

E.C.W.B.A. COMPETITION BY-LAWS

1. There shall be Championship four wood singles, pairs, triples, fours, senior fours, two wood singles, junior singles and junior pairs. Juniors must not have attained their 24th birthday on the 1st April in the year of the competition. Senior Fours must be 55 and over on the 1st April in the year of the competition. There shall be County competitions for unbadged singles, unbadged pairs, club champion of champions, Albert Crabb double rink and Top Club.
2. The competitions shall be open to all affiliated members of clubs affiliated to the Association provided that such clubs are not in arrears with their subscriptions. A player shall not represent or allow her name to be submitted for more than one club. Competitors who change clubs during the winter and have entered County Competitions can only play in the Championship four wood singles and two wood singles competitions. They cannot act as a substitute in other county competitions, but may play in the Albert Crabb and Top Club for their new club. Entrance fees for all competitions shall be determined annually by Bowls England and the Executive.
3. All competition entries must be made via the ECBA Competition Portal by the given closing date. There must be a minimum number of entries of 12 singles, 16 pairs, 16 triples, 12 fours, 12 senior fours, 8 junior singles and 4 junior pairs or the competition cannot run. The competitions shall be zoned into areas (A, B, C or D) or sub-areas (A1, A2, B1, B2, C1, C2, D1, D2) depending on entry numbers and the executive is empowered to re-formulate the areas into more equitable sections with regard to geographical locations and competition entries, when required.
4. All competitions shall be played under the rules of the current "Laws of the Sport of Bowls" as issued by World Bowls and the current Bowls England rules as published on their website. Draw for rinks – if 1 rink is required 2 rinks must be made available for the draw. If more than 1 rink is required then the draw is made from the number of rinks required. For example – a Top Club game requires 4 rinks so 4 rinks must be available for the draw.
5. The single handed competitions shall consist of 21 shots, the 2 wood singles 21 ends, the pairs, triples, fours, senior fours and junior pairs 18 ends. In case of a tie at the completion of the designated number of ends an extra end shall be played. A toss of the coin shall decide the choice of mat for the extra end.
6. All rounds up to area finals shall be played on the green of the opponent whose name appears as the challenger. For play by date competitions a challenger must offer 3 dates which do not clash with other county dates, at least one of which must be at a weekend, not less than 14 days before the closing date of the opening round or within three days of receiving notification. Failing this, the opponent becomes the challenger. The time for commencing a match shall be mutually agreed, but no player or team shall be compelled to accept a time earlier than 6.00pm Monday – Friday or 3.00pm on Saturdays and Sundays. Competitors not on the green ready to play within 30 minutes of the agreed start time will be subject to disqualification. Competitions on Set Dates may be played on the day before, by mutual agreement.
7. Champion of Champions: If the distance between the clubs of the two competitors in any round leading up to the neutral green exceeds 30 miles (using Google Maps 'shortest distance') then the challenger should arrange to play the match on a green within 30 miles of her opponent's club, if the opponent so requests. The challenger is still responsible for providing a competent marker.
8. For all rounds up to the area finals the challenger should provide a competent person to mark singles. No umpires are required. Score cards must be signed by the marker and each

player in singles and by the two skips in other games. Winners must log in their results on the competition portal immediately after the game or by 9.30pm on the day of play at the latest. In the case of a team game, entrants must enter the full names of ALL players who participated in the match, both winners and losers. Score cards must be completed correctly and retained until the close of the competition. In the event of any difficulties please phone Dave Jarrold (07771 882595) who will assist with entering the results.

9. Area finals will be played on a neutral green arranged by the Area Secretary. A competent person shall be appointed to act as umpire. The winners shall go forward to the County Semi-finals, played on greens determined by the County Competition Secretary, who will also make arrangements for the Finals. Umpires and markers for these final stages will be appointed by the Essex Coordinator for the English Bowling Umpires Association. All players must be prepared to play two or more games on the same day if rinks are available.
10. 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 competitions leading to National Championships.
11. Provided one original entrant remains, replacements are allowed in a team prior to the commencement of the competition. In pairs, triples or fours the players taking part in the first game shall constitute the team and shall normally play together throughout the competition. One additional and the same player may however be used as a substitute at any time after the first game has been played provided she has not already played in or been entered to play in the competition in another team. She may play in any position. Any player may have a substitute for any reason. The substitute must be indicated on the score card with an 'S' by their name.
12. If during the course of a fours, triples or pairs game a player has to leave the green owing to illness, her place may be filled by a substitute if, in the opinion of both skips, such substitution is necessary. The substitute should play in any position other than skip and the other members of the team can rearrange their positions as necessary.
13. Players who give or are given a walk-over are considered to have played the game and cannot therefore act as a substitute in that competition. Player/players giving a walk-over after progressing to the next round of a competition, for any reason other than severe illness or bereavement, shall be banned from entering that competition for the following year.
14. In the event of severe weather conditions (rain or intense heat deemed dangerous to life) stopping a competition match it must be continued, if possible, on the same green and the same rink. If it cannot be continued in this way, a mutually agreed green should be used, one extra day being allowed. An end commenced but not completed shall be declared null. Trial ends are allowed on resumption, only on another day or another green.
15. Ladies playing in National and County Competitions must ensure that the green they are playing on has been tested and passed. A current certificate must be displayed in the clubhouse. If the challenger's green is not passed for County Competitions or is not available, the game may be played on the opponent's green and the challenger loses the right to challenge, or the challenger may find a neutral green and must pay green fees. Where a green has been fertilized and is not playable either a neutral green or the opponent's green should be used. The challenger must inform their opponent if there is a likelihood of play on a surface other than grass.
16. All protests appertaining to the green must be intimated before the commencement of the 6th end (match to be completed). The protestor on completion of the game shall inform the County Competition Secretary that a challenge has been made. The club must not make any changes to the green within the next 24 hours, allowing time for the County Competition

Secretary to have the green independently tested. The club or competitor lodging the protest shall deposit with the Secretary of the Association the sum of £20 which may be forfeited or returned as the Executive may determine after considering and disposing of such protest. No protests shall be withdrawn except by leave of the County Competition Secretary.

