



Somerset Bowls Association Competition Rules



Rules Governing all National Championships and County Competitions

NOTE: NATIONAL COMPETITIONS ARE ADMINISTERED DIRECTLY BY BOWLS ENGLAND AND DO NOT FORM PART OF THESE RULES.

Bowls England Regulation 52 and the Regulation for each specific discipline, refers.

IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT ALL ENTRANTS TO NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS AND COUNTY COMPETITIONS FAMILIARIZE THEMSELVES WITH THESE RULES. THE CHAMPIONSHIP/COMPETITION COMMITTEE SHALL APPLY AND ENFORCE THEM RIGOROUSLY.

1) Administration

- a) The National Championships and County Competitions of the Somerset Bowls Association (SBA) shall be administered in accordance with these Rules by the Championship/Competition Secretariat, comprising the Championship/Competition Secretary and all assistants appointed by the Championship/Competition Secretary and ratified by the Executive Board in accordance with SBA Constitution Rule 7(c).

2) Rules of Play

- a) The Rules of play for National Championships shall be in accordance with Bowls England Regulations 50 – 51 together with the Appendices thereof and the current Laws of the Sport of Bowls.
- b) The rules of play of County Competitions shall be in accordance with these rules and the current Laws of the Sport of Bowls

3) Championships and Competitions

The Championship/Competition Secretariat shall administer the following National Championships and County Competitions: -

- a) National Championships to determine those to go forward to the finals of the Bowls England's National Championships:

For Men and women: -

- (1) Singles (four bowls, 21 shots)
- (2) Pairs (four bowls each player, 18 ends)
- (3) Triples (three bowls each player, 18 ends)
- (4) Fours (two bowls each player, 18 ends)
- (5) Two Wood Singles (two bowls each, 21 ends)
- (6) Junior Singles (four bowls, 21 shots)
- (7) Junior Pairs (four bowls each player, 18 ends)
- (8) Senior Fours (two bowls each player, 18 ends)



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b) County Competitions to determine SBA Champions:

For Men and Women: -

- (1) Open Championship (singles, four bowls, 21 shots)
- (2) Mixed Pairs (four bowls each player, 18 ends)
- (3) Mixed Triples (three bowls each player, 18 ends to be played by 2 men and 1 woman or 2 women and 1 man. If a substitute is needed the format must remain the same. Therefore, a maximum of 1 substitute from each gender will be allowed.
- (4) Club Officials' Trophy (singles, four bowls, 21 shots)
- (5) Beginners Singles (four bowls, 21 shots). Bowlers with less than 3 years experience (started bowling after 1st April 2023). This includes indoors, outdoors, short mat and crown green.

And for Men: -

- (6) Inter-Club Competition (Turnbull Cup) and for first match losers (not conceders and see also Rule 5 h (2)) the Wedmore plate competition (four rinks of four players, each playing 18 ends)

And for Women: -

- (7) Inter-Club Competition (Fear Cup) and for first match losers (not conceders and see also Rule 5 l (iv)) the Fear plate competition (three rinks of four players each playing 18 ends)
- (8) Southey Trophy (Inter-Club Competition using the Top Club format) ten players arranged to play simultaneously: singles (four bowls, **21 shots**), pairs (four bowls each, **18 ends**), triples (three bowls each, **18 ends**) and Fours (two bowls each, **18 ends**).

4) Entry Fees

Entry fees for all National Championships and County Competitions shall be determined by the Executive Board of the SBA, taking into account Bowls England entry fees for National Championships.

5) Qualifications

All the playing members of the clubs affiliated to the SBA may enter and compete in as many of the National Championships and County Competitions they so choose subject only to the following restrictions:

- a) A player who is also a member of a Club affiliated to another County and who has entered either National Championships, National Competitions or County Competitions from that Club shall not be entitled to play in SBA County Competitions. (National Championships are covered by Bowls England Regulations 50 – 51)
- b) Competitors can compete only in National Championships and County Competitions open to their gender.
- c) Competitors shall not be entered more than once nor represent more than one club in any one year in any County Competition and in County Leagues. (National Championships are covered by Bowls England Regulations 50 – 51)



