

REGULATIONS AND RULES FOR CHAMPIONSHIPS AND COMPETITIONS UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE GLOUCESTERSHIRE BOWLS ASSOCIATION (MENS DIVISION)

Introduction

No laws governing a sport can cope with every situation, the laws of the sport of bowls are no exception and unusual situations not covered within the laws can often arise. These Regulations and Rules for the Gloucestershire Bowling Association (GBA) have been drawn up in the spirit of true sportsmanship and if a situation arises that is not covered Players, Markers, Umpires and County Officials should use their common sense and a spirit of fair play to decide on the appropriate course of action.

Championship and Competition Regulations

1. Administration

- 1.1 The National Championships and County Competitions of the GBA shall be administered by the GBA County Competition Committee (CCC) which consists of the Senior Vice President, the County Competitions Secretary and the Bristol, Cheltenham, Gloucester and Stroud Section Competition Secretaries. The Senior Vice President shall be Chairman of the CCC.
- 1.2 Any situation that cannot be resolved when it arises or any issue raised that is not covered by these regulations and rules should be immediately referred to the County Competition Secretary who after due consideration shall provide a ruling which shall be final.
- 1.3 A Greens Committee elected annually shall adjudicate on the conditions of greens and rinks selected for competition play where appropriate. All greens selected for the Championships and Competitions finals may be inspected approximately one month before the event to ensure that the standard of the green has not significantly deteriorated since it was selected for the event.
- 1.4 Additions or amendments to all or any of the Regulations and Rules shall be made only by either:
 - a) The GBA2010 Executive Board
 - b) The Annual General Meeting of the GBA men's division
 - c) A Special General Meeting of the men's division convened for the purpose
- 1.5 County Championships and Competitions are open to all affiliated GBA members. Competitors may enter as many of the County Championships or Competitions they so choose, but shall not be allowed to enter from, or play for, more than one club in the same year.
- 1.6 Entry fees for all County Championships and County Competitions shall be reviewed and determined annually by the County Competition Committee, and ratified by the Management Committee, taking into account Bowls England entry fees for National Championships.
- 1.7 Individual entries shall be made on the appropriate form and be in the possession of the entrant's Club Secretary, together with the appropriate fees, no later than 30th September of the preceding year.

- 1.8 Entrants for the Champion of Champions Competition shall be the previous year's winners in their Club Four-Wood Singles Championship and shall be entered by their Club.
- 1.8.1 If a player who has been entered by his Club (A) for the Champion of Champions competition leaves that club during the closed season and joins a new club (B) he is automatically disqualified from the competition. Club (A) may however enter their four-bowls singles runner-up as a substitute for their Club Champion providing the name of the substitute is made available to the County Competition Secretary before April 1st.
- 1.9 Clubs may enter only one team for the County Challenge Cup, but may enter as many teams as they wish for the County Two Rink competition.
- 1.10 Club Secretaries shall submit the individual entry forms under cover of the summary form provided (which shall include the club's own entries in County Competitions) with the total fees payable in one cheque or by direct bank transfer, to reach the relevant section competition secretary or GBA bank account no later than 31st October of the preceding year.
- 1.11 Late entries will only be accepted if, in the opinion of the County Competition Secretary, there are sufficient extenuating circumstances.

2. Draw organisation, schedule and arrangements

- 2.1 With the exception of the Two Wood Singles, Junior Singles, Junior Pairs and County Two Rink, the Championships and Competitions shall be initially drawn on a geographical basis within the four County sections: Bristol, Cheltenham, Gloucester and Stroud. Each sectional draw shall be made by the CCC and shall provide qualifiers as necessary for the County Rounds. The draws shall be included in the County Yearbook.
- 2.1.1 Each section shall provide two qualifiers for the County Rounds in Singles, Pairs, Triples and Fours
- 2.1.2 Each section shall provide one qualifier for the County Rounds in Senior Fours, Champion of Champions and County Challenge Cup
- 2.2 The fixed dates for all section rounds shall be selected by the CCC in conjunction with the respective Section Competitions Secretary and they will be printed in the County Yearbook.
- 2.2.1 Games may be re-scheduled at a date and time mutually agreed by both parties before the respective round closing date.
- 2.3 With the exception of the Two Wood Singles and the Junior Singles, all rounds of Championships and Competitions up to the County rounds shall be played on a home and away basis and be hosted by the first named competitor.
- 2.4 Where section finals are to be played in Champion of Champions, Senior Fours and County Cup, a neutral green shall be selected by the relevant section competition secretary.
- 2.5 The Two Wood Singles Championship, up to but not including the quarter-finals, shall be played on a day nominated by the CCC and shall be played over two venues with a proportional number of entrants at each venue such that, as far as possible, competitors shall be liable to play the same number of rounds with the same probability of a bye. Each venue shall provide four qualifiers for the County Rounds. Details of the arrangements for playing this competition shall be printed in the County Yearbook.