17. Slow play: The rules as laid down by Bowls England will be enforced during play in County Competitions. These may be viewed on the Bowls England website or in the ECWBA County Handbook. In ALL disciplines the maximum time that a player may deliberate or confer before delivering a bowl is 2 minutes, the time being calculated from the time the previous bowl came to rest. Should the slow play rules be breached the player will be warned by the marker in singles or the umpire in other matches. Further non-compliance with these rules may lead to disqualification.
18. All competitors qualifying for the Bowls England National Championships shall compete. Any qualifier who does not represent Essex at the National Championships (illness or close bereavement excepted) will be banned from that County Competition for a period of 2 years.
19. Players selected for any County match must inform the County Match Secretary no less than 48 hours before the day (except in extenuating circumstances) or the full match fee will be payable. Players who do not turn up (except in extenuating circumstances) will have to pay the full match fee. If a player is late and the reserve has started to play, she stays in.
20. For Intergroup Matches the ladies on the current County Points list are eligible to play. If a player is late and the reserve has started to play, she stays in. Area Secretaries will toss for the Jack. Each match will be 5 rinks or an agreed format depending on player availability. 2 points will be awarded per winning rink, 1 point if the rink result is a draw and 10 points for an overall match win on shot difference. In the event of a player not turning up the rink with less players will play but lose 25% of the score on that rink only. The group with the most points at the end of the 3 matches will be the winner. Area Secretaries will keep a list of players who have received an Intergroup Badge.
21. Umbrellas: For health and safety reasons, umbrellas are prohibited at all times on the green.
22. Smoking: Smoking, including e-cigarettes and vaping during a match/competition is prohibited.
23. Bowls stamping: Providing the stamp on the bowls is dated 1985 or later and is still clearly legible, they are permissible to be used for domestic and county play. However, all competitors reaching the National Championships/Competitions must have their bowls stamped with a current registered World Bowls stamp.

ALBERT CRABB (CLUB DOUBLE RINK) RULES

- County competition by-laws and dress code apply.
- A club may enter 2 teams, an A and a B. 12 players forming the A team squad must be registered with their Area Secretary by the end of May for that season. Should a player from the registered A squad become indisposed a replacement can be registered with the Area Secretary. Players cannot be transferred between the two teams. All rules apply to both teams.
- One rink at home and one rink away, a maximum of two badged players per rink. Badged players must be evenly distributed between home and away rinks. Colts are classed as badged bowlers. A "B" must be put by the name/s on the score cards to indicate the players who are badged. Should a substitute be needed during a game the ratio to badged and

unbadged players must be maintained. If a player is taken ill and a substitute is not available the game must be conceded. Different players may be used for succeeding games.

- The rounds to be played on fixed dates as set by the County Executive.
- Play to commence at 6pm during the months of May to August and 3pm in September, unless an earlier time is mutually agreed. Play must commence at each venue at the same time with 18 ends being played.
- The winner is the team with the highest overall shot difference. The challenger will play an extra end at home in case there is a tie.
- After match refreshments to be agreed between the two clubs.

COUNTY TOP CLUB

- County Competition By-laws and Dress Code apply.
- The side shall consist of 10 players. The disciplines are 4 wood singles (21 shots), 4 wood pairs (18 ends), 3 wood triples (18 ends) and 2 wood fours (18 ends).
- The rounds to be played on fixed dates as set by the County Executive, on the challengers green up to the Area Final, when a neutral green equidistant between the two qualifying clubs will be arranged by the Area Secretary.
- Play to commence at 10.30am unless a different time is mutually agreed.
- In the presence of the Umpire, the team Captains will make the draw for rinks for each discipline and toss a coin to decide the choice of jack for the first end.
- The format for the competition will be as follows: - 1pt for every discipline won, total of 4 points available. In the event of a drawn discipline the point will be shared, i.e. ½ point each. After completion of the 4 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 shot difference between the total numbers of shots scored from the 4 disciplines. Should these be equal as well then 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 3 disciplines, i.e. 2-1, 3-0. If the extra end in any discipline is tied, this end is replayed. All disciplines will be played simultaneously.
- Between rounds, substitutes/changes are allowed in the side and between disciplines. 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. If a player is taken ill and a substitute is not available, the game must be conceded.
- After match refreshments to be agreed between the two clubs.
- At the neutral green stage the Area Secretary will make the arrangements and both teams will share the cost of the hospitality and green fees.

ANY INFRINGEMENT OF THESE RULES WILL RESULT IN DISQUALIFICATION

**ALL TROPHIES, IN A CLEAN CONDITION, MUST BE RETURNED TO THE COMPETITION SECRETARY BY
THE END OF JULY EACH YEAR**