



**CHAMPIONSHIP / COMPETITION
RULES & REGULATIONS**

**50 –70
ISSUE D**

APRIL 2013

Please note that at the EGM on November 24th 2012, the Company resolved:

'That the Competitions Committee be empowered to make minor adjustments to the Competitions Rules & Regulations'

From 2014

Details submitted by the County to the Women's National Championships will be by Monday of Week 30.

The first Monday of the Women's National Championships will be in week 32 of each year.

Details submitted by the County to the Men's National Championships will be by Monday of Week 32.

The first Monday of the Men's National Championships will be in week 34 of each year.

1 Bowls England National Championships

County Championships leading to National Championships shall be administered under the Rules and Regulations of Bowls England.

- 1.1 The Championships shall be played under the current Laws of the Sport of Bowls and in accordance with the regulations currently laid down by Bowls England. All Championship disciplines must be played to a completion as per the current Laws of the Sport, unless it is mathematically impossible to do so.

Should a player, who has been expelled, or suspended from a Club, be drawn to play at that Club in any Championship or Competition game, other than a side game, run under the auspices of or on behalf of Bowls England, the Club must either allow the player access to the changing room and green in order to play the game or alternatively advise the challenger(s) to make arrangements for the game to be played on a neutral green of a Club affiliated to Bowls England. Under no circumstances will the opponent(s) be expected to concede the game. Should the expelled, or suspended player be a member of a 'side team' the Club fielding the player must ask the Club from whom he/she was banned for permission for that player to access the Club. If permission is refused the player must be withdrawn from the side. In all other cases the Club may refuse access.

- 1.2 The National Championships shall comprise:

- Singles
- Pairs
- Triples
- Fours
- Junior Singles
- Two Wood Singles
- Women's Junior Pairs

All others are National Competitions.

- 1.3 Players selected for approved International duties, together with Officers and Officials on duty with the England teams, must be allowed to play in all stages of County Championships leading to National Championships should dates clash.

- 1.4 Should a club cease to exist after the entry date, the members may be permitted, for one season only, to compete under the name of that club irrespective of which club or clubs they have joined.

- 1.5 All Competitors in National Championships must have paid affiliation fees, through their Club, for the current year.

- 1.6 The Administrator of each County Association shall forward to the Chief Executive of Bowls England, the number of entrants in each of the Championships, together with the relevant entrance fees as determined by Bowls England, by the Monday of Week 5.
- 1.7 Each entry shall be made by one named player only, and that player shall be excluded from being a substitute in the same discipline.
- 1.8 A competitor shall not enter any Bowls England Championships under an assumed name, nor shall they represent or allow their name to be submitted by more than one County, in any one year.
- 1.9 Any entry in a National Championship will be declared invalid if the competitor enters in another United Kingdom's country Championship in the same year.
- 1.10 There is nothing in the Laws of the Sport or in the rules of the National Championships, 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 Championships are played outdoors and that the green has been approved by the relevant County Association.
- 1.11 Suitable flood Lighting may be used during these matches.
- 1.12 Fixed groundsheets are acceptable for National Championships/Competitions, however portable/moveable groundsheets are prohibited.
- 1.13 If a player/team fails to appear and be ready to play within 30 minutes after the agreed time for the tie, the opponent/team may claim a 'walk over'.

2 Championship Format

- 2.1 Singles
Each game shall consist of 21 shots – four bowls each player.
- 2.2 Pairs (Two players from the same club)
Each game shall consist of 21 ends – four bowls each player. The Leads to play their four bowls before the skips. In the event of the scores being equal when all ends have been played, an extra end or ends must be played until a decision is reached.
- 2.3 Triples (Three players from the same club)
Each game shall consist of 18 ends – three bowls each player. In the event of the scores being equal when all ends have been played, an extra end or ends must be played until a decision is reached.

- 2.4 Fours (Four players from the same club)
Each game shall consist of 21 ends – two bowls each player. In the event of the scores being equal when all ends have been played, an extra end or ends must be played until a decision is reached.
- 2.5 Two-Wood Singles
Each game shall consist of 21 ends – two bowls each player. In the event of the scores being equal when all ends have been played, an extra end or ends must be played until a decision is reached.
- 2.6 Junior Singles
Each game shall consist of 21 shots – four bowls each player. The Championships shall be open to all Members of Clubs affiliated to Bowls England who have not attained their 25th birthday on the 1st April in the year of the Championship.
- 2.7 Women's Junior Pairs (Players from the same County)
Each game shall consist of 18 ends – four bowls each player. The Leads to play their four bowls before the skips. In the event of the scores being equal when all ends have been played, an extra end or ends must be played until a decision is reached. The Championships shall be open to all Members of Clubs affiliated to Bowls England who have not attained their 25th birthday on the 1st April in the year of the Championship. The two players may belong to separate clubs within the same county, so long as both clubs are affiliated to Bowls England.

3 Qualifiers for National Championships

- 3.1 Every County Association will be entitled to two representatives in each discipline at the National Championships, who shall be the County finalists, with the following exceptions:
- Junior Singles - The six counties with the lowest number of entries will only have one representative.
 - Junior Pairs (Women) – Winning Pair only from County
 - Singles & Two Wood Singles - Counties with 301 or more entries will be entitled to three representatives.
 - Pairs - Counties with 301 or more entries will be entitled to three representatives.
 - Triples - Counties with 251 or more entries will be entitled to three representatives.
 - Fours - Counties with 201 or more entries will be entitled to three representatives.

- 3.2 The names, addresses, contact details and clubs for all of the players entitled to compete in the National Championships will be forwarded to the Chief Executive of Bowls England by the Monday of Week 29 for Women and Week 31 for Men.

4 Substitution

- 4.1 In Pairs, Triples and Fours, the players taking part in the first game shall constitute the team and shall normally play together throughout the Championship.
- 4.2 One additional, and the same player, may be used as a substitute at any time provided they have not already played in the Championship. They may play in any position.
- 4.3 The named entrant conceding a walk-over before their first game in any Championship cannot act as a substitute, as this is considered a game played and lost.
- 4.4 The named entrant of a team cannot be a member or substitute of any other team in the same Championship.
- 4.5 If a substitute is required during a game then the rules in the Laws of the Sport of Bowls apply.

5 Dress Code

- 5.1 The dress code in County Championships leading to National Championships shall be administered under the rules and regulations of Bowls England.

General:

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

5.1.1 Dress specific to Men

In all rounds leading to the Final Stages of the National Championships the following applies:-

- (a) Dress will be grey trousers and white, club or County registered shirts; brown, white or grey flat soled shoes.
- (b) Club/County coloured shirts and trousers may be worn provided that all members of the side or team wear the same and provided that the design of the shirts and trousers have been registered to the County/Bowls England .
- (c) Players governed by requirements of a specific ethnic culture will be permitted to wear their traditional dress if they so desire.
- (d) Tracksuits, shell suits and jeans are not acceptable.
- (e) Headgear, if worn, should be white or a registered colour.

- (f) White waterproof clothing may be used, or, providing all members of a side wear the same, registered colour waterproof/fleeces are permitted.

5.1.2 Dress specific to Women

In all rounds leading to the Final Stages of the National Championships the following applies:-

- (a) Dress will be grey regulation skirt, culottes, tailored trousers or tailored cropped trousers; white, club or county shirt, brown, white or grey flat soled shoes.
- (b) Club/County coloured skirt, dress, culottes, tailored trousers or tailored cropped trousers may be worn provided that all members of the side or team wear the same and provided that the design of the clothing has been registered to the County/Bowls England.
- (c) Players governed by requirements of a specific ethnic culture will be permitted to wear their traditional dress if they so desire.
- (d) Headgear, if worn, should be white or a registered colour.
- (e) Tights or stockings are optional at all times. If worn they must be in shades of brown. Plain white socks may be worn with trousers. Tracksuits, shell suits and jeans are not acceptable.
- (f) White waterproof clothing may be used, or, providing all members of a side or team wear the same, registered coloured waterproof/fleeces are permitted.

6 Bowls

- 6.1 In the early stages when no umpire is present, the onus of checking the date stamp on bowls rests with the opposing player or players concerned.
- 6.2 For rounds leading to the final stages of the National Championships, refer to Bowls England domestic regulations in the Laws of the Sport of Bowls Current Edition.
- 6.3 Should a player wish to challenge the suitability of their opponent's bowls they should refer to Bowls England domestic regulations in the Laws of the Sport of Bowls Current Edition.

7 Umpires

- 7.1 Umpires, when officially present, shall be appointed by the County Association or Bowls England Competitions Committee in conjunction with the English Bowls Umpires Association and shall determine such points as may arise during the course of the play and the application of Bowls England Regulations and 'Laws of the Sport of Bowls' thereto. Their decision shall be final.

