



Guidance for Competitors

Issued: August 2021

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Welcome from the Chief Executive

On behalf of all the team at Bowls England, I would like to congratulate you for reaching the National Finals and warmly welcome you to the event. We look forward to you showcasing the best of our sport – great skill, fierce competition, intense rivalries and respect for the game, and each other.

Please take some time to read this document to familiarise yourself with arrangements for the National Final and to ensure you fully enjoy your experience.

We will reflect upon the 2021 competition season with pride. In the early spring, as we all battled through another lockdown, there was absolutely no guarantee the competitions season was going to happen. We had no indication that the government roadmap or vaccination programme would evolve as positively as it has done – indeed, some scientific and public health officials felt that restrictions would stay in place for the majority of 2021. Therefore, motivated by a desire to get as many people playing as possible, we made decisions that we felt would make it most likely that the full competition would take place – and this has been achieved. Elsewhere across Britain, sadly, competition seasons were cancelled for the second successive year.

I would like to thank you for accommodating the changes made for this year, for the spirit you have shown in making the season happen, your patience that some of what we have done this year has been later than we would have liked and we fully understand there is a range of view on the future formats.

Whilst we believe that generally the length of our competitions and matches need to be shorter to better complement the society in which we live, with leisure time at a premium, we understand the importance of balancing match time with travel time, and ensuring people feel they get full satisfaction from a game.

We have said that we will consult on players' experiences this year and we hope you have completed the survey sent out recently. It is really critical for the well-being of the sport, and to reverse the decline in competition entries, that this discussion about our future competitions is not a binary one - old format or new format. The debate needs to be more nuanced than that, and we look forward to having it with you during the National Finals for those who would like to visit the Bowls England stand. It is worth noting, there are still uncertainties around the impact of Birmingham 2022 on access to Victoria Park for next season, which will likely necessitate further flexibility at all levels of our sport.

We have high hopes for our major events programme and we are pleased to have instigated some improvements to the event experience at the National Finals. Many of you will hopefully experience the thrill of playing in front of a bigger crowd with grandstand seating around A green and a professional MC will be endeavouring to bring the quality of competition to life in a slightly new way.

It is critical for the future health of bowls that we recognize the value in watching our sport as well as playing it. By making this cultural shift, better showcasing the top of our game and improving our event experience, we will inspire more people to give our sport a go. If we get this change right and bowls' lovers get behind this, we will ultimately enjoy more visibility for our sport; we will more effectively deliver the bold ambitions in our strategy and we will keep the cost of playing our sport low.

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It's now under 12 months until the home Commonwealth Games begins on the greens in front of you here at Victoria Park. In my past life, I saw at first hand the seismic impact of a home Olympics for the sport of hockey and can't underplay the once in a generation opportunity ahead of us. We have a fantastic sport. It's time to let more people in on our secret!



Jon Cockcroft
Chief Executive
Bowls England

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Map of venue

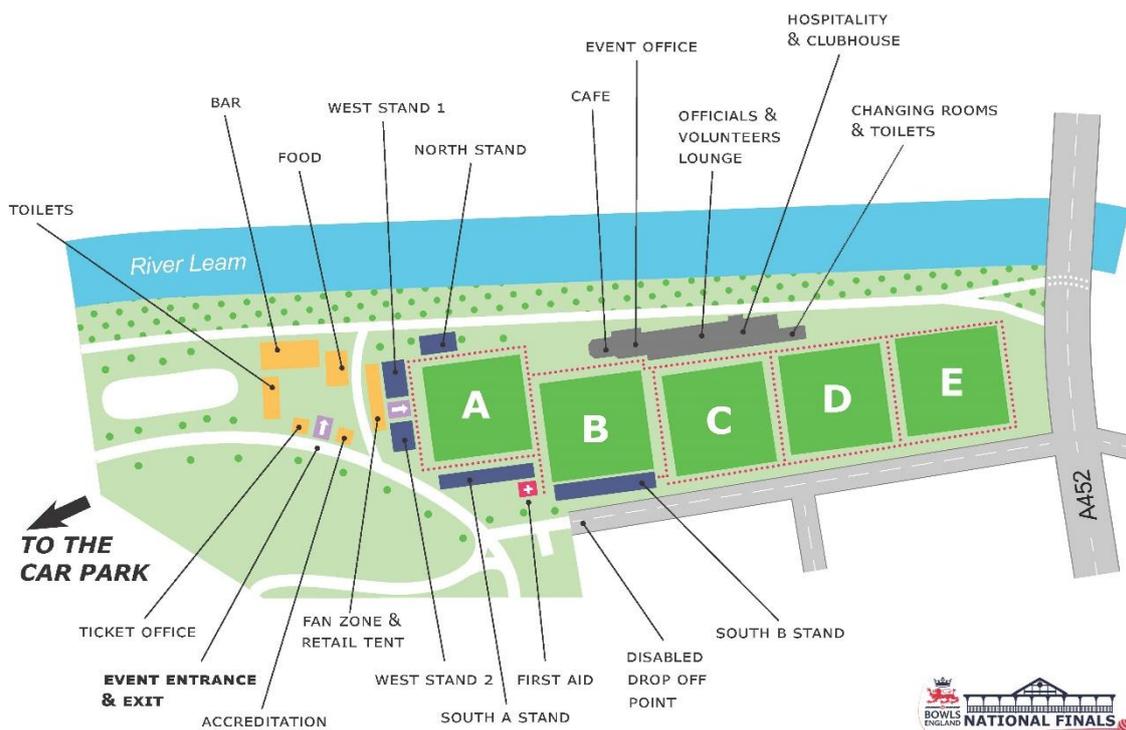
The National Finals will look a little different to previous years in 2021. As well as being a ticketed event, tiered seating will be back by popular demand; there will be a brand-new concession area including a bar; and there will be a retail village for you to explore.

