



COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP AND COMPETITION RULES

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1. Introduction

County Championships and Competitions shall be open to all members of clubs affiliated to Bowls Lancashire.

These Competitions shall be played under the laws of the game published by World Bowls (including the domestic review regulations for Bowls England).

The County Championships and Competitions shall be controlled by the Bowls Lancashire Competition Sub-Committee (the Competition Committee) as appointed by the County Executive and shall consist of (as a minimum), the County Competitions Secretary, the County President/Chairman and 1 Club representative to be nominated by the Executive Committee.

2. County Championships

2.1. Disciplines

- 2.1.1. The County Championships for Men & Women are defined as per Bowls England Regulations 50 – 70 ([Bowls England Regulations](#)).
- 2.1.2. Qualifiers for the National Championships in each discipline shall be determined by progress in the County Championships.
- 2.1.3. Players must ensure that, should they qualify as part of a team in Pairs, Triples or Fours that the team is available to play on the County Finals Day(s) and at the National Championships as set out in the published County calendar.

2.2. County Finals

- 2.2.1. 'Finals Day' can include Morning, Afternoon and Evening sessions where necessary.
- 2.2.2. If after entering a County Singles Championship, a competitor finds that should they qualify he/she is unable to play on County Finals Day(s) or at the National Championships, they are required to withdraw at the earliest available opportunity to enable the match to be given to the opponent.
- 2.2.3. Finals Day(s) will be played on a date(s) set in the calendar.
- 2.2.4. A Finals Day schedule will be published at least 7 days prior to the County Finals Day(s) and once published will NOT be subject to change.
- 2.2.5. If a player/Team(s) qualify in 3 or more events the player/Team(s) WILL be required to play in 3 events and a substitute may be used if the team decides that is necessary.
- 2.2.6. If a player/Team(s) qualify in more than 3 events and does not elect to use a substitute in one or more competitions, the final(s) may be carried over, at the discretion of the Competition Committee and played on the next Finals Day set in the calendar.

3. Championship Entries

- 3.1. Entries to the County Championships are regulated in accordance with Bowls England Regulations 50 – 70. ([Bowls England Regulations](#))
- 3.2. Acceptance or rejection of entries shall be decided by the Competition Committee.
- 3.3. The draw and Competition dates shall be made by the Competition Secretary. The draw and dates of the fixed day events will be published on the County Website which will be available to all competitors by 25th March each year.

4. 'Play by Date' Arrangements

- 4.1. Where rounds are required before or after any Fixed Date events, the first named is/are the Challengers.

- 4.2. In the case of Preliminary Rounds, the challenger must offer his/her opponents, at least 21 days prior to the closing date of the round, 2 dates free of International Competition, Inter County National Competitions, County Fixed Day events and free of international commitments of bona fide selectors and officials of Bowls England.
- 4.3. If, 23 days prior to the closing date of a preliminary round, the player to be challenged has had no contact from the challenger they should attempt to contact them to obtain dates. If, 20 days prior to the closing date of the round, the player to be challenged still has had no contact from the Challenger then they will become the Challenger and may offer his/her opponent 2 dates free of International Competition, Inter County National Competitions, County Fixed Day events and free of international commitments of bona fide officials of Bowls England. If no reply is received within 24 hours of the offer being made the player may claim the game. (Note – all players whether the Challenger or player to be challenged, should make a note of time and date of conversations/calls and if possible, should follow them up with e-mails/texts where possible.
- 4.4. In all subsequent rounds the Challenger must, at least 11 days prior to the closing date of the round, offer 2 dates free of International Competition, Inter County National Competitions, County Fixed Day events and free of international commitments of bona fide selectors and officials of Bowls England.
- 4.5. If, 13 days prior to the closing date of a preliminary round, the player to be challenged has had no contact from the challenger they should attempt to make contact with them to obtain dates. If, 10 days prior to the closing date of the round, the player to be challenged still has no contact from the Challenger then they will become the Challenger and may offer his/her opponent 2 dates free of International Competition, Inter County National Competitions, County Fixed Day events and free of international commitments of bona fide selectors and officials of Bowls England. If no reply is received within 24 hours of the offer being made the player may claim the game. (Note – all players whether the Challenger or player to be challenged, should make a note of time and date of conversations/calls and if possible, should follow them up with e-mails/texts where possible.
- 4.6. The Games must not be before 6:15pm on a weekday or before 10:00am on a weekend unless by mutual agreement.
- 4.7. The Challenger must offer his/her opponent a green approved by Bowls Lancashire and secure a rink booking through the host club and in a singles game is responsible for providing a marker. The challenged must reply to the challenger within 24 hours to confirm acceptance of the date.
- 4.8. County match days may not be offered for matches where the prospective players may reasonably expect to be selected to represent the County and acceptance of the date offered will prevent those players representing the County at a match already in the County Calendar.
- 4.9. No alteration of an accepted date shall be made unless mutually agreed upon. Failing such an agreement, the player/team desiring the alteration must play on the accepted date or concede the game to the opponent(s).
- 4.10. If a player or team fails to appear and be ready to play within 30 minutes of the agreed time for a tie/match the opponents(s) may claim the game.
- 4.11. No extension of the closing dates for each round will be granted for any reason whatsoever. Unless due to exceptional circumstances and agreed by the Competition Committee.