8 Smoking and Anti- Doping

- 8.1 Smoking on the green will be prohibited during all rounds leading to National Championship Finals. Failure to adhere to this will result in disqualification.
- 8.2 The Sports Council Anti-Doping Unit has the authority to carry out random testing if necessary.
*The Anti-Doping rules of Bowls England are the UK Anti-Doping Rules published by UK Anti-Doping (or its successor), as amended from time to time.
Such Rules shall take effect from 1st July 2010.*

*The UK Anti-Doping Rules can be viewed at:
www.ukad.org.uk/documents/uk-anti-doping-rules*

9 Protection of Children and Vulnerable Adults Act

- 9.1 Bowls England has a National Policy under this Act, which recognises and acknowledges its responsibilities to safeguard the welfare of young persons and other vulnerable people participating in its activities.

More information can be found on the website at:
www.bowlschildprotect.co.uk

10 Players with Disabilities

- 10.1 Wheelchairs must be of a type approved by both World Bowls and Bowls England. The two types currently recognised for use in England are the 'Bradshaw Buggy' and the 'Clippy'.
- 10.2 The wheelchair shall be recognised as being an integral part of the wheelchair player in all instances when a jack or bowl is displaced or interfered with by the wheelchair.
- 10.3 At the point of delivery of the jack or bowl, refer to Laws of the Sport of Bowls Current Edition, 20.2.
- 10.4 Artificial devices may be used by players with disabilities for delivering the jack or bowl provided they are approved by Bowls England.
- 10.5 Visually impaired bowlers can use any form of assistance necessary (including having an assistant with them) to allow them to take part as long as the assistance is approved by the Governing Body for Visually Impaired Bowlers. The assistant shall not be deemed to be in contravention of the Laws of the Sport if that assistant relays to the player the instruction of the skip, assists in directing the player or keeps the player informed as to where the jack or bowl finished after delivery.

Men's National Championships – Final Stages

- 1.1 The name, address, phone number, email address and club of each player qualifying to compete in the final stages shall be forwarded to the Chief Executive of Bowls England, Worthing by the Monday of Week 31.
- 1.2 The first Monday of the Men's National Championships will be in week 33 of each year.
- 1.3 In order to avoid a duplication at the National Championships through competitors qualifying in more than one event, the designated County Official must re-allocate A or B (+C) representatives accordingly.
- 1.4 The Championships shall be played under the current Laws of the Sport and in accordance with the regulations currently laid down by Bowls England. Competitors must adhere [to the Code of Conduct as posted on the Bowls England website](#). This shall be under the management and control of the Championship Committee who shall determine all questions and disputes that may arise and that do not come within the scope of the Umpire's duties, as hereinafter defined. The decision of the Committee shall be final and binding. The Championship Committee reserves the right to alter starting times and rinks if it is considered necessary or desirable.
- 1.5 A travel subsidy may be paid to players qualifying for the National Championships/Competitions in the final rounds at such a rate as the Bowls England Board may from time to time determine.
- 1.6 At the final stages of all National Championships all bowls must bear a stamp in accordance with the current Laws of the Sport of Bowls..

2. Dress Code

All reference to white shoes, shirts, waterproofs etc should read; predominately white shoes, shirts, waterproofs etc.

- 2.1 Players representing their County in National Championship Finals shall wear the same Bowls England registered county shirts and trousers.
- 2.2 Players governed by requirements of a specific ethnic culture will be permitted to wear their traditional dress if they so desire
- 2.3 Tracksuits, shell suits and jeans are not acceptable
- 2.4 Head gear, if worn, should be white or a registered colour
- 2.5 White waterproof clothing may be used, or, providing all members of a side wear the same, registered colour waterproof/fleeces are permitted.
- 2.6 During play, white flat soled shoes will be worn on the green.

3. Badge Presentation and Player Registration

- 3.1 On the first day of a championship/competition or prior to a preliminary round, players are requested to change into whites and playing shirts and assemble at least 30 minutes before the starting time of their preliminary or first round in front of Worthing Bowling Club pavilion in Beach House Park.
- 3.2 Every player must complete a Player Profile Form. If players are in more than one event, only one player profile form is required to be completed and handed in for the first event. No profile form no badge.
- 3.3 Players receive a year bar for every event they play in.
- 3.4 Competitors not on the green ready to play within 15 minutes of the times stated on the draw sheets will be subject to disqualification.

4. Substitution

All substitutes must be registered with the Championship Office.

5. Slow Play

Players must adhere to the rules to prohibit Slow Play.

6. Parental Consent

Parental consent forms (where applicable) must be completed and submitted.

7. Conclusion of Matches

Matches must be conceded where it is not possible for the losing team/individual to win- to assist with the National Championship Finals schedule.

8. Challenge of Bowls

Should a player wish to challenge the suitability of their opponents bowls (see current Laws of the Sport of Bowls, the fee lodged will be £50.

9. Trophy Presentation

At the conclusion of all finals, a presentation will take place on the green. If the award of prize money or gifts is applicable then at least one member from each of the losing semi-finalists must attend in playing shirts and whites, otherwise their prize money will be withheld and donated to the English Bowling Associations' Charity Trust. The exception to this rule is for any event which holds semi-finals and final on separate days

The Winners of the Singles (4 wood), Junior Singles, Pairs, Triples and Fours will represent England in the BIBC Championships the following year.

10. Umpires

Umpires, when officially present, shall be appointed by the Competitions Committee in conjunction with the English Bowls Umpires Association and shall determine such points as may arise during the course of the play and the application of Laws of the Sport and Bowls England Regulations. Their decision shall be final.

11. Green Fit for Play

The Greenkeeper or Championship Committee shall be the adjudicators as to whether or not the green is fit for play and shall have the power to postpone play.

12. Smoking

Smoking on the green will be prohibited. Failure to adhere to this will result in disqualification.

13. Anti Doping

The Sports Council Anti-Doping Unit has the authority to carry out random testing if necessary.

The Anti- Doping rules of Bowls England are the UK Anti-Doping Rules published by the UK Anti-Doping (or its successor), as amended from time to time.

Such Rules shall take effect from 1st July 2010. The UK Anti-Doping Rules can be viewed at www.ukad.org.uk/documents/uk-anti-doping-rules.

14. Protection of Children and Vulnerable Adults Act

Bowls England has a National policy under this Act, which recognises and acknowledges its responsibilities to safeguard the welfare of young persons and other vulnerable people participating in its activities. More information can be found on the website at: www.bowlschildprotect.co.uk

15. Players with Disabilities

15.1 Wheelchairs must be of a type approved by both World Bowls and Bowls England. The two types currently recognised for use in England are the 'Bradshaw Buggy' and the 'Clippy'.

15.2 The wheelchair shall be recognised as being an integral part of the wheelchair player in all instances when a jack or bowl is displaced or interfered with by the wheelchair.

15.3 At the point of delivery of the jack or bowl, refer to the current Laws of the Sport of Bowls.

15.4 Artificial devices may be used by players with disabilities for delivery of jack or bowl providing they are approved by Bowls England.

15.5 Visually impaired bowlers can use any form of assistance necessary (including having an assistant with them) to allow them to take part as long as the assistance is approved by the Governing Body for Visually Impaired Bowlers. The assistant shall not be deemed to be in contravention of the Laws of the Sport if that assistant relays to the player the instruction of the skip, assists in directing the player or keeps the player informed as to where the jack or bowl finished after delivery.

Women's National Championships – Final Stages

- 1.1 The name, address, phone number, email address and club of each player qualifying to compete in the final stages shall be forwarded to the Chief Executive of Bowls England, Worthing by the Monday of Week 29.
- 1.2 The first Monday of the Women's National Championships will be in week 31 of each year.
- 1.3 In order to avoid a duplication at the National Championships through competitors qualifying in more than one event, the designated County Official must re-allocate A or B (+C) representatives accordingly.
- 1.4 The Championships shall be played under the current Laws of the Sport and in accordance with the regulations currently laid down by Bowls England. Competitors must adhere [to the Code of Conduct as posted on the Bowls England website](#). This shall be under the management and control of the Championship Committee who shall determine all questions and disputes that may arise and that do not come within the scope of the Umpire's duties, as hereinafter defined. The decision of the Committee shall be final and binding. The Championship Committee reserves the right to alter starting times and rinks if it is considered necessary or desirable.
- 1.5 A travel subsidy may be paid to players qualifying for the National Championships/Competitions in the final rounds at such a rate as the Bowls England Board may from time to time determine.
- 1.6 At the final stages of all National Championships all bowls must bear a stamp in accordance with the current Laws of the Sport of Bowls..

2. Dress Code

All reference to white shoes, shirts, waterproofs etc should read; predominately white shoes, shirts, waterproofs etc.

- 2.1 Players representing their County in National Championship Finals shall wear the same Bowls England registered county shirts, skirts, culottes and tailored full length or cropped trousers.
- 2.2 Players governed by requirements of a specific ethnic culture will be permitted to wear their traditional dress if they so desire
- 2.3 Tracksuits, shell suits and jeans are not acceptable
- 2.4 Head gear, if worn, should be white or a registered colour
- 2.5 White waterproof clothing may be used, or, providing all members of a side wear the same, registered colour waterproof/fleeces are permitted.
- 2.6 During play, white flat soled shoes will be worn on the green.
- 2.7 Skirts must be of regulation style, having four inverted pleats, two at the front and two at the back. They must be long enough to fall below the knee at the front and below the knee crease at the back. Cropped trousers should fall midway between the knee and ankle.
- 2.8 Tights or stockings are optional at all times. If worn they must be in shades of brown. Plain white socks may be worn with trousers.

