



## COMPETITION REGULATIONS

(approved by the County Executive January 2018)

**It is the responsibility of all competitors to familiarise themselves with the Regulations below.**

**Any player failing to conform to any clause is liable to disqualification.**

### 1. ALL COMPETITIONS

- ( a ) All competitions shall be staged on an annual basis, confined to affiliated clubs and played under World Bowls Laws of the Sport of Bowls except where specifically varied by Bowls England under national conditions and/or the E.C.B.A. for domestic purposes as specified herein. All competitors must be bona fide members of affiliated clubs.
- ( b ) Control of all competitions, except the Ashford Challenge Cup, shall be in the hands of the County Competition Secretary, assisted by Group and other Secretaries as determined by the Executive Council.
- ( c ) A player shall not represent or allow his name to be submitted for more than one club/group or one county in any one year. 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.
- ( d ) Club Secretaries shall send their competition entries and fees to the Competition Secretary not later than 31st October using the official forms provided for the purpose.
- ( e ) Annually, in accordance with the total entries to be accommodated, the Executive Council shall decide the tie venues, structure and composition of any grouping sections deemed desirable and necessary.
- ( f ) All rounds of the Single Handed, Pairs, Triples and Fours championships shall be played on a fixed date as set out in the Handbook over each competition draw, but they may be played earlier by mutual consent.
- ( g ) The rounds up to and including the area final of the Two Wood Singles will be played on a fixed date and any venues selected by the Competition Secretary as set out in the Handbook. The draw for each Area will be made on the day from those entrants who having previously registered for the Competition, report to the Officer in charge no later than 09:30. One player will qualify from each Area for the Semi Finals. The Semi Finals will be played on the day of the ECBA Semi Finals as set out in the Handbook.
- ( h ) The North and South Essex Fours shall be played on the fixed dates as set out in the Handbook over each competition draw, but they may be played earlier by mutual consent.
- ( i ) The Junior Singles rounds up to and including the Quarter Finals shall be played on a day specified by the County Assistant Secretary in consultation with the County Competition Secretary.
- ( j ) The Junior Pairs rounds up to and including the Quarter Finals shall be played no later than the dates set out in the Handbook over the competition draw,
- ( k ) The Senior Fours rounds up to and including the Area Final shall be played no later than the dates set out in the Handbook over the competition draw.
- ( l ) The rounds of the other competitions Benevolent, Unbadged Singles, Secretaries Singles, Double Fours and Shield (excepting the Inter Group Knock Out, Ashford Cup and Wally Ball Challenge Shield) shall be played no later than the dates set out in the Handbook over each competition draw in accordance with (m) below. Inter Group Knock Out, Ashford Cup and Wally Ball Challenge Shield shall be played on the dates specified in the County Match Programme.
- ( m ) The competitors appearing first in each round of the draw shall be the challenger and except in the four major Championships and the North and South Essex Fours, shall within 48 hours, by direct contact, offer the opposite competitor two dates, (not Sundays, Bank Holidays or the Saturday preceding, or Middleton Cup dates on which Essex are participating as specified in the current Handbook unless mutually agreed) from which to select, but in Shield Competition only, dates offered must be for different days of the week. (excluding Middleton Cup dates on which Essex are participating) The opposing competitor shall within 48 hours of receipt of a challenge accept either date. In the event of his not accepting either date the challenger shall be awarded the tie if claimed.  
For initial rounds for each competition, with the exception of the Single Handed, Pairs, Triples, Fours and the North and South Essex Fours seven days-notice shall be given.
- ( n ) Extensions shall only be allowed when players are engaged in County Association, National matches and competitions and International matches or attending to the business of the Executive Council or Selection Committee. No Semi-Finals shall be played on the date arranged for the Semi-Finals and Final of the Middleton Cup if Essex is still in the competition.

( o ) Where a challenge is made offering dates in competitions referred to at (m) above and one or both dates offered clash with a team's participation in National Championships or Competitions(final stages only), then one or two additional dates must be offered by the challengers. Disputes shall be adjudicated by the County Competition Secretary.