We're delighted to announce that tiered seating will return to the National Finals this year. We are aware that this was something that was previously popular at the event in Worthing.

This will be on A Green and B Green, giving spectators a fantastic view of the action. Please note, this is unreserved seating, and we ask all spectators to respect their fellow attendees. We will ask you to remove any coats or jackets being used to reserve seats for friends, for example. We also ask all spectators to not move during an end and do not block the view of those in the grandstand seating.

Due to the tiered seating around A and B green, there will be limited space for spectators to use their own chairs around these greens – but there will be room around the other greens for your own seating as in previous years.

Please take a look at our new-look National Finals venue.



Arrival at the venue

Car parking and travel

There will be parking in Victoria Park as in previous years, but this will be limited. This will be charged at £5 per day, per car. You can also buy a book of 5 parking vouchers for £20. You can pay for parking on arrival preferably using a card payment.

Car parking within Victoria Park will open at 8am and shall close one hour after the close of play. Entry into the bowling green area will be possible from 8.30am. Please ensure that your vehicle has been removed from the car park not later than one hour after the close of play. Vehicles must not be parked within Victoria Park overnight. We will not be liable for any penalties you may incur from Warwick District Council if you do not remove your car by the closing time.

We recommend that where possible you should either use public transport to get to the venue; park in a car park nearby; or walk if you are local to the park.

Disabled parking

There will be a small amount of disabled parking for Blue Badge Holders, on a first come, first served basis. Whilst there is a limited amount of designated parking for Blue Badge holders, a drop-off facility is offered on Archery Road. There is strictly no parking allowed on Archery Road for non-residents.

Accreditation

You will receive a pass for all days of the event/s for which you have qualified. Please go to the Accreditation marquee to receive your player pack, which will include your event pass. You will need to report on every day of the event to receive the pass relevant to that specific day. The location of the Accreditation marquee is to the right of the main entrance and can be found on our [venue map](#). Please see below for Covid-19 requirements.

Badge presentation

Owing to the lack of time between sessions and to minimise the risks presented by a large number of people congregating within a relatively small area, there will be no formal badge presentations during the 2021 National Finals. Photo opportunities with the Presidential Team will be available at publicised times throughout the day should you wish to have a memento of your visit to the National Finals. These will be available online and we are hoping to secure a print on site solution in the coming days.

Contact information

We have collected your contact information as part of the registration process. Please report to the Tournament Office to update should your contact details have changed since 1st August 2021 as we may need to contact you and/or your chosen emergency contact during the event.

Play arrangements

Times of Various Rounds

The time of each round is published on the draw sheet and we may alter start times and rinks if it is considered necessary or desirable. We request that you place your bowls on your allocated rink not later than 15 minutes before the scheduled start time for your match/es. If you are not on the green ready to play within 15 minutes of the start time you will be subject to disqualification. For the Quarter-Finals, Semi-Finals and Final, play will start under the direction of the Umpire after all players have been introduced onto the green.

