

NCIBA Competition Championship Rules – REVISED 25/09/2023

Governing the Singles, Under-25 Singles, Pairs, Triples and Fours County Championships

1. Organisation

- 1.1. The County Championships are open to full male members of fully affiliated clubs (see 1.3) with no age restriction, except for the Under-25 Singles Championship which will be open to both male and female competitors.
- 1.2. Except for the Under-25 Singles Championship the current year's club competitions will be used to determine entrants to the County Championships in the following season.
- 1.3. For the purposes of the County Championships, and unless otherwise stated in these rules, all references to "fully affiliated clubs" will be clubs fully affiliated to the Norfolk County Indoor Bowling Association.
- 1.4. The season for the purposes of the County Championship will commence on 1st October.
- 1.5. The Laws of the Sport of Bowls Crystal Mark Fourth Edition will apply unless otherwise stated in these rules.
- 1.6. The County Competition Secretary, or Executive, shall have the authority to implement any new rule or amend an existing rule for a situation or scenario that is not covered by these rules and to raise this as a formal change for consideration at the AGM.

2. Venues

- 2.1. All County Championship ties shall be played on approved greens belonging to Member Clubs with regulation banks and ditches and be a minimum rink width of 4.00m, provided that all outside rinks have a distance of at least 300mm between it and the boundary of the green. Single rink greens must be at least 4.00m wide with 300mm on each side. A rink of 3.65m in width may also be used provided it is not a rink immediately adjoining the side boundary of the green.
- 2.2. Competitors must play on their home green, for the club through which they are competing, unless exceptional circumstances prevent them from doing so, up to and including the semi-final, or if the Association determine and organise that a fixture is played on a specific green.

3. Rink Fees

- 3.1. Rink fees will be payable by all competitors at the level determined by the club at which the fixture is played.

4. Eligibility

- 4.1. Unless otherwise provided in these Rules all competitors entered by a fully affiliated club shall be full playing members of that club for the current County Championship season.
- 4.2. Only the club champion(s) from the previous season will be eligible to compete in the corresponding County Championship for the current season, unless otherwise stated in these rules and a club may not substitute their entry.
- 4.3. For entries into the U25 Singles competitors must be under the age required limit on the 30th September.
- 4.4. No player may represent more than one club, in the same discipline (e.g., pairs) in the same County Championship season.
- 4.5. If a player qualifies as a club champion from more than one club in the same discipline (e.g., pairs) then the club they have represented in the county league in the current season is the club they will be permitted to represent in the county championship for that discipline, in the following season.
- 4.6. If a player qualifies as a club champion from more than one club in the same discipline (e.g., pairs) and they have NOT represented any of those clubs in the county league in the current season they will need to nominate which club they will represent in the county championship for that discipline, in the following season.
- 4.7. If a club champion from a fully affiliated club changes clubs before the 30th September prior to the start of the season then that competitor shall be eligible to represent their new club, as a substitute/replacement player other than in the singles (not applicable to the U25 Singles), in the County Championships subject to rule 4.4.
- 4.8. A replacement player is defined as a full playing member of that club for the current County Championship season, who did NOT compete in the same discipline at that club in the previous season, for which they are being used as a replacement. (e.g., a player at club ABC may be used as a replacement in the pairs County Championship for club ABC, only if they did not compete in the pairs competition at club ABC in the previous season)
- 4.9. A substitute player is defined as a full playing member of that club for the current County Championship season, who did NOT compete in the same discipline at that club in the previous season OR was named as a club champion in that discipline, for which they are being used as a substitute. (e.g., a player at club ABC may be used as a substitute in the pairs County Championship for club ABC, only if they did not compete in the pairs competition, OR were one of the club pair champions at club ABC in the previous season)

4.10. If a club ends its affiliation to the Association either by choice or as the result of closure, the qualifiers from that club will be excluded from competing in the County Championships. Where the draw has not been completed those qualifiers will not be included and where the draw has been completed the qualifiers will forfeit any games and their opponents will receive a bye.

5. Singles

5.1. The Championship will be open to the Singles Champion from the previous season entered by a fully affiliated club, who is a full playing member of that club for the current County Championship season.

