

SUSSEX COUNTY BOWLS - MEN'S SECTION

GENERAL RULES &

COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP AND COMPETITION RULES

1. GENERAL RULES. (New Section added SGM 19)

a) Smoking.

(i) In accordance with BE Regulations Appendix G - Smoking on the green is prohibited during all matches played under the jurisdiction of Bowls England. For the purpose of clarification the 'green' in this instance is deemed to include a minimum of 1 metre of the bank surrounding the playing area. This prohibition includes all electronic cigarettes.

(ii) Players may only smoke/vape, in areas specifically designated by the club on whose green the match is being played.

(iii) Failure to adhere to the above, will:

(a) in respect of all County Matches, result in an initial warning being issued. Should the player continue to not adhere, or to commit a second offence they will not be selected to play for the County for a period of one year.

(b) in respect of County or Bowls England Competition, result in an initial warning being issued. Should the player continue to not adhere, or to commit a second offence they may, after consideration by the Emergency Committee, be subject to disqualification.

b) Mobile Phones.

(i) In accordance with BE Regulations Appendix C - the use of mobile phones on the green is prohibited during all games.

(ii) Mobile phones shall also not be used, in any surrounding areas of the green, by any player - whilst that player is taking part in any game that is under the control of Sussex County Bowls - but see (iii) below.

NB: For clarification - this means a player is not permitted to use a mobile phone AT ALL - whilst participating in a match - unless - a) in an emergency or - b) special dispensation has been given.

(iii) One player from a team may use a mobile phone - off and away from the green - to ascertain the score from the other venue in a 'side game', (i.e. Abergavenny Double Fours) if there are no supporters who can take this action. In such instances, any information obtained must be made available to both teams.

(iv) Failure to adhere to the above - other than in exceptional circumstances, will:

(a) in respect of any fixture played under the control of Sussex County Bowls, result in an initial warning being issued. Should the player continue to not adhere, or to commit a second offence they will not be selected to play for the County for a period of one year.

(b) in respect of County Competition, result in an initial warning being issued. Should the player continue to not adhere, or to commit a second offence they may after consideration by the Emergency Committee, be subject to disqualification

2. COUNTY COMPETITIONS

a. Eligibility, Conduct & Obligations

- (i) The Competitions shall be confined to any clubs who are member clubs of the Association in accordance with Sussex County Bowls - Men's Section - Constitution Section 3 – MEMBERSHIP.
- (ii) Every competitor must be a bona-fide member of the club he represents, MUST be on the list of members as submitted by that club - and shall not allow his name to be submitted for more than one club in any one year in the Competitions. (Amended AGM 21)
- a) Every club must submit to the County Secretary prior to 30th April in each year, a full list of male members and updates to that list shall be notified as additional members join.
- b) Any player who participates in any Competition who has not been so notified to the County Secretary will be deemed an ineligible player and relevant penalties applied.
- (ii) a) Every player entering County Competitions shall do so by completing forms on the County Website for each competition entered and shall pay the appropriate fee via the website. For Team games only one individual name shall be submitted at the time of entry, but all players forenames and surnames MUST be submitted with each result. If a player makes an entry based on more than one club, only the entries for the earliest club will be allowed into the draw, any other later entry will be deleted. (Amended AGM 22)
- b) If a player wishes to withdraw an entry, or amend an entry (for instance to show a different club), PRIOR TO the closing date for entries to the Competition entry date, he MUST inform the Competition Secretary and the County Secretary of that intent at least 48 hours before the designated closing date. (Added AGM 21)
- (iv) A player can represent only one club in County Competitions in any one year, except that the Male Club Champion of the immediate past season may enter the Champion of Champions competition from the Club to which he belonged when he won the Championship.
- (v) In all Team events, other than the Under 25 Pairs, all players MUST come from the same Club and must represent the same Club from which all other National Championship events have been entered. Any team which includes an ineligible player will be disqualified, and their opponents will progress to the next round. In the case that the irregularity is discovered after more than one round has been played, the latest defeated opponent shall be the one to go forward. (Added AGM 21)
- (vi) **Players entering the local heats of County and National Competitions MUST only do so, with the express intention of attending the County, Home Counties and the National Finals if they qualify. Players who qualify and do not attend the Finals, or withdraw at the latter stages of the Competition - may be subject to disciplinary action. (Amended AGM 22)**
- (vii) a) If for a legitimate reason a player is unable to attend for a match being played at any stage of the Competition, from local heats right through to and including at the National Championships – then he must record online the result as a walk-over to his opponent but MUST also ensure that the Competition Secretary or County Secretary – is notified at the earliest possible opportunity of the reasons why he is unable to attend. His opponent must also be notified in sufficient time to avoid the opponent from travelling unnecessarily. (Amended AGM 22)
- b) It is the responsibility of the player to ensure that one of the above officers - and his opponent - have received this information and the fact that an email has been sent or a message left on an answerphone is not deemed sufficient. The player must obtain confirmation that the information has been received.