( p ) All ties must be played on greens to which a validation certificate is in force. The greens, when tested shall be deemed fit for competition play up to and including week 20 of the Standardised weeks of the year as shown in the Bowls England Handbook, unless previously deemed unfit before that date by representatives of the County Competition Secretary. The rounds prior to the quarter finals shall be played on the club green of the challenger. If the green of the challenger has not been passed for or is not available the game shall be played on the green of the opponent if passed and available. If neither green has been passed fit or is not available the game shall be played on a neutral green to be mutually agreed upon, failing which the Officer conducting the competition shall determine the green on which the tie shall be played. In the rounds of the competition proper, all ties shall be played on the club green of the challenger unless the following applies and the ties shall be played on neutral greens.

Single Handed.....	Quarter-finals
Pairs.....	Quarter-finals
Triples.....	Quarter-finals
Fours.....	Quarter-finals
Two Wood Singles.....	Semi-finals
Junior Singles.....	Semi-finals
Junior Pairs.....	Semi-finals
Senior Fours.....	Semi-finals
Double Fours.....	Final
Shield.....	Final
North Essex Fours.....	Final
South Essex Fours.....	Final
Secretaries Singles.....	Semi-finals
Benevolent Singles.....	Semi-finals
Unbadged Singles.....	Semi-finals

The venues for the above ties together with the semi-finals and finals of all competitions shall be decided by the County Competition Secretary through the Executive Council.

( q ) All ties shall commence at 6pm and not later than 6.30pm unless the County Competition Secretary shall determine otherwise. A competitor failing to appear shall be disqualified. Earlier starting times may be arranged by mutual consent, but a competitor failing to appear within 30 minutes of the starting time previously arranged shall be disqualified. Sides consisting of more than one four whose complete representation does not appear within 30 minutes of the time arranged for commencing play may proceed and complete the game, but in the defaulting four(s) the number of bowls shall be made up by the lead and second players playing three bowls each, but one fourth of the total shots scored by each four playing three men shall be deducted from the score at the end of the game. Fractions shall be taken into account in the final aggregate score. In the event of the defaulting four not competing, the game shall be awarded to their opponents if the tie be claimed by them.

( r ) The onus of providing a marker in Single-Handed competitions shall fall upon the challenger except when arranged by the County Competition Secretary.

( s ) All winning competitors in each round should communicate the result to the appropriate Results Secretary not later than 10 pm. on the day of the match and forward the scorecard, (not required where the competition is for single players only), signed by the loser immediately to the Officer as indicated in the E.C.B.A. Handbook. Failure to comply with this regulation may result in disqualification.

( t ) In the event of the scores being equal when all ends have been played, an extra end or ends shall be played until a decision has been reached. The Manager/Captain in a side game or skips in a team game or opponents in a Singles shall toss a coin and the winner shall decide who shall play first. In the case of more than one extra end being required, the Managers/Captains or opponents shall again toss a coin, and the winner shall have the right to decide who shall play first. Extra ends shall be played from where the previous end was completed.

( u ) In the event of adverse weather conditions stopping a competition match, play must be continued on the same green unless otherwise mutually agreed upon at the time of abandonment. In Double Fours and Shield, should the game or games be completed on one green but not the other, the completed game or games must stand. In the case of Ashford Cup, Inter-Group Knockout and Wally Ball Challenge Shield, see relevant clauses below.

( v ) The two skips shall be judges of all disputes and when they agree their decisions shall be final; if they cannot agree, the point shall be decided by an Umpire. Umpires shall be appointed at the discretion of the E.C.B.A. but where an umpire is not appointed, players must mutually agree a person to act as umpire.