3. Badge Presentation and Player Registration

- 3.1 On the first day of a championship or prior to a preliminary round, players in playing gear, should assemble outside the marquee at the corner of E Green, 30 minutes before the starting of the round, to be presented with their badge and year bar.
- 3.2 Every player must complete a Player Profile Form. If players are in more than one event, only one player profile form is required to be completed and handed in for the first event. No profile form no badge.
- 3.3 Players receive a year bar for every event they are playing in.
- 3.4 Skips/singles players should collect their scorecards and stickers from the Tournament office before each round.
- 3.5 After the end of each Match the winning skip.singles player must take both cards to the Tournament Office.
- 3.6 Competitors not on the green ready to play within 15 minutes of the times stated on the draw sheets will be subject to disqualification.

4. Substitution

All substitutes must be registered with the Championship Office.

5. Slow Play

Players must adhere to the rules to prohibit Slow Play.

6. Parental Consent

Parental consent forms (where applicable) must be completed and submitted.

7. Conclusion of Matches

Matches must be conceded where it is not possible for the losing team/individual to win- to assist with the National Championship Finals schedule.

8. Challenge of Bowls

Should a player wish to challenge the suitability of their opponents bowls (see current Laws of the Sport of Bowls, the fee lodged will be £50.

9. Trophy Presentation

At the conclusion of all finals, a presentation will take place on the green. If the award of prize money or gifts is applicable then at least one member from each of the losing semi-finalists must attend in playing shirts and whites, otherwise their prize money will be withheld and donated to the English Bowling Associations' Charity Trust. The exception to this rule is for any event which holds semi-finals and final on separate days

The Winners of the Singles (4 wood), Junior Singles and Pairs, Pairs, Triples and Fours will represent England in the BIWBC Championships the following year. Should the Junior Singles Champion be in the winning Junior Pairs, she will represent England in the Junior Singles and the substitute for the Pairs will be a player from the National Runners-Up.

10. Umpires

Umpires, when officially present, shall be appointed by the Competitions Committee in conjunction with the English Bowls Umpires Association and shall determine such points as may arise during the course of the play and the

application of Laws of the Sport and Bowls England Regulations. Their decision shall be final.

11. Green Fit for Play

The Greenkeeper or Championship Committee shall be the adjudicators as to whether or not the green is fit for play and shall have the power to postpone play.

12. Smoking

Smoking on the green will be prohibited. Failure to adhere to this will result in disqualification.

13. Anti Doping

The Sports Council Anti-Doping Unit has the authority to carry out random testing if necessary.

The Anti- Doping rules of Bowls England are the UK Anti-Doping Rules published by the UK Anti-Doping (or its successor), as amended from time to time.

Such Rules shall take effect from 1st July 2010. The UK Anti-Doping Rules can be viewed www.ukad.org.uk/documents/uk-anti-doping-rules.

14. Protection of Children and Vulnerable Adults Act

Bowls England has a National policy under this Act, which recognises and acknowledges its responsibilities to safeguard the welfare of young persons and other vulnerable people participating in its activities. More information can be found on the website at: www.bowlschildprotect.co.uk

15. Players with Disabilities

15.1 Wheelchairs must be of a type approved by both World Bowls and Bowls England. The two types currently recognised for use in England are the 'Bradshaw Buggy' and the 'Clippy'.

15.2 The wheelchair shall be recognised as being an integral part of the wheelchair player in all instances when a jack or bowl is displaced or interfered with by the wheelchair.

15.3 At the point of delivery of the jack or bowl, refer to the current Laws of the Sport of Bowls.

15.4 Artificial devices may be used by players with disabilities for delivery of jack or bowl providing they are approved by Bowls England.

15.5 Visually impaired bowlers can use any form of assistance necessary (including having an assistant with them) to allow them to take part as long as the assistance is approved by the Governing Body for Visually Impaired Bowlers. The assistant shall not be deemed to be in contravention of the Laws of the Sport if that assistant relays to the player the instruction of the skip, assists in directing the player or keeps the player informed as to where the jack or bowl finished after delivery.

1. Bowls England National Competitions

1.1 The Competitions shall be played under the current Laws of the Sport of Bowls and in accordance with the regulations currently laid down by Bowls England. All competitors shall adhere to the Code of Conduct as posted on Bowls England website. All competitions shall be controlled by the Competitions Committee. An emergency committee shall consist of any three members of the committee and/or competitions assistants. The decision of either committee in each and every circumstance shall be final and binding.

Should a player, who has been expelled, or suspended from a Club, be drawn to play at that Club in any Championship or Competition game, other than a side game, run under the auspices of or on behalf of Bowls England, the Club must either allow the player access to the changing room and green in order to play the game or alternatively advise the challenger(s) to make arrangements for the game to be played on a neutral green of a Club affiliated to Bowls England. Under no circumstances will the opponent(s) be expected to concede the game. Should the expelled, or suspended player be a member of a 'side team' the Club fielding the player must ask the Club from whom he/she was banned for permission for that player to access the Club. If permission is refused the player must be withdrawn from the side. In all other cases the Club may refuse access.

1.2 National Competitions consist of the following

Men

Middleton Cup Inter -County
Balcomb Trophy Inter-County
White Rose Inter-County
National Top Club
National Champion of Champions Singles
National 55s & Over Singles & Pairs
National Club Two-Fours

National Family Pairs
National Mixed Pairs
National Mixed Fours
National Tony Allcock Trophy

Women

Johns Trophy Inter- County
Walker Cup Inter-County
Amy-Rose Inter-County
National Top Club
National Champion of Champions Singles
National 55s & Over Singles & Pairs

All others are National Championships

1.3 Should a club cease to exist after the entry date, the members may be permitted, for one season only, to compete under the name of that club irrespective of which club or clubs they have joined.

1.4 Should a club cease to exist prior to the entry date, the Singles Champion shall be eligible for one season only to enter the Champion of Champions under the name of their previous club.

1.5 All Competitors in National Competitions must have paid affiliation fees, through their Club, for the current year.

- 1.6 The Administrator of each County Association shall forward to the Chief Executive of Bowls England, the entries in each of the Walker Cup, Johns Trophy, Middleton Cup, Balcomb Trophy and White Rose together with the relevant entrance fees as determined by Bowls England, by the Monday of Week 5. Amy Rose by the Monday of Week 14. The remaining competitions are administered by Bowls England HQ.
- 1.7 Competitors shall not enter any Bowls England Competition under an assumed name.
- 1.8 There is nothing in the Laws of the Sport or in the rules of the National Competitions, 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.
- 1.9 Suitable flood lighting may be used during these matches.
- 1.10 The format of Rules for the individual Competitions will be found under the Regulations applicable to each Competition.
- 1.11 The draw and completion dates for all Competitions will be made by the Competitions Committee. Each County will decide if the Competition area will be on a County Regional or Open basis as deemed applicable. They will be played on a green approved by the County Association and chosen by the challenger. Where the mileage exceeds 160 miles round trip club to club, or County Centre to County Centre (approved mileage calculator) matches will be played on a neutral green midway between the two clubs/counties, unless mutually agreed. If green fees are payable at the neutral venue, they will be shared by both participants/teams.
- 1.12 The challenger shall have the choice of green and will be responsible for all match arrangements including rink fees if appropriate. A draw must be made from all available rinks on the day. The challenger must offer their opponent within 48 hours of receipt of the draw and results card, at least three dates for play, one of which must be a Saturday or Sunday. However, when a draw and result card is issued in advance of the commencement of the competition, the challenger does not need to offer dates until 21 days before the closing date of that round, after which the aforesaid conditions will apply. Opponent or Opponent sides shall, within 48 hours of receipt of the challenge, reply, accepting one of the dates offered. If a challenge has not been made within the specified period, the opponent OR opponent side shall take all reasonable steps to contact the challenger before submitting a claim for the match.
- 1.13 No extension of the closing date for each round will be granted for any reason whatsoever.
- 1.14 The time for commencing a match shall be mutually agreed but no player/team/side shall be compelled to accept a time earlier than 6.00 pm Monday-Friday or 3.00 pm on Saturdays or Sundays, nor later than 6.30 pm on any day.
- 1.15 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'.
- 1.16 Any entry in a National Competition will be declared invalid if the competitor enters in another United Kingdom's Country's Competition in the same year.
- 1.17 In the event of no decision being reached IN ANY ROUND owing to exceptional weather conditions, and where this makes it impossible to re-arrange a fixture before the completion date, the aggregate score, in uncompleted matches in which five ends

or more have been played, will stand as the result unless otherwise specified. If the score is a tie then the result will be decided by the toss of a coin. Matches not started and matches in which less than five ends have been completed will be decided by the toss of a coin, or by mutual agreement. Fixed groundsheets are acceptable for National Championships/ Competitions, however portable/moveable groundsheets are prohibited.