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- d) Entrants for both National Championships and County Competitions shall be listed in the club's list of members as at **1st May**, in the same year of entry, and the Annual Subscription (Affiliation Fee) in accordance with Rule 6 of the SBA Constitution be paid by the club on their behalf. The club of any player qualifying for National Championship finals or County finals, for which the appropriate **fee has not been paid, may be disqualified**.
 - e) Entrants for the Club Officials' Trophy is open to anyone who holds an official position in a Club.
 - f) Entrants for the Open Championship Competition shall now be open to anyone.
 - g) In the County Mixed Pairs and Mixed Triples competitions, players may come from different SBA affiliated clubs.
 - h) Players entered under one Club but changing to another club before the 1st of April in the year of the competitions cannot transfer their entries if:
 - (1) It is the Club Officials' Trophy or the Open Championship. Their qualification is through their original club. Otherwise, they can transfer their entries in County Competitions (but not National Championships), but only if: -
 - a) they are included in the membership list and the appropriate affiliation fee has been paid by one or other of the two clubs, and
 - b) their new club is in a different area of the draw from that in which they have been drawn and they are the challenger(s) they play that game on a green within the area of the original draw.
 - (2) Entries to the Inter-Club Competitions (including the Southey Trophy) are restricted to one per club per competition. Losers of their first game, does not include those conceding, shall automatically qualify for entry into the associated plate competition. Those Clubs who benefit because of their first game being conceded are defined as 'winners' and move forward to the next round as such. Should they lose the next game they do not qualify for entry into the associated Plate competition. N.B. There is no plate competition for the Southey Trophy.
 - (3) Unqualified entrants and void entries shall be disqualified. Entry fees paid by or on behalf of such entrants shall not be refunded.
- 6) Entering National Championships and County Competitions**
- a) Individual entries shall be made via the SBA WEBSITE PORTAL.
 - b) Club Secretaries shall REGISTER AND ENTER their Club competitions and Leagues via the SBA WEBSITE. ENTRIES CLOSE 14TH OF FEBRUARY 2026. Payment will be direct on website. Payment will go directly to SBA Treasurer.
- 7) Organizing the Draws**
- a) Games shall be drawn on a geographical basis according to the number of entries received for that National Championship/County Competition. Such that, as far as possible, competitors shall be liable to play the same number of rounds with the same probability of a bye. A competitor may be in a different group for different National Championships/County Competitions. All games shall be hosted by the first named qualifier.
 - b) All rounds of National Championships and County Competitions, up to the semifinals shall be played on a home and away basis, except for the men's and women's National Two Wood, Junior Singles and Junior Pairs Championships. The semifinals and final of all National Championships and County Competitions shall be played on set greens and will not be changed other than for exceptional circumstances, e.g. the green is unfit for play.



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In the event of a participant/participants or a participating Club winning through to play on its own set green, the venue will not be changed.

- c) Except for the Two Wood and the Junior Competitions, all draws shall be published on the SBA Web Site www.somersetbowls.org.uk The Web Site shall be updated throughout the course of the Championships/County Competitions.

8) Arrangements for Playing the National Championships and County Competitions –

a) National Championship and County Competition games shall be played in accordance with Rule 2 of these Rules and in addition:

- i) the Code of Conduct as published under 'Teams' on the SBA website.
- ii) Slow Play as set out in Rules 1 – 5 of Appendix D of Bowls England Regulations 50 – 70.
- b) Games due on a set date shall be played on the date published on the SBA Web Site, to commence at 6:15pm unless a different time is published, subject only to the following exceptions:
 - i) Games not designated for set greens may be played where mutually agreed by both competitors, either:
 - (1) in advance of the set date (but not before 1st May) or time, or
 - (2) for singles play only on the set date with a later start time (**but no later than 7:15pm**), or
 - ii) No other variation is permitted, in particular no extensions whatsoever will be granted, other than:
 - (1) to accommodate players selected for Bowls England approved International duties.
 - (2) to accommodate officers and officials on duty with England teams.The re-scheduling of games as a result of 1 or 2 shall be the responsibility of the Championship/Competition Secretariat. Participants will be required to provide their availability, and the date, time and venue shall be set by the Secretariat. The re-scheduled game may, or may not, take place on the initially scheduled venue.
 - (3) Exceptional Circumstances - see j) below
- c) For games prior to those designated for set greens, the home named competitor shall be responsible for all game arrangements. These arrangements include:
 - i) The draw for rink/s to be played on shall be made in accordance with the current Laws of the Sport (Law 3.1). 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 and, where the rink is not on the green of the home named competitor, advising the opponent accordingly. Competitors should note that National Championship matches have first priority followed by National Competition matches then County Competition matches. These have priority over ALL other matches
 - ii) For all singles play, arranging a marker.
 - iii) For Inter-Club Competitions (including the Southey Trophy) appointing a qualified umpire or failing that a responsible person to act as umpire. Should an umpire or responsible person not be appointed, the away team may refuse to play and may claim the game.
- d) **Greys/ or team, colours shall be worn, except on set greens**, or in Inter-Club competitions scheduled to start on or before 4:30pm, when whites/ team colour shall be worn (see Appendix 1). Where confusion over stickers is likely to arise, hosts may require opponents to remove or change their stickers.



