



NATIONAL COMPETITION RULES (INTER-CLUB) Issued: April 2021

Contents

1.	Summary of Events	2
	Men's Club Two Fours.....	2
	Men's Top Club	2
	Women's Top Club	3
	Tony Allcock Trophy - Club Mixed Over 60s Double Rink Competition	3
2.	Entry Requirements	4
3.	Administration	4
4.	Playing Arrangements	4
5.	Offering of Dates	5
6.	Eligibility	6
7.	Match Day	6
8.	Inclement Weather	7
9.	Dress	8
10.	National Finals	8
	Qualifiers for National Finals.....	8

1. Summary of Events

Men's Club Two Fours	
Players	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eight • Failure to field 8 players shall result in a walk-over
Eligibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All male members of an affiliated club are able to participate
Format	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two rinks of four players each playing 15 ends • Two bowls per player • Both rinks shall be played simultaneously
Scoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The total number of shots across both rinks shall determine the winner • In the event of a tie after 15 ends then an extra end shall be played by the nominated rink to determine the overall winner
Substitutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Substitutes are allowed during play in line with the current Laws of the Sport

Men's Top Club	
Players	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eleven
Eligibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All affiliated male club members are able to participate • Failure to field 11 players shall result in a walk-over
Format	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A club side shall consist of five disciplines: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Two Bowl Singles (21 ends) ○ Four-Bowl Singles (21 shots) ○ Three-Bowl Pairs (18 ends) ○ Two-Bowl Triples (18 ends) ○ Two-Bowl Fours (15 ends) • The two singles shall be played one after the other unless mutually agreed – all other disciplines shall start at the same time
Scoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1pt for every discipline won • The side with the most points after all five disciplines have finished will be deemed the winner
Substitutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If the singles player is unable to continue due to ill health or any other reason, then that discipline shall be conceded. The remaining disciplines should continue to their natural conclusion • Substitutes are allowed during play in the Pairs, Triples and Fours in line with the current Laws of the Sport

Bowls England – National Competition Rules (Inter-Club)
Issued: April 2021

Women's Top Club	
Players	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ten • Failure to field 10 players shall result in a walk-over
Eligibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All female members of an affiliated club are able to participate
Format	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A club side shall consist of four disciplines: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Four-Bowl Singles (21 shots) ○ Three-Bowl Pairs (18 ends) ○ Two-Bowl Triples (18 ends) ○ Two-Bowl Fours (15 ends) • All disciplines shall start at the same time
Scoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1pt for every discipline won/0.5pts for every drawn discipline • The side with the most points after all four disciplines have finished will be deemed the winner • In the case of a tie, the winner shall be decided from the total number of shots scored from the four disciplines. • If still a tie see 7.4
Substitutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Substitution during play is allowed for the singles player in case of illness or injury. The score being resumed after interruption. • Substitutes are allowed during play in the Pairs, Triples and Fours in line with the current ruling within the Laws of the Sport.

Tony Allcock Trophy - Club Mixed Over 60s Double Rink Competition	
Players	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eight • Failure to field 8 players shall result in a walk-over
Eligibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All affiliated club members aged 60 years or over on April 1st in the year of the competition are able to participate
Format	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two rinks of four players (two men and two women per rink) • Each rink playing 15 ends • Both rinks shall be played simultaneously • Two bowls each per player
Scoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The total number of shots across both rinks shall determine the winner • In the event of a tie after 15 ends then an extra end shall be played by the nominated rink to determine the overall winner
Substitutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Substitutes are allowed during play in line with the current ruling within the Laws of the Sport

2. Entry Requirements

- 2.1 All National Inter-Club Competitions shall be open to all Clubs affiliated to Bowls England.
- 2.2 Entries are accepted up to and including 1st March in the year of the competition, affiliated clubs may enter more than one side. Late entries will not be accepted.
- 2.3 Should an affiliated 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 affiliated clubs they have joined.
- 2.4 All Competitors in Inter-Club Competitions shall have paid affiliation fees, through their affiliated Club, for the current year.
- 2.5 Competitors shall not enter any Bowls England Competition under an assumed name.