- ( w ) All protests appertaining to (a) the green etc., must be intimated before the commencement of the sixth end (match to be completed). The protestor on completion of the game shall inform the County Competition Secretary that a challenge has been intimated and inform the club that they should take necessary actions to attempt no changes to the green taking place within the next 24 hours allowing time for the County Competition Secretary to have the green independently retested, and (b) against a player within three days after the match. The club or competitor lodging the protest shall deposit with the Secretary of the Association the sum of £20.00 which may be forfeited or returned as the Executive Council may determine after considering and disposing of such protest. No protests shall be withdrawn except by leave of the County Competition Secretary. Protests must be lodged in duplicate.
- ( x ) Finalists in the Singles, & Two Wood Singles, Pairs, Triples and Fours Championships plus the winner of the 3rd/4th game played between losing semi-finalists shall qualify to represent Essex and shall compete in the Bowls England National Championships subject to the required qualifying entries having been received. (see Match Regulation 2a). The winner and the losing finalist of the Under 25's Singles shall compete in the Bowls England National Under 25's Singles Championship.
- ( y ) The winner and losing finalist of the Junior Singles shall compete in the Bowls England Junior Singles Championship. The winners of the Junior Pairs Championship shall compete in the Bowls England National Championship.
- ( z ) All trophies shall be presented at a function determined by the Executive Council and shall be retained by the recipient and returned to the County Competition Secretary no later than fourteen days prior to the commencement of the Semi-Finals in the succeeding year. The holders shall be responsible for the safe custody but not for their insurance. The winners club shall be presented with a plaque indicating the year and title of the event.
- (aa) No prizes shall be awarded to losing finalists in any competition with fewer than 100 entries, except at the discretion of the Executive Council.
- (bb) At semi-finals and finals, regulation dress shall be worn except that during play, competitors may wear an approved club shirt providing that all members of the Side/Team are similarly dressed. During play the wearing of a tie shall be optional. Competitors may wear shorts providing they are of the Bowls England standard.
- (cc) Coloured bowls discs shall be supplied and used during play as and when directed by the E.C.B.A.
- (dd) The powers of the County Executive to deal with any matter not provided for in these Regulations shall in the first instance be delegated to the County Competition Secretary.

## 2. SINGLES

In addition to the Competition Regulations 1 herein the following shall apply. Each game shall consist of 21 shots, four bowls each player.

## 3. TWO WOOD SINGLES

In addition to the Competition Regulations 1 herein the following shall apply.

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. **N.B.** (A game can be terminated when it is impossible for a competitor to obtain a winning result in the ends remaining)

## 4. PAIRS

In addition to the Competition Regulations 1 herein the following shall apply.

- ( a ) There shall be no restriction to the number of entries allocated to a club.
- ( b ) A player who has entered this competition and appears in the draw as the contact is not permitted to play, as a player or substitute, in another entry except at the discretion of the County Competition Secretary.
- ( c ) The two players taking part in the first game shall constitute the pair and shall normally play together throughout the competition. One additional (and the same) player may, however, be used as a substitute at any time provided he has not already played in the competition. He may play in any position.
- ( d ) Each game shall consist of 21 ends (two players with four bowls each), the leads to play their bowls before the skips. In the event of a tie an extra end must be played, the points of this end to count in the final score.

## **5. TRIPLES**

In addition to the Competition Regulations 1 herein the following shall apply.

- ( a ) There shall be no restriction to the number of entries allocated to a club.
- ( b ) A player who has entered this competition and appears in the draw as a contact is not permitted to play, as a player or substitute, in another entry except at the discretion of the County Competition Secretary.
- ( c ) The three players taking part in the first game shall constitute the triple and shall normally play together throughout the competition. One additional (and the same) player may, however, be used as a substitute at any time provided he has not already played in the competition. He may play in any position.
- ( d ) Each game shall consist of 18 ends (three players with three bowls each), the leads to play their bowls before the twos, who play their bowls before the skips. In the event of a tie an extra end must be played, the points of this end to count in the final score.

## **6. FOURS**

In addition to the Competition Regulations 1 herein the following shall apply.

- ( a ) There shall be no restriction to the number of entries allocated to a club.
- ( b ) A player who has entered this competition and appears in the draw as the contact is not permitted to play as a player or substitute, in another entry except at the discretion of the County Competition Secretary.
- ( c ) The four 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 provided he has not already played in the competition. He may play in any position.
- ( d ) Each game shall consist of 21 ends (four players with two bowls each), the leads to play their bowls, followed by the twos, then threes, before the skips. In the event of a tie an extra end must be played, the points of this end to count in the final score.

