

# **RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR COMPETITIONS UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE GLOUCESTERSHIRE BOWLS ASSOCIATION (MENS DIVISION)**

## **INTRODUCTION**

This introduction is based on the Introduction to the Forward in the Laws of the Sport of Bowls, using the current Crystal Mark Edition, produced for Bowls England.

No laws governing a sport can cope with every situation, and the laws of the sport of bowls are no exception. Unusual situations not covered within the laws can often arise. These Rules and Regulations for the Gloucestershire Bowling Association (GBA) have been drawn up in the spirit of true sportsmanship. If a situation arises that is not covered by these rules and regulations, Players, Markers, Umpires and County Officials should use their common sense and a spirit of fair play to decide on the appropriate course of action.

- 1. RULES AND REGULATIONS APPLICABLE TO ALL COMPETITIONS CONTROLLED BY THE GBA (MENS DIVISION)**
- 1.1 All games shall be controlled by the GBA County Competitions Committee (CCC) and shall be played under the current Laws of the Sport of Bowls Current Crystal Mark Edition and should also be played within the GBA Constitution.
- 1.2 The CCC consists of the Senior Vice President, The County Competitions Secretary and the Bristol, Cheltenham, Gloucester and Stroud Section Competition Secretaries. The Senior Vice President shall be Chairman of the CCC.
- 1.3 A Greens Committee elected annually shall adjudicate on the conditions of greens and rinks selected for competition play.
- 1.4 Any situation that cannot be resolved when it arises and any issue raised that is not covered by these rules and regulations should be immediately referred to the CCC who after due consideration shall provide a ruling which shall be final.
- 1.5 Whether games are scheduled on a particular day or scheduled with a play by date the guidance for timings is the same. Games prior to the finals and played up to and including the 30<sup>th</sup> June are scheduled to commence at 6.15 p.m. Games played after 30<sup>th</sup> June shall commence at 6.00 p.m. Games played on a Saturday or Sunday will usually be played in the morning. Games may be re-scheduled at a time mutually agreed by both parties before the respective round closing date. The County Competitions Committee will make all match arrangements for the closing stages of all competitions.
- 1.6 All greens selected for the Competition, County Cup and County Two Rink finals will be inspected approximately one month before the event to ensure that the standard of the green has not significantly deteriorated since it was selected for the event.
- 1.7 All games played in the sections and games in the Two Rink competition prior to Finals Day will be played in club shirts (or white shirts and club tie) and grey trousers unless the Section Competition Secretary advises otherwise. All games played in County Rounds will be played in club shirts (or white shirts and club tie) and white trousers unless the CCC advises otherwise. All players in a team must use the same dress code.
- 1.8 The dress code for players and markers shall be as specified in the GBA Constitution unless otherwise advised by the CCC.
- 1.9 Players who enter competitions must be an affiliated member of a club(s).

- 1.10 All players should report on the green 15 minutes before the scheduled time for commencement of play. Late arrival for any competition of more than 30 minutes after the agreed or scheduled start time may result in their opponents claiming a walkover.
- 1.11 All singles competitors drawn at home in a competition shall be responsible for providing a marker who should be dressed according to the GBA Constitution. Failure on behalf of the competitor responsible to abide by this rule shall mean automatic disqualification.
- 1.12 Club stickers shall be used by competitors in all matches unless differentiating stickers have been provided by the CCC. Failure on behalf of the competitor responsible to abide by this rule could lead to disqualification.
- 1.13 All protests in relation to competitions at Section level shall be reported to the Section Competitions Secretary by 22:00 on the day the match is played. The competitor making the protest must ensure a fee of £50.00 is delivered to the Section Competitions Secretary within 24 hours. If the protest is upheld then the £50 fee will be returned but if it is not upheld the match and fee shall be forfeited.
- 1.14 If a protest is against bowls then the bowls should be delivered to the Section Competitions Secretary by 22:00 on the day that the protest is made. The Section Competitions Secretary shall arrange in conjunction with the CCC for the bowls to be tested within 24 hours. Additional fees shall be levied at cost to cover the testing of bowls, travel costs, travel time and any other reasonable expenses incurred to have the protest verified. These fees shall be paid by the party who loses the protest within 7 days otherwise they will be suspended until such time that the fee(s) are paid. The CCC shall be the adjudicators and their decision shall be final.
- 1.15 If a protest is against the condition or regulations concerning the green then the protest must be made prior to the start of the fifth end, which shall include trial ends if played. The Section Competitions Secretary should be informed of the protest immediately and he will arrange for the rink to be inspected within 24 hours normally by a member of the Section Greens committee. If the protest is upheld then the game shall be replayed on a neutral green and on a date and time to be decided by the CCC. If the protest is not upheld the protestor shall automatically forfeit the game. Once a competition has reached the final stages, the same principles shall apply, but protests shall be made to the County Competitions Secretary and the CCC shall still adjudicate.