- 1.18 The result card, properly completed, clearly showing the winning side and signed by both parties must be posted immediately by 1st class post to the Bowls England Chief Executive or e-mailed to comps@bowlsengland.com .
- 1.19 Regional Finals, where required, will be played at venues selected by the Competitions Committee. Players will be informed of the venues and details by Bowls England.

2 Substitution

- 2.1 The named entrant conceding a walk-over before their first match in any Competition cannot act as a substitute, as this is considered a match played and lost.
- 2.2 The named entrant of a team cannot be a member or substitute of any other team in the same Competition.
- 2.3 If a substitute is required during a match then the rules in the Laws of the Sport of Bowls apply.
- 2.4 See individual competition regulations for substitution rules.

3 Trophy Presentations

At the conclusion of all finals, a presentation will take place on the green. If the award of prize money or gifts is applicable then at least one member from each of the losing semi-finalists must attend in playing shirts and whites, otherwise their prize money will be withheld and donated to the Bowls England's Charity Trust. The exception to this rule is for any competition which holds semi-finals and final on separate days.

4 Dress Code

4.1 General:

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

4.1.1 Dress specific to Men

In all rounds leading to the Finals of the National Club Two Fours, Top Club, Tony Allcock Trophy 55's & Over Singles & Pairs, Champion of Champions, Mixed Pairs, Mixed Fours and Family Pairs the following applies:-

- (a) Dress will be grey trousers and white, club or County shirt; brown, white or grey flat soled shoes.
- (b) Club/County coloured shirts and trousers may be worn provided that all members of the side or team wear the same and provided that the design of the shirts and trousers have been registered to the County/Bowls England .
- (c) Players governed by requirements of a specific ethnic culture will be permitted to wear their traditional dress if they so desire

- (d) Tracksuits, shell suits and jeans are not acceptable.
- (e) Headgear, if worn, should be white or a registered colour.
- (f) White waterproof clothing may be used, or, providing all members of a side wear the same, registered colour waterproof/fleeces are permitted.

4.1.2 Dress specific to Men

In the Finals of the National

Club Two Fours, Top Club, Tony Allcock Trophy, 55's & Over Singles & Pairs, Champion of Champions, Mixed Pairs, Mixed Fours and Family Pairs the following applies:-

- (a) White flat soled bowling shoes will be worn on the green, white belt (if worn), white socks, white, cream, club or county coloured shirt and trousers, white or cream pullover or cardigan or if worn with coloured shirt may be the same colour as the shirt, white cap/hat or other approved headwear, National, County, or Club tie, braces, if worn, should not be visible.
- (b) Club/County coloured clothing may be worn, provided that all members of the side or team wear the same and provided that the design of the clothing has been registered by the club/county with the County/Bowls England.

4.1.3 Dress specific to Women

In all rounds leading to the Finals of the National

Top Club, Tony Allcock Trophy, 55's & Over Singles & Pairs, Champion of Champions, Family Pairs, Mixed Pairs & Mixed Fours the following applies:-

- (a) Dress will be grey regulation skirt, culottes, tailored trousers or tailored cropped trousers; white, club or county shirt, brown, white or grey flat soled shoes.
- (b) Club/County coloured skirt, dress, culottes, tailored trousers or tailored cropped trousers may be worn provided that all members of the side or team wear the same and provided that the design of the clothing has been registered to the County/Bowls England.
- (c) Players governed by requirements of a specific ethnic culture will be permitted to wear their traditional dress if they so desire.
- (d) Headgear, if worn, should be white or a registered colour.
- (e) Tights or stockings are optional at all times. If worn they must be in shades of brown. Plain white socks may be worn with trousers. Tracksuits, shell suits and jeans are not acceptable.
- (f) White waterproof clothing may be used, or, providing all members of a side or team wear the same, registered coloured waterproof/fleeces are permitted.

4.1.4 Dress specific to Women

In the Finals of the National

Top Club, Tony Allcock Trophy, 55's & Over Singles & Pairs, Champion of Champions, Mixed Pairs, Mixed Fours and Family Pairs the following applies:-

- (a) White flat soled bowling shoes, white, cream, club or county coloured regulation dress, skirt, culottes, tailored full length trousers or tailored cropped trousers of opaque material, shirt style blouse, plain waistcoat/cardigan/pullover . The dress or skirt must be of regulation style, having four inverted pleats, two at the front and

two at the back. They must be long enough to fall below the knee at the front and below the knee crease at the back. Cropped trousers should fall midway between the knee and ankle.

- (b) Club/County coloured clothing may be worn, provided that all members of the side or team wear the same and provided that the design of the clothing has been registered by the club/county with the County/Bowls England.

**4.1.5 Dress for following competitions refer to their individual regulation: -
Middleton Cup, Balcomb Trophy, White Rose, Johns Trophy, Walker Cup**

5 Bowls

- 5.1 In the early stages when no umpire is present, the onus of checking the date stamp on bowls rests with the opposing player or players concerned.
- 5.2 For rounds leading to the final stages of National Competitions, refer to Bowls England domestic regulations in the Laws of the Sport of Bowls, Current Edition. For Regional Finals and National Finals Law 9 of the Laws of the Sport of Bowls, Current Edition applies.
- 5.3 Should a player wish to challenge the suitability of their opponent's bowls they should refer to Bowls England domestic regulations in the Laws of the Sport of Bowls Current Edition.

6. Umpires

- 6.1 Umpires, when officially present, shall be appointed by the Competitions Committee in conjunction with the English Bowls Umpires Association and shall determine such points as may arise during the course of the play and the application of Bowls England Regulations and 'Laws of the Sport of Bowls' thereto. Their decision shall be final.

7. Smoking and Anti- Doping

- 7.1 Smoking on the green will be prohibited during all rounds of National Competitions. Failure to adhere to this will result in disqualification.
- 7.2 The Sports Council Anti-Doping Unit has the authority to carry out random testing if necessary.

The Anti-Doping rules of Bowls England are the UK Anti-Doping Rules published by UK Anti-Doping (or its successor), as amended from time to time.

Such Rules shall take effect from 1st July 2010.

*The UK Anti-Doping Rules can be viewed at:
www.ukad.org.uk/documents/uk-anti-doping-rules*

8. Protection of Children and Vulnerable Adults Act

- 8.1 Bowls England has a National Policy under this Act, which recognises and acknowledges its responsibilities to safeguard the welfare of young persons and other vulnerable people participating in its activities.
More information can be found on the website at: www.bowlschildprotect.co.uk

9. Players with Disabilities

- 9.1 Wheelchairs must be of a type approved by both World Bowls and Bowls England. The two types currently recognised for use in England are the 'Bradshaw Buggy' and the 'Clippy'.
- 9.2 The wheelchair shall be recognised as being an integral part of the wheelchair player in all instances when a jack or bowl is displaced or interfered with by the wheelchair.
- 9.3 At the point of delivery of the jack or bowl, refer to Laws of the Sport of Bowls, Current Edition 20.2.
- 9.4 Artificial devices may be used by players with disabilities for delivering the jack or bowl providing they are approved by Bowls England.
- 9.5 Visually impaired bowlers can use any form of assistance necessary (including having an assistant with them) to allow them to take part as long as the assistance is approved by the Governing Body for Visually Impaired Bowlers. The assistant shall not be deemed to be in contravention of the Laws of the Sport if that assistant relays to the player the instruction of the skip, assists in directing the player or keeps the player informed as to where the jack or bowl finished after delivery.

Johns Trophy – Inter County Competition (Women)

This regulation should be read in conjunction with Regulation 53 – National Competitions.

1. This competition shall be open to all County Associations who are Members of Bowls England.
2. All Counties will be assumed to have entered unless they otherwise notify Bowls England before the completion of the previous year's competition.
3. The entrants shall be placed in geographical groups, which will remain the same, but the composition of the sections will be determined by a draw made every second year.
4. The competition shall be divided into two stages, the preliminary rounds and the final stages. In the preliminary stages each county shall play one match each year against each other County in their section, home and away alternate years. Matches to commence at 2.00pm unless mutually agreed.
5. Every County shall be represented by a side consisting of 6 rinks of 4 players, all of whom shall be members of an affiliated club to their County Association. No player shall play for more than one County in any one year.
6. **Failure to field 24 players will result in a walkover.** 22 points will be awarded to the opposing team.
Where a county refused to fulfil the fixture the following penalty will apply; 22 points will be awarded to the non-defaulting team and the defaulting team will be excluded from entering the Johns Trophy and the Walker Cup the following year.
7. The match will consist of 21 ends. Before the commencement of the match, the nominated managers will toss a coin for choice of jack (first end), the winner having the choice of keeping or giving the jack away. In each match a win for an individual rink shall be awarded two points and a tie one point. The county who wins by total number of shots of all six rinks shall, in addition, be awarded ten points or if a tie five points. The county gaining the greatest number of points in each section shall be declared the winner of that section. Should two counties be equal in points and also in shot difference then the winner will be ascertained on the result of the match already played between the two counties.
When it is not mathematically possible to win without playing a scheduled tie and subject to this being ratified by Bowls England, such a tie may be cancelled. The Counties concerned must be in

mutual agreement and would each be responsible for the reimbursement of expenses incurred by the venue booked.