- 2.6 The Junior Singles Championship shall be played on a day nominated by the CCC and shall be played up to but not including the final. Details of the arrangements for playing this competition shall be printed in the County Yearbook.
- 2.7 The County Rounds shall be Quarter-Finals onwards in Singles, Pairs, Triples, Fours, Two Wood Singles, and Semi-Finals onwards in Champion of Champions, Junior Pairs, Senior Fours, Two Rink, and County Challenge Cup.
- 2.8 The draw for the County Rounds of the Singles, Pairs, Triples, and Fours Championships shall be completed by the CCC with one qualifier from each section being placed in each half of the draw. The draws shall be included in the County Yearbook.
- 2.9 The County Rounds of the Junior Pairs shall be an open draw and shall be completed by the CCC. The draws shall be included in the County Yearbook.
- 2.10 The County Rounds of the Two Wood Singles shall be an open draw completed on the day.
- 2.11 The County Rounds of the Champion of Champions, Senior Fours, Two Rink, and Challenge Cup shall be completed by the CCC. The draws shall be included in the County Yearbook.
- 2.12 The County Rounds dates shall be selected by the CCC and they will be printed in the County Yearbook. The games shall be played on greens selected by the CCC using advice from the Greens Committee. Once selected, these venues will not be changed other than for exceptional circumstances, e.g. the green is unfit for play. In the event of a participating Club or team winning through to play on its own green, the venue will not be changed.
- 2.13 Where applicable, Umpires and Markers shall be appointed by the County Umpires Coordinator in conjunction with the CCC for all County Rounds.
- 2.14 In County Challenge Cup and County Two Rink, each club qualifying for the semi-final stage shall make every endeavour to provide the County Competitions Secretary with the names of their team who are expected to play in the finals and also three nominated reserves by the Monday before the finals are played.
- 2.15 If any team (or individual) withdraws at the semi or finals stage of the County Challenge Cup, County Two Rink or Champion of Champions competitions, the team (or individual) that they had defeated in the section final may be invited to take their place if sufficient time exists, and the team (or individual) that withdraws may not be accepted in the following year's competitions.
- 2.16 Extension to closing dates shall only be granted to players selected for approved International duties, together with Officers and Officials on duty with International teams, or for Clubs where they are involved in National Competitions.
- 2.17 The CCC reserves the right to reschedule dates of County Rounds where unforeseen circumstances occur; competitors shall be given as much notice as possible.
- 2.18 Scheduling of Finals Day shall be carried out by the CCC taking full recognition of any competitors qualifying for more than one final. Where any competitor qualifies for more than two finals, one or more may have to be rescheduled. If finals event competitors do not turn up, their opponent(s), provided they are on the green and prepared to play, shall be awarded the County Championship title, if they are not present the title shall remain unclaimed.

3. Notification of Results

- 3.1** Match results must reach the appropriate Section Competition Secretary by 22:00 on the day the game is played. Results of County Two Rink matches should be submitted to the County Competition Secretary.
- 3.2** Score cards shall be signed by both players/skips and the winner shall retain them in case of dispute or protest.
 - 3.2.1** Score cards for County Two Rink shall be submitted to the County Competition Secretary within 24 hours of the match being completed.
- 3.3** Failure to notify results unambiguously (particularly with regard to concessions), accurately, completely and on time may lead to disqualification.