(c) If a player does not attend - or gives a 'walk-over' to his opponent - and has failed to ensure that the reasons for his non-attendance has been received by one of the above two officers, or if his reason for non-attendance is not considered acceptable, in such circumstances he may be barred from entering in future years that County and National Competition or in extreme cases all County and National Competitions under the auspices of Sussex County Bowls for a period of up to three years commencing on the date of notification. In a "play by date" competition, failure to contact an opponent, or failure to respond to a contact, resulting in the tie not being played by the given date, shall be considered as non-attendance within this and succeeding clauses. If the fault of the player in not attending, is that of his Club, then the player shall not be penalised. (Amended AGM 22)

(d) Prior to any decision being made, the player or Club shall be asked for an explanation by the person responsible for managing that competition. Any explanations provided, will then be considered with the basic facts of the situation by the Competition Secretary or in his absence the Secretary and a decision will be given in writing. Any appeal arising, concerning a ban for future years, should be made within fourteen days of the decision being notified to the player and Club involved, and will be dealt with through the Secretary, as an emergency matter as defined in the Men's Section Constitution Section 5 (e).

(viii) DRESS. See Section 6A below for the Dress Code for all stages of County Competitions.

b. Provisions

(i) All Competitions shall be played under the Laws of the International Bowling Board and the Rules and Regulations of Bowls England, except where otherwise provided by these rules and shall be under the management of the Competition Secretary of the Sussex County Bowls (Men's Section). (Amended AGM 22)

(ii) The green shall be in accordance with the current Laws of the Game, as adopted by the World Bowls Board and in accordance with the Bye-Laws currently laid down by Bowls England.

(iii) Two trial ends will be allowed in all Competitions.

(iv) On the day of a Competition or tie no player shall play on the rink before such Competition starts, except in the trial ends.

(v) Bowls used to be in accordance with the "Laws of the Game".

(vi) Entries must be made on the County website by the date notified as per a. (iii) a) above.

(vii) Other than on Finals weekend - the start time for all Competitions shall be 6 pm, other than for the Under 25 Pairs which shall have a start time of 7pm), unless mutually agreed otherwise by both players/teams, or as notified by the organiser for any 'Single day Competitions'. The standard 30 minutes 'grace time' shall be allowed. (Amended AGM 22)

(viii) When any match reaches a stage where it is no longer possible for one of the players to win, the match shall be terminated.

(ix) For all competitions that are initially under the control of this County, The 'Challenger' is CLEARLY defined on any draw sheet for County/National Competitions. IT IS NO LONGER THE TOPMOST NAMED PERSON/TEAM but randomly allocated by the computer. THIS AVOIDS ANY PERSON BEING always 'HOME' OR 'AWAY' THROUGHOUT THE ROUNDS - just because he is at the top or the bottom of the flowchart. (Added AGM 21)

(x) **Draw for Rinks**

It is a requirement of World Bowls and Bowls England that players undertake a draw for rinks. Laws of the Sport of Bowls - para 3. See Appendix 5. For Quarter Finals onwards at neutral venues, the Competition Secretary shall undertake the draw. (Amended AGM 22)

c. **Questions and Disputes**

(i) Any question or dispute concerning competitions shall initially be made to either the relevant Area 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 Area 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.

(ii) 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.

(iii) 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.

d. **Areas**

i) The County shall be divided into four Areas, 1, 2, 3 and 4.

ii) An Area Competition Secretary, for each area, shall be elected at the AGM.

iii) The Area Competition Secretaries shall be responsible to the Hon. Competition Secretary.

e. **Championship Format**

FIXED DATE - COMPETITIONS

See Rule I (i). re Substitutions in the Pairs, Triples and Fours Championships.