Scorecards and bowls stickers

The Umpire will provide you with your scorecard on the rink at the start of your match. There is no need for you to report to the Tournament Office prior to the start of any match. The first named team in all matches shall have red stickers, and the second named team shall have white stickers. Stickers for your first match will be provided to you/your team's named entrant on arrival at the Accreditation tent.

Conclusion of Match

At the conclusion of each match the winning skip/singles player must pass the signed scorecard/s to the Umpire immediately. The Umpire will return all scorecards to the Tournament Office. You may also, particularly if you are competing on A green, be interviewed about the match by our MC.

Dress Code

Please [click here](#) to view the dress code for the National Finals. If you are participating in the National Championships you are reminded that it is a requirement to wear your County Association's registered colours.

Water

A free water dispensing machine will be available in the 'Officials & Volunteers Lounge' for the duration of the National Finals for players to fill and replenish water bottles. If you are using disposable drinks bottles, please use the bins provided to dispose of your rubbish. It is all our responsibility to ensure the venue is clean and presentable for fellow players and spectators.

Prize money

All Finalists and Semi-Finalists must report to the Tournament Office to register their bank details for payment of any prize money. This will be done by bank transfer following the conclusion of the event.

Trophy presentation

The Trophy presentation will involve the two finalists only and take place immediately following the conclusion of the Final. This will be followed by post match interviews on the green. Players must remain in their respective playing uniform. Failure to comply with this will result in any prize money being donated to the English Bowling Associations Charity Trust.

Official Photograph

The Official Photograph of the winner and runner-up, for publication by Bowls England and within local/national media, will be taken immediately after the Trophy Presentation. Players will be required to remain in their playing uniform for the photograph.

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Security

Please take care of your personal possessions and do not leave valuables in the changing rooms. Neither Bowls England nor Warwick District Council will, under any circumstances, accept responsibility for any loss incurred.

Smoking

Smoking is prohibited on and around the greens, on bank areas, in the tiered seating areas and in covered marquee areas such as the Fan Zone. Elsewhere onsite, please be respectful to other attendees.

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Friends, family and supporters

Here's some key information to ensure that your friends and family enjoy their visit to Royal Leamington Spa.

Spectator Tickets

Daily tickets start at just £4 for adults, and £1 for Under 18s; offering a full day of competitive sporting action, testing players' resilience, nerve and skill. There is also the opportunity to buy an event pass which covers all 18 days of action for £48 or £12 respectively. Subject to availability, any remaining tickets can be purchased on the gate at £5 for adults and £2 for U18s. Please note, we will only accept card payments – we will not be accepting cash or cheques. [Click here to purchase tickets now](#).

Non-Grandstand Spectator Seating

Please note that although a limited number of chairs are provided, spectators are advised to bring their own seat with them to avoid disappointment.

Fanzone and Retail Area

In the Fan Zone tent you can expect to find a Bowls England info stand. Please come and say hello to us. We're keen to hear your thoughts about our new strategy, any feedback on the future competition programme and would love the opportunity to engage clubs on making the most of their Bowls England affiliation. For a bit of fun, we'll be running a daily quiz with 5 bowls questions to test your knowledge – there'll be a prize on offer each day.

Aceit, the Official Apparel Partner of Bowls England, and leading Bowls Retailer, Bowlsweat Direct can also be found in the Fan Zone tent offering a range of bowls clothing and equipment. Alongside them, we welcome Constantinou Bros for those who fancy a bowls overseas holiday.

Our good friends at Disability Bowls England will also be present in this area and Coach Bowls, Bowls England's coaching arm, will be able to give you some coaching tips when you pass by, and also provide you with information about how to make that step into coaching.

Last, but by no means least, we are proud to present an exhibit dedicated to the legend that is David Bryant. Wonderfully created by historian and friend of the family David Rhys-Jones and containing memorabilia donated by the family, you can take a peek into what made this man such a true gentleman and legend of our sport.

Live Streaming

New for 2021, we are trialling a professional streaming service during two days of the National Finals. The final stages of the prestigious Men's and Women's National Pairs Championships will be streamed live on Monday 23rd August and Tuesday 24th August. The streaming will be of broadcast quality, with commentary, multiple angles and in-depth analysis and will be streamed via our [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#) channels.

Food & Drink

We are delighted to announce that we have expanded the food and drink options available in the venue for the National Finals 2021. These new food and drink outlets will operate alongside the Café and Clubhouse as in previous years. **Please note that the club house will be inaccessible on Sundays, Tuesdays and Thursdays during the National finals due to hospitality events taking place.** You can also bring food and non-alcoholic drinks into the venue. Bowls England and Warwick District Council

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reserves the right to refuse entry to anyone deemed too intoxicated and you may be asked to leave the venue.