## **7. JUNIOR SINGLES**

In addition to the Competition Regulations 1 herein the following shall apply.

- ( a ) Every competitor must not have attained their 25th Birthday on 1st April in the year of the competition.
- ( b ) Each game shall consist of 21 shots, four bowls each player.

## **8. JUNIOR PAIRS**

In addition to the Competition Regulation 1 herein the following shall apply.

- ( a ) Players may be from different clubs so long as they are affiliated to and a subscribing member of a club within the County of Essex.
- ( b ) A player who has entered this competition and appears in the draw as the contact is not permitted to play as a player or substitute in another entry except at the discretion of the County Competition Secretary.
- ( c ) The Two 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 provided he has not already played in the competition. He may play in any position.
- ( d ) Every competitor must not have attained their 25th birthday on 1st April in the year of the competition.
- ( e ) Each game shall consist of 18 ends, four bowls each player.

## **9. SENIOR FOURS**

In addition to the Competition Regulation 1 herein the following shall apply.

- ( a ) There shall be no restriction to the number of entries allocated to a club.
- ( b ) A player who has entered this competition and appears in the draw as the contact is not permitted to play as a player or substitute in another entry except at the discretion of the County Competition Secretary.
- ( c ) The Four 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 provided he has not already played in the competition. He may play in any position.
- ( d ) Every player must have attained their 55th birthday on 1st April in the year of the competition.
- ( e ) Each game shall consist of 21 ends (four players with two bowls each), the leads to play their bowls, followed by the twos, then threes, before the skips. In the event of a tie an extra end or ends must be played, the points of this end to count in the final score.

## **10. DOUBLE FOURS**

In addition to the Competition Regulations 1 herein the following shall apply.

- ( a ) There shall be no restriction to the number of entries allocated to a club. No player shall be included in more than one entry.
- ( b ) Each game shall consist of 21 ends (eight players with two bowls each).
- ( c ) One four shall play at home and the other four shall play away on the same day. Except that in the final both fours shall play on the same green on the same day.
- ( d ) An extra scoring end shall be played on the challengers green and the score on this additional end will be used only if the aggregate scores are level after 21 ends have been played. If the tie is played on one green, clubs shall nominate before the game commences the four which will play the extra end. These fours shall play each other throughout. No extra ends shall be played until both rinks have completed the required number of ends.
- ( e ) A club shall have the option of substituting players and of altering the position of the players for the second or succeeding ties of the competition, provided they have not played in a winning or defeated entry.

## **11. SHIELD**

In addition to the Competition Regulations 1 herein the following shall apply.

- ( a ) There shall be no restrictions to the number of entries allocated to a club. No player shall be included in more than one entry.
- ( b ) Each game shall consist of 21 ends (16 players with two bowls each).
- ( c ) Two fours shall play at home and two fours shall play away on the same day, except in the final all fours shall play on the same green on the same day.
- ( d ) On the challengers green, before the draw for rinks is made and the game commences, each club shall nominate a four which will play an extra end. These fours shall play against each other throughout on the same rink. The score on the extra end shall be used only if the aggregated scores both home and away are level after 21 ends have been completed. If the tie is played on one green the same procedure shall be followed except the extra end shall not be played until all rinks have completed 21 ends.
- ( e ) A club shall have the option of substituting players and of altering the position of the players for the second or succeeding ties of the competition, provided they have not played in a winning or defeated entry.
- ( f ) Where a side's complete representation does not appear within 30 minutes of the time arranged for commencing, play may proceed with three players and complete the game, but the defaulting four the number of bowls shall be made up by the lead and second players playing three bowls each, but one fourth of the total scored shall be deducted from the score at the end of the game. Fractions shall be taken into account in the final aggregate score.
- ( g ) The winning club shall be presented with 20 commemorative badges.

## **12. NORTH ESSEX FOURS**

In addition to the Competition Regulations 1 herein the following shall apply.