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- e)
 - i) Regarding the use of mobile phones Appendix C of Bowls England Regulations 50 – 70, shall apply.
 - ii) The rule regarding smoking, as set out in Appendix G of Bowls England Regulations 50 – 70, shall apply.
 - iii) The rules for players with disabilities, as set out in Appendix I of Bowls England Regulations 50 – 70, shall apply.
 - iv) The rules for floodlighting as set out at 1.14 of Bowls England Regulations 50, shall apply
 - v) The rules for the use of groundsheets, as set out at 1.15 of Bowls England Regulations 50, shall apply
- f) It is emphasized that trial ends **MUST** be completed within 15 minutes of the start time (6.15pm, or as previously mutually agreed according to Rule 8 b) above)
 - i) Any individual, team or side not ready to deliver its first bowl on the first end of the game within 30 minutes of the start time shall be in default and may be disqualified. If follows that after the completion of the trial ends at 6.30pm or within 15 minutes of the time of games mutually agreed according to Rule 8b) above, should a team or side not be complete a further 15 minutes is allowed for players to turn up.
 - ii) Substitutions may be made in accordance with the Laws of The Sport of Bowls. The movement of players between rinks in an inter-club competition is not permitted after the draw for rinks has been made.
- g) In the event of sickness or injury of a player the rules of the Laws of the Sport of Bowls shall apply.
- h) In Inter-Club Competitions (for the Southey Trophy see Rule 8 i) below)
 - i) A club failing to provide a complete side (16 players for the men's competitions, 12 players for the women's competitions) at the commencement of a game (as defined in Rule 8 (f) i) shall forfeit the game to their opponents. In the event of sickness or injury to a player AFTER the commencement of the game the rules of the Laws of the Sport of Bowls shall apply.
 - ii) Each rink shall play 18 ends.
 - iii) In the event of a tie, the first rink to finish shall play the extra end, after the conclusion of the game. The toss for the choice of mat shall have been made before the start of the game. The decision regarding the mat's retention shall be deferred until the start of the extra end.
 - iv) In evening play, in the event of a tie being possible one rink shall play an extra end, being the first rink to finish (as determined by the umpire). The extra end should be played as soon as possible in anticipation of the result of the game.
- i) In the Southey Trophy (Inter-Club Top Club Competition):
 - i) A club failing to provide a complete side (of 10 players) at the commencement of a game (as defined in Rule 8 (f) i) shall forfeit the game to their opponents. In the event of sickness or injury to a player AFTER the commencement of the game, the rules of the Laws of the Sport of Bowls shall apply. In this competition only, the singles player may be substituted.
 - ii) In each discipline, one point is awarded for a win, a ½ point for a draw. The winner is the team with the most points.



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- iii) In the event that a game is drawn 2-2, the winner is the team with the higher aggregate shots. (In the event that one of the disciplines was forfeited, then the other team wins.) If the aggregate shots are the same, then the pairs, triples and fours shall each play an extra end or ends until a result is achieved. (Shots scored are not added to the aggregate scores – only the result counts.) The toss for extra ends shall have been made before the start of the game, though the decision regarding retention of the mat may be deferred until all rinks have completed the game.
 - j) Where exceptional circumstances prevent the commencement or completion of a game it should be arranged to be played or completed within a maximum period of seven days or before the date of the next round, whichever is the sooner.
 - i) The Championship/Competition Secretariat should be informed of the circumstances and agreed arrangement.
 - ii) Interrupted games must resume from where they left off. Upon resumption, trial ends are allowed, in accordance with Rule 8 (f) above.
 - iii) Where an inter-club championship (including the Southey Trophy) is to be resumed, the score cards should be lodged with the umpire for safe keeping. Upon resumption, no more than two substitutes per rink shall be permitted and players resuming from the interrupted game must resume on their original rink.
 - iv) In the event that due to further exceptional circumstances it proves impossible to complete the game within the Maximum Period, the scores of the game shall stand at the point of its last interruption. In the event of a tie, or where a game has not started, the result shall be determined by the toss of a coin.
- 9) **Notification of Results**
- a) The winner of games shall immediately enter results on the Competition Portal.
 - b) the score cards shall be signed by both players/skips and be retained by the winner.
 - c) Failure to notify results unambiguously (particularly with regard to concessions), accurately, and completely on time may lead to disqualification.