5.2. In the event that the club Singles Champion is no longer a full playing member of the club where they won the singles championship in the previous season then **one of the following** will apply and must be notified by the Club Secretary to the County Competition Secretary by 30th September.

5.2.1. The player may still represent their previous club provided that they are now a member of another fully affiliated club and any match where they are the challenger is arranged, and played, at their previous club, subject to rule 4.4. and the permission of their previous club.

5.2.2. The club may nominate the singles runner up to represent their club in the championship.

5.3. In the event that the club Singles Champion cannot represent their club due to rules 4.5 or 4.6 the club may nominate the singles runner up to represent their club in the championship subject to rule 4.4, 4.5 and 4.6 and must be notified by the Club Secretary to the County Competition Secretary by 30th September.

6. Under-25 Singles

6.1. The Under 25 Singles Championships will be played in sets. Each match will consist of two sets, each set being played over 9 ends. A set will be decided if at any point it becomes impossible for one player to draw, or win, the set given the number of ends remaining.

6.2. If the game is tied after 2 sets, by either player having won 1 set or both sets being drawn, a best of a three end "tie breaker" will be played to determine the winner. If the game is still drawn after three tied ends have been played, then one extra end will be played. The match tie breaker is decided by the winner of each end, and not by the total number of shots won in the three ends.

6.3. The winner of the toss prior to the start of the match shall have the option to either take the mat or give it to his opponent on the first end only. The loser of the

toss shall have the option of taking the mat or giving it away on the first end only of the second set.

- 6.4. After the first end of any set, the player who wins an end will start the next end in the set.
- 6.5. In a match tie breaker, the player winning the toss shall have the choice of starting or giving away the jack on the first and third ends. The loser of the toss shall have the choice of starting the second end or giving away the jack on this end only.
- 6.6. If a jack in motion passes completely outside the boundaries of the rink of play or rebounds to a distance of less than 20 metres from the mat line, the jack shall be re-spotted. If the jack passes outside the side boundary of the rink it should be placed on a pre-arranged spot on the rink which is 2 metres from the front ditch and a minimum of 1 metre and maximum of 1.5 metres to the left or right of the centre line, being positioned the same distance on both sides of the centre line, on the side that it left the rink of play.

Note: This rule ONLY applies to an end in play and not in relation to a jack being cast to start an end where the Laws of Sport rules 9 & 10 will apply.

- 6.7. If a bowl is on the re-spot, the jack will be placed as near as possible to the bowl without touching it, between the spot and the centre of the rink. If any other bowls are in the way the jack will be placed as near to that without touching it and the centre of the rink. In other words, directly between the 2 spots without touching a bowl.

7. Pairs, Triples & Fours

- 7.1. The Championship will be open to the Club Champions of each discipline from the previous season entered by a fully affiliated club, who are a full playing member of that club for the current County Championship season.
- 7.2. In the event that one or more of the Club Champions is no longer a full playing member of the club where they won the championship in the previous season then the player(s) may still represent their previous club provided that they are now a member of another fully affiliated club and any match where they are the challenger is arranged, and played, at their previous club, subject to rule 4.4. and the permission of their previous club.
- 7.3. In the event that one of the Club Champions is no longer a full playing member of the club where they won the championship in the previous season, or cannot represent their club due to rules 4.5 or 4.6, then a replacement player, as defined in rule 4.8, may join the team in each discipline, subject to rule 4.4, but does not have to be the same replacement player in each discipline.

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- 7.4. Only ONE replacement player (4.8) OR substitute player (4.9) from the Club Champions registered under rule 11.3 from the previous season may compete in the first game.
- 7.5. The players who compete in the first game in the championship will constitute the “team” for the championship.
- 7.6. One additional (and the same) player may be used as a substitute, as defined in rule 4.9, to the “team” (7.5) at any time after the first game and may play in any position, subject to rule 4.4.

