



# Bowls Herefordshire Ladies Section

## COUNTY COMPETITION RULES & INFORMATION

Revised 9<sup>th</sup> March 2023

All National County competitions must be run under Bowls England rules and regulations

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### 1) Competition Rules

**ENTRIES** – Competitions Entries can only be made by affiliated players and players can only enter from their parent club (That is the club that they were a full member of on the 30<sup>th</sup> Sept of the previous year).

No Entry Forms will be accepted into the Draw without full details of all players.

In the Benevolent Triples, Senior Pairs and Duckhams you may play with fully affiliated members of ANY affiliated club within the County.

Senior Competitions are open to all members of affiliated Clubs who have attained their 55<sup>th</sup> birthday by the 1<sup>st</sup> April in the year of the Championship.

**GREENS** – All greens/rinks are suitable for all competitions, except for Eardisland, where only rinks 2 and 3 can be used.

**DATES** – In preliminary rounds, the Challenger to offer three dates, not in the same week, at least two weeks prior to the 'play on' date.

Dates where there are County Matches or other County fixtures **MUST NOT BE OFFERED**.

Opponent(s) must respond within 48 hours (24 hours for National Competitions).

**DRAW FOR RINKS** – The draw for rink/s to be played on shall be made in accordance with the current Laws of the Sport:

- 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.

**RINK FEES** for each round are to be paid by all visiting competitors for ALL competitions (unless kindly offered by the challengers).

**MARKERS** – In the 'Senior Singles' competition early rounds, the challenger is to provide a **competent marker**, who need not be a County player. The marker may be the challengers' husband/partner, if agreed prior to the game. No opponent should be made to feel that they must accept the husband/partner as the marker.

On fixed date Singles competitions players may be required to mark a round.

**TIME ALLOCATION** – Players should arrive at the green at least 30 minutes before the start of play and must be ready to start on time as there is a maximum time allowed for specific competitions.

**WAITING TIME:** The maximum waiting time of 30 minutes must be allowed at the start of the game. Providing the 30 minutes does not take the start time past 6.30pm. If a game is scheduled to start at 6.30pm then there is no waiting time. The 30-minute waiting time will be allowed at the start of a competition, where needed. However, the starting time for the following rounds of any competition, played on the same day, must be adhered to.

**SUBSTITUTE RULE:** In ALL team competitions, the Bowls England Substitute Rule shall apply. Any substitute **MUST BE** affiliated to the parent Club. If the substitute plays in the County Final, it does not mean that they will automatically play in the National Championships at Leamington. In the event of a substitute being required in the Senior Pairs, Duckhams or Benevolent Triples, one and the same player may come from any club, in the same County, providing they have not already played in the same competition, however, one of the original players shall play in all rounds. The substitute may play in any position.

**SLOW PLAY** – The maximum time that a player may deliberate before playing a bowl is two minutes, the time being calculated from the time the previous bowl played came to rest. Should this rule be breached in a

Singles match they shall be warned by the marker. Any further non-compliance shall be reported by the Marker to the 'Umpire' in charge of the green.

Should this rule be breached in the Pairs, Triples and Fours and not picked up by the 'Umpire', the aggrieved opposing Skip should bring the notice of the infringement to the 'Umpire'. The Skip of the offending team shall be warned by the 'Umpire'. Should there be further non-compliance the Competition Secretary may disqualify the offending team from taking any further part in the competition.

**RINK POSSESSION** - When a bowl has come to rest, the player and player's team no longer have rink possession. This means that you **MUST** step back from the head and allow the opposing team/bowler to deliver their wood. You should not stop play by holding a conversation in the middle of the green, you cannot answer questions from your player, look at the Head or in any way prevent the opponent continuing to play. Rink possession is not regained until the opponent's bowl has come to rest.

**CONCEDING A GAME** – A person conceding a game prior to the start of the match must notify the County Competition Secretary and their opponent and pay any green fees where relevant. If a player/team concedes a game and does not notify the County Competition Secretary and their opponent, they will be disqualified from playing in that competition the following year. If a player/team concedes a game, after the first round has been played, they may be disqualified from playing in that competition the following year.

Matches may be conceded at any time but **MUST BE CONCEDED** where it is not mathematically possible for the losing participant/team/side to win.

**INCLEMENT WEATHER** - Inclement weather shall mean the existence of rain or abnormal climatic conditions 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.

