

COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP AND COMPETITION RULES 2022

1. The Championships and Competitions shall be controlled by the Bowls Lancashire Competition Sub-Committee (the Committee) as appointed by the County Executive.
2. County Championships and Competitions shall be open to all members of clubs affiliated to Bowls Lancashire. They shall be played under the laws of the game published by World Bowls (including the domestic review regulations for Bowls England).
- 3. County Championships**
 - 3.1 County Championships are defined as
 - o Two wood singles - 21 ends
 - o Four wood singles - 21 up
 - o 4 Bowl Pairs - 18 Ends
 - o 3 Bowl Triples - 18 ends
 - o Fours - 18 ends
 - o Under 25 singles - 21 up
 - o Men's junior 4 bowl pairs - 18 ends
 - o Senior Fours - 18 ends
 - 3.2 Qualifiers for the National Championship, and for male bowlers, the Northern Counties Championships are determined by progress in the County Championships.
 - 3.3 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 in the calendar.
 - 3.3.1 'Finals Day' can include Morning, Afternoon and Evening sessions where necessary.
 - 3.4 If after entering a County Singles Championship, a competitor find 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.
 - 3.5 Finals Day(s) will be played on a date(s) set in the calendar.
 - 3.6 In the event that 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 will be used if the team decides that is necessary. 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) to be carried over will be at the discretion of the Committee and played on the next Finals Day set in the calendar.
 - 3.7 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.

4. Northern Counties Championships

4.1 Northern Counties Championships are defined as,

- o Two Wood Singles
- o Four Wood Singles
- o Pairs
- o Triples
- o Fours
- o Under 25's singles

4.2 The male winners of these County Championships are invited to represent Bowls Lancashire at the Northern Counties Championships.

4.3 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.

4.4 In order to try and stop too many duplications, you will only be allowed to play in one discipline per day (unless authorised by the NC committee)

5 National Championships at Leamington

5.1 National Championships are defined as: -

- o Two Bowl singles - 21 ends
- o Four Bowl singles - 21 up
- o 4 Bowl Pairs - 18 ends
- o 3 Bowl Triples - 18 ends
- o Fours – 15 ends
- o Under 25 singles - 21 up
- o Men's Junior 4 bowl pairs - 18 ends
- o Senior Fours- 18 ends

6 Championship Entries, Draws and Arrangements for Play

6.1 A player may only enter/play in events which qualify for National Championships from one Club and provided he/she is a fully paid up member of that club by 1st May in the year of the competition. Team players must play their Championships from the same club unless otherwise stated.

6.2 A named player entering Championships cannot be a member or substitute of any other team in the same Championships.

6.3 For National Championships the named player is defined as the player in whose name the entry is made and whose name appears in the draw. Players taking part in the first game shall constitute the original team and they should normally play together throughout the Championship.

One additional and the same player may be used as a substitute at any time providing, he/she has not already played in the Championship. The substitute may play in any position.

6.4 Entry shall be on the completion of the official entry form and on payment of the fee. Closing date for entries shall be set by the Committee. Players should ensure that the entry form is completed correctly as mistakes cannot be rectified once the Championship draws have taken place. Any entries made will be a confirmation that the player(s) agree to be bound by the Championship rules in force at that time.

6.5 Players in the Under 25's Singles and Men's Junior Pairs must be Under 25 years on 1st April annually. Players in the Senior Fours must be 55 and over on 1st April annually.

6.6 Players in the Men's Junior Pairs may be from different clubs, but they must both be members of clubs within Bowls Lancashire and have entered all other County Championships within Bowls Lancashire.

6.7 Acceptance or rejection of entries shall be decided by the Committee.

6.8 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.

6.9 **'Play by Date' Arrangements**

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

6.11 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.

6.12a 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 make contact with them to obtain dates.

6.12b If, 20 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.

6.13 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.

6.14a 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.

6.14b 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.

6.15 The times must not be before 6:15pm (excepting the Men's Junior Pairs – 7:00pm) on a week day or before 10:00am on a weekend unless by mutual agreement.

6.16 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.

6.17 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.

6.18 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).

6.19 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.

6.20 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 Secretary.

6.21 **'Fixed Day' Arrangements**

6.22 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.

6.23 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.

6.24 Where scheduled rounds are not completed the Competition Secretary will advise the revised closing dates for any round or rounds affected.

6.25 **Results**

6.26 Match results must be reported to the Competition Secretary by the closing date of the round. If no result is received the opponent in the next round will receive a bye for that round.

6.27 Under no circumstance can you rearrange a fixed day match date or location without prior consent of the Competition Secretary.

6.28 Additional rules to those set out as above are determined by the Committee as and when necessary to ensure the successful running of a Fixed Day event.

7. **Extreme Weather**

7.1 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.

7.2 Where games can be rearranged, it will be up to the Competition Secretary to make these arrangements.

8. Dress Code

National rules re dress code apply for all County Championship qualifiers who represent Bowls Lancashire at Leamington only. Whites with Bowls Lancashire County Shirts / Jackets.

8.1 Dress code for the County Championships which qualify for the National Championships up to and including the County Final stage are as follows.

- Ladies: Grey or Black skirts/culottes/trousers/ cropped trousers, Grey or Black Shorts (Bowls England approved), with white, predominantly white or approved Club coloured top. For singles events you may also wear your Bowls Lancashire Super League Team Kit.

For team events such as Pairs, Triples & Fours etc all team members MUST wear the the same colour skirt/culottes/trousers/cropped trousers or shorts (Bowls England approved).

Approved bowling shoes any colour. Sandals are not allowed.

- Men: Grey or Black trousers or Grey or Black Shorts (Bowls England approved) with white, predominantly white or approved Club coloured top. For singles events you may also wear your Bowls Lancashire Super League Team Kit.

For team events such as Pairs, Triples and Fours etc all team members must wear the same colour trousers or shorts (Bowls England approved).

Approved bowling shoes any colour.

- Waterproofs must be white/predominantly white/approved club colours.

9 County Competitions

Fixed Day County/Club Competitions are the responsibility of the Club Committee of the club running the event. Additional rules to those set out below may be determined by the Committee.

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 Committee are final in the running of all County Championships and Competitions except for rules 3.3, 3.4 & 3.7.

11.2 Any breach of Rule 3.3, 3.4 & 3.7 will be dealt with by the use of the 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.

Bowls Lancashire County Executive Committee

March 2022