8. Dress: All players will wear the same whites or registered county shirts, skirts & trousers, in all rounds.
9. Result of Match: Bowls England must be informed by e-mail/phone call immediately after the match.
10. Counties will provide bowls stickers for the preliminary stages and quarter finals unless provided by the sponsor.
11. **Inclement weather:** In the event of the umpire and/or green-keeper deciding that no play or no further play is possible, matches in which the total number of ends played equals or exceeds 72 will be deemed to have been completed and the score will stand. In matches where the total number of ends played is less than 72, the tie will be deemed to be void and the match will be replayed at a later date.

When a match is stopped by the Umpire and/or the Green-keeper play will cease on all rinks simultaneously. Ends commenced but not completed shall be declared null and void.

12. Final Stages

- 12.1 The quarter final, shall be played on a straight knock out at a time set by Bowls England. These will be played between the two sections in in each group. The two counties concerned will be responsible for arranging an umpire and a neutral venue midway between the two counties. If green fees are payable these will be shared by both counties. Before the commencement of the match, the nominated managers will toss a coin for the choice of jack (first end), the winner having the choice of keeping or giving the jack away. Then a further toss of a coin for choice of jack (extra end) should one be needed. The winner has the option to make the choice immediately after the 21st end has been played. The winner will be decided on the total number of shots of all rinks. There are no points for individual rink wins. In the event of a tie after 21 ends then a extra end or ends will be played by all six rinks simultaneously until there is a winner. The total number of shots on all six rinks will count on the extra end.

Semi-finals and the final shall be played on a straight knock-out system at a time set by Bowls England. The draws for the semi-finals shall be made by the Competitions Committee on greens appointed by them. Before the commencement of the match, the nominated managers will toss a coin for choice of jack (first end), the winner having the choice of keeping or giving the jack away. Then a further toss of a coin for choice of jack (extra end) should

one be needed. The winner has the option to make the choice immediately after the 21st end has been played. The winner will be decided on the total number of shots of all rinks. There are no points for individual rink wins. In the event of a tie after 21 ends then an extra end or ends will be played by all six rinks simultaneously until there is a winner. The total number of shots of all six rinks will count on the extra end.

- 12.2 Each County qualifying for the semi final stage will supply to Bowls England the names of 6 fours and 4 reserves no later than the Monday of week 29. The Semi Final and Final shall be played during the National Championships.
- 12.3 Bowls Stickers for the Semi-Finals and Final will be provided by Bowls England.
- 12.4 The Winners and Runner-Up respectively shall receive a maximum of 28 winners/runner-up medals presented at the Annual Dinner.

Walker Cup -National County Top Two Fours Competition (Women)

This regulation should be read in conjunction with Regulation 53 – National Competitions.

1. This competition shall be open to all County Associations who are Members of Bowls England.
2. All Counties will be assumed to have entered unless they otherwise notify Bowls England before the completion of the previous year's competition.
3. Every County shall be represented by a side consisting of 2 rinks of 4 players, all of whom shall be members of an affiliated club to their County Association. No player shall play for more than one County in any one year.
4. Bowls England shall set dates for all rounds. The draw for the competition including the Regional final and semi-final shall be made by the Competitions Committee.
5. **Failure to field 8 players will result in a walk-over.**
6. The Preliminary round and first round will be played by mutual arrangement on the designated dates. The competition will be played on a knock-out basis, with the early rounds in geographical areas. Each rink of a side shall play 21 ends, two bowls each player. The County Secretary or Challenging side will make all match arrangements. Matches to commence at 1.30pm unless mutually agreed. Arrangements for cost of refreshments and other incidental expenses shall be a domestic matter.
7. The match will consist of 21 ends. Before the commencement of the match, the nominated managers will toss a coin for choice of jack (first end), the winner having the choice of keeping or giving the jack away. Then toss a coin to nominate which rink will play the extra end. The winner to nominate the name of the skip to play the extra end. This must be declared prior to the match commencing. A further toss of a coin for choice of jack (extra end) should one be needed. The winner has the option to make the choice immediately after the 21st end has been played. The number of shots on both rinks will determine the result. In the event of a tie after 21 ends then an extra end will be played by the nominated rink to determine the overall winner.
8. Dress: All players to wear the same whites or registered county shirts, trousers or skirts in all rounds.

9. **Inclement weather:** In the event of the umpire and/or green-keeper deciding that no play or no further play is possible, matches in which the total number of ends played equals or exceeds 24 will be deemed to have been completed and the score will stand. In matches where the total number of ends played is less than 24, the tie will be deemed to be void and the match will be replayed at a later date unless a result is mutually agreed. When a match is stopped by the Umpire and/or the Green-keeper play will cease on all rinks simultaneously. Ends commenced but not completed shall be declared null and void.
10. Counties must inform the Area Selector of time and venue of preliminary/first round matches. Counties will provide bowls stickers for the preliminary stages and first round unless provided by the sponsor.
11. Result of Match: Bowls England must be informed of the result by e-mail/phone call immediately after the match.

12. Final Stages

- 12.1 The final stages consisting of the Regional finals, Semi finals and Final shall be played on a straight knock-out system at a time, date and venue set by Bowls England. The draws for the Regional finals and Semi finals shall be made by the Competitions Committee on greens appointed by them.
- 12.2 Each County qualifying for the semi final stage will supply to Bowls England the names of 2 fours and 2 reserves no later than the Monday of week 29. The Semi Final and Final shall be played during the National Championships. A maximum of 10 National Competition badges will be presented to players involved at the National Championships.
- 12.3 Bowls Stickers for the Semi-Finals and Final will be provided by Bowls England.
- 12.4 The Winners and Runner-Up respectively shall receive a maximum of 10 winners medals presented at the Annual Dinner.

Amy-Rose Bowl – 31's& under Inter-County Double Rink. (Women)

This regulation should be read in conjunction with Regulation 53 – National Competitions.

1. The competition shall be open to all county associations who are members of Bowls England.
2. Every county may enter more than one side and shall be represented by a side/sides consisting of 2 rinks of 4 players. All players shall be members of clubs affiliated to their County Association and 31 years of age or under by 1st April in the year of the competition.
3. The Competition will be played on a knockout basis during the National Championships.
4. All Counties **MUST** notify Bowls England by week 14 of their intention to enter.
5. The draw will be made by the Competitions Committee.
6. **Failure to field 8 players will result in a walk-over.**
7. A player under the age of 12 years on the 1st April in the year of the competition, may be substituted after 10 ends have been played.
8. Junior/Cub bowls may be used.
9. Before the commencement of the match, the nominated managers will toss a coin for choice of jack (first end), the winner having the choice of keeping or giving the jack away. Then toss a coin to nominate which rink will play the extra end. The winner to nominate the name of the skip to play the extra end. This must be declared prior to the match commencing. A further toss of a coin for choice of jack (extra end) should one be needed. The winner has the option to make the choice immediately after the 21st end has been played. The total number of shots on both rinks will determine the winner. In the event of a tie after 21 ends then an extra end will be played by the nominated rink to determine the overall winner.
10. **Inclement weather:** In the event of the umpire and/or green-keeper deciding that no play or no further play is possible, matches in which the total number of ends played equals or exceeds 24 will be deemed to have been completed and the score will stand.
When a match is stopped by the Umpire and/or the Green-keeper play will cease on all rinks simultaneously. Ends commenced but not completed shall be declared null and void.
11. Each team reaching the semi finals will receive 10 National Competition Badges.

12. Each County Secretary must supply to Bowls England the names of 2 fours and 2 reserves no later than the Monday of week 29.
13. Bowls Stickers for this event will be provided by Bowls England.
14. The Winners shall receive a maximum of 10 winners medals presented after the Final.

National 55s and over Singles and Pairs Competition (Women)

This regulation should be read in conjunction with Regulation 53 – National Competitions.

1. The competition shall be open to all members of clubs affiliated to Bowls England.
2. Each player shall have reached their 55th birthday by 1st April in the year of the competition.
3. The two players in the pairs must be members of an affiliated club within the same County.
4. Singles matches will be 21 shots 4 bowls each player and the pairs shall be 21 ends 4 bowls each player. In the event of the scores being equal when all ends have been played an extra end or ends must be played until a decision is reached.
5. In the event of a substitute being required in the pairs, one and the same player may come from any club, providing they have not already played in the competition, however, one of the original players must play in all rounds of the competition. The substitute may play in any position.