(i) **SINGLES CHAMPIONSHIP**

Each game shall consist of 21 shots (4 bowls each player). The winner will hold the Towner Cup and receive a commemorative blazer flash. His club will receive a commemorative pennant. The runner-up will hold the Hollis Cup.

(ii) **PAIRS CHAMPIONSHIP**

Each game shall consist of 18 ends (4 bowls each player). In the event of a tie an extra end must be played, the shots of this end to count in the final score. The winners will hold the John Carter Cup and each receive a commemorative blazer flash. Their club will receive a commemorative pennant. The runners-up will hold the two Rowland Cups.

(iii) **TRIPLES CHAMPIONSHIP**

Each game shall consist of 18 ends (3 bowls each player). In the event of a tie an extra end must be played, the shots of this end to count in the final score. The winners will hold the Madeira Cup and each receive a commemorative blazer flash. Their club will receive a commemorative pennant. The runners-up will hold the Herbert Cup.

(iv) **FOURS CHAMPIONSHIP**

Each game shall consist of 18 ends (2 bowls each player). In the event of a tie an extra end must be played, the shots of this end to count in the final score. The winners will hold the George Clark Cup and each receive a

commemorative blazer flash. Their club will receive a commemorative pennant. The runners-up will hold the Galloway Cup.

(v) **2 WOOD SINGLES CHAMPIONSHIP**

Each game shall consist of 21 ends (2 woods each player). The winner will hold the Wadey and Wilkins Trophy and receive a commemorative blazer flash. His Club will receive a commemorative pennant. The runner up will hold the Runners Up Trophy.

(vi) **SINGLES (UNBADGED) COMPETITION**

Entry is open to any member of an affiliated Club who is not entitled to wear any full outdoor County Blazer badge. Each game shall consist of 21 shots (4 bowls each player). The winner will hold the Richfield Cup. The winner will receive a commemorative blazer flash. His club will receive a commemorative pennant. The runner up will hold the Spires Rose Bowl.

(vii) **CHAMPION OF CHAMPIONS COMPETITION**

Open to the male club champion of the immediate past season who is the winner of a Mens Four Bowls Singles Championship played as a knockout competition to 21 shots. No substitute will be permitted but see provisions of Para 2 a (iv) concerning a player who changes club prior to the season. The winner will receive a commemorative blazer flash and will hold the L.S. Goodger Trophy for one year. His club will receive a commemorative pennant. The runner-up will hold the A & F Trophy. The format of play is first to 21 shots (4 bowls each). The Club Secretary shall at the end of each season notify to the County Competition Secretary the name of their Club Champion. **(Updated AGM 2023)**

(viii) **DOUBLE FOURS COMPETITION (The Abergavenny Cup)**

Each club shall be represented by eight players, who may be substituted in different rounds by players of the same club. Except in the Final, one Four shall play at home and one Four on the opponents green. Each game shall consist of 21 ends (2 bowls each player), but an extra end must be played on the green of the Challenger with a toss of a coin to decide **who shall have the choice of taking the mat**. The shots of this end to count in the event of a tie in the game proper. The winning club will hold the Abergavenny Cup and receive a commemorative pennant. The runners up will hold the Tithe Barn Cup. **(Amended AGM 2023)**

As this Competition is a 'side game' as opposed to all others which are 'team games' the ruling concerning shortage of players is different., so see separate rule concerning shortage of players. **(Laws of the Sport - Crystal Mark Third Edition, Page 37/38 39.2.2).**

Any Club that withdraws from the Competition shall be barred from entering in the following season - unless it is decided that there are exceptional circumstances.

PLAY BY DATE - COMPETITIONS

In the following Competitions the following arrangements will apply:

(i) 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.

(ii) 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.

NB: 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). (Added AGM 22)

(iii) If the 'Challenger' fails to contact the Opponent and take action as described in (i) or (ii) above, then the opponent becomes the 'Challenger' and assumes home advantage. He is required to offer - within a further three days of either of the dates as quoted above - three dates, one of which must be a Saturday or Sunday, and at the same time shall inform the Competition Secretary in charge of that competition that he is invoking this rule, and has accepted the responsibilities of now being the challenger.

(iv) If the 'Challenger', or an opponent either when he is the opponent or when if he subsequently becomes the 'Challenger', is unable to make contact with the opponent within the specified time limits, he MUST attempt contact through the opponents Club Secretary and notify the Competition Secretary or DCS, of his inability to contact the opponent in order to avoid being penalised as in (v) or (vi) below.

