

# COMPETITION BYLAWS – 2026 (BE 1<sup>st</sup> March 2026)

## Championship Competitions formats according to the 2026 Bowls England Summary

<b>Singles (inc Junior)</b>	<b>4 Bowls each 21 Shots</b>
<b>2 Bowls</b>	<b>2 Bowls each 21 Ends</b>
<b>Pairs</b>	<b>4 Bowls each 18 Ends</b>
<b>Junior Pairs</b>	<b>3 Bowls each 18 Ends</b>
<b>Triples</b>	<b>3 Bowls each 18 Ends</b>
<b>Fours/Snr Fours</b>	<b>2 Bowls each 18 Ends</b>

1.

- A) The competitions shall be open to all members of clubs affiliated to Hertfordshire Bowls who have paid their subscriptions.
- B) The entrance fee, shall be at such rate as determined by the Executive Committee. Entries shall be submitted via the Competition Portal no later than a date set by the Executive Committee.
- C) For the Junior Singles competitions ALL eligible players will be automatically entered as there is no fee payable. The Executive Committee may, at its discretion allow later entry in the Junior Pairs.
- D) Entry in the Unbadged Singles competition is open to members who have UNDER 10 points at the date of entry.

2.

No restriction shall be placed upon any member playing in more than one competition, but no player shall allow their name to be submitted from more than one club.

3.

- A) The Competitions shall be played under the WB Laws of the Sport (Crystal Mark 4), and the Rules of Bowls England (including any limitations as to age, etc.) except where otherwise provided in these rules, and shall be under the management of the Executive Committee.
- B) The Executive Committee shall delegate to the Hon. Divisional Secretaries or other designated Officer the day-to-day administration of ties up to and including the Quarter Final stage.
- C) The Hon. Fixtures Secretary shall fix the dates for all rounds but reserve the right to make such alterations to published dates as is considered necessary for the purpose of County or National business.
- D) All questions or disputes that may arise and which do not come within the scope of the Umpire's duties, shall be determined by the relevant gender Hon. Secretary up to and including the Quarter Finals. The Hon. Executive Administrator will take responsibility for the Semi Finals & Finals. Decisions shall be final and binding.

4. For Dress Code for all Competitions refer to Dress Code Bylaws.

5.

- A) Ties shall be played ON, or by mutual agreement BEFORE, the date shown for each round up to but not including the Quarter Finals.
- B) The first named shall be the Challenger who shall have the choice of green up to the Neutral Green stage. They must contact their opponent to advise venue and agree the start time. Failure to do so in accordance with Rule 9 will result in the challenge switching to the opponent who shall have the choice of venue and match time, subject to the stipulations of Bylaw 5D.
- C) In all Singles competitions, the Challenger MUST appoint a Marker. If they fail to do so, the opponent may claim a 'Walk Over'. At Neutral Green stage, the host club shall provide a Marker. For the Semi Finals and Final stages, Markers shall be allocated by the County Administrator.
- D) No player shall be compelled to accept a start time earlier than 6.00pm nor later than 6.30pm.
- E) In the event of the Challenger's green not being available or not conforming to the requirements of Bowls England, the Challenger shall have choice of a neutral green in the same Area. No game shall be postponed to another date without permission of the relevant Hon. Division Secretary.
- F) A tie conceded remains conceded.

6.

- A) In the Pairs, Triples & Fours/Snr Fours competitions, the players taking part in the first game constitute the team. The named entrant is automatically deemed to be a member of the team and cannot play for any other team in the same competition. In exceptional circumstances the named entrant may be changed subject to County & Bowls England approval.
- B) One additional, and the same player may be used as a substitute at any time, provided that they have not already played in that Competition. The substitute may play in any position.
- C) In Singles Competitions, competitors finding that they cannot play on the designated Quarter Final, Semi Final or Finals dates and times shall immediately withdraw from that Competition.

7.

- A) The last sixteen places shall be allocated to Divisions in proportion to entries.
- B) Quarter Finals, Semi Finals & Finals will be played on nominated greens.

8.

If a party arrives more than 30 minutes after the agreed start time for the game, the other party may claim a 'Walk Over'.

9.

If a challenge has not been received 48 hours before the appropriate fixed date of the round (subject to time between rounds), the role of Challenger shall move to the opponent who shall have the choice of venue and start time, subject to the stipulation of Bylaw 5D. It is a requirement that the relevant Hon. Divisional Secretary is informed of the change of venue. Failure of either party to comply with this Bylaw will result in both sides being disqualified.

10.

In case of any disputes, up to and including the Quarter Finals appeals MUST be made within 24 hours of the game's completion, accompanied by a clear statement in writing to the relevant Hon. Divisional Secretary, together with any evidence that exists. Appeals from Semi Finals & Finals stages should be made to the County Administrator.

11.

An allowance at a rate determined by the Executive Committee will be paid to those competing in the Bowls England National Championships.

12.

A) County Representatives at the Bowls England National Championships for Two & Four Bowl Singles, Pairs, Triples, Fours and Junior Singles will be either the Champions or Finalists and will be determined by Bowls England according to a table of entries per county.

B) The Champions of the Junior Pairs & Senior Fours shall represent the County at the National Championships

13.

The Champions of the Men's Championship Singles, Pairs, Triples, Fours, Two Bowl Singles and Junior Singles shall represent the County in the Eastern Counties BA. Championships should circumstances dictate otherwise they can be replaced with the finalists.

14.

**Two Bowls Day** Trial ends can be played at the beginning of every game.

## **COMPETITION RESULT REPORTING**

1.

Results must be submitted, via the Competition Portal on the same day as the fixture takes place.

2.

Each team must complete a Match Scorecard which shall be completed with all Players names and signed at the conclusion of the Match by the opposition Skip. This Scorecard must be retained by the winning team and taken to all subsequent round ties. Not a requirement for Singles Matches.

3.

It is up to each team to ensure that the team they are playing against consists of the named players of previous rounds, in accordance with Bylaw 6.

4.

Remember to keep all Scorecards in case any member of your team needs to verify their Points for future County play.

## **INCLEMENT WEATHER (BE Regulations Appendix F)**

Inclement weather shall mean the existence of rain or abnormal climatic conditions (whether they be those of hail, snow, cold, high wind, extreme high temperature, or any combination thereof) by virtue of which it is either not reasonable or possible to play.

Unusual situations not covered within the above can often arise. If a situation arises that is not covered by the above, Players, Markers, Umpires and Officials shall use their common sense and a spirit of fair play to decide on the appropriate course of action.

All matches are to be played to a finish as referred within the Laws of the Sport V4 – Game Stoppages (Law 33) If it is not possible to conclude play on the day, then the match to be completed prior to the next round taking place. If this is not possible, then provided circumstances permit the County Executive may in their discretion reschedule future rounds to accommodate.