- ( a ) Entry is restricted to fours from clubs in Groups 1, 2 and 3.
- ( b ) There shall be no restriction to the number of entries allocated to a club.
- ( c ) A player who has entered this competition and appears in the draw as the contact is not permitted to play, as a player or substitute, in any other entry except at the discretion of the County Competition Secretary.
- ( d ) The four players taking part in the first game shall constitute the four and shall normally play together throughout the competition. One additional (and the same) player however, be used as a substitute at any time provided he has not already played in the same competition under another entry. He may play in any position.
- ( e ) Where a team's complete representation does not appear within 30 minutes of the time arranged for commencing, play may proceed with three players and complete the game, but the defaulting four the number of bowls shall be made up by the lead and second players playing three bowls each, but one fourth of the total shots scored shall be deducted from the score at the end of the game. Fractions shall be taken into account in the final aggregate score.

### **13. SOUTH ESSEX FOURS**

In addition to the Competition Regulations 1 herein the following shall apply.

- ( a ) Entry is restricted to fours from clubs in Groups 4, 5, 6, 8 and 9.
- ( b ) There shall be no restriction to the number of entries allocated to a club.
- ( c ) A player who has entered this competition and appears in the draw as the contact is not permitted to play, as a player or substitute, in any other entry except at the discretion of the County Competition Secretary.
- ( d ) The four players taking part in the first game shall constitute the four and shall normally play together throughout the competition. One additional (and the same) player however, be used as a substitute at any time provided he has not already played in the same competition under another entry. He may play in any position.
- ( e ) Where a team's complete representation does not appear within 30 minutes of the time arranged for commencing, play may proceed with three players and complete the game, but the defaulting four the number of bowls shall be made up by the lead and second players playing three bowls each, but one fourth of the total shots scored shall be deducted from the score at the end of the game. Fractions shall be taken into account in the final aggregate score.

### **14. UNBADGED SINGLES**

In addition to the Competition Regulations 1 herein the following shall apply.

- ( a ) Every competitor shall be unbadged on the 30th April in each year of the competition.
- ( b ) Each game shall consist of 21 shots, four bowls each player.

### **15. SECRETARIES SINGLES**

In addition to the Competition Regulations 1 herein the following shall apply.

- ( a ) Entry is restricted to Secretaries, Assistant Secretaries, Match Secretaries and Competition Secretaries past and present of affiliated clubs and the Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Competition Secretary, Group Secretaries, Group Assistant/Competition Secretaries past and present of the E.C.B.A.
- ( b ) Each game shall consist of 21 shots, four bowls each player.

### **16. BENEVOLENT SINGLES**

In addition to the Competition Regulations 1 herein the following shall apply. ( a ) Each game shall consist of 21 shots, four bowls each player

### **17. INTER-GROUP KNOCKOUT**

In addition to the Competition Regulations 1 herein the following shall apply.

- ( a ) This shall be an Inter-Group knockout competition comprising sides of six teams of four players in each rink. Groups shall enter one team.
- ( b ) The dates of the ties shall be decided by the Assistant Secretary in consultation with the County Competition Secretary and shall be included in the County Match Programme.
- ( c ) All arrangements for the first round and semi-final shall be the responsibility of the first named Group in the draw. The final shall be played on a date and at a venue designated by the County Competition Secretary.
- ( d ) In the event of the scores being equal at the conclusion of 21 ends an extra end or ends shall 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. The extra ends will commence within ten minutes following completion of the initial game.
- ( e ) All score cards to be sent to the County Competition Secretary immediately after the match has been played.
- ( f ) For all matches dress as Match Regulation 1( a ) with the Group tie substituted for the E.C.B.A. tie. During play the wearing of a tie shall be optional.
- ( g ) The winning Group shall hold the Inter-Group trophy for one year and shall be presented with 30 commemorative badges.
- ( h ) Any player having represented his Group in this competition may not play in further rounds of the Wally Ball Challenge Shield in the current season.
- ( i ) In the event of weather conditions stopping the match, if a total of 84 ends have been concluded the result will stand. If not play must be continued on the same green on an agreed date and notified to the County Competition Secretary.

