

GENERAL COMPETITION RULES

1. All games shall be played under the laws adopted and published by the English Bowling Federation.
2. The Suffolk County Bowls Association shall have the power to deal with all matters not covered by these rules.
3. All entries for the competitions shall be drawn in the County Areas referred to in Articles E. 1 and E. 2 of the constitution and shall be played under knock-out rules.
4. Byes shall be restricted to the preliminary and first rounds only.
5. In County Competitions each Area Executive Committee shall arrange the dates by which rounds in its Area shall be completed and shall carry the competitions through all stages up to the Area Finals. Details of the winners of the Area Finals shall be notified by the Honorary Area Secretary to the Honorary Match Secretary so that the necessary arrangements can be made for them to represent the Area in the County Semi-Finals and Finals.
6. All players in all County competitions shall be bona fide members of a club and shall be registered with the appropriate Honorary Area Secretary in writing seven days prior to any match. All lists of members for registration shall be in alphabetical order and in triplicate, one copy to be duly certified and returned to the Club Honorary Secretary for display on the Club notice board. No competitor may enter County competitions from more than one Club in any year to include Senior & Junior Cups.
7. Where a competitor has entered a pairs or rinks competition as a named player and the entry bearing his/her name has been included in the draw, he / she cannot afterwards play in place of another player in the same competition irrespective of whether or not he / she has actually played in his/her original team.
8. All competitions except for the Senior Cup and Junior Cup, Mixed Pairs, Senior Mixed Pairs, Mixed Rinks and Under 25s Open Pairs, are for male members only
9. On receipt of notification from the Honorary Area Secretary the home player or skip shall within two days offer his opponent at least two dates on which the match is to be played, failure of the home player to contact his opponent, the away player has the right to offer dates, such dates shall be different days of the week; or shall offer three dates, (one of which may be a Sunday), dates / times offered must be after 6.30pm Monday to Friday and 2.00pm on a Saturday, unless by mutual agreement, these dates must be accepted within two days. The dates offered may be on or after 1st May unless a prior date is mutually agreed by the competitors. If one of the dates offered should be a date when an opponent is involved in a Senior/Junior Cup match for his Club or an official County game or on official County duty, then the opponent may require his challenger to offer him one further date. Any dispute will be decided by the area committee.
10. Exceptionally the requirements in the first sentence of Rule 9 for an offer of dates to be made within two days of receiving the competition card need not apply where such a card is received more than two weeks in advance of the opening of the club green at the start of the season, but such an offer should

- be made not later than two weeks in advance of the opening of the green.
11. Two or more rinks shall be offered, where available, for play by the home player or skip. A referee from the club where the match is being played may be agreed by both players before play starts.
 12. All games must be completed by the date arranged and any player or club failing to play, other than by reason of improper dress of an opponent, shall forfeit the game. Any question in dispute shall be settled by the Area Executive Committee.
 13. In the event of a match being unfinished owing to rain or other cause deemed sufficient by the Area Executive Committee or County Executive Committee as appropriate, it shall be replayed in its entirety unless at least seventy-five per cent of the total number of ends has been completed or seventy-five per cent of the total number of shots required in singles competitions (i.e. 16 shots) has been obtained by either player, in which case the score at the state of abandonment shall be taken as the final score. In a replayed team match players shall, if possible, be the same as before but if either side finds it impossible to play the same rinks, substitutes shall be permitted. Unless abandonment of an individual's match has been agreed either by both players in a singles, or skips in a pairs or rinks competition then the match is considered to have been conceded by the player / skip who leaves the green.
 14. Immediately after the match the winning competitor or skip shall notify the result to the Honorary Area Secretary by telephone, text or email and with all the players names. Failure to do so may mean the elimination of that player or pair or triple from the competition.
 15. Any club team playing an unregistered player shall be disqualified from the competition. This also applies to players in singles competitions.
 16. Any player who whilst registered with a club, and having played County competitions from that club during the current season, plays a County competition for another club shall be disqualified from all his/her County competitions for that season and the following three seasons.
 17. The draw, the venue and dates for Area Semi-finals and Finals and County Semi Finals and Finals shall be made prior to the commencement of the competitions. The Semi-Finals will normally be played on one day and the Finals on another but the Area Executive Committee or the County Executive Committee as appropriate reserves the right to ask a player or players to play their match in the Area or County Semi-Finals or Finals on a different date where circumstances justify it. These arrangements do not apply to the Senior Cup or Junior Cup competitions — see Rule 3 of the Senior and Junior Cup Rules.
 18. In Singles events any player failing to play in Area or County Semi-Finals and Finals, except for illness or exceptional circumstances, shall be expelled from all County Competitions for two years, (unless the player has not played in a previous round) This ruling only applies to Individual Competitions coming under the direct control of the Suffolk County Bowls Association.
 - 19 In pairs and rinks competitions a substitute may be used and only that named