8. Playing Arrangements

- 8.1. The competitor whose name appears first in a draw is designated the ‘Challenger’ on behalf of themselves and, where appropriate their team, similarly the competitor whose name appears second is designated the ‘Opponent’.
- 8.2. No competitor shall play on the same rink on the day of the competition before play commences.
- 8.3. The challenger will be responsible for all match arrangements except the County Championship Final, or any fixtures that are arranged by the County Association.

8.4. Match Format for Championships

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| 8.4.1. | Singles | = 4 bowls each player 21 shots |
| 8.4.2. | U25 Singles | = 4 bowls sets based defined in section 6. |
| 8.4.3. | Pairs | = 4 bowls each player 18 ends or 3hr 30 mins |
| 8.4.4. | Triples | = 3 bowls each player 18 ends or 3hr 30 min |
| 8.4.5. | Fours | = 2 bowls each player 18 ends or 3hr 30 min |

- 8.5. The 3hr 30 minutes does not include trial ends or extra ends. An end where the jack has been cast before 3hr 30 minutes must be played to a finish. All dead ends must be replayed. Start time must be agreed by both players from the same timepiece and marked on the scorecard. If a game is unable to continue due to unforeseen circumstances, the competitors must return as soon as possible to complete the game.
- 8.6. Where a player must leave the green because of illness Law 32 should be applied first and if no substitute is available, subject to mutual agreement between the teams, Law 33 be implemented provided the match is completed before the next round is played.
- 8.7. Law 40.1.7 the skip shall keep a record of all shots scored for and against his team and shall at all times retain possession of the score card whilst play is in progress.

9. Offering Dates

- 9.1. In all competitions the challenger shall offer their opponent the choice of two dates, one weekday evening and one weekend (excluding Bank Holidays). Ties at weekends shall not commence before 10.00 am and ties on weekdays shall commence at a stipulated time between 6pm and 7pm, other times may be offered if agreed by both players/teams.
- 9.2. Dates for the opening round must be offered at least 14 days before the closing date of that round. Thereafter, dates must be offered within 5 days after the closing date of the previous round.
- 9.3. Competitors not in the first round of the draw may agree to play their first game in advance of the previous round date.
- 9.4. If the challenger does not offer dates within the required time period, the opponent becomes the challenger and shall offer dates as above at their own club.
- 9.5. When dates are offered, the arrangement must be confirmed within 72 hours, verbal agreement should be followed by written confirmation and any arrangements made must be adhered to. If the opponent has previously arranged to play another recognised National, or County Indoor Championship on one or both of the two dates offered or is on Indoor International Duty, the Challenger is required to offer alternative dates.
- 9.6. When challenged, being on holiday, playing a County or Club game is not sufficient reason for demanding alternative dates. If an agreement cannot be reached on a date and time, then the tie will be arranged by the County Competition Secretary, and they may use a neutral venue.
- 9.7. A competitor who is challenging the result of a game should contact the County Competition Secretary, within 24 Hours of the conclusion of that game with the nature of the grievance. If the County Competition Secretary cannot resolve the issue to the satisfaction of both competitors, then the issue will be escalated to the County Executive whose decision will be final. The competitor will have the right of appeal as defined in the NCIBA appeals procedure.
- 9.8. The failure of a player or players to appear after a maximum waiting period of 30 minutes (except in exceptional circumstances i.e., traffic, weather) from the time fixed for the start of the game, shall cause the player(s) to forfeit the game to their opponent.
- 9.9. The winning team to advise the County Competition Secretary of the result within 24 hours of the game, via the County website where a copy of the scorecard can be uploaded or by email, with a copy of the scorecard attached. Where necessary a copy of the scorecard may be posted.

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9.10.No extension will be granted beyond the closing date of the round unless exceptional circumstances arise. Only then an extension may be given by the County Competition Secretary who will report the details of the matter to the County Secretary.

10. Dress Code

10.1.Matches up to and including the semi-finals, plain white shirt with tailored collar, club necktie or EIBA registered coloured shirt, grey trousers, EIBA registered coloured trousers or EIBA / Bowls Manufacturer shorts and any coloured flat soled regulation bowling shoes (subject to the rules of the Club where the game is being played).