When a match is stopped by the Umpire and/or the Greenkeeper (or players if no officials are in attendance) IN TOP CLUB play shall cease on all rinks simultaneously. Ends started but not completed shall be declared null and void. When it is not possible to resume the match on the day:

- a. *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.*
- b. *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 '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.

**SCORE CARDS** must be signed by both skips, including time the competition finished, and then returned to the Competition Secretary.

## 2) Dress

**2a) EARLY ROUNDS (up to and including County Semi-Finals)** – Dress will be Bowls England licensed and approved GREY, or CLUB COLOURED, apparel below the waist (e.g. skirt, culottes or tailored trousers or tailored cropped trousers or shorts AND Bowls England approved club shirt and flat soled bowling shoes. ALL MEMBERS OF ONE TEAM MUST WEAR THE SAME COLOUR OF CLOTHING, BOTH ABOVE AND BELOW THE WAIST.

**2b) COUNTY FINALS leading to National Championships** – Dress will be Club Shirts and approved WHITE apparel below the waist (e.g. skirt, culottes or tailored trousers or tailored cropped trousers or shorts and Club shirt and flat soled bowling shoes.

- Bowls England licensed and approved coloured apparel (e.g. shorts) may be worn provided that ALL members of a side or team wear the same colour above and/or below the waist.
- Headgear, if worn, should be white or a registered colour.
- White waterproof clothing may be used, or, providing all members of a side or team wear the same, registered coloured waterproof/fleeces are permitted. Bowls England licensed, and approved apparel may also be worn.

- Sandals shall not be permitted in events under the jurisdiction of Bowls England, except in medical circumstances where a doctor's note has been provided.
- Tracksuits, shell suits and jeans are not acceptable.
- Players governed by requirements of a specific ethnic culture shall be permitted to wear their traditional dress if they so desire.

**2c) In the Benevolent Triples, Duckhams and Kington Shield (up to and including the Finals)** – Dress will be Bowls England licensed and approved GREY, or CLUB COLOURED, apparel below the waist (e.g. skirt, culottes or tailored trousers or tailored cropped trousers or shorts AND Bowls England approved club shirt and flat soled bowling shoes).

**2d) In the Top Club (up to and including County Semi-Final)** – Dress will be Bowls England licensed and approved GREY, or CLUB COLOURED, apparel below the waist (e.g. skirt, culottes or tailored trousers or tailored cropped trousers or shorts AND Bowls England approved club shirt and flat soled bowling shoes). WHITES and Bowls England approved club shirts shall be worn for the County Final.

**BOWLS** – Must bear a legible stamp for 1985, or later for Duckhams or Kington Shield, competitions. All other competitions bowls must have a current world bowls stamp.

**STICKERS** – ONE LAYER ONLY. Red for challengers, yellow for opposition. Plain red or yellow, no wording, MUST be used on set competition dates, except the Kington Shield and Top Club, when club stickers should be used. If stickers are the same colour as the opponents, opponents to change. On set competition dates stickers to be provided by the competition secretary.

**UMBRELLAS** are NOT to be used on the green

**MOBILE PHONES** must be switched off while playing competitions.

**ALCOHOL** is NOT permitted on the Green or surrounds during any competitions.

**SMOKING** on the Green is prohibited during all matches played under the jurisdiction of Bowls England. For clarification, the 'Green' in this instance is deemed to include a minimum of 1 metre of the bank surrounding the playing area. Should the Club where the game is being played have a total ban on smoking on its premises, the Club prohibition shall apply. Failure to adhere to this shall result in disqualification. This prohibition includes all electronic cigarettes.

### 3) Competitions

The following competitions are drawn at the Ladies County Meeting in January. Greens are booked by the Competition Secretary for all Competitions played on fixed dates.