(v) Failure by an 'opponent' (either original or 'challenger' who subsequently becomes the opponent due to default as in (iii) above), to accept one of the three dates offered, within 48 hours of contact being made, shall result in the current 'Challenger' going through to the next round.

- (vi) If neither player makes contact to offer dates then both players will be disqualified.

NB Whilst messages left on answerphone or emails sent are an acceptable means to attempt contact they are not 'proof of contact', so if no reply is received from such methods, then actual verbal contact with the player must be made and if such contact cannot be made the player's Club Secretary must be approached. This will enable 'proof' that an attempt has been made to contact the opponent.

(vii) **UNDER 25's SINGLES CHAMPIONSHIP**

Open to all players who have not attained the age of 25 on 1st April in the year in which the Championship is held. The format will be first player to 21 shots using 4 bowls. The winner will hold the Gordon Cummings Cup and receive a commemorative blazer flash. His club will receive a commemorative pennant. The runner-up will hold the Harry Gould Cup.

(viii) **UNDER 25's PAIRS CHAMPIONSHIP**

Open to all players who have not attained the age of 25 on 1st April in the year in which the Championship is held. The format will be 18 ENDS using THREE bowls. The winners will hold the **Sussex County Bowls Under 25 Pairs Cup** and receive a commemorative blazer flash. His club will receive a commemorative pennant. The runner-up will hold the **Sussex County Bowls Under 25 Pairs Runners Up Cup. (Amended AGM 20)**

Bowls England 'recommend' that the start time for the Junior Pairs will be no earlier than 7pm on a weekday (unless mutually agreed otherwise). The two players, may be from different Clubs, but they must both be affiliated to Clubs within the same County and have entered all other National Championship events from the same County.

(ix) **SENIOR FOURS CHAMPIONSHIP**

Open to all players who have attained the age of 55 on 1st April in the year in which the Championship is held. Each game shall consist of 18 ends (2 bowls each player). In the event of a tie an extra end must be played, the shots of this end to count in the final score. The winners will hold the **Past Presidents Cup** and each receive a commemorative blazer flash. Their club will receive a commemorative pennant. The runners-up will hold the **Past Presidents Salver**.

(x) **Mixed Pairs Competition (Added AGM 2023)**

The team shall comprise of one male and one female member from the same club either player may play in either position.

Each game shall consist of 18 ends (4 bowls each player). In the event of a tie an extra end must be played, the shots of this end to count in the final score. The winners will hold the Rod McBeth Trophy Cup and each receive a commemorative blazer flash. Their club will receive a commemorative pennant. The runners-up will hold the D&B Page Shield.

See sub para i. re substitutes.

(xi) **Mixed Fours Competition (Added AGM 2023)**

The team shall comprise of two male and two female members from the same club. Any player may play in any position.

Each game shall consist of 18 ends (2 bowls each player). In the event of a tie an extra end must be played, the shots of this end to count in the final score. The winners will hold the Whitfield Cup and each receive a commemorative blazer flash. Their club will receive a commemorative pennant. The runners-up will hold the South Downs Shield.

See sub para i. re substitutes.

f. Bowls England National Championships and Home Counties Bowls Association Championships

Winners of Singles, 2 Wood Singles, Pairs, Triples, Fours, Senior Fours, and Under 25's Singles and Pairs, will represent the County at the Bowls England National Championships and with the Exception of the Senior Fours, Two Wood Singles and Under 25 Pairs in the Home Counties Bowling Association Championships.

Additionally, the losing Finalists in the Singles, 2 Wood Singles, Pairs, Triples and Fours will represent the County at the Bowls England National Championships. The winner of the Under 25's Singles will represent the County in the Bowls England National Junior Singles Regional finals and beyond.

g. The Draw

The County Competition Secretary shall be responsible for making the Draw by computer and shall fix dates for playing of the ties. The Draw for all Competitions will be published on the County website; winners will be notified of their next opponents through club Honorary Secretaries and/or direct by e-mail.

