Champion • Area National Senior Singles Qualifier from the previous year • National Champion of Champions Champion • National Four-Wood Singles Champion • National Junior Four-Wood Singles Champion • National Senior Singles Champion <p>For 2021 only, those players who meet the qualification criteria from events in 2019 and 2020 are permitted to enter</p>
Format	Four bowls each per player
Scoring	First to 21 Shots
Substitutes	Not permitted

Family Pairs	
Players	Two
Eligibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grandmother and granddaughter/grandson • Grandfather and granddaughter/grandson • Mother and daughter/son • Father and daughter/son • Sister and sister/brother • Brother and brother/sister • Step relatives of the above are also eligible to play • Marriage • Civil Partnership <p>Pairings need not necessarily be members of the same affiliated Club or County</p>
Format	Three bowls each per player
Scoring	18 Ends
Substitutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One • Substitutes shall come from one of the eligible listings above • Substitutes may play in any position • Substitutes shall not have already played or been a named entrant in the same competition

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Mixed Pairs	
Players	Two
Eligibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A team shall comprise of one man and one woman • Either player may skip • Players must be members of an affiliated club within the same county • Players must represent the same county in National Competitions and National Championships
Format	Three bowls each per player
Scoring	18 Ends
Substitutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One male and one female permitted • One of the original pair must play in every round • Substitutes may play in any position • Substitutes can be from any affiliated club, in the same county • Substitutes shall not have already played or been a named entrant in the same competition

Mixed Fours	
Players	Four
Eligibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A team shall comprise of two men and two women • Any player may skip • Players must be members of an affiliated club within the same county • Players must represent the same county in National Competitions and National Championships
Format	Two bowls each per player
Scoring	15 Ends
Substitutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The four 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 been a named entrant • Substitutes may play in any position • At least one of the original men and one of the original women shall play in every round • Substitutes can be from any affiliated club, in the same county

2. Entry Requirements

- 2.1 National competitions shall be open to all members of clubs affiliated to Bowls England.
- 2.2 Entries are accepted up to and including 1st March in the year of the competition. Late entries will not be accepted.
- 2.3 Should an affiliated club cease to exist after the entry date, the members may be permitted, for one season only, to compete under the name of that affiliated club irrespective of which affiliated club or clubs they have joined.
- 2.4 Should an affiliated club cease to exist prior to the entry date, the Singles Champion shall be eligible for one season only to enter the Champion of Champions under the name of their previous club.
- 2.5 All Competitors in National Competitions shall have paid affiliation fees, through their affiliated Club, for the current year.
- 2.6 Competitors shall not enter any Bowls England Competition under an assumed name.

3. Administration

- 3.1 All National Competitions shall be played on a knock-out basis, controlled and administered by Bowls England under the current Laws of the Sport of Bowls and in accordance with the Regulations currently laid down by Bowls England.
- 3.2 Fixed dates may be set for any National Competitions by County Associations subject to the following:
 - Both teams/sides participating in the round are affiliated to the same County Association
 - The dates for each round set by the County Association shall fall within the round closing dates for that particular round set by Bowls England
 - The set date meets the requirement of the playing times/days specified in 5.1
- 3.3 **Champion of Champions Singles Only**
 - 3.3.1 In the event of any one person meeting the qualification criteria in more than one event, only one entry shall be accepted.
 - 3.3.2 Entries shall be made by the affiliated Club or County Secretary, who shall certify that the nominated player is qualified to enter.
 - 3.3.3 Players who have moved clubs during the close season shall still be eligible to enter the Champion of Champions providing that Bowls England receives written approval from the affiliated Club or County Secretary where they secured qualification no later than 1st March in the year of the event.

4. Playing Arrangements

- 4.1 All National Competition qualifiers shall be played either on weekday evenings 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 nor later than 6.45pm shall be adhered to.
- 4.2 It is a condition that National Competitions are played outdoors and that the green has been approved by the relevant County Association.
- 4.3 There is nothing in the Laws of the Sport or in the rules of the National Championships, as at present constituted, which stipulates that matches may not be played on a surface other than grass. It is a condition that National Competitions are played outdoors and that the green has been approved by the relevant County Association.
- 4.4 Suitable flood lighting may be used during matches.
- 4.5 In all qualification rounds, the Challenger shall be responsible for the match arrangements.
- 4.6 The Challenger shall be responsible for the payment of rink fees (where applicable), except when matches take place at a neutral venue when all costs shall be shared by both participants/teams.
- 4.7 Matches shall be played on an approved green within the area of the competition and chosen by the Challenger. Where the mileage exceeds 160 miles round trip (measured club to club for National Competitions) matches shall be played on a neutral green approximately midway between the two affiliated clubs unless mutually agreed. The use of the same neutral green in future rounds is not prohibited.
- 4.8 All area finals and final stages rounds prior to the national finals shall be played on a neutral green midway between the two affiliated clubs (unless mutually agreed).