10.2.Final, plain white shirt with tailored collar and club necktie or EIBA registered coloured shirt, white trousers, EIBA registered coloured trousers/shorts or EIBA / Bowls Manufacturer white shorts and any coloured flat soled regulation bowling shoes (subject to the rules of the Club where the Finals are being played).

10.3.All players should wear the same shirt design and teams can wear a mix of shorts and trousers, but where any EIBA registered shorts and/or trousers are worn all players must wear the same design.

10.4.With the exception of registered shirts or trousers no advertising or promotional material may be displayed other than the Bowls Manufacturers' label.

10.5.White bowls jackets with coloured piping may be worn or registered coloured jacket.

11. General Matters

11.1.The County Competition entry fees, agreed at the AGM, will be requested by the Hon Treasurer.

11.2.Club secretaries must notify the Hon Competition Secretary the U25 Entrants, who will compete for the U25 Championship that season, from their club not later than 28th October.

11.3.Club secretaries must notify the Hon Competition Secretary not later than 30th April who the representatives (i.e., club champions) are from their club in each discipline of the County Championship for the following season and also notify the full names of ALL players by discipline who competed in the club competitions for the current season to ensure rules related to the use of replacement and/or substitute players can be monitored and applied.

11.4.The finals will be played on a green at the choice of the County President or the County Executive Committee.

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- 11.5. Singles Champion will receive the R G Moore Cup and pennant Under 25 Singles Champion will receive the Frank Edge Cup and pennant Under 25 Singles Runner Up will receive the George Lingwood Plate Pairs Champions will receive the Bob Savage Cup and pennant Triples Champions will receive the John Bakewell Cup and pennant Fours Champions will receive the Ken Gooch Bowl and pennant.
- 11.6. All trophies remain the property of the Association and must be returned to the County Competition Secretary by 1st March each year. Engraving will be the responsibility of the Association.
- 11.7. Mobile phones must not be used on the green and should be turned off or on silent during play. They should be used with discretion whilst in the vicinity of the green. There must be no flash photography whilst play is in progress.
- 11.8. In the event of a completed match where the winning player, or team is disqualified by default, the loser of the match will be re-instated as the winner and proceed to the following round.
- 11.9. Players who are in breach of any of the rules in this document, or who fail to compete if they reach the final of any discipline, unless for extenuating circumstances, may incur disciplinary action by the Association which may include suspension or disqualification from participating in any future County Championships for a period to be determined by the County Executive.
- 11.10. If a tie is unable to take place due to unforeseen circumstances on the day of play, the County Competition Secretary may grant an extension for the playing of the tie.

12. Players with Disabilities

- 12.1. Please refer to The Laws of the Sport of Bowls Crystal Mark Fourth Edition Law 41 Players with disabilities.
- 12.2. Details of specific Equipment and Aids that have been approved by EIBA as the "Controlling Body for EIBA National Competitions" can be found on the EIBA website at www.eiba.co.uk/club-development/disability.php (under construction).
- 12.3. Artificial devices be used by players with disabilities for delivering the jack or bowl (Law 41.8) – The player using the device shall decide before a game starts if they are going to use an aid. If they so decide, then they shall use it for the entire duration of that game.

13. Code of Conduct

13.1.A Code of conduct has been introduced by the Association and relates to all County events under our direct control. The Association reserves the right to conduct a full enquiry into all reported incidents and take whatever action is deemed to be appropriate in the circumstances.

13.2.All complaints regarding the Code of Conduct shall be reported to the County Secretary within 7 days of the alleged incident.

13.3.Disciplinary Action: The Code of Conduct escalation process will be as follows: -

If the County Secretary cannot resolve the dispute between the two sides amicably; then the matter will be escalated to the County Executive who will invoke the Executive Committee in Appeal process outlined in the Association Rules & Objects, whose decision will be final.

13.4.Abuse to the person: A player shall not abuse in any way whatsoever, any other person during the course of a game.

13.5.Abuse of Equipment: A player shall not cause wilful damage to any equipment whatsoever during the course of a game.

13.6.Drug and Alcohol Abuse: No player shall cause himself/herself to be unfit to play through either drug or alcohol abuse during the course of any event under the direct control of the Association.