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10) Closing Stages

Arrangements for all games on set greens, in all National Championships/County Competitions, shall be made by the Championship/Competition Secretariat, to include the appointment of markers and umpires. In particular:

- a) The County Finals shall be held on the same day at the same venue, preferably to be held in rotation, year by year, at Clubs within different regions of the County.
- b) The finals of the Inter-Club Competitions for Men shall be held on the same day at the same venue, preferably to be held in rotation, year by year, in different Regions of the County.
- c) The finals of the **FEAR CUP** shall be held on the same day at the same venue, preferably at Ashcombe Park B.C.
- d) The finals of the remaining competitions shall be held alongside one or other of the three events above (Rules 10(a) to 10(c)) or as otherwise determined by the Championship/Competition Secretariat.
- e) The SBA expects clubs to provide greens for these events free of charge, and to cover their costs through charges for catering.

11) Presentation of Trophies

Trophies will be presented at the County Lunch in November.

12) Disputes

- a) In the case of any unresolved dispute over the arranging, conduct or result of a game, a clear statement of the circumstances and unresolved issues shall be made in writing to the Championship/Competition Secretariat within two days of the date on which the dispute arose.
- b) Decisions of the Championship/Competition Secretariat are final and binding and must be accepted by all parties.

13) Changes to these Rules

Additions or amendments to all or any of the foregoing Rules shall be made only by either:

- a) The Executive Board, or
- b) The Annual General Meeting of the SBA or at such Special General Meeting convened for the purpose by motion put in accordance with the SBA Constitution Rule 9(a).



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Appendix 1. Dress Code for National Championships/County Competitions – Rule 8(d)

	Men	Women
Greys - early rounds	• Club coloured shirts or white shirts. All to wear the same. • White or club coloured sweaters/fleeces. • Grey or club coloured trousers/shorts. All to wear the same. • Flat soled bowling shoes shall be worn. • White or club coloured waterproofs.	• Club coloured shirts or white shirts. All to wear the same. • Grey or club coloured skirt, trousers, cropped trousers, shorts or culottes. All to wear the same. • Club coloured waistcoats, sweaters, or white/cream plain knit cardigans, waistcoats, or sweaters. • Flat soled bowling shoes shall be worn. • White or club coloured waterproofs.
Whites - set greens or for Inter Club County Competitions scheduled to start on or before 4.30pm	• Club coloured shirts or white shirts. All to wear the same. • White or club coloured sweaters/fleeces. • White or club coloured trousers/shorts. All to wear the same. • Flat soled bowling shoes shall be worn. • White or club coloured waterproofs.	• Club coloured shirts or white shirts. All to wear the same. • White or club coloured skirt, trousers, cropped trousers, shorts or culottes. All to wear the same. • Club coloured waistcoats, sweaters, or white/cream plain knit cardigans, waistcoats, or sweaters. • Flat soled bowling shoes shall be worn. • White or club coloured waterproofs.
National Championships Finals	• Please see Bowls England Regulations 50 - 70 Appendix A (Men) and Appendix B (Women). Attention is drawn to 2.1 and in particular 2.1.b) of both appendices "Players participating in National Championships Final Stages (Leamington) shall wear their County Association's registered colours CLUB DRESS IS NOT ALLOWED.	



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Appendix 2. Consumption of Food

A number of Clubs will not allow food and drink, except for medical reasons, to be brought onto their property. This includes the clubhouse, green surrounds, car park, etc. In order to be consistent and therefore avoiding possible embarrassment, the Board of the Somerset Bowls Association has decided to advise ALL Clubs to adopt this policy when they have made food available. This particularly applies at the neutral green venues for the late stages of competitions.

Championship/Competition Secretary

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