If we want to ensure it is viable to have bar and food facilities of this nature in the future, we would urge you to frequent all our vendors. Part of the bowls experience is to have a post-match drink with team-mates and opponents, and we look forward to creating that atmosphere at the National Finals.

[Official 2021 National Finals Programme](#)

The National finals Programme has been produced including detail of all events taking place at Royal Leamington Spa. These will be available for purchase at a cost of £3 each.

[Toilets](#)

We have increased provision of toilets for the 2021 National Finals for spectators. These are located to the left of the main entrance within the fan area. Please leave these as you would hope to find them.

Covid-19

With the aim of keeping all spectators, employees, volunteers and competitors safe as a priority to Bowls England, and to enable a smooth running of the event whilst Covid infection rates are still high and rising, we have taken the best advice from Public Health and Regulatory experts in Warwickshire on the measures that would best prevent the risk of onward transmission of Coronavirus.

Entry conditions

Consequently, as a condition of entry to the event all attendees at the event must either:

- Take a Lateral Flow Test within 24 hours of arrival at the venue and be able to show proof of a negative test via an email or text from the NHS or show a photo of the negative test

OR

- Have evidence of double vaccination via the NHS app, a letter from the NHS or your Vaccination card. [Information about how to download the NHS app or apply for a letter can be found here.](#)

Without proof of either of these, all people aged 11 and over will be asked to take a Lateral Flow Test on arrival at the event, supervised by our onsite medical team. You will not be allowed access until the result has been read 30 minutes later. You must follow the government's guidelines at all times in regards to self-isolation.

We hope these steps will give you more confidence around attending the National Finals and improve your enjoyment of the event.

You can [find more answers on our FAQ page here.](#)

Masks & Social Distancing

There is no longer a legal requirement to follow previous COVID restrictions, but we have been asked to remain vigilant. Similarly, the advice we have received is to continue to follow certain rules when hosting events.

Therefore, we're asking guests to wear masks when not eating and drinking indoors, and to try and respect people's personal space where possible. It is a tight site in certain places, and so please think about moving through the venue to avoid congestion, which may put fellow attendees in an uncomfortable position.

We know there are many different views around this, and we know our community will respect everyone's personal feelings.

Dress code

National Championships

- a) Players participating in the National Championship final stages shall wear their County Association's registered colours. Shorts manufactured for the sport of bowls may be worn below the waist and in accordance with the County Association's registered colours where applicable.
- b) Flat soled bowling shoes shall be worn on the green. Sandals shall not be permitted except in medical circumstances where a doctor's note has been provided.
- c) Players governed by requirements of a specific ethnic culture shall be permitted to wear their traditional dress if they so desire.
- d) Shell suits, jeans and shorts other than those manufactured for the sport of bowls are not acceptable.
- e) Headgear, if worn, should be white or a registered colour.
- f) Socks, if visible, should be white.
- g) White waterproof clothing may be used, or, providing all members of a side or team wear the same, registered colour waterproof/fleeces are permitted. Bowls England licensed apparel may also be worn.

National Competitions

In the Finals of the Senior Singles, Senior Pairs, Champion of Champions, Mixed Pairs, Mixed Fours and Family Pairs the following applies:

- a) Flat soled bowling shoes shall be worn on the green, white belt (if worn), 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. Braces, if worn, should not be visible. Sandals shall not be permitted except in medical circumstances where a doctor's note has been provided.
- b) Club/County apparel may be worn provided that all members of the side or team wear the same and provided that the design of such apparel has been registered to the County/Bowls England.
- c) Bowls England licensed apparel and shorts manufactured for the sport of bowls may be worn. All members of the side or team shall wear the same colour below the waist.
- d) Players governed by requirements of a specific ethnic culture shall be permitted to wear their traditional dress if they so desire.
- e) Shell suits, jeans and shorts other than those manufactured for the sport of bowls are not acceptable.
- f) Headgear, if worn, should be white or a registered colour.
- g) Socks, if visible, should be white.
- h) White waterproof clothing may be used, or, providing all members of a side or team wear the same, registered colour waterproof/fleeces are permitted. Bowls England licensed apparel may also be worn.