6. Final Stages

- 6.1 The final stages consisting of the 35 County Winners for both the singles and pairs shall be played on a straight knock-out system at a time set by Bowls England during the National Championships. The draws for these shall be made by the Competitions Committee.
- 6.2 Each Team qualifying for the final stage will supply to Bowls England the name of their partner (pairs only) no later than the Monday of week 29. The players involved at the National Championships will receive a National Competition Badge.
- 6.3 Bowls Stickers for the final stages will be provided by Bowls England.
- 6.4 The Winners will be presented with a medal and fleece for the singles or 2 medals and 2 fleeces for the pairs at the Annual Dinner along with 1 or 2 medals respectively for the runners-up.

National Top Club Competition (Women)

This regulation should be read in conjunction with Regulation 53 – National Competitions.

1. The competition shall be open to all Clubs affiliated to Bowls England. Clubs may enter more than one side. No player shall play in more than one of those sides entered. The competition will be held on a knockout basis within each County to establish a champion Top Club.
2. Players are not required to play from the club in which they play their National Championships.
3. The draw will be made by the Competitions Committee. Fixed weekend dates could be set by Counties for this competition providing they are within the period of round closures designated by Bowls England.
4. A club side shall consist of 10 players. The disciplines are four wood singles (21shots), four wood pairs (21ends), three wood triples (18ends) and two wood fours (21ends). The challenger shall have the choice of green and will make all match arrangements up to the inter area stage.
5. **Failure to field 10 players will result in a walk-over.**
6. Before the commencement of the match, the nominated managers will toss a coin to decide the choice of jack for the first end and make the draw for rinks for each discipline. The format for the competition will be as follows:- 1pt for every discipline won, total of four points available. In the event of a drawn discipline the point will be shared, ie. $\frac{1}{2}$ point each. After completion of the four disciplines the winning side will be decided by the highest number of points. In the case of a tie, the winner will be decided from the total number of shots scored from the four disciplines. Should these be equal as well as the match score, extra ends in the pairs, triples and fours, will be played to determine the result. Shots do not count on the extra end – only the result of the three disciplines, ie. 2-1, 3-0. All disciplines will be played simultaneously.
7. Between rounds, substitutes/changes are allowed in the side and between disciplines provided the players are members of the same club and have not played for another side during the current competition. For this competition only, substitution during play is allowed for the singles player in case of illness or injury. The score being resumed after interruption.

8. Inter County Stages

- 8.1 The draw for the inter-county rounds will be made by the competitions committee and published in the Yearbook. At this stage, the challenging side will arrange a neutral green as equidistance as possible from the agreed County centres.

9. Final Stages

- 9.1 The Final will take place on dates and venue specified by Bowls England and consist of the 8 qualifying sides (80 players). This will be a straight knock out with the Quarter final on Saturday and the Semi Final and Final on Sunday morning and Sunday afternoon respectively.
- 9.2 Each Club qualifying to the final stages will supply Bowls England the names of 10 players and 2 reserves no later than the Monday of week 36. A maximum of 12 National Competition badges will be presented to players involved at the National Championships.
- 9.3 Bowls Stickers for the Final stages will be provided by Bowls England.
- 9.4 The Winners will be presented with a maximum of 12 medals and fleeces at the Annual Dinner along with 12 medals for the runners-up.

National Family Pairs Competition

This regulation should be read in conjunction with Regulation 53 – National Competitions.

1. The competition shall be open to all playing members of clubs affiliated to Bowls England.
2. A team shall be comprised of 2 players. Either player may skip.
3. Players need not necessarily be members of the same club or County.
4. Eligible players should be from one of the following pairings;
Grandmother and granddaughter/grandson
Grandfather and granddaughter/grandson
Mother and daughter/son
Father and daughter/son
Sister and sister/brother
Brother and brother/sister
Step relatives of the above are also eligible to play
Husband/partner and wife are not permitted
5. Relationship between players must be declared on the entry form.
6. Substitution: The 2 players taking part in the first match constitutes the original team and shall normally play together throughout the competition. At least 1 of the original pair must play in every round. Substitute must come from one of the eligible listings and must not have already played or entered the competition.
7. Each match shall be 21 ends, 4 bowls each player. In the event of the scores being equal when all the ends have been played, an extra end or ends must be played until a result is reached.
8. **Final Stages**
 - 8.1 The quarter finals, semi-finals and final consisting of the last 8 teams shall be played on a date set by Bowls England during the National Championships.
 - 8.2 Each Team qualifying for the final stage will supply to Bowls England the name of their partner no later than the Monday of week 29. The players involved will receive a National Competition Badge.
 - 8.3 Bowls Stickers for the final stages will be provided by Bowls England.
 - 8.4 The Winners will be presented with 2 medals and fleeces at the Annual Dinner along with 2 medals for the runners-up.

National Champion of Champions Singles Competition (Women)

This regulation should be read in conjunction with Regulation 53 – National Competitions.

1. The competition shall be open to all clubs affiliated to Bowls England.
2. Players eligible to enter are as follows:-
 - Club 4 wood singles Champion
 - County 4 wood singles champion
 - County Junior under 25 4 wood Singles Champion

All the above must be nominated by their Club or County.

In addition the following have automatic entry from Bowls England:-

- The previous years National Champion of Champions
- The previous years National 4 wood Singles Champion
- The previous years National Under 25 Junior 4 wood singles Champion.

In the event of any one person qualifying in more than one of the aforementioned, only one entry will be accepted.

3. Entries shall be made on the official entry card duly signed by the Club or County Secretary, who shall certify that the nominated player is qualified to enter.
4. Each match shall be 21 shots, 4 bowls each player.
5. **Final Stages**
 - 5.1 The final stages consisting of the last 16 Competitors shall be played on a straight knock-out system at a time set by Bowls England during the National Championships. The draws for these shall be made by the Competitions Committee.
 - 5.2 Each player involved in the final stages at the National Championships will receive a National Competition Badge.
 - 5.3 Bowls Stickers for the final stages will be provided by Bowls England.
 - 5.4 The Winner will be presented with a medal and a fleece at the Annual Dinner along with a medal for the runner-up

Middleton Cup – Inter County Competition (Men)

This regulation should be read in conjunction with Regulation 53 – National Competitions.

1. This competition shall be open to all County Associations who are Members of Bowls England.
2. All Counties will be assumed to have entered unless they otherwise notify Bowls England before the completion of the previous year's competition.
3. The entrants shall be placed in geographical groups, which will remain the same, but the composition of the sections will be determined by a draw made every second year.
4. The competition shall be divided into two stages, the preliminary rounds and the final stages. In the preliminary stages each county shall play one match each year against each other County in their section, home and away alternate years. Matches to commence at 2.00pm unless mutually agreed.
5. Every County shall be represented by a side consisting of 6 rinks of 4 players, all of whom shall be members of an affiliated club to their County Association. No player shall play for more than one County in any one year.
6. **Failure to field 24 players will result in a walkover. 22 points will be awarded to the opposing team.**
Where a county refuses to fulfil the fixture the following penalty will apply; 22 points will be awarded to the non-defaulting team and the defaulting team will be excluded from entering the Middleton Cup and the Balcomb Trophy the following year.
7. The match will consist of 21 ends. Before the commencement of the match, the nominated managers will toss a coin for choice of jack (first end), the winner having the choice of keeping or giving the jack away. In each match a win for an individual rink shall be awarded two points and a tie one point. The county who wins by total number of shots of all six rinks shall, in addition, be awarded ten points or if a tie five points. The county gaining the greatest number of points in each section shall be declared the winner of that section. Should two counties be equal in points and also in shot difference then the winner will be ascertained on the result of the match already played between the two counties.
When it is not mathematically possible to win without playing a scheduled tie and subject to this being ratified by Bowls England, such a tie may be cancelled. The Counties concerned must be in

mutual agreement and would each be responsible for the reimbursement of expenses incurred by the venue booked.

8. Dress: All players will wear the same whites or registered county shirts and trousers in all rounds
9. Result of Match: Bowls England must be informed by e-mail/phone call immediately after the match.
10. Counties will provide bowls stickers for the preliminary stages and quarter finals unless provided by the sponsor.
11. **Inclement weather:** In the event of the umpire and/or green-keeper deciding that no play or no further play is possible, matches in which the total number of ends played equals or exceeds 72 will be deemed to have been completed and the score will stand. In matches where the total number of ends played is less than 72, the tie will be deemed to be void and the match will be replayed at a later date.

When a match is stopped by the Umpire and/or the Green-keeper play will cease on all rinks simultaneously. Ends commenced but not completed shall be declared null and void.

12. Final Stages

- 12.1 The quarter final shall be played on a straight knock out at a time set by Bowls England. These will be played between the two sections in each group. The two counties concerned will be responsible for arranging an umpire and a neutral venue midway between the two counties. If green fees are payable these will be shared by both counties. Before the commencement of the match, the nominated managers will toss a coin for the choice of jack (first end), the winner having the choice of keeping or giving the jack away. Then a further toss of a coin for the choice of jack (extra end) should one be needed. The winner has the option to make the choice immediately after the 21st end has been played. The winner will be decided on the total number of shots of all rinks. There are no points for individual rink wins. In the event of a tie after 21 ends then an extra end or ends will be played by all six rinks simultaneously until there is a winner. The total number of shots of all six rinks will count on the extra end.