## **2. COMPETITIONS THAT ARE QUALIFIERS FOR THE NATIONAL COMPETITIONS**

2.1 These competitions comprise of the following:-

- Four Wood Singles
- Pairs
- Triples
- Fours
- Junior Singles (Under 25's)
- Two Wood Singles

2.2 Competitors may enter for one or more of the competitions, but shall not be allowed to enter from, or play for, more than one club or one county in the same year. Entries using the appropriate County Competitions Entry Form together with the appropriate fees shall be submitted to the Club Secretary by the date specified on the form. Club Secretaries shall be responsible for entering all club and individual entries onto the composite County Competitions Return form and sending this to the Section Competition Secretary together with the individual entry forms and a single cheque for all club entry fees by the date specified on this form.

- 2.3 These competitions shall be administered under the Rules and Regulations of Bowls England (in particular Regulation 53) with the exception of the GBA rule variations that are described below. It is the responsibility of all competitors to be fully aware of Bowls England Rules & Regulations. The County Competitions Secretary will endeavor to assist as appropriate.
- 2.4 Other than in singles games, players who play in the first game shall be deemed to be the constitution of that team and where possible should play together throughout that competition.
- 2.5 The winner(s) of semi final 1 in each competition will go to Leamington to represent Gloucestershire as Gloucestershire 'A' and the winner(s) of semi final 2 as Gloucestershire 'B'. The CCC reserves the right to reverse these allocations if due to the scheduling at Leamington, for example, a competitor plays in successive competitions and has a preliminary round or an early first round in the second competition.
- 2.6 No extension to closing dates shall be granted under any circumstances other than for players being selected to represent their countries.
- 2.7 **GBA Rule Variations**
- 2.7.1 Where unforeseen circumstances occur, dates may have to be rescheduled by the CCC who shall give competitors as much notice as possible.
- 2.7.2 (A) The Two Wood Singles competition shall be played on two days nominated by the CCC. The first day will be played in sections on a knock out basis until 4 competitors remain in each section. The remaining 16 players from the 4 sections will then play up to but not including the final. Details of the arrangements for playing this competition shall be printed in the County Handbook each year.
- (B) The Junior Singles competition shall be played on a day nominated by the CCC and shall be played up to but not including the final. Details of the arrangements for playing this competition shall be printed in the County Handbook each year.
- (C) The finals of all competitions will be played on the County Competitions Finals Day.
- 2.7.3 Each sectional draw shall be made by the CCC. In each Section the fixed dates for all intermediate rounds shall be selected by the Section Competitions Secretary in conjunction with the CCC.
- 2.7.4 The Quarter Finals, Semi-Finals, and Finals dates shall be selected by the CCC in time for them to be published in the County Handbook. The games shall be played on greens, selected by the CCC using advice from the Greens Committee.
- 2.7.5 Umpires and Markers where applicable shall be appointed by the County Umpires Coordinator in conjunction with the CCC for the Quarter Finals, Semi Finals and all Finals.
- 2.7.6 Scheduling of Finals Day shall be carried out by the CCC taking full recognition of any competitors qualifying for more than one final. Where any competitor qualifies for more than two finals, a final or finals may have to be rescheduled By the CCC.
- 2.7.7 Match results for games played within the Sections must reach the appropriate Section Competition Secretary by 22:00 on the day the game is played.
- 2.7.8 A substitute, as per Bowls England Competition Rules and Regulations, is permitted provided the substitution is made before the game has started. Only one player may be used as a substitute at any time and may play in any position. They shall not have already played for another team nor can they play for another team in the competition.
- 2.7.9 Where it is known in advance that a substitute will need to be used in a game still being played within the Section, the relevant Section Competitions Secretary must be informed. Where a substitute is used as the result of a last minute replacement the Section Competitions Secretary must be notified as soon as possible after the event. From the Quarter Finals the County Competitions Secretary should be informed.