(i) **Preliminary Stage**

- (a) Each Area shall be drawn together and play through until the last 2 in each of the four Areas for all Senior Competitions, unless due to numbers it is necessary to combine two adjacent Areas. For Junior Competitions the draw shall be countywide unless there are sufficient numbers to justify any area split. **(Amended AGM 20)**
- (b) The Challenger shall play on his own or Opponent's green, unless mutually agreed to play on a neutral green.
- (c) No extension beyond the dates fixed will be allowed except as specifically allowed elsewhere in these rules but competitors may mutually agree to play their ties before the date and times fixed and inform the appropriate Area Competition Secretary.
- (d) The Challenger must pay green fees, if any, except in the Double Fours Competition where the Rink playing on own green shall pay the fees, if any, of the visiting rink.
- (e) If the Draw provides a club with more home ties on a due date than there are home rinks available, every effort shall be made by the club's committee to bring forward the time and/or date of enough ties to resolve the overcrowding, as provided for in (a) above. If the club's committee decides that this is not practicable, then and only then it shall conduct a draw to allot the home ties. The excess ties shall then be played **FIRSTLY** (i) on a neutral green or greens or **SECONDLY** (ii) on the Opponent's green. It shall be the responsibility, in these circumstances, for the home club to make all necessary arrangements and to keep the competitors informed. Home green priority should be offered to players from the same club who are drawn against each other.
- (f) Any Competition where there are only three entries will be played as a 'round robin' with all teams/players playing one another on neutral greens, the Competition Secretary shall set the time and place for matches. Each game in the round robin shall be as defined for that competition. If a game is tied at the end of the fixed number of ends that result will stand: no extra end will be played. Teams will be drawn as A/B/C. The first match will be team A v Team B with the loser playing Team C in the second match. The final game will be team C playing the winner of the first game.

Two points will be awarded for a win and 1 point each for a draw. The winner will be the team/player with the highest number of points and if points are equal then the greatest shot difference shall decide. If teams are still tied the greatest number of ends won will decide. If teams are still equal then a playoff shall be arranged. **(Added AGM 20)**

(ii) **Final Stage**

- a) The four Area 1, 2, 3 and 4 will be drawn together and with the exception of the Double Fours Competition will play on greens appointed by the County Competition Secretary, in the case of the Double Fours Competition, if it is mutually agreed by the clubs concerned, the Quarter and Semi- Finals may be played on a green appointed by the County Competition Secretary.
- b) **Set dates, as detailed at the start of the season, will be arranged and notified, on which the Quarter and Semi Finals will be played. Matches will only be played on dates other than these set dates, if so determined by the Competition Secretary and normally only where a player is scheduled to play in two County Competitions set as 'fixed dates' to be played on that evening. (Added AGM 22)**

NB: The Double Fours (Abergavenny) Competition is a competition that any registered player of a club, can play in - so does NOT qualify under the terms above. (Added AGM 22)

h. Non Arrival, Delays and Re-arrangement

(i) **Non-arrival - Delay**

- a) If a party (individual, team, or in the case of the Double Fours, all players in each four) is/are not ready to play within 30 minutes after the time fixed for the tie, the other party may claim a walk-over and **if the** offending party **has** not reported his non-appearance to either his opponent or his Area Competition Secretary prior to the tie, **they** will be subject to action as defined elsewhere in these Rules. The claim for a walk-over must be made to the Area Competition Secretary as soon as possible after the period of grace has expired on the evening the tie was due to take place. **(Amended AGM 2023)**
- b) **Where the event is - either - a) a 'fixed date' competition - or b) a 'play by date' competition - being played on the last day - or c) - a Qtr, Semi or Final - the opponent will be given a walkover. (Added AGM 2023)**

If a party (individual, team, or in the case of the Double Fours, all players in each four) is/are not ready to play within 30 minutes after the time fixed for the tie, the other party may claim a walk-over and if the offending party has not reported his non-appearance to either his opponent or his Area Competition Secretary prior to the tie, they will be subject to action as defined elsewhere in these Rules. The claim for a walk-over must be made

to the Area Competition Secretary as soon as possible after the period of grace has expired on the evening the tie was due to take place. **(Amended AGM 2023)**

(ii) **Unfinished games**

In a side game only the game(s) that are unable to be completed shall be stopped, other games shall continue if the conditions allow.

(iii) Any game that is unable to be played to its completion (unfinished game) will recommence from the last completed end, unless either team concedes the match - and will be played as detailed below. If the Green Ranger or Grounds man declares the green fit for play, all games thereon must be played on the date and competitors refusing to play will be scratched.