National Inter-County Competitions

In the Finals of the Balcomb Trophy, Walker Cup, White Rose Trophy and the Amy Rose Bowl the following applies:

- a) Players shall wear their County Association's registered colours. Shorts manufactured for the sport of bowls may be worn below the waist and in accordance with the County Association's registered colours where applicable.
- b) Flat soled bowling shoes shall be worn on the green, white belt (if worn), white socks, braces (if worn) should not be visible. Sandals shall not be permitted except in medical circumstances where a doctor's note has been provided.
- c) Players governed by requirements of a specific ethnic culture shall be permitted to wear their traditional dress if they so desire.
- d) Shell suits, jeans and shorts other than those manufactured for the sport of bowls are not acceptable.
- e) Headgear, if worn, should be white or a registered colour.
- f) Socks, if visible, should be white.
- g) White waterproof clothing may be used, or, providing all members of a side or team wear the same, registered colour waterproof/fleeces are permitted. Bowls England licensed apparel may also be worn.

Slow Play

The following will be enforced in the final stages the National Finals. Only the Event Director (or Nominated Deputy) can disqualify players following referral from the Umpire.

Four-Bowl Singles – Neither player may visit the head until both have delivered three bowls each. Should a player wish to visit the head prior to this point being reached the permission of the marker must be obtained. The maximum time that a player may deliberate before playing a bowl is two minutes, the time being calculated from the time the previous bowl played came to rest. Should this rule be breached they will be warned by the marker. Any further non-compliance will be reported by the marker to an Umpire in charge of the green. The Tournament Director (or Nominated Deputy) may disqualify the offending player from taking any further part in the competition.

Two-Bowl Singles – Neither player may visit the head until both have delivered one bowl each. Should a player wish to visit the head prior to this point being reached the permission of the marker must be obtained. The maximum time that a player may deliberate before playing a bowl is two minutes, the time being calculated from the time the previous bowl played came to rest. Should this rule be breached they will be warned by the marker. Any further non-compliance will be reported by the marker to an Umpire in charge of the green. The Tournament Director (or nominated deputy) may disqualify the offending player from taking any further part in the competition.

Pairs – Neither Lead may visit the head until both players have delivered two bowls each. There is no restriction on Skips revisiting the head should they wish to do so. The maximum time that a player may confer before delivering a bowl is two minutes, the time being calculated from the time the previous bowl played came to rest. Should this rule be breached and not picked up by an Umpire in charge of the green, the aggrieved opposing Skip should bring notice of the infringement to the Umpire. The Skip of the offending Pair will be warned by the Umpire and should there be further non-compliance the Tournament Director (or Nominated Deputy) may disqualify the offending Pair from taking any further part in the competition.

Triples – Neither Lead may visit the head until both have delivered two bowls each. The Second players, have the option of playing ‘two’s up’ if desired and having left the head after the Leads have delivered their bowls may not return to the head until both players have delivered one bowl each. There is no restriction on Skips revisiting the head should they wish to do so. The maximum time that a player may confer before delivering a bowl is two minutes, the time being calculated from the time the previous bowl played came to rest. Should this rule be breached and not picked up by an Umpire in charge of the green, the aggrieved opposing Skip should bring notice of the infringement to the Umpire. The Skip of the offending Triple will be warned by the Umpire and should there be further non-compliance the Tournament Director (or Nominated Deputy) may disqualify the offending Triple from taking any further part in the competition.

Fours – The Lead and Second players may not visit the head until all four players have delivered their two bowls. There is no restriction on the Third players or the Skips revisiting the head should they wish to do so. The maximum time that a player may confer before delivering a bowl is two minutes, the time being calculated from the time the previous bowl played came to rest. Should this rule be breached and not picked up by an Umpire in charge of the green, the aggrieved opposing Skip should bring notice of the infringement to the Umpire. The Skip of the offending Four will be warned by the Umpire and should there be further non-compliance the Tournament Director (or Nominated Deputy) may disqualify the offending Four from taking any further part in the competition.

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Code of Conduct

This Code of Conduct applies to all players who participate in the Bowls England National Championship and National Competition Finals, and is to be read in conjunction with the Bowls England Regulations for National Championships and National Competitions.

All players who participate in the National Finals shall at all times conduct themselves in such a manner that reflects favourably upon themselves, Bowls England and the County or Club that he/she is representing.

