



Sussex County Bowls Competitions – Frequently Asked Questions

Written for the Men's Section but certain aspects may also be applicable to the Women's Section.

This guidance document has been prepared to respond to some of the questions most frequently asked by competitors in Sussex County Competitions and Bowls England National Championships. It is to be read in conjunction with Bowls England Rules & Regulations 50-70 (as published on the Bowls England website) and Sussex County Men's Section Rules as published in the County website. This guidance document is issued to assist participants in the following events:

National Championship Events, that are initially run by the County, with players proceeding to Leamington:

- ☐ National Championship Four Wood Singles (Men and Women)
- ☐ National Championship Two Wood Singles (Men and Women)
- ☐ National Championship Pairs (Men and Women)
- ☐ National Championship Triples (Men and Women)
- ☐ National Championship Fours (Men and Women)
- ☐ National Championship Senior Fours (Men and Women)
- ☐ National Under 25 Championship Singles (Men and Women)
- ☐ National Under 25 Championship Pairs (Men and Women)

Internal County only events, where players do not proceed to Leamington:

- ☐ Champion of Champion (Men and Women)
- ☐ Unbadged 4 Wood Singles (Men and Women)
- ☐ Club Double Fours (Abergavenny) (Men)
- ☐ Benevolent Triples (Women)
- ☐ Unbadged (Trixie Pairs) (Women)
- ☐ Secretaries, Treasurers, Delegates and Match Secretaries Singles (Women)
- ☐ Top Club (Women)
- ☐ National Mixed Fours Competition

Who is the Challenger?

In both County and Bowls England National Competitions, the Challenger will be clearly identified on the information circulated to the named contact of both teams/sides. The Challenger will be responsible for all match arrangements and the payment of rink fees if appropriate, unless when matches are held at a neutral venue, when green fees will be shared by both participants/teams/sides. The Challenger must notify the opponent of the proposed venue at the time of offering dates/times.

NB: The challenger is no longer automatically the first named player!!

What green do we play on?

Matches shall be played on a green approved by the County Association and chosen by the Challenger. All final qualification rounds shall be played on a green as arranged by the County.

How many dates must the Challenger offer and at what times?

For **fixed Date Competitions** – dates are fixed - but matches may be played in advance of the date if mutually agreed by the players.

For Play by Date Competitions

The Challenger shall offer their opponent, at least three dates for play – one of which shall be a Saturday or Sunday.

When must the Challenger offer dates?

- a) In the preliminary/first round – WHERE THIS IS THE FIRST GAME – the challenger must contact his opponent at least two weeks before the closing date of the round, offering three dates, one of which must be a Saturday or Sunday.
- b) For all subsequent rounds, the 'Challenger, must offer to his opponent – within three days – after the closing date for the previous round - three dates, one of which must 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, nor later than 6.30pm on any day. The date and start time in any round may be agreed by mutual agreement, but failing that the dates and start times offered by the Challenger will stand. The offering of two different start times on a single date does not count as two dates.

Can I offer dates of other Bowls England events i.e. International Events/Inter-County Dates/Regional Finals and/or Bank Holidays?

Yes – there is nothing within the National Competition Regulations to prevent any such dates from being offered by the Challenger. A Bank Holiday Monday is classed as a weekday and is therefore a legitimate date should it be offered.

Can I offer dates of other County events i.e. Middleton Cup, Balcombe Trophy, Home Counties League or White Rose Trophy.

If any dates that are offered, are dates on which a club has more than one player representing the County in the Middleton Cup, Balcombe Trophy, Home Counties League or White Rose Trophy, or the club is otherwise engaged in any other 'Fixed date' County Competition, that club may reject that particular date offered and are to be offered an alternative date(s).

When must the Opponent accept dates?

The Opponent or Opposing teams/sides shall, within 48 hours of receipt of the challenge, reply and accept one of the dates offered.

What if I have NOT received a Challenge within the specified period?

If a challenge has not been made in accordance with the Men's Section Rules, the opponent will become the challenger and make all match arrangements (including the offering of dates and choice of venue). They must contact their opponent within three days after becoming the challenger. Should the date and venue not be agreed within the agreed timescale both sides shall be disqualified.

Can we have an extension as we have not been able to complete the game by the published play-by date?

NO extension of the closing date for any round, will be granted for any reason whatsoever.

How do we determine the rink/s to be played on?

The draw for rink/s to be played on will be made in accordance with the current Laws of the Sport (Law 3.1). It is Bowls England's recommendation that for a match requiring one rink then a minimum of two rinks be offered to the opponent (or drawn from subject to local practice), for a match requiring more than one rink the minimum number of rinks offered should be at least equal to the number of rinks required.

My opponent did not turn up at the agreed start time, what can I do?

If a player/team/side 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'.

What happens in the event of bad weather?

In the event of no decision being reached IN ANY ROUND owing to exceptional weather conditions, and it is impossible to re-arrange a fixture before the closing date, please refer the appropriate paragraph of the Men's Section Rules.

In Club Two Fours fixtures, a total of 10 ends or more across the two rinks must have been completed to constitute a game. In Top Club fixtures (both genders), five ends must be completed in each individual discipline to constitute a game.

Can matches be played on artificial surfaces.

There is nothing in the Laws of the Sport or in the National Competition Regulations, as at present constituted, which stipulates that matches may not be played on a surface other than grass.

However, the Challenger must inform their opponent if there is a likelihood of play on a surface other than grass. It is, however, a condition that National Competitions are played outdoors and that the green has been approved by the relevant County Association.

How do I submit a result?

The winner must submit the result on the same day:

- ☐ Via the Sussex County Bowls Competitions Portal: www.sussexcbcomps.com

What should I do in case of a dispute?

Any question or dispute concerning competitions shall initially be made to either the relevant Divisional or County Competition Secretary, by one of the players concerned. Where related to the result of a match played, the dispute shall be lodged on the day of the disputed result and confirmed in writing by email to both the Divisional and the County Competition Secretary, either by the player concerned or through one of the two nominated email contacts for his club, by mid-day of the following day. The written dispute shall include a clear statement of the point at issue together with a copy of any documentary evidence that may exist.

The County Competition Secretary shall determine all questions and disputes that may arise and which do not come within the scope of the Umpire's duties. On disputes which could involve the reinstatement of a defeated appellant, the Competition Secretary shall inform his decision to the appellant, or to the club email contact, by email without undue delay.

Any appeal against the Competition Secretary's decision shall be lodged to the County Secretary (with copy to the Competition Secretary) within 48 hours of the disputed decision being issued. The club or competitor lodging the appeal must provide full reasons and basis of the dispute, together with a deposit in the sum of £10 which will be forfeited should the application be considered groundless, frivolous or vexatious.

Who do I contact regarding any other National Competition enquiry?

If you can't find the answer within this guidance document or the Rules & Regulations as published, please e-mail: The County Competition Secretary.

This FAQ document should be read in conjunction with:

- ☐ Sussex County Bowls Men's Section Rules.
- ☐ Bowls England Competition Regulations 50-70