(iv) All unfinished or unplayed games (owing to climatic conditions) - or outside interference) **that are 'fixed date competitions'** are to be played on the same green the day following the date originally fixed by the committee, **for Monday and Wednesday matches and by mutual agreement on the Saturday/Sunday for Friday matches. If the 'Challengers' green is still unfit for play an alternative location shall be arranged by the 'Challenger' or the option given to the opponent to play on their green. (Amended AGM 22).**

(v) Where games have been interrupted and therefore unfinished, by reason of outside interference, the teams may mutually agree, or the Competition Secretary may decree, that the match shall be played at an alternative venue. If any of the competitors in a postponed match are unable to play the following day a substitute must be used. If either team or player declines to play on the next available date the other team or player shall receive a walkover. **(Amended AGM 22).**

(vi) Where matches are postponed due to climatic conditions and are unable to be played the following day(weekend), the Competition Secretary will make revised arrangements for matches to be played. **(Added AGM 22).**

(vii) An extension of time will be allowed to any competitor or competitors engaged in County Competitions who may be selected to represent their country in any event in Great Britain, which may bring honour to the County and to competitors selected to play in Middleton Cup matches subject to the approval of the Competition Secretary. This extension does not apply to involvement in the County Double Fours Competition as that Competition allows for unlimited substitution. The Competition Secretary shall immediately fix a date (mutually agreed if possible) to play off the postponed tie or ties in the Competition or Competitions. **(Amended AGM 22).**

(viii) Trial ends are allowed in all postponed games.

i. Substitutes

(i) In Pairs, **Mixed Pairs**, Triples Fours and **Mixed Fours**, the players taking part in the first game shall constitute the team and shall normally play together throughout the Championship. **(Amended AGM 2023)**

(ii) One additional, and the same player, may be used as a substitute at any time provided he has not already played in the Championship. He may play in any position.

(iii) The named entrant of a team cannot be a member or substitute of any other team in the same Championship.

(iv) The Double Fours Competition allows for unlimited substitute players (who must be registered members of the Club) to be used, including in a game that was unable to be completed on the original date and is required to be completed on another date.

(v) If a substitute is required during a game then the rules in the Laws of the Sport of Bowls apply but only substitutes who are qualified as above may be used.

(vi) In the Mixed Pairs and Mixed Fours one and the same male and/or one and the same female player may at any time, be used as a substitute - to replace a player of the 'same gender' - but for Mixed Pairs ONE of the original players in the first game must take part and for Mixed Fours TWO of the original players in the first game (one of each gender) must take part.

NB: Both a substitute male and a substitute female - are permitted - but both cannot play in the same round for Pairs but may for the Fours. (Additional paragraphs inserted AGM 2023)

j. Finals Day

(i) Finals of all SCB (Men's Section) Championships and Competitions will be played on a Finals Day(s) in the last two weeks of July, (including any third/fourth place playoff required regarding qualification for the National Finals), the venue to be decided by the GPC. **(Amended AGM 22).**

(ii) If for religious reasons a finalist objects to playing on a particular day, other arrangements can be made.

k. Notification of Results

(i) Results of each round MUST be entered onto the website – by the winning team/player - as soon as possible – THE SAME EVENING after completion of the game and in all cases by midnight on the date designated as the final

day for that round to be played. (or in the case of a technical web failure - to the Area Competition Secretary (DCS) - for all competitions other than the Under 25's Competitions where they are to be notified direct to the County Competition Secretary.) Next round opponents will be notified automatically by the web system. **(Amended AGM 21)**