Semi-finals and the final shall be played on a straight knock-out system at a time set by Bowls England. The draws for the semi-finals shall be made by the Competitions Committee on greens appointed by them. Before the commencement of the match, the nominated managers will toss a coin to decide the choice of jack for the first and extra end (if required). The winner will be decided on the total number of shots of all rinks. There are no points for individual rink wins. In the event of a tie after 21 ends then an extra

end or ends will be played by all six rinks simultaneously until there is a winner. The total number of shots of all six rinks will count on the extra end.

- 12.2 Each County qualifying for the semi final stage will supply to Bowls England the names of 6 fours and 4 reserves no later than the Monday of week 31. The Semi Final and Final shall be played during the National Championships.
- 12.3 Bowls Stickers for the Semi-Finals and Final will be provided by Bowls England.
- 12.4 The Winners and Runner-Up respectively shall receive a maximum of 28 winners/runner-up medals presented at the Annual Dinner.

National Club Two Fours Competition (Men)

This regulation should be read in conjunction with Regulation 53 – National Competitions.

1. The competition shall be open to all Clubs affiliated to Bowls England. Clubs may enter more than one side. No player shall play in more than one of those sides entered.
2. Players may play for one club in this competition and another club in the Top Club competition, providing they are bona fide members of both clubs. Players are not required to play from the club in which they play their National Championships.
3. The draw will be made by the Competitions Committee.
4. A club side shall consist of 2 rinks of 4 players and they shall play 21 ends, two bowls each player. The challenger shall have the choice of green and will make all match arrangements up to the inter area stage. At the inter area stage the challenger will also arrange a neutral green as equidistant as possible between the 2 Clubs, unless mutually agreed.
5. **Failure to field 8 players will result in a walk-over.**
6. Before the commencement of the match, the nominated managers will toss a coin for choice of jack (first end), the winner having the choice of keeping or giving the jack away. Then toss a coin to nominate which rink will play the extra end. The winner to nominate the name of the skip to play the extra end. This must be declared prior to the match commencing. A further toss of a coin for choice of jack (extra end) should one be needed. The winner has the option to make the choice immediately after the 21st end has been played. The total number of shots on both rinks will determine the winner. In the event of a tie after 21 ends then an extra end will be played by the nominated rink to determine the overall winner.
7. **Final Stages**
 - 7.1 The final stages consisting of the quarter finals, semi-finals and the final shall be played on a straight knock-out system at a time set by Bowls England. The draws for the quarter final and semi-finals shall be made by the Competitions Committee on greens appointed by them
 - 7.2 Each Club qualifying for the quarter final stage will supply to Bowls England the names of 2 fours and 2 reserves no later than the Monday of week 31. The Quarter Final, Semi Final and Final shall be played during the National Championships. A maximum of 10 National Competition badges will be presented to players involved at the National Championships.
 - 7.3 Bowls Stickers for the Semi-Finals and Final will be provided by Bowls England.

- 7.4 The Winners shall receive a maximum of 10 winners medals and fleeces along with the runners-up receiving a maximum of 10 medals which will be presented at the Annual Dinner.

National Top Club Competition (Men)

This regulation should be read in conjunction with Regulation 53 – National Competitions.

1. The competition shall be open to all Clubs affiliated to Bowls England. Clubs may enter more than one side. No player shall play in more than one of those sides entered.
2. Players may play for one club in this competition and another club in the Club Two Fours competition, providing they are bona fide members of both clubs. Players are not required to play from the club in which they play their National Championships.
3. The draw will be made by the Competitions Committee.
4. A club side shall consist of 11 players. The disciplines are four wood singles (21shots), 2 wood singles (21ends), four wood pairs (21ends), three wood triples (18ends) and two wood fours (21ends). The challenger shall have the choice of green and will make all match arrangements.
5. **Failure to field 11 players will result in a walk-over.**
6. Before the commencement of the match, the nominated managers will toss a coin to decide the choice of jack for the first and extra end (if required), make the draw for rinks for each discipline and will decide if the two singles matches will be played on the same rink, one after the other. If not all disciplines will commence at the same time. Each discipline will be played to a result – no drawn matches. The winning side will be the one winning the most disciplines.
7. Between rounds, substitutes/changes are allowed in the side and between disciplines provided the players are members of the same club and have not played for another side during the current competition.
8. **Final Stages**
 - 8.1 The Final will take place on dates and venue specified by Bowls England and consist of the 8 qualifying sides (88) players. This will be a straight knock out with the Quarter final on Saturday and the Semi final and Final on Sunday morning and Sunday afternoon respectively.
 - 8.2 Each Club qualifying for the final stages will supply to Bowls England the names of 11 players and 2 reserves no later than the Monday of week 36. A maximum of 13 National Competition badges will be presented to the players involved at the National Championships.
 - 8.3 Bowls Stickers for the Final stages will be provided by Bowls England.
 - 8.4 The Winners will be presented with a maximum of 13 medals and fleeces at the Annual Dinner along with 13 medals for the runners-up.

National 55s and over Singles and Pairs Competition (Men)

This regulation should be read in conjunction with Regulation 53 – National Competitions.

1. The competition shall be open to all members of clubs affiliated to Bowls England.
2. Each player shall have reached their 55th birthday by 1st April in the year of the competition.
3. The two players in the pairs need not necessarily be members of the same club /county.
4. Singles matches will be 21 shots 4 bowls each player and the pairs shall be 21 ends 4 bowls each player. In the event of the scores being equal when all ends have been played an extra end or ends must be played until a decision is reached.
5. In the event of a substitute being required in the pairs, one and the same player may come from any club, providing they have not already played in the competition, however, one of the original players must play in all rounds of the competition. The substitute may play in any position.

6. Final Stages

- 6.1 The final stages consisting of the last 16 teams for both the singles and pairs shall be played on a straight knock-out system at a time set by Bowls England during the National Championships. The draws for these shall be made by the Competitions Committee.
- 6.2 Each Team qualifying for the final stage will supply to Bowls England the name of their partner (pairs only) no later than the Monday of week 31. The players involved at the National Championships will receive a National Competition Badge.
- 6.3 Bowls Stickers for the final stages will be provided by Bowls England.
- 6.4 The Winners will be presented with a medal and fleece for the singles or 2 medals and 2 fleeces for the pairs at the Annual Dinner along with 1 or 2 medals respectively for the runners-up.

National Champion of Champions Singles Competition (Men)

This regulation should be read in conjunction with Regulation 53 – National Competitions.

1. The competition shall be open to all clubs affiliated to Bowls England.
2. Players eligible to enter are as follows:-
 - Club 4 wood singles Champion
 - County 4 wood singles champion
 - County Junior under 25 4 wood Singles Champion
 -

All the above must be nominated by their Club or County.

In addition the following have automatic entry from Bowls England:-

- The previous years National Champion of Champions
- The previous years National 4 wood Singles Champion
- The previous years National Under 25 Junior 4 wood singles Champion.

In the event of any one person qualifying in more than one of the aforementioned, only one entry will be accepted.

3. Entries shall be made on the official entry card duly signed by the Club or County Secretary, who shall certify that the nominated player is qualified to enter.
4. Each match shall be 21 shots, 4 bowls each player.

5. Final Stages

- 5.1 The final stages consisting of the last 16 Competitors shall be played on a straight knock-out system at a time set by Bowls England during the National Championships. The draws for these shall be made by the Competitions Committee.
- 5.2 Each player involved in the final stages at the National Championships will receive a National Competition Badge.
- 5.3 Bowls Stickers for the final stages will be provided by Bowls England.
- 5.4 The Winner will be presented with a medal and a fleece at the Annual Dinner along with a medal for the runner-up.

Balcomb Trophy - National County Top Two Fours Competition (Men)

This regulation should be read in conjunction with Regulation 53 – National Competitions.

1. The competition shall be open to all county associations who are members of Bowls England.
2. Every county shall be represented by a side consisting of 2 rinks of 4 players.
3. **Failure to field 8 players will result in a walk-over.**
4. All Counties will be assumed to have entered unless they otherwise notify Bowls England before the completion of the previous year's competition.
5. The draw will be made by the Competitions Committee.
6. The preliminary round and the first round will be played by mutual arrangement by the closing date. The competition will be played on a knock-out basis, with the early rounds in geographical areas. Each rink of a side shall play 21 ends, two bowls each player. The County Secretary or Challenging side will make all match arrangements. Matches to commence at 2.00pm unless mutually agreed.
7. Before the commencement of the match, the nominated managers will toss a coin for choice of jack (first end), the winner having the choice of keeping or giving the jack away. Then toss a coin to nominate which rink will play the extra end. The winner to nominate the name of the skip to play the extra end. This must be declared prior to the match commencing. A further toss of a coin for choice of jack (extra end) should one be needed. The winner has the option to make the choice immediately after the 21st end has been played. The total number of shots on both rinks will determine the winner. In the event of a tie after 21 ends then an extra end will be played by the nominated rink to determine the overall winner.
8. Dress: All players will wear the same whites or registered county shirts and trousers, in all rounds.
9. **Inclement weather:** In the event of the umpire and/or green-keeper deciding that no play or no further play is possible, matches in which the total number of ends played equals or exceeds 24 will be deemed to have been completed and the score will stand. In matches where the total number of ends played is less than 24, the

tie will be deemed to be void and the match will be replayed at a later date unless a result is mutually agreed.