3. Administration

- 3.1 The National Inter-Club 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.
- 3.2 All National Inter-Club Competitions shall be played on a knock-out basis, controlled by Bowls England.
- 3.3 Fixed dates may be set for Inter-Club competitions by County Associations subject to the following:
 - Both clubs participating in the round are affiliated to the same County Association
 - The dates for each round set by the County Association shall fall within the round closing dates for that particular round set by Bowls England
 - The set date meets the requirement of the playing times/days specified in Regulation 5.1

4. Playing Arrangements

- 4.1 All National Inter-Club Competition qualifiers shall be played either on weekday evenings no earlier than 6pm or at weekends. For weekday games an earlier start may be arranged by mutual agreement between competitors, but in the absence of mutual agreement the start time of no earlier than 6pm nor later than 6.45pm shall be adhered to.
- 4.2 It is a condition that Inter-Club Competitions are played outdoors and that the green has been approved by the relevant County Association.
- 4.3 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. It is a condition that National Competitions are played outdoors and that the green has been approved by the relevant County Association.

Bowls England – National Competition Rules (Inter-Club)
Issued: April 2021

- 4.4 Suitable flood lighting may be used during matches.
- 4.5 In all qualification rounds, the Challenger shall be responsible for the match arrangements.
- 4.6 The Challenger shall be responsible for the payment of rink fees (where applicable), except when matches take place at a neutral venue when all costs shall be shared by both teams/sides.
- 4.7 Matches shall be played on an approved green within the area of the competition and chosen by the Challenger. Where the mileage exceeds 160 miles round trip (measured club to club for Club-based events) matches shall be played on a neutral green approximately midway between the two affiliated clubs unless mutually agreed. The use of the same neutral green in future rounds is not prohibited.
- 4.8 All area finals and final stages rounds prior to the national finals shall be played on a neutral green midway between the two affiliated clubs (unless mutually agreed).

5. Offering of Dates

- 5.1 The Challenger shall offer their opponent, within 48 hours of the closing date of the previous round, at least three dates for play – one of which shall be a Saturday or Sunday. The three dates offered must fall within the window of the round. Matches may be played prior to the closing date of the previous round by mutual agreement. A minimum of 48 hours' notice is required for any dates offered to be eligible. The start time for any match shall be set by the Challenger when the dates are offered, but no player/team/side shall be compelled to accept a time earlier than 6pm Monday to Friday or 9.30am on a Saturday or Sunday. The offering of two different start times on a single date does not count as two dates.
- 5.2 The Opposing teams/sides shall, within 24 hours of receipt of the challenge, reply and accept one of the dates offered.
- 5.3 The Challenger does not need to offer dates until 21 days before the closing date of their first match, nor does opposing team need to accept a date until 19 days before the closing date of that round.
- 5.4 If a challenge has not been made in accordance with Regulation 5.1 the opposing team will become the challenger and make all match arrangements (including the offering of dates and choice of venue). They must contact their opponent within 48 hours after becoming the challenger.
- 5.5 No extension of the closing date for any round shall be granted for any reason whatsoever.
- 5.6 Should the date and venue not be agreed within the agreed timescale both sides shall be disqualified.

6. Eligibility

- 6.1 In any year a competitor selected to play in Inter-Club Competitions may only represent one club should they belong to more than one club.
- 6.2 Players are required to play from the affiliated club in which they play their National Championships.
- 6.3 Players entering National Championships in another country are not eligible to participate.
- 6.4 No player shall have played for another side during the current competition.
- 6.5 Between rounds, team changes are allowed in the side and between disciplines provided the players are members of the same affiliated club and have not played for another side during the current competition.
- 6.6 Should a player be a member of a 'side', who has been expelled or suspended from an affiliated Club, be drawn to play at that Club in any National Inter-Club Competition game, the Club fielding the expelled, or suspended player shall ask the Club from whom he/she was banned for permission for that player to access the Club. If permission is refused the player shall be withdrawn from the side. In all other cases the Club may refuse access.