- 2.7.10 On County Competitions Finals Day, the County Competitions Secretary must be informed of any substitution prior to the match being played. If successful, the substitute will be named in the team as the County Champions. However, if available, the original member of the team will go to the National Championships, if not the substitute shall attend.
- 2.7.11 If finals event competitors do not turn up, their opponent(s), provided they are on the green and prepared to play, shall be awarded the County Championship title, if they are not present the title shall remain unclaimed. In these events both of the Competitors shall still go to the National Championships.
- 2.7.12 If a singles (4 Wood, 2 Wood, or Junior Singles) Competitor who has qualified for the National Championships does not make themselves available for the National Championships, that Competitor shall be disqualified from the County Competition, his Trophy shall be withdrawn, his name expunged and he will not appear in the County Competitions Honors Roll, and he shall not be accepted as a Competitor in the following year's County Competitions. An exception will be made where a medically certificated illness intervenes, the County Competitions Secretary is notified, receives the medical certificate and accepts the incapacity of the player.
- 2.7.13 Similarly if a Pairs, Triples or Fours team that has qualified for the National Championships do not make themselves available at the event, their place will be forfeited, their trophy will be withdrawn and their names removed from the Trophy and the County Honours Roll for the year in question, and the named Competitor who made the entry may not be accepted as Competitor in the following year's County Competitions.
- 2.7.14 If a game is stopped, either by the mutual agreement of the players, by the CCC or by the Umpire, after appeal to them on account of darkness or the conditions of the weather or any other valid reason, it shall be resumed with the scores as they were when the game stopped. When owing to exceptional weather conditions no decision can be reached as it is impossible to rearrange the match before the round completion date, the aggregate score, in uncompleted games in which five ends or more have been played, will stand unless otherwise specified. If the score is a tie then the result will be decided by the toss of a coin. Games not started and games where less than five ends have been completed shall be decided by the toss of a coin or by mutual agreement. An end commenced, but not completed, shall be declared dead. This game shall be played within 24 hours on the same green and where possible the same rink. If this green is not available then on another green nominated by a member of the CCC.

### **3 GBA INTERNAL COUNTY COMPETITIONS**

#### **3.1 These competitions comprise of the following:-**

- County Challenge Cup
- County Two Rink Cup
- County Champion of Champions

#### **3.2 COUNTY CHALLENGE CUP**

- 3.2.1 This competition shall be open to all Clubs affiliated to the GBA. No player shall play for more than one club in the competition during the same season.
- 3.2.2 All games will be played on a strict knockout basis.
- 3.2.3 The competition shall be divided into two stages, the section knockout and the final stages. In the section knockout sufficient rounds will be played until one unbeaten club remains in the section. This club shall then qualify as the section winners and represent their section in the semi finals. The draw prior to the Semi Finals together with the closing date for each round in the section will be published in the County Yearbook. The draw for the Semi Finals will be made on the County Cup Finals Day.

- 3.2.4 Each club which enters shall be represented by a side consisting of 3 rinks of 4 players, who must be affiliated to the club, and they shall play 21 ends, two bowls each player. Failure to field 12 players shall result in a walk-over.
- 3.2.5 The CCC will arrange the schedule of dates for matches to be played in the sections and they will be printed in the County Yearbook.
- 3.2.6 The first named club in each round is the challenger. They are responsible for making any necessary arrangements to play.
- 3.2.7 No extension to the closing date for any round shall be granted under any circumstances.
- 3.2.8 Before the commencement of the match, the nominated captains will toss a coin for choice of jack (first end), the winner having the choice of keeping or giving the jack away. They will then toss a coin to nominate which rink will play the extra end. The winning captain will nominate the name of the skip to play the extra end. This must be declared prior to the match commencing. A further toss of a coin for choice of jack (extra end), the winner having the choice of keeping or giving the jack away should an extra end be necessary. The winner has the option to make the choice immediately or after the 21st end has been played. The total number of shots on both rinks shall determine the winner. In the event of a tie after 21 ends then an extra end shall be played by the nominated rink to determine the overall winner.
- 3.2.9 The Section Competitions Secretary must, unless there are extenuating circumstances, be informed of the results of matches played within the section knockout by 22:00 on the day the match is played.
- 3.2.10 The Section Final shall be played on a neutral green selected by the Section Competitions Secretary from the list of preferred greens prepared by the Section Greens Committee.
- 3.2.11 The final stages consisting of the draw for the semi-finals, the final and the 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> place play off will be played at a time set by the CCC on a green appointed by them.
- 3.2.12 If a game is stopped, either by the mutual agreement of the Captains, by the Greenkeeper or by the Umpire, after appeal to them on account of darkness or the conditions of the weather or any other valid reason, matches in which the total number of ends played equals or exceeds 36 shall be deemed to have been completed and the score will stand. In matches where the total number of ends played is less than 36, the tie shall be deemed to be void and the match will be replayed at a later date but before 24 hours of the scheduled next round matches. When a match is stopped by the Green-keeper play shall cease on all rinks simultaneously. Ends commenced but not completed shall be declared null and void.
- 3.2.13 Each club qualifying for the semi final stage shall make every endeavour to provide the County Competitions Secretary with the names of the 3 fours who are expected to play in the finals and also 3 nominated reserves by the Monday before the finals are played.
- 3.2.14 If any team withdraws at the semi or finals stage of the competition, the team that they had defeated in the section final shall be invited to take their place, and the team that withdraws may not be accepted in the following year's competitions.
- 3.2.15 A trophy will be presented to each club relating to their respective finishing position, which will be engraved and presented at the Annual Dinner.