5. 'Fixed Day' Arrangements

- 5.1. For Fixed Day events the START time will be set out on the county website. If a player/team is not at the venue, in person, where the game is to be played 15 minutes PRIOR to the START time the player/team WILL be removed from the Competition. The Competition Committee has NO discretion in this matter
- 5.2. In the case of a Fixed Date event where scheduled rounds are not completed due to exceptional weather conditions or green closures these rounds must be played on the original green unless mutually agreed by all players involved.

- 5.3. Where scheduled rounds are not completed the Competition Secretary will advise the revised closing dates for any round or rounds affected. Under no circumstance can a fixed day match date or location be rearranged without prior consent of the Competition Secretary.
- 5.4. Additional rules to those set out as above are determined by the Competition Committee as and when necessary to ensure the successful running of a Fixed Day event.

6. Results

- 6.1. Match results must be reported to the Competition Secretary by the closing date of the round. Where possible the result should be entered in the relevant section of the Competition Area of the County's website, as soon as the match has been played.
- 6.2. If no result is received the opponent in the next round will receive a bye for that round.

7. Extreme Weather

- 7.1. For Fixed Day events, in the case where extreme weather stops play, a time frame of 1 hour should be allowed to pass before decisions are being made in regard to postponing that particular event. The decision will then be made by the match official on the day in conjunction with the Competition Secretary. For Paly By games, the Skips or Singles players may agree to re-arrange the game, as long as it is done within the play by date.
- 7.2. Where games for Fixed Day Events can be rearranged, it will be up to the Competition Secretary to make these arrangements.

8. Dress Code

- 8.1. The Dress code for the County Championships which qualify for the National Championships up to the County Final stage is as follows.
- 8.2. **Ladies:** Grey or Black skirts/culottes/trousers/cropped trousers/shorts, paired with either a white top, coloured bowls manufactured shirt or approved Club coloured top.
 - 8.2.1. For team events such as Pairs, Triples & Fours etc all team members **MUST** wear the same colour skirt/ culottes /trousers/cropped trousers/shorts and top as per rule 8.2 above.
 - 8.2.2. Approved bowling shoes any colour. Sandals are not allowed.
- 8.3. **Men:** Grey or Black trousers/shorts, paired with either a white top, coloured bowls manufactured shirt or approved Club coloured top.
 - 8.3.1. For team events such as Pairs, Triples and Fours etc all team members **MUST** wear the same colour trousers or shorts and top as per rule 8.3 above.
 - 8.3.2. Approved bowling shoes any colour.
- 8.4. For Finals Day, approved Club Shirts must be worn. In the instance that the same club play each other in a final, the executive committee request that both players/teams wear different coloured bottoms to differentiate between the playing teams where possible. Under these circumstances, the executive committee will liaise with the teams in advance.
- 8.5. Waterproofs must be white/predominantly white or approved club colours.

9. County Competitions

- 9.1. Fixed Day County/Club Competitions are the responsibility of the Club Committee of the club running the event.

10. Code of Conduct

- 10.1. Smoking, including the use of electronic cigarettes or the consumption of alcohol is not permitted on the green, or within 1 metre of the green, whilst the game is in progress. Failure to adhere to this rule will result in disqualification.
- 10.2. The use of mobile phones on the green is not permitted.

11. Authority and Jurisdiction

- 11.1. Decisions of the Competition Committee are final in the running of all County Championships and Competitions except for rules 2.1.3, 2.2.2 & 2.2.4.
- 11.2. Any breach of Rule 2.1.3, 2.2.2 & 2.2.4 will be dealt with by the use of the Bowls England Disciplinary Procedure and will apply to any player(s) involved, including any substitutes who have played in the County Championships leading to County Finals and National Championships.

12. National Championship Finals

- 12.1. National Championships are run by Bowls England at a venue and on dates of their choosing.
- 12.2. All rules and regulations laid down by Bowls England shall be adhered to by players or teams representing Bowls Lancashire.
- 12.3. National rules re dress code apply for all County Championship qualifiers who represent Bowls Lancashire at Leamington only. Black below the waist with Bowls Lancashire County Shirts.
- 12.4. Disciplines for both Men and Women are defined as per Bowls England Regulations 50 – 70 ([Bowls England Regulations](#))

13. Northern Counties Championships (Men's)

- 13.1. Northern Counties Championships are defined as:
- Two-Bowl Singles - 21 ends
 - Four-Bowl Singles - 21 up
 - Pairs - 18 ends
 - Triples - 18 ends
 - Fours - 18 ends
 - Under 25 Singles - 21 up
- 13.2. The male winners of these County Championships are expected to represent Bowls Lancashire at the Northern Counties Championships.
- 13.3. Should the winners of the Men's County Championships elect not to attend the Northern Counties Championships, the runners up, if willing, may attend. There is no obligation on the runners up to do so.
- 13.4. As per the competition rules as set by the NC Committee, players will only be allowed to play in one discipline per day (unless authorised by the NC committee)

Bowls Lancashire County Executive Committee
April 2025