In particular you should:

1. Report punctually at the prescribed time and place
2. Be conversant with and comply with the Laws of the Sport of Bowls and all rules and regulations relating to National Championships and National Competitions
3. Adhere to Bowls England's Betting Integrity Guidance (Bowls England Regulation No.10.7)
4. Adhere to Bowls England's Disciplinary Regulations (Bowls England Regulation No.9)
5. Adhere to Bowls England's Anti-Doping Guidance (Please refer to Page 6)
6. Adhere to Bowls England Equality Policy (Please refer to Bowls England website)
7. Play all matches to completion i.e. to the required number of shots or ends. Matches must be conceded where it is not mathematically possible for the losing team/individual to win. Players/teams/sides may concede at any point.
8. Not cheat in order to gain unfair advantage, or cheat in order to deliberately lose a game
9. Not use any form of gamesmanship in an attempt to gain unfair advantage
10. Comply strictly with the guidance relating to 'Slow Play'
11. Not render yourself unfit through alcohol or drugs on or off the bowling green
12. Show respect to colleagues, opponents and officials and not subject them to any physical or verbal abuse at any time
13. Smoking on the green is prohibited during all games – this includes the banks and areas surrounding the green
14. The use of mobile phones on the green is prohibited during all games

Failure to adhere to the above will result in an initial warning that will be issued by an Umpire. Should any player continue to not adhere they will be subject to disqualification at the discretion of the Tournament Director (or Nominated Deputy), whose decision will be final.

Anti-doping guidance for competitors

THIS GUIDANCE HAS BEEN PREPARED TO INFORM YOU ON THE CURRENT BOWLS ENGLAND ANTI-DOPING POLICY AND ALL COMPETITORS ARE REQUIRED TO COMPLY. IT IS NOT NECESSARY TO OBTAIN A THERAPEUTIC USE EXEMPTION CERTIFICATION (TUE) IN ADVANCE OF THE BOWLS ENGLAND NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS – SEE SECTION 3 FOR DETAILS.

1. Introduction

Many medications available for common medical conditions, such as asthma or hay fever, may contain prohibited substances. Players need to be aware that these are readily available in products prescribed by your doctor or bought over the counter in a pharmacy.

Bowls England is a signatory to the UK Anti-Doping Rules. It is your responsibility to check any medication. Failure to do so and the provision of a 'positive' anti-doping test will result in severe disciplinary action.

Current anti-doping guidance can be [found here](#).
The prohibited list for 2021 can be [found here](#).

IT IS THEREFORE IMPORTANT THAT YOU CHECK ANY MEDICATION YOU ARE CURRENTLY TAKING.

UK Anti-Doping advises that you check every medication before you use it, even if you have used it before. It is also important to remember that medications bought abroad may contain different substances to the same product purchased in the UK.

2. Checking medications for prohibited substances

Global DRO provides a quick and easy means by which athletes and support personnel can check the status of medications based on the current Prohibited List. This website allows players to search any sort of medication they may wish to take in order to check if there are any substances contained within the medication that is included in WADA's Prohibited List.
To access Global DRO, [click here](#).

3. Therapeutic Use Exemption (TUE)

When prescribed a substance or method, players should check if that medication is prohibited by checking Global DRO. If the medication is not prohibited, players can start using the prescribed medication or treatment. If the medication is prohibited, players should check with their prescribing physician if there are any alternative medications or treatments that are permitted.

If there are no permitted alternatives, any player that is selected for doping control during the National Finals will have 10 working days to apply retroactively for a TUE. It is not necessary to obtain a TUE in advance of the National Finals.

To download the TUE application form from World Bowls, [click here](#).

All players are eligible for testing at any time, however players who are selected for international trials and events (including British Isles/Commonwealth Games/World Championships) are more likely to be selected for doping control.

4. More information

For more information on the current anti-doping guidelines, [click here](#).

Bowls stamping

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All bowls must bear a stamp in accordance with the current Laws of the Sport of Bowls, Crystal Mark Third Edition (Law 53). A World Bowls Ltd stamp with a date of the current year (2021) or later will be valid.

Challenge to bowls

Should a player wish to challenge the suitability of their opponent's bowls (see Bowls England Domestic Regulation 2 – Law 52.2 in the 'Laws of the Sport of Bowls Crystal Mark Third Edition') the fee lodged will be £50.

Useful telephone numbers

Tournament Office (Victoria Park):	01926 430686
Bowls England Communications Officer:	07879 812416
Visitor Information Centre:	01926 456940
Warwick Hospital – includes A&E:	01926 495321
University Hospitals Coventry – includes A&E:	024 7696 4000

Frequently asked questions

We hope this guide has provided you with all the information you need to have a great time at our National Finals. If you have any additional queries, [please click here to view some of our 'Frequently Asked Questions'](#).