4. Disputes and Protests

- 4.1** All protests in relation to competitions at Section level shall be reported to the Section Competitions Secretary by 22:00 on the day the match is played. The competitor making the protest must ensure a fee of £50.00 is delivered to the Section Competitions Secretary within 24 hours. If the protest is upheld, then the £50 fee will be returned but if it is not upheld the match and fee shall be forfeited.
- 4.2** If a protest is against bowls then the bowls should be delivered to the Section Competitions Secretary by 22:00 on the day that the protest is made. The Section Competitions Secretary shall arrange in conjunction with the CCC for the bowls to be tested within 24 hours. Additional fees shall be levied at cost to cover the testing of bowls, travel costs, travel time and any other reasonable expenses incurred to have the protest verified. These fees shall be paid by the party who loses the protest within 7 days otherwise they will be suspended until such time that the fee(s) are paid. The CCC shall be the adjudicators and their decision shall be final.
- 4.3** If a protest is against the condition or regulations concerning the green then the protest must be made prior to the start of the fifth end, which shall include trial ends if played. The section competitions secretary should be informed of the protest immediately and will arrange for the rink to be inspected within 24 hours normally by a member of the Section Greens Committee. If the protest is upheld, then the game shall be replayed on a neutral green on a date and time to be decided by the CCC. If the protest is not upheld the protestor shall automatically forfeit the game.
- 4.4** Once a competition has reached the County Rounds, the same principles as above shall apply, but protests shall be made to the County Competitions Secretary who shall adjudicate.
- 4.5** In the case of any unresolved dispute over the arranging, conduct or result of a game, a clear statement of the circumstances and unresolved issues shall be made in writing to the County Competition Secretary within two days of the date on which the dispute arose.
- 4.6** Decisions of the County Competition Secretary and the CCC are final and binding.

5. Dress Code

Unless the CCC advises otherwise the dress code for GBA Championships and Competitions (players and markers) shall be as follows:

- 5.1 All rounds prior to County Rounds; Club shirts or predominantly white above the waist with grey trousers/shorts or GBA/BE approved coloured clothing.
- 5.2 All County Rounds; Club shirt or predominantly white above the waist with white trousers/shorts or GBA/BE approved coloured clothing.
- 5.3 Shorts when worn are to be either GBA/BE approved or recognised bowls retail shorts or tailored shorts. Cargo type shorts or football/rugby type shorts are not acceptable
- 5.4 All members of the side or team shall wear the same colours.
- 5.5 Players are to check with host clubs prior to wearing shorts to ensure adherence to local restrictions
- 5.6 Failure to comply with the above may result in disqualification from the Championship or competition.

6. National Championships Qualifiers

- 6.1 With the exception of the Senior Fours and the Junior Pairs, the winner(s) of County Championship semi-finals shall qualify for the National Championships with the winner of semi-final 1 qualifying as Gloucestershire A and the winner of semi-final 2 as Gloucestershire B. The CCC reserves the right to reverse these allocations in order to avoid a clash of events at the National Championships.
- 6.2 In the Senior Fours and the Junior Pairs, the winners only of the County Championship final shall qualify for the National Championships
- 6.3 If a Singles competitor or a Pairs, Triples or Fours team who has qualified for the National Championships does not represent GBA at the National Championships, that Competitor/Team shall be disqualified from the County Competition, shall not be awarded a County trophy or prize money, and will not appear in the County Competitions Honors Roll. Their entry (named entrant in team discipline) shall also not be accepted for the following year's County Championships or Competitions. An exception will be made where a medically certificated illness intervenes provided the County Competitions Secretary is notified in advance, receives the medical certificate and accepts the incapacity of the player.

Championship and Competition Rules

1. Championships and Competitions

The County Championships and Competitions shall be contested as follows

- 1.1 County Championships leading to National Championships
 - Singles; four bowls, 21 shots
 - Pairs; two players, four bowls each player, 21 ends
 - Triples; three players, three bowls each player, 18 ends
 - Fours; four players, two bowls each player, 21 ends
 - Two Wood Singles; two bowls each, 21 ends
 - Junior Singles [under 25 years on 1st April]; four bowls, 21 shots
 - Junior Pairs [under 25 years on 1st April]; two players, four bowls each player, 18 ends
 - Senior Fours [55 years and over on 1st April]; four players, two bowls each player, 21 ends
- 1.2 County Competitions
 - Champion of Champions Singles; four bowls, 21 shots
 - County Two Rink; two rinks, four players each rink, two bowls each player, 21 ends
 - County Challenge Cup; three rinks, four players each rink, two bowls each player, 21 ends
2. All Championship and Competition matches shall be played under the current Laws of the Sport of Bowls and Bowls England Regulations incorporating GBA rule variations where appropriate.
3. Match arrangements
 - 3.1 Whether games are scheduled on a particular day or scheduled with a play by date the guidance for timings is the same.
 - 3.1.1 Games played up to and including the 30th June shall commence at 6.15pm
 - 3.1.2 Games played after 30th June shall commence at 6.00pm
 - 3.1.3 Prior to County Rounds, where mutually agreed by both competitors for singles play, with a later start time, but no later than 7:00pm
 - 3.1.4 Prior to County Rounds, where mutually agreed by both teams for junior pairs, with a later start time, but no later than 7:00pm
 - 3.1.5 Games played on a Saturday or Sunday will usually be played in the morning, no earlier than 9:30am.
 - 3.2 If a player/team/side fails to appear and be ready to play within 30 minutes after the scheduled or agreed time for the tie, the opponent shall be entitled to claim a 'walk over'.
 - 3.3 The first named club or competitor in each round is the challenger and for games prior to County Rounds they shall be responsible for all match arrangements.
 - 3.4 All singles competitors drawn at home in a competition shall be responsible for providing a marker. Failure to abide by this rule shall mean automatic disqualification.