When a match is stopped by the Umpire and/or the Green-keeper play will cease on all rinks simultaneously. Ends commenced but not completed shall be declared null and void.

10. Counties must inform the Area Selector of date/time and venue of preliminary/first round matches and Bowls England must be informed of the result by e-mail/phone call immediately after the match.

11. Final Stages

- 11.1 The final stages consisting of the Regional finals, semi-finals and the final shall be played on a straight knock-out system at a time set by Bowls England. The draws for the Regional final and semi-finals shall be made by the Competitions Committee on greens appointed by them
- 11.2 Each County qualifying for the semi final stage will supply to Bowls England the names of 2 fours and 2 reserves no later than the Monday of week 31. The Semi Final and Final shall be played during the National Championships. A maximum of 10 National Competition badges will be presented to players involved at the National Championships.
- 11.3 Bowls Stickers for the Semi-Finals and Final will be provided by Bowls England.
- 11.4 The Winners and Runner-Up respectively shall receive a maximum of 10 winners medals presented at the Annual Dinner.

White Rose National County Under 25s Two Fours Competition (Men)

This regulation should be read in conjunction with Regulation 53 – National Competitions.

1. The competition shall be open to all county associations who are members of Bowls England.
2. Every county shall be represented by a side consisting of 2 rinks of 4 players. All players shall be members of clubs affiliated to their County Association and have not attained their 25th birthday by 1st April in the year of the competition.
3. **Failure to field 8 players will result in a walk-over.**
4. All Counties will be assumed to have entered unless they otherwise notify Bowls England before the completion of the previous year's competition.
5. The draw will be made by the Competitions Committee.
6. The preliminary round and the first round will be played by mutual arrangement by the closing date. The competition will be played on a knock-out basis, with the early rounds in geographical areas. Each rink of a side shall play 21 ends, two bowls each player. The County Secretary or Challenging side will make all match arrangements. Matches to commence at 2.00pm unless mutually agreed.
7. Before the commencement of the match, the nominated managers will toss a coin for choice of jack (first end), the winner having the choice of keeping or giving the jack away. Then toss a coin to nominate which rink will play the extra end. The winner to nominate the name of the skip to play the extra end. This must be declared prior to the match commencing. A further toss of a coin for choice of jack (extra end) should one be needed. The winner has the option to make the choice immediately after the 21st end has been played. The total number of shots on both rinks will determine the winner. In the event of a tie after 21 ends then an extra end will be played by the nominated rink to determine the overall winner.
8. Dress: All players will wear the same whites or registered county shirts and trousers, in all rounds.
9. **Inclement weather:** In the event of the umpire and/or green-keeper deciding that no play or no further play is possible, matches in which the total number of ends played equals or exceeds 24 will be deemed to have been completed and the score will stand. In

matches where the total number of ends played is less than 24, the tie will be deemed to be void and the match will be replayed at a later date unless a result is mutually agreed.

When a match is stopped by the Umpire and/or the Green-keeper play will cease on all rinks simultaneously. Ends commenced but not completed shall be declared null and void.

10. Counties must inform the Area Selector of date/time and venue of preliminary/first round matches and Bowls England must be informed of the result by e-mail/phone call immediately after the match.

11. Final Stages

- 11.1 The final stages consisting of the Regional finals, semi-finals and the final shall be played on a straight knock-out system at a time set by Bowls England. The draws for the Regional final and semi-finals shall be made by the Competitions Committee on greens appointed by them.
- 11.2 Each County qualifying for the semi final stage will supply to Bowls England the names of 2 fours and 2 reserves no later than the Monday of week 31. The Semi Final and Final shall be played during the National Championships. A maximum of 10 National Competition badges will be presented to players involved at the National Championships.
- 11.3 Bowls Stickers for the Semi-Finals and Final will be provided by Bowls England.
- 11.4 The Winners and Runners-Up respectively shall receive a maximum of 10 winners medals presented at the Annual Dinner.

National Mixed Pairs Competition

This regulation should be read in conjunction with Regulation 53 – National Competitions.

1. The competition shall be open to all members of clubs affiliated to Bowls England.
2. A team shall comprise of 1 man and 1 woman. Either player may skip.
3. Players need not necessarily be members of the same club/county.
4. Each match shall be 21 ends, 4 bowls each player. In the event of the scores being equal when all the ends have been played, an extra end or ends must be played until a result is reached.
5. Substitution: The 2 players taking part in the first match constitutes the original team and shall normally play together throughout the competition. 1 and the same male and/or 1 and the same female player may be used as a substitute at any time, providing that they have not already played or entered the competition. However, at least 1 of the original pair must play in every round.

6. Final Stages

- 6.1 The Final stages consisting of the last 16 teams shall be played on a straight knock-out system at a time set by Bowls England during the National Championships.
- 6.2 Each Team qualifying for the final stages will supply to Bowls England the name of each player no later than the Monday of week 31. The players involved in the final stages will receive a National Competition Badge.
- 6.3 Bowls Stickers for the final stages will be provided by Bowls England.
- 6.4 The Winners will be presented with 2 medals and 2 fleeces at the Annual Dinner along with 2 medals for the runners-up.

National Mixed Fours Competition

This regulation should be read in conjunction with Regulation 53 – National Competitions.

1. The competition shall be open to all members of clubs affiliated to Bowls England.
2. A team shall comprise of 2 men and 2 women. Any player may skip.
3. Players need not necessarily be members of the same club/county.
4. Each match shall be 21 ends, 2 bowls each player. In the event of the scores being equal when all the ends have been played, an extra end or ends must be played until a result is reached.
5. Substitution: The 4 players taking part in the first match constitutes the original team and shall normally play together throughout the competition. One and the same male and/or one and the same female player may be used as a substitute at any time, providing that they have not already played or entered the competition. However, at least 1 of the original men and 1 of the original women must play in every round.

6. Final Stages

- 6.1 The Final stages consisting of the last 16 teams shall be played on a straight knock-out system at a time set by Bowls England during the National Championships.
- 6.2 Each Team qualifying for the final stages will supply to Bowls England the names of their team players no later than the Monday of week 31. The players involved in the final stages will receive a National Competition Badge.
- 6.3 Bowls Stickers for the final stages will be provided by Bowls England.
- 6.4 The Winners will be presented with 4 medals and 4 fleeces at the Annual Dinner along with 4 medals for the runners-up.

Tony Allcock Trophy – National Club Mixed Over 60 Double Rink

This regulation should be read in conjunction with Regulation 53 – National Competitions.

1. The competition shall be open to all Clubs affiliated to Bowls England. Clubs may enter more than one side. No player shall play in more than one of those sides entered.
2. All players shall be aged 60 years or over on April 1st in the year of the competition.
3. Players may play for one club in this competition and another club in the Top Club competition and/or the Men's National Club Two Fours Competition, providing they are bona fide members of both clubs. Players are not required to play from the club in which they play in their National Championships.
4. The draw will be made by the Competitions Committee.
5. A club side shall consist of 2 rinks of 4 players (2 men and 2 women per rink) and they shall play 21 ends, two bowls each player.
6. **Failure to field 8 players will result in a walk-over.**
7. Before the commencement of the match, the nominated managers will toss a coin for choice of jack (first end), the winner having the choice of keeping or giving the jack away. Then toss a coin to nominate which rink will play the extra end. The winner to nominate the name of the skip to play the extra end. This must be declared prior to the match commencing. A further toss of a coin for choice of jack (extra end) should one be needed. The winner has the option to make the choice immediately after the 21st end has been played. The total number of shots on both rinks will determine the winner. In the event of a tie after 21 ends then an extra end will be played by the nominated rink to determine the overall winner.
8. **Final Stages**
 - 8.1. The final stages consisting of the Quarter-Finals, Semi-Finals and the Final shall be played on a straight knock-out system at a time set by Bowls England. The draw for the final stages shall be made by the Competitions Committee.
 - 8.2. Each Club qualifying for the Quarter-Finals stage will supply to Bowls England the names of 2 fours and 2 reserves (one male and one female) no later than the Monday of week 31. The Final Stages shall be played during the National Championships. A maximum of 10 National Competition badges will be presented to players involved at the National Championships.
 - 8.3. Bowls Stickers for the Final Stages will be provided by Bowls England.
 - 8.4. The winners will represent Bowls England in the respective BIBC and BIWBC Championships the following year.

- 8.5. The Winners shall receive a maximum of 10 winners medals and fleeces along with the runners-up receiving a maximum of 10 medals which will be presented at the Annual Dinner.