7. Match Day

- 7.1 A draw for rink/s to be played on shall be made in accordance with the current Laws of the Sport (Law 3.1) www.worldbowls.com

For a match requiring one rink, a minimum of two rinks shall be offered to the opponent. For a match requiring more than one rink, the minimum number of rinks offered shall be at least equal to the number of rinks required (for example in the Tony Allcock Trophy a minimum of 2 rinks must be included within the draw).
- 7.2 Before the start of the match, the nominated managers shall toss a coin for the choice of jack (first end), the winner having the choice of keeping or giving the jack away, and make the draw for rinks for each discipline.
- 7.3 All disciplines shall start at the same time. For the Men's Top Club, The two singles shall be played one after the other unless mutually agreed – all other disciplines shall start at the same time.
- 7.4 Extra Ends
 - 7.4.1 Men's Club Two Fours & Tony Allcock Trophy: Before the start of the match, the nominated managers shall toss a coin to nominate which rink shall play the extra end. The winner to nominate the name of the skip to play the extra end. This shall be declared prior to the match commencing. A further toss of a coin should take place for choice of jack (extra end) should one be required. The winner has the option to make the choice immediately after all designated ends have been played. This rule does not apply in the Women's Top Club.

Bowls England – National Competition Rules (Inter-Club)
Issued: April 2021

- 7.4.2 Men's Top Club: Should shots both be equal at the conclusion of each discipline then extra ends in the two bowl singles, pairs, triples and fours, shall be played to determine the result. A further toss of the coin shall take place before the start of the match by the nominated managers, the winner having the choice of keeping or giving the jack away on the extra ends. Shots do not count on the extra end – only the result of the four disciplines.
- 7.4.2 Women's Top Club: Should points and shots both be equal then extra ends in the pairs, triples and fours, shall be played to determine the result. A further toss of the coin shall take place, the winner having the choice of keeping or giving the jack away on the extra ends. Shots do not count on the extra end – only the result of the three disciplines. All disciplines shall be played simultaneously.
- 7.5 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'.
- 7.6 Fixed groundsheets are acceptable for Inter-Club Competitions; however portable/moveable groundsheets are prohibited.
- 7.7 Two trial ends are permitted (one in each direction).
- 7.8 The result shall be submitted by the winning player or team/side to Bowls England immediately using one of the approved notification methods.
- 7.9 Smoking on the green is prohibited during all matches played under the jurisdiction of Bowls England. See Appendix G

8. Inclement Weather

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

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

In the event of inclement weather and no play/no further play being possible as determined by Tournament Director, Umpire and/or Greenkeeper (or players if no officials are in attendance) the following shall apply as relevant:

- 8.1 Tony Allcock Trophy & Men's Club Two Fours**
- 8.1.1 Play shall cease on all rinks simultaneously. Ends started but not completed shall be declared null and void.
- 8.1.2 When it is not possible to resume the match on the day:

Bowls England – National Competition Rules (Inter-Club)
Issued: April 2021

If the total number of ends played equals or exceeds 10 the match shall be deemed to have been completed and the score shall stand. If the total number of ends played is less than 10, the remainder of the match shall, wherever possible, be played at a later date (please refer to the Laws of the Sport 'Law 32: Game Stoppages' for guidance). Should it not be possible to play the match to its conclusion by the closing date of the round, the winner shall be decided by the toss of a coin.

- 8.1.3 At National Finals, the decision of the Tournament Director on postponed/abandoned matches shall be final.

8.2 Men's & Women's Top Club

- 8.2.1 Play shall cease on all rinks simultaneously. Ends started but not completed shall be declared null and void.

- 8.2.2 When it is not possible to resume the match on the day:

If the total number of ends played in each discipline equals or exceeds five the match shall be deemed to have been completed and the score shall stand. If the total number of ends played in each discipline is less than five, the remainder of the match shall, wherever possible, be played at a later date (please refer to the Laws of the Sport 'Law 32: Game Stoppages' for guidance). Should it not be possible to play the match to its conclusion by the closing date of the round, the winner shall be decided by the toss of a coin.

- 8.2.3 At National Finals, the decision of the Tournament Director on postponed/abandoned matches shall be final.

9. Dress

- 9.1 Please refer to Appendix A (Dress Code – Men) or Appendix B (Dress Code – Women) as relevant.

10. National Finals

- 10.1 The final stages shall be played on a knockout basis on a date and time set by Bowls England.
- 10.2 The draw for the final stages shall be made by Bowls England.
- 10.3 In 2021, the number of qualifiers to National Finals will be as below:

Qualifiers for National Finals	
Men's Club Two Fours (MCTF)	Eight teams
Men's Top Club (MTC)	Eight teams
Women's Top Club (WTC)	Eight teams
Tony Allcock Trophy (TAT)	Eight teams