**3a) COMPETITIONS LEADING TO NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS** are Singles, 2 wood singles, Pairs, Triples, Fours, Senior Fours (over 60) and any entered directly with Bowls England:

**SINGLES** - Each game shall consist of 21 shots – four bowls each player. Neither player may visit the head until both have delivered three bowls each. Should a player wish to visit the head prior to this point being reached the permission of the marker shall be obtained. **2 hour 30 minutes Maximum Time limit, including trial ends.**

**TWO-WOOD SINGLES** - Each game shall consist of 21 ends – two bowls each player. Neither player may visit the head until both have delivered one bowl each. 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 is reached. **1 hour 15 minutes Maximum Time limit, including trial ends.**

**PAIRS** - Each game shall consist of 18 ends – four bowls each player. The Leads to play their four bowls before the skips. Neither Lead may visit the head until both players have delivered three bowls each. There is no restriction on Skips revisiting the head should they wish to do so. 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 is reached. **3 hour 30 minutes Maximum Time limit, including trial ends.**

**TRIPLES** - Each game shall consist of 18 ends – three bowls each player. Neither Lead may visit the head until both have delivered their three bowls each. The Second players, having left the head after the Leads have

delivered their bowls may not return to the head until both players have delivered two bowls each. There is no restriction on Skips revisiting the head should they wish to do so. 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 is reached. **3 hour 30 minutes Maximum Time limit, including trial ends.**

**FOURS** - Each game shall consist of 18 ends – two bowls each player. The Lead and Second players may not visit the head until all four players have delivered their two bowls. There is no restriction on the Third players or the Skips revisiting the head should they wish to do so. 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 is reached. **3 hour 30 minutes Maximum Time limit, including trial ends.**

**SENIOR FOURS** - Each game shall consist of 18 ends – two bowls each player. The Lead and Second players may not visit the head until all four players have delivered their two bowls. There is no restriction on the Third players or the Skips revisiting the head should they wish to do so. 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 is reached. **3 hour 30 minutes Maximum Time limit, including trial ends.**

**3b) COMPETITIONS AT COUNTY LEVEL ONLY** are Senior Singles, Senior Pairs (both over 55), Champion of Champions, Kington Shield, Top Club, Duckham Pairs, Bowen Triples, Benevolent Triples:

**SENIOR SINGLES** matches shall be 21 shots (four bowls each player). Rounds prior to Semi-Final are played on Challengers Green. **2 hour 30 minutes Maximum Time limit, including trial ends.**

**SENIOR PAIRS** shall be 18 ends (four bowls each player). In the Senior Pairs, 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 is reached. Rounds prior to Semi-Final are played on Challengers Green. **3 hours 30 minutes Maximum Time limit, including trial ends.**

**DUCKHAM PAIRS** – 4 wood Pairs. Match consists of 15 ends or 2 hours, including semi-final and final. No trial ends or visiting the head.

**BENEVOLENT TRIPLES** - The team shall comprise of three members from any club. The game shall comprise of two woods per player and 15 ends, with all the ends being played as the total number of shots for and against determine the eventual winners at National level. Trial ends are allowed, and skips may visit the head. All score cards of the eventual winners in each County are needed. Please make sure that both score cards are signed by BOTH SKIPS and handed to the Competition Secretary. (There are no points, or shots for a game given).

**LADIES COUNTY BOWEN TRIPLES** - Each game shall consist of 15 ends – three bowls each player aged 70+. NO TRIAL ENDS, NO visiting the head. 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 is reached.

**LADIES COUNTY TOP CLUB** - Only one team per club permitted in the competition. Each game will consist of 1 Singles, first to 21, Pairs 4 woods 18 ends, Triples 3 woods 18 ends, Fours 2 woods 18 ends. All disciplines will start at the same time. The winner will be the team that has one three or more disciplines or, where there is a tie, the highest overall score. Matches prior to the Final will be played on the challengers' green. The Final will be played on a set date and green arranged by the Competition Secretary. Date \*Subject to finalists. **3 hour 30 minutes Maximum Time limit, including trial ends.**

**KINGTON SHIELD** – Two Triples per club, constitutes one team. Only one team per club permitted in the competition. Each game is 18 ends, 3 woods per player with 2 trial ends. Score to be taken at 18 ends and if a tie an extra end or ends shall be played by both triples until a decision is reached. Matches prior to the Semi-final are played on the challengers' green. The Semi-Final and Final will be played at Kington on set date arranged by the Competition Secretary.

3c) The following competitions will be drawn **ON THE DAY**: **CHAMPION of CHAMPIONS** – Club Ladies Four Wood Singles Winner representing each affiliated Club. Each game shall consist of 21 shots and the **COUNTY TWO WOOD SINGLES**

**All Greens are booked by the Competition Secretary for all Competitions played on FIXED DATES.**