substitute may be used in any subsequent rounds of the competition including national finals. The circumstances in which a substitute may be used in these competitions are described below under the relevant competition headings. In the event of all the players in a pairs or rinks being unavailable for Area Semi Finals, Finals or County Semi Finals or Finals they will be expelled from all County competitions for two years.

- 20 In the event of a player, owing to sickness or other exceptional circumstances, needing to withdraw from a match (other than singles) that has already started, a substitute may be allowed to take his or her place provided that the substitute meets the requirements of General Competition Rule 7 and the other rules governing substitution as stated below under the relevant competition headings, and that both sides agree to the substitution.
- 20b Any Suffolk County Champion or Champions failing to fulfil a fixture at the National championships, other than for Illness or Exceptional circumstances, shall not have their entries for county competitions accepted for a minimum period of 2 years. They will also be ineligible for Area or County team selection for the same period. Bringing the game into Disrepute.
- 20c Any bowler found guilty of bringing the game in to disrepute by Suffolk County Bowls Association should be entitled to an appeal as per 1.12 9.3 & 9.4 page 32, Shall be liable to expulsion / suspension, from the County Association for a period agreed by the Executive committee.
- 21 The holder of any of the Association cups or trophies is required to return them on request.
- 22 Where the Area or County Secretary has been made aware that competitors, be it in a Singles, Pairs or Rinks competition, will not be contesting an Area or County Semi Final or Final, then their opponents will not be required to attend at the green as a pre-requisite to being awarded the game. It shall not be possible to reverse the withdrawal of a contestant once the Area or County Secretary has received the notice of withdrawal by letter, email or text.

ADDITIONAL RULES FOR SINGLES COMPETITIONS

- 1 **4 Bowl Singles.** In any 4 bowl singles game no player will be allowed to visit the head until both players have played 2 bowls.
- Veterans Singles.** Entrants must be 60 years of age or over on 1 May of the year in which the competition is played.
- Under-25s Singles.** Entrants must be under 25 years of age on the final date of the National Championships.
- Champion of Champions Singles.** This competition is for the winner of a club men's 2-bowl singles competition played under SCBA rules in the previous year, he is only eligible to enter from the club of which he is the champion.
- Secretaries Singles.** To be eligible for this competition a competitor must be in a post as the registered secretary of a county association, county association area or club at the start of the season
2. The home player shall supply a marker for **ALL** singles competitions.

ADDITIONAL RULES FOR PAIRS AND RINKS COMPETITIONS

1. All competitors in pairs and rinks competitions, except mixed pairs and mixed rinks, must come from the same affiliated club.
2. The two players in pairs, or the three players in rinks, taking part in the first game shall constitute the pair or rink and should normally play together throughout the competition including the national finals.
3. If however, owing to illness or any other exceptional reason, a player is unable to play, permission should be obtained from the Area Secretary to allow a substitute to play. Whether or not this is done the opponents must be told of the substitution prior to the start of the game and the name of the substitute must be entered on the result card and duly signed. Any protest by the opponents must be made within 24 hours of the game being played.
4. The substitute must be eligible to play in the competition and must not have played in another pair or rink as the case may be. Only the named player used as a substitute on the first occasion may play in any subsequent round for either of the two players in a pairs game or any of the three players in a rinks game.