5. Offering of Dates

- 5.1 The Challenger shall offer their opponent, within 48 hours of the closing date of the previous round, at least three dates for play – one of which shall be a Saturday or Sunday. The three dates offered must fall within the window of the round. Matches may be played prior to the closing date of the previous round by mutual agreement. A minimum of 48 hours' notice is required for any dates offered to be eligible. The start time for any match shall be set by the Challenger when the dates are offered, but no player/team/side shall be compelled to accept a time earlier than 6.00pm Monday to Friday or 9.30am on a Saturday or Sunday. The offering of two different start times on a single date does not count as two dates.
- 5.2 The Opposing participant/teams shall, within 24 hours of receipt of the challenge, reply and accept one of the dates offered.
- 5.3 The Challenger does not need to offer dates until 21 days before the closing date of their first match, nor does opposing team need to accept a date until 19 days before the closing date of that round.

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- 5.4 If a challenge has not been made in accordance with Regulation 5.1 the opposing team will become the challenger and make all match arrangements (including the offering of dates and choice of venue). They must contact their opponent within 48 hours after becoming the challenger.
- 5.5 No extension of the closing date for any round shall be granted for any reason whatsoever.
- 5.6 Should the date and venue not be agreed within the agreed timescale both sides shall be disqualified.

6. Eligibility

- 6.1 Players are required to play from the same county from which they play their National Championships and shall represent the same county in each discipline. The exception is those clubs affiliated to two counties due to historic geographic circumstances.
- 6.2 Players entering National Championships in another country are eligible to participate in all individual National Competitions.
- 6.3 The named entrant of a team cannot be a member or substitute of any other team in the same National Competition.
- 6.4 The named entrant conceding a walkover before their first match in any National Competition cannot act as a substitute in the same competition.
- 6.5 Should a player, who has been expelled or suspended from an affiliated Club, be drawn to play at that Club in any National Competition game, other than a side game, run under the auspices of or on behalf of Bowls England, the Club shall either allow the player access to the changing room and green in order to play the game or alternatively advise the challenger(s) to make arrangements for the game to be played on a neutral green of a Club affiliated to Bowls England. Under no circumstances shall the opponent(s) be expected to concede the game. In all other cases the Club may refuse access.

7. Match Day

- 7.1 A draw for rink/s to be played on shall be made in accordance with the current Laws of the Sport www.worldbowls.com. For a match requiring one rink, a minimum of two rinks shall be offered to the opponent. For a match requiring more than one rink, the amount of rinks offered must be at least equal to the number of rinks required for play.
- 7.2 Before the start of the match, the challenger shall toss a coin for the choice of jack (first end), the winner having the choice of keeping or giving the jack away.
- 7.3 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'.
- 7.4 Fixed groundsheets are acceptable for National Competitions; however portable/moveable groundsheets are prohibited.

- 7.5 Two trial ends are permitted (one in each direction).
- 7.6 In the event of the scores being equal when all ends have been played an extra end or ends shall be played until a decision is reached.
- 7.7 The result shall be submitted by the winning player or team to Bowls England immediately using one of the approved notification methods.
- 7.8 Smoking on the green is prohibited during all matches played under the jurisdiction of Bowls England. See Appendix G

8. Inclement Weather

Inclement weather shall mean the existence of rain or abnormal climatic conditions (whether they be those of hail, snow, cold, high wind, extreme high temperature or any combination thereof) by virtue of which it is either not reasonable or possible to play.

Unusual situations not covered within the above can often arise. If a situation arises that is not covered by the above, Players, Markers, Umpires and Officials shall use their common sense and a spirit of fair play to decide on the appropriate course of action.

- 8.1 In the event of inclement weather and no play/no further play being possible as determined by Tournament Director, Umpire and/or Greenkeeper (or players if no officials are in attendance) the following shall apply as relevant:
- Play shall cease immediately;
 - Ends started but not completed shall be declared null and void
- 8.2 When it is not possible to resume the match on the day:
- If the total number of ends played equals or exceeds five, the match shall be deemed to have been completed and the score shall stand;
 - If the total number of ends played is less than five, the remainder of the match shall, wherever possible, be played at a later date (please refer to the Laws of the Sport 'Law 32: Game Stoppages' for guidance). Should it not be possible to play the match to its conclusion by the closing date of the round, the winner shall be decided by the toss of a coin.
- 8.3 At National Finals, the decision of the Tournament Director on postponed/abandoned matches shall be final.

9. Dress

- 9.1 Please refer to Appendix A (Dress Code – Men) or Appendix B (Dress Code – Women) as relevant.

10. National Finals

- 10.1 The final stages shall be played on a knockout basis on a date and time set by Bowls England.
- 10.2 The draw for the final stages shall be made by Bowls England.
- 10.3 In 2021, the number of qualifiers to National Finals will be as below:

Qualifiers for National Finals	
Men's Senior Singles (O55')	35 players (one per county)
Women's Senior Singles (O55')	35 players (one per county)
Men's Senior Pairs (O55')	35 teams (one per county)
Women's Senior Pairs (O55')	35 teams (one per county)
Men's Champion of Champions Singles (MCofC)	16 players
Women's Champion of Champions Singles (WCofC)	16 players
Family Pairs (FAM)	8 teams
Mixed Pairs (MP)	32 teams
Mixed Fours (MF)	32 teams