### **3.3 COUNTY TWO RINK CUP**

- 3.3.1 The competition shall be open to all Clubs affiliated to the GBA. Clubs may enter more than one side. No player shall play for more than one club or more than one side in the competition during the same season.
- 3.3.2 All games will be played on a strict knockout basis.
- 3.3.3 The draw prior to the semi finals will be made by the CCC and is a county wide draw. The draw together with the closing date for each round will be published in the County Yearbook.
- 3.3.4 A club side shall consist of 2 rinks of 4 players, who must be affiliated to the club, and they shall play 21 ends, two bowls each player. Failure to field 8 players shall result in a walk-over.
- 3.3.5 The challenger must offer their opponents at least 3 reasonable dates, which should not include dates already set aside for rounds of County Championships, with a start time for play, at least one of which must be a Saturday or Sunday, allowing a minimum of two weeks prior to

- the end of the round. If a challenge has not been made within the specified period, the opposing side should make every effort to contact the challenger before claiming the game.
- 3.3.6 Before the commencement of the match, the nominated captains will toss a coin for choice of jack (first end), the winner having the choice of keeping or giving the jack away. They will then toss a coin to nominate which rink will play the extra end. The winning captain shall nominate the name of the skip to play the extra end. This must be declared prior to the match commencing. A further toss of a coin for choice of jack (extra end) should it be necessary. The winner has the option to make the choice immediately after the 21st end has been played. The total number of shots on both rinks shall determine the winner. In the event of a tie after 21 ends then an extra end shall be played by the nominated rink to determine the overall winner.
- 3.3.7 The result of games played prior to the semi finals should be sent to the relevant administrator of the Two Rink competition as per the instructions in the County Yearbook.
- 3.3.8 If a game is stopped, either by the mutual agreement of the players, by the Greenkeeper or by the Umpire, after appeal to them on account of darkness or the conditions of the weather or any other valid reason, matches in which the total number of ends played equals or exceeds 24 shall be deemed to have been completed and the score shall stand. In matches where the total number of ends played is less than 24, the match shall be deemed to be void and it will be replayed at a later date but before 24 hours of the scheduled next round matches. When a match is stopped by the Green-keeper play shall cease on all rinks simultaneously. Ends commenced but not completed shall be declared null and void.
- 3.3.9 The final stages consisting of the draw for the semi-finals, the final and the 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> place play off will be played at a time set by the CCC on a green appointed by them.
- 3.3.10 Each club qualifying for the semi final stage shall make every endeavour to provide the County Competitions Secretary with the names of the 2 fours who are expected to play in the finals and also 2 nominated reserves by the Monday before the finals are played.
- 3.3.11 If any team withdraws at the semi or finals stage of the competition, the team that they had defeated at the immediately previous stage will be invited to take their place, and the team that withdraws may not be accepted in the following year's competition.
- 3.3.12 A trophy will be presented to each club relating to their respective finishing position, which will be engraved and presented at the Annual Dinner.

#### **3.4 COUNTY CHAMPION OF CHAMPIONS**

- 3.4.1 The competition shall be open to all clubs affiliated to the GBA.
- 3.4.2 Players eligible to enter must be the Club 4 wood singles champion, nominated by their club.
- 3.4.3 The Entries shall be made on the appropriate County Competitions Summary form by the Club Secretary. In the event of the Club Champion leaving his Club before his entry is made the Club may enter the name of their Four Wood singles runner-up. If a player who has been entered by his Club (A) leaves that club during the closed season and joins a new club (B) he is automatically disqualified from the competition. Club (A) may however enter their four bowls singles runner-up as a substitute for their Club Champion providing the name of the substitute is made available to the County competition Secretary before the end of March.
- 3.4.4 The challenger must offer their opponents at least 3 reasonable dates, which should not include dates already set aside for rounds of County Championships, with a start time for play, at least one of which must be a Saturday or Sunday, within 72 hours of being notified of their next opponents
- 3.4.5 Each match shall be 21 shots, 4 bowls each player.
- 3.4.6 Games will initially be played in sections and the section winner will go forward to play in the County Champion of Champions Semi-Finals on a date to be set by the County Competitions Committee. The Final will be played on the day set aside for all County Finals.
- 3.4.7 If a player withdraws at the semi or finals stage of the competition, the player that they had defeated in the section final will be invited to take their place, and the player that withdraws may not be accepted as a competitor in the following year's competition.
- 3.4.8 A trophy will be presented to the winner and runner-up which will be engraved and presented at the Annual Dinner.