- (ii) For all team games, the **full forename and surname** of all participating players (winners and losers) **MUST** be entered onto the website and THE SIGNED RESULT CARD FOR THE MATCH must be retained, UNTIL AFTER FINALS DAY, for future reference in case of a query. **(Amended AGM 22)**
- (iii) On the closing date for each round of the competition the Competition Secretary (or his designated deputy) will close the results and for any match with no result both players / teams will be automatically disqualified. If any player / team believes there is a valid reason why no result has been given an appeal must be made within 24 hours of the defined closing time, the matter will then be considered in accordance with (iv) below and "Questions and Disputes" in "C" above. **(Added AGM 21)**
- (iv) Failure by a player/team to notify the result within the timescale as required in sub para (i) above - will on the first occasion result in the player/team being reminded of their responsibility and a second failure is liable to result in disqualification.
- (v) Failure by a player/team to ensure that the names of ALL players who took part in a match are entered on to the website, to enable a check of eligibility to be carried out - prior to the next round – is liable to result in disqualification. **(Amended AGM 21)**
- (vi) Content of Scorecards: Scorecards **MUST BE** completed by players at the same end of the rink and must be checked and agreed against one another and the scoreboard - at regular intervals. On completion of the match they **MUST BE** signed by both players/teams after the total shots and result have been agreed. It is the responsibility of the players to ensure that the correct number of ends was played and the score recorded is correct - and the score and number of ends - as recorded on the cards will be final result and will determine the winning player/team - unless in exceptional circumstances the Emergency Committee decide otherwise.
- (vii) Where cards have been retained by the winning team/player - and a request is received from the Competition Secretary that those cards be forwarded to him - then arrangements **MUST** be made for those cards to be in the possession of the Competition Secretary within 48 hours of the request. Any team/player that fails to comply with such a request is liable to be disqualified. **(Amended AGM 21)**

NB It is the responsibility of the team/player to ensure that result cards reach the Comp. Sec. or DCS as and when required and 'lost in the post' WILL NOT be accepted as a reason for non-compliance. CARDS CAN BE FORWARDED AS A SCANNED COPY OR ARRANGMENTS MADE FOR THEM TO BE DELIVERED.

i. Markers and Umpires

The challengers to be responsible for appointing Markers in the early stages of the Singles competitions. In the Final Stages the County Competition Secretary/County Umpire Co-ordinator will appoint Markers and Umpires.

m. Trophies

The Trophies will be presented to the winners on County Finals Day, to be held until they are returned to the County Competition Secretary by the 30th June the following year - at the latest. If on occasions it is necessary for the Competition Secretary, or the Honorary Secretary to request in writing for the early return of Trophies, they shall be returned without delay, and in all cases, no later than 30 days after the request is made. A satisfactory guarantee must be given to the Association that they will be kept in the clubhouse or the home of a committee member of Sussex County Bowls or of a cup holder in accordance with the terms of Sussex County Bowls Insurance Policy and returned in good order and condition appropriately engraved. **(Amended AGM 18)**

n. Entrance Fees

The entrance fees for the County Championships and Competitions shall be determined annually by GPC and agreed by the Executive Committee. **Amended AGM 22)**

o. Alteration of Rules

Alterations of or additions to all or any of the foregoing Rules shall be made only at the Annual General Meeting or at a Special General Meeting convened for that purpose. Written notice of the terms of the proposed alterations must be sent to the Honorary Secretary not later than four weeks prior to the date of such meeting, and notice of such proposed alteration shall be sent to each Club with the notice convening the meeting.

p. Notification of Rules

It is the duty of every Club to ensure that each of its members is aware of these rules.

6. DRESS CODE**a. County Competitions****BE Regulations stipulate that:**

The dress code in all rounds of County Championships leading to the Final Stages of the National Championships shall be stipulated by the County Association, having regard to Regulations 50.5.1.1 (Men) and 50.5.1.2 (Women).

Please note: All reference to white shoes, shirts, waterproofs etc., should read predominately white shoes, shirts, waterproofs etc.

(i) BE Regulation 5.1.1. (Dress Specific to Men)

- a) Dress will be grey or white trousers and white, club or county registered shirts with flat soled bowling shoes. Sandals will not be permitted, in events under the jurisdiction of Bowls England, except in medical circumstances where a doctor's note has been provided. (Amended SGM 19).
- b) Club/County apparel may be worn provided that all members of the side or team wear the same and provided that the design of such apparel has been registered to the County/Bowls England.
- c) Bowls England licensed and approved apparel may be worn provided that all members of a side or team bear the same colour above and/or below the waist.
- d) Players governed by requirements of a specific ethnic culture will be permitted to wear their traditional dress if they so desire.
- e) Tracksuits, shell suits and jeans are not acceptable.
- f) Headgear, if worn, should be white or a registered colour.
- g) White waterproof clothing may be used, or, providing all members of a side wear the same, registered colour waterproof/fleeces are permitted. Bowls England licensed and approved apparel may also be worn.

