

## WOMEN'S SECTION COMPETITION RULES 2025

1. The competitions shall be open to members of clubs affiliated to Sussex County Bowls, provided such clubs are not in arrears with their subscriptions. Each Competitor may enter from only one club.
  2. The competitions shall be played under the Rules of Bowls England and under the control of Sussex County Bowls Women's Section.
  3. The competition formats are: four-wood Singles – 21 shots, two-bowl Singles – 21 ends, Pairs – played with 4 bowls each to 18 ends, Triples – played with 3 bowls each to 18 ends, Fours – played with 2 bowls each to 18 ends and Senior Fours – played with 2 bowls each to 18 ends.
  4. Entries for all the women's competitions shall be made on-line on the Sussex County Bowls website (Competitions portal). In team games, only one name needs to be entered but all fees must be paid. When the Results are recorded on-line after each match is played, **all** the names (First and surname) of the team members must be recorded, and the score cards must be forwarded (electronically or by post) to the appropriate Competitions Secretaries.
  5. Each discipline will be played in an order to be decided by the G.P.C.
  6. The following Areas shall apply to all Competitions:  
**AREAS 1 and 2 (East) and AREAS 3 and 4 (West).**  
If there is a large disparity in the number of entries in one Area, that Competition to be played in two 'Zones' by combining Areas 1/2 in the east, and 3/4 in the west as i.e. the Senior Fours. There would still be a re-draw at the quarter-final stage. (Approved at the A.G.M. 2024).
- The Draws for all the competitions shall be carried out on-line, with a re-draw before the quarter-finals stage.
7. **All Competitions shall be played on Challenger's greens, up to and including the Quarter-finals.**
  8. COUNTY COMPETITIONS LEADING TO THE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP FINALS: i.e. The County/National Singles, Pairs, Triples, Fours and Senior Fours, 2-wood Singles, Junior Singles and Junior Pairs.

The above competitions (except the 2-wood Singles) will be played on **set dates**, on Challenger's greens, with a start time of 6 p.m. but these may be played earlier in the day by mutual agreement. Also, rounds may be played by mutual agreement **before** the dates specified, but in the absence of mutual agreement, the specified date **must** be adhered to.

All rounds of the County/National two-wood competition shall be played on one day, on a weekend.

The County Finals and Finals shall be held on dates specified by the women's section.

As long as Sussex County women have sufficient entries as specified by Bowls England, the winner(s) of the Semi-finals will represent Sussex women at the National Championship Finals at Royal Leamington Spa in August, except in the case of the Senior Fours, in which only one Representative proceeds to Leamington.

**If unable to proceed to the National Finals, competitors must concede before the County Semi-finals. (See also Rules 9 section iii.)**

9. SUSSEX COMPETITIONS THAT DO NOT PROCEED TO THE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP FINALS AT LEAMINGTON:

i.e. Unbadged 4-wood Singles – to be played with 4 bowls to 21 shots.

Unbadged (Trixie) Pairs – to be played with 4 bowls each to 18 ends.

\*Sussex Champion of Champions, played with 4 bowls to 21 shots.

\* Sussex Champion of Champions: Eligibility – The winner of each club's women's 4-wood Singles Championship, provided that a) she does not leave the club, (b) she has played in the Club Final. If a club ceases to exist, the Club Champion may, for one season only, enter the Sussex Champion of Champions competition under the name of the disbanded club, regardless of which club she has subsequently joined. (Please note that, for this competition, the scorecard from the Club Final should be forwarded to the relevant Competitions Secretary before the County Semi-Finals.

The above competitions will be played on 'play-by' dates, with a start time of 6 p.m. but may be played earlier in the day by mutual agreement, on Challenger's greens, with the challenger offering two dates. Challengers must offer their opponent(s) two dates within 48 hours of the closing date of the previous round. If this is not complied with, the Opponent(s) become the Challenger(s) and must offer dates on their home green.

10. **DRESS CODE for ALL individual Competitions**– Up to and including the quarter-finals : White or Club-coloured Club uniform above the waist. Grey, white or (approved) Club-coloured skirts or tailored trousers, cut-offs or shorts (NO jeans). Flat-soled bowls shoes. Sandals not allowed.

**Dress code for the Sussex Top Club and Double Rink:** White or Club-coloured uniform above the waist, Whites or Club-coloured garments below the waist (not grey).

For the **County Semi-finals and Finals**: White or Club-coloured uniform above the waist, Whites or Club-coloured garments below the waist.

**IN ALL INSTANCES, ALL THE TEAM MEMBERS MUST BE DRESSED IN THE SAME COLOURS.**

11. For ALL the Competitions indicated in Rules 8 and 9 the following Rules apply:
  - (a) Members of a team must be affiliated to the same Club, except in the Unbadged (Trixie) Pairs, in which case players from two different affiliated clubs may play together.
  - (b) Rink Fees - The Challenger(s) to pay the Rink Fees as required by the host club, but may collect a contribution of £2.50 from the visiting player(s). (Proposition approved at the 2019 A.G.M.)
  - (c) If a player in a Singles event has to concede a Walkover to their opponent, they should indicate this on the relevant Draw sheet on line, and should notify their opponent and the relevant Competitions Secretary of their intention. However, if the player has already beaten a competitor in a previous round, **they shall be barred from entering that Competition in the following season**, unless a legitimate reason (i.e. serious illness or bereavement) is made in writing to the County Secretary. In team events, a Substitute must be found and if this is not possible, the above Rule shall apply to all members of the defaulting team.
  - (d) Players taking part in the first game shall constitute the team and shall normally play together throughout the competition. If a player is unable to proceed to a subsequent round, ONE substitute may be used provided she has not already competed in that competition. She may play in any position, except that, if during the course of a game a player has to leave the green owing to illness, the substitute may not play skip.
  - (e) Drawing for rinks - For the above competitions, the Draw for rinks shall be made in accordance with the Current Laws of the Sport - 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 minimum number of rinks offered shall be at least equal to the number of rinks required.
  - (f) Named players giving a walk-over in the first game cannot act as a substitute in another team.
  - (g) County Singles entrants who change clubs before the start of the season may continue to play in the competition, provided that her new club is within the same Area in which she was drawn.
  - (h) Two trial ends allowed in all matches.

- (i) In the event of a tie, an extra end shall be played, the Skips to toss for the jack.
- (j) The date stamp on bowls must comply with the Bowls England ruling i.e. all rounds played at County level, 1985 or later. For the National Finals at Leamington Spa, the date stamp must be the year in which the Finals are played or later.
- (k) Smoking on the green (which includes the bank and surrounds) whilst the game is in progress is forbidden.
- (l) In accordance with the Laws of the Game, all team members must have the same stickers.
- (m) Any disputes shall be reported to the relevant Competitions Secretary, whose decision shall be final. An appeal against that decision must be made in writing to the County Secretary.

**THESE RULES MUST BE STRICTLY ADHERED TO.**