3.5 Where matches are subject to a 'play by' date the challenger shall, within 72 hours of the end of the previous round, offer their opponents three dates which, unless agreed to by the opponent, shall not be dates on which County Championships or County Competitions are played on;

3.5.1 One of the dates offered must be a Saturday or Sunday

3.5.2 The Opponent or Opponent teams/sides shall, within 72 hours of receipt of the challenge, reply and accept one of the dates offered

3.5.3 In the event of a club/individual not offering dates within the set period the opposing side/individual shall be entitled to claim a 'walkover'.

4. Substitutes

4.1 Other than in singles games, players who play in the first game shall be deemed to be the constitution of that team and where possible should play together throughout that competition.

4.2 Other than in singles games, a substitute is permitted provided the substitution is made before the game has started. Only one, and the same, player may be used as a substitute at any time and may play in any position. They shall not have already played for another team nor can they subsequently play for another team in the same competition.

4.3 The named entrant of a team cannot be a member or substitute of any other team in the same Championship in the same year.

4.4 Where a substitute will need to be used in a game within the Sections, the relevant section competitions secretary must be informed as soon as possible. During the County Rounds the County Competitions Secretary should be informed.

4.5 On County Finals Day, the County Competitions Secretary must be informed of any substitution prior to the match being played. If successful, the substitute will be named in the team as the County Champions.

5. Bowls Stickers

Unless differentiating stickers have been provided by the CCC, Club stickers shall be used by competitors in all matches. Failure on behalf of the competitor responsible to abide by this rule could lead to disqualification.

6. Stoppages or Postponements

6.1 If a game is stopped, either by the mutual agreement of the players, by the CCC or by the Umpire on account of darkness, weather, green conditions or any other valid reason, it should be resumed as soon as possible, without causing subsequent delay or interruption to the following round, on the same green and the same rink(s), with the scores as they were when the game stopped.

6.1.1 If the same green is not available then another green shall be nominated by the CCC.

6.1.2 An end commenced but not completed shall be declared dead.

- 6.2 Except for County Challenge Cup or Two Rink (see rule 7.6), when it is impossible to rearrange the match without causing subsequent delay or interruption to the following round and five or more ends have been completed, the score will stand. If the score is a tie, then the result will be decided by the toss of a coin. Where insufficient ends have been played the result shall be determined by the toss of a coin.
- 6.3 When a green is declared unplayable prior to the match by an appropriate Club official and the relevant section competition secretary/County Competition secretary is advised, and agrees in advance, a match may be postponed provided that it is completed with no subsequent delay or interruption to the following round. Where this is not possible the match shall be decided by the toss of a coin.

7. County Challenge Cup and County Two Rink

7.1 A team shall consist of:

- County Challenge Cup: three rinks of four players
- County Two Rink: two rinks of four players

7.2 Failure to field sufficient players shall result in a walk-over for the opponent.

7.3 Players may only play for one team. Playing an illegible player shall lead to disqualification.

7.4 The total number of shots on both rinks shall determine the winner. In the event of a tie after 21 ends then an extra end shall be played by a nominated rink to determine the overall winner.

7.5 Before the commencement of the match, the nominated captains will toss a coin to determine:

- 7.5.1 Choice of jack (first end); the winning captain will have the choice of keeping or giving the jack away.
- 7.5.2 Which rink will play the extra end; the winning captain will nominate the name of the skip to play the extra end. This must be declared prior to the match commencing.
- 7.5.3 Choice of jack (extra end); the winning captain will have the choice of keeping or giving the jack away should an extra end be necessary. The winner has the option to make the choice immediately or after the 21st end has been played.

7.6 If a game is stopped, matches shall be deemed to have been completed if the following numbers of ends have been played:

- County Challenge Cup: 36 ends
- County Two Rink: 24 ends