## **18. ASHFORD GROUP UNBADGED CHALLENGE CUP**

In addition to the Competition Regulations 1 herein the following shall apply.

- ( a ) This shall be an Inter-Group competition comprising sides of six teams of four players in each rink who are unbadged on 30th April in each year (see Match Regulation clause 3(b)). The twenty-four players in the first game shall be the Group side and up to six and the same players may be used in subsequent games. (The total number of players in any season is therefore limited to thirty). In a case where illness, accident, or other serious cause could result in a Group being unable to field a full team of 24 players, at the discretion of the Ashford Cup Secretary, they can call on a player or players not in the initial squad.
- ( b ) The eight County Groups shall be divided into two sections of four, all matches played on an six year rolling cycle.
- ( c ) Group sides within each section shall play each other once, the winning Group side in each section shall play each other in a final to decide the outright winner.
  
- ( d ) The dates fixed by the County Assistant Secretary and venues for the sectional games specified by the home Group. The date and venue for the final game will be specified by the County Assistant Secretary.
- ( e ) The game shall consist of 21 ends. Scoring shall be on a points basis, two points being awarded for each four, making 12 in all per match. A win shall count two points and a tie one, in the event of a tie at the head of any table the winners shall be determined by the 'shot difference'. If there is still a tie the winner shall be the Group who has won the greatest number of ends in all matches played.
- ( f ) The scoring system for the final will remain the same as in the Group Stages, if at the end the Points and Shots are equal all rinks will play an extra end or ends until a result is reached.
- ( g ) The winning Group shall hold the Ashford Challenge Cup for twelve months and shall be presented with 30 commemorative badges.
- ( h ) All score cards to be sent to the Assistant Secretary immediately after the game.
- ( i ) In the event of weather conditions stopping the match, if a total of 84 ends have been concluded the result will stand. If not play must be continued on the same green on an agreed date in consultation with the Assistant Secretary.

## **19. WALLY BALL CHALLENGE SHIELD**

In addition to Competition Regulation 1 herein the following shall apply.

- ( a ) This shall be an Inter-Group competition comprising sides of four teams of four players in each rink.
- ( b ) The eight County Groups shall be divided into two sections of four, all matches played on an six year rolling cycle.
- ( c ) Group sides within each section shall play each other once, the winning Group side in each section shall play each other to decide the outright winner.
- ( d ) The dates fixed by the County Competition Secretary in conjunction with the County Assistant Secretary and venues for the sectional games specified by the home Group. The date for the final game will be specified by the County Competition Secretary in conjunction with the County Assistant Secretary.
- ( e ) The game shall consist of 21 ends. Scoring shall be on a points basis, two points being awarded for each four, making 8 in all per match. A win shall count two points and a tie one, in the event of a tie at the head of any table the winners shall be determined by the 'shot difference'. If there is still a tie the winner shall be the Group who has won the greatest number of ends in all matches played.
- ( f ) The scoring system for the final remain the same as in the Group Stages, if at the end the Points and Shots are equal all rinks will play an extra end or ends until a result is reached.
- ( g ) The winning Group shall hold the Wally Ball Challenge Shield for twelve months and shall be presented with 20 commemorative badges.
- ( h ) Any player having taken part in the Wally Ball Shield will be ineligible to play in the Inter Group knock-out and vice versa.
- ( i ) No player having played in the Eastern Counties League (Not the Executive Rink) or Middleton Cup Competitions during the preceding season shall be allowed to participate in the Group's Wally Ball Competition.
- ( j ) All score cards to be sent to the County Competition Secretary immediately after the game.
- ( k ) In the event of weather conditions stopping the match, if a total of 56 ends have been concluded the result will stand. If not play must be continued on the same green on an agreed date in consultation with the County Competition Secretary.

### **NOTE**

Match Regulation 2(a) needs amending to be compatible with these revised Competition Regulations. Replace final sentence.

The above will apply if the number of entries in the Singles, Two Wood Singles, Pairs, Triples and Fours where the entries amount to 5% or more of the total (BE) entries in that Championship from the previous year.