ADDITIONAL RULES FOR MIXED PAIRS COMPETITIONS

1. The mixed pair shall consist of one male and one female competitor. The male shall be a member of a club affiliated to the Suffolk County Bowls Association and the female competitor shall be a member of a club affiliated to the Suffolk County Women's Bowls Association. The competitors need not be members of the same club but must be members of a club from the same area
2. The male competitor must be responsible for the entry and his club will be considered the 'home' club for the purpose of the draw.
3. The two players taking part in the first game shall constitute the pair and should normally play together throughout the competition including the national finals.
4. If however, owing to illness or any other exceptional reason, a player is unable to play, permission should be obtained from the Area Secretary to allow a substitute to play. Whether or not this is done the opponents must be told of the substitution prior to the start of the game and the name of the substitute must be entered on the result card and duly signed. Any protest by the opponents must be made within 24 hours of the game being played.
5. Two substitutes may be used — a male substitute for the male player and a female substitute for the female player — but at least one player from the original mixed pair must play in each round which means that only one substitute may be used at any one time. The substitutes must not have played in another mixed pair, must be eligible to play in the competition, and must come from the same club as the substituted player. Only the two named players used as substitutes on the first occasion may play in any subsequent round — the male still only substituting for the male player and the female still only substituting for the female player.
6. Senior Mixed Pairs. The male competitor must be at least 60 years of age and the female must be at least 60 years of age on the 1st May of the year in which the competition is being played.

ADDITIONAL RULES FOR MIXED RINKS COMPETITIONS

1. The mixed rink shall consist of one male and two female competitors or one female and two male competitors. Each male competitor shall be a member of a club affiliated to the Suffolk County Bowls Association and each female competitor shall be a member of a club affiliated to the Suffolk County Women's Bowls Association. Where two male competitors constitute the mixed rink they must be members of the same club and where two female members constitute the mixed rink they too must be members of the same club but not necessarily the same club as the male competitors but must be members of a club from the same area.
2. A male competitor will be responsible for the entry and his club will be considered the 'home' club for the purpose of the draw.
3. The three players taking part in the first game shall constitute the rink and should normally play together throughout the competition including the national finals. At least one of the original three players must be included in the block.
4. If however, owing to illness or any other exceptional reason, a player is unable to play, permission should be obtained from the Area Secretary to allow a substitute to play. Whether or not this is done the opponents must be told of the substitution prior to the start of the game and the name of the substitute must be entered on the result card and duly signed. Any protest by the opponents must be made within 24 hours of the game being played.
5. Two substitutes may be used — a male to substitute for the male player and a female to substitute for the female player — but at least two players from the original mixed rink (except where two players play against three) must play in each round which means that only one substitute may be used at any one time. The substitutes must not have played in another mixed rink, must be eligible to play in the competition, and must come from the same club as the substituted player. The male substitute may play for either of the male players where two males play and the female substitute may play for either of the female players where two females play. Only the two named players used as substitutes on the first occasion may play in any subsequent round — the male still only substituting for the male player and the female still only substituting for the female player.

ADDITIONAL RULES FOR UNDER 25s

OPEN PAIRS COMPETITION

6. A pair may consist of either two males, two females or a male and female player and that substitutes may be of either sex; players do not need to be members of the same club, but must be from the same area "except where a club is affiliated to SCBA in one area and to SCWBA in a different area and must be under 25 years of age on the final date of the National Championships. The named player will be responsible for the entry and his/her club will be considered the home club for the purposes of the draw.