



Bowls England Managed National Championships Neutral Greens

Clarification on Match Arrangements for Individual and Inter-Club Events

As we approach the later stages of our Individual and Inter-Club Events, this document provides further clarification regarding match arrangements.

Which competitions require a neutral green?

Inter-Club Events

1. All Area Finals and All England Rounds (Final Stages) must be played on a **neutral green** located midway or an equal distance between the two affiliated clubs (unless mutually agreed otherwise).

Senior Singles, Senior Pairs, Mixed Pairs, Mixed Fours, Family Pairs, Champion of Champions, Under 17s Singles, Foundation Pairs

1. All Area Finals and All England Rounds (Final Stages) must be played on a **neutral green** located midway or an equal distance between the two affiliated clubs (unless mutually agreed otherwise).
2. In rounds prior to the Area Finals, a neutral green is not required unless the round-trip distance between clubs exceeds **200 miles (100 miles each way)**.

What does “midway between the two affiliated clubs” mean?

Matches should be played on a **Bowls England affiliated green** that are approximately equal distance from the club associated with your entry and your opponent’s club. For example, if the distance between the two clubs is 60 miles, a venue should ideally be around **30 miles** from each club.

A venue that is 50 miles for one team/player and 10 miles for the other **is not considered a fair midway point**.

What if the green is equal distance but not on a direct route?

If a venue cannot be found **directly between** the two clubs but there is a green that is an **equal distance** for both parties—even if it's not on a direct line, that venue **can be used**.

What if no suitable green is available midway?

In some regions (particularly in the North and Midlands), it may be **impossible** to find a truly midway venue. In these cases:

- Select a green as close to halfway as possible,
- Select a green which is equal distance but not on a direct route between the two clubs **or**
- With **mutual agreement**, the match may be played on either the challenger’s or the opponent’s green.

Our clubs are only 10 miles apart—can we play on the challenger’s or opponent’s green?

Yes, **provided both parties agree**.

If one player/team declines, the match must be played on a **suitable green within the district**.

Can an Area Final be played on the same green as an earlier round?

Yes. The same venue may be used for an Area Final, even if it was used in an earlier round.

However, this **must be clearly communicated** to the opponent when confirming the venue.

Who is responsible for match arrangements?

The **challenger** is responsible for:

- Selecting the venue
- Making all match arrangements
- Providing a **marker**, if required

Should the green be confirmed before offering dates?

This is at the discretion of each player/team.

However, please remember: **dates must be offered within 24 hours** of the close of the previous round.

Who pays the rink fee?

For play on **neutral greens**, the **rink fee should be shared equally** between both parties.

Who offers the rinks?

The **challenger** is responsible for offering rinks at the chosen neutral venue.

What is the dress code for Area Finals and All England Rounds of 32/16?

The dress code for all Area Finals and All England Rounds of 32 and 16 (prior to the National Finals) will remain **the same as for the earlier rounds**.

Please refer to **Appendix B1** of our Rules & Regulations to view the dress code.

[\[Click here to view our Rules & Regulations – Appendix B1\]](#)

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