Specific County Regulations: (Amended AGM 19)**i) Shirts:**

All players entering County Competitions shall - in all matches right through until Finals Day - be dressed the same - either in club colours as registered with the County Association - or in plain white shirts with a collar. Where in any 'team or side' game, shirts are worn that are 'predominately white' - then all the shirts MUST BE IDENTICAL IN STYLE, COLOUR AND DESIGN, i.e. same manufacturer, same design and same colours. 'Predominately white' shirts that are not identical ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE. T-shirts are not permitted nor are other coloured shirts.

(ii) Trousers/Shorts:

All players must be dressed in the same colour, but a combination of trousers and shorts is perfectly acceptable in all events. Trousers if worn shall NOT be rolled up in any way.

a) For all rounds - prior to the Quarter Finals:

- i) Players shall be dress in grey, white or coloured clothing below the waist, either trousers - or shorts - but all members of a team MUST BE dressed in the same colour clothing.
- ii) Trousers or Shorts - other than White or Grey - may only be worn - if they are Bowls England licensed and approved apparel and if all members of a 'side or team' - wear the same coloured approved trousers or shorts.

b) For Qtr, Semi and Finals Day matches - on neutral greens:

- i) Players shall be dressed as per para a) i) and ii) above, except that grey trousers/shorts are no longer permitted to be worn at any stage, even though Qtr and Semi Final matches are played in the evening.

c) Finals Day(s):

- i) All players shall remain in their playing colours - until after the last match of the relevant session has been completed and the trophies presented and the photographs taken.

(iii) Shoes and Socks:

- a) White or coloured shoes may be worn with either white socks or coloured socks that match team colours.

(iv) Penalties for all rounds Prior to the Quarter Finals:

- a) Any player/team who participate in a match incorrectly dressed - will on the first occasion that it happens, be warned that if such a situation arises again in a later round - or in the following season - then they will be disqualified from the competition – unless the Emergency Committee consider that there are exceptional circumstances – or that the offence is so serious it merits an immediate disqualification.

- b) Any player who during a season, participates in more than one Competition incorrectly dressed will be disqualified from entering ALL County and National Competitions organised by the County, in the following season.

(v) Penalties - Quarter Final Stages onwards and 1 Day Competitions:

- a) Any player/team who attempts to participate in a match incorrectly dressed - will be required to change into the correct dress and if they fail to do so will be disqualified from the Competition – unless the Senior Officers present - consider that there are exceptional circumstances.

- b) Any player/team who fails to observe the dress code throughout the match - will be disqualified from entering the Competition in the following year – unless the Emergency Committee - consider that there were exceptional circumstances.

- c) Any player/Team that fails to remain for the presentation and photographs will be disqualified from entering the Competition in the following year – unless the Emergency Committee - consider that there were exceptional circumstances.

(vi) Bowls and stickers:

- a) All bowls must bear the same stickers or none at all.

- b) The 1985 Regulation is fine for all rounds up to and including Finals Day, but all bowls must be dated with the current year or beyond - for anyone qualified for the Nationals.

b. County Matches

All bowls must bear the correct County stickers for all matches, other than VP matches when the bowls of all members of the team must bear the same stickers or none at all.

(i) HCL & MC Matches:

Players are expected to arrive for matches in Zipper Jacket and Grey flannel trousers, with either a white shirt and tie or County Shirt. Players will normally play in County Shirt, White Trousers - or White BE Approved shorts - and White socks and shoes unless the dress is notified otherwise on the team sheet for a match being played in a morning. Players will change back into Grey flannel trousers after the match.

(ii) **Under 25 Matches:**

Players are expected to arrive for matches in County shirt and Grey flannel trousers, with either a white shirt and tie or County Shirt. Players will normally play in County Shirt, White Trousers or shorts - and White socks and shoes unless the dress is notified otherwise on the team sheet for a match being played in a morning. Players will change back into Grey flannel trousers after the match.

(iii) **County and Presidential Matches:**

The dress code for all County and Presidential matches will be as shown on the match team selection sheet as sent out and published on the website and may be subject to later amendment depending on weather conditions. (Amended AGM 22)

(iv) **Vice Patron Matches:**

Players will normally play in either County Shirts or plain white shirts dependant on the area agreement but all players must be dressed in the same shirts, with white trousers or shorts, white socks and bowls shoes.

c. **Meetings and Annual Luncheon.**

(i) Executive Meetings & AGM - as agreed by the delegates for Executive Meetings, the dress for the AGM will now be smart casual clothing.

(ii) Annual Luncheon: The Dress will be Blazer or jacket, shirt and tie and smart trousers.