

SUSSEX COUNTY BOWLS - MEN'S SECTION

GENERAL RULES

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1. COUNTY COMPETITIONS

a. Eligibility, Conduct & Obligations

- (i) The Competitions shall be confined to any clubs who are member clubs of the Association in accordance with Sussex County Bowls - Men's Section - Constitution Section 3 – MEMBERSHIP.
- (ii) Every competitor must be a bona-fide member of the club he represents and shall not allow his name to be submitted for more than one club in any one year in the Competitions.
 - a) Every club must submit to the County Secretary prior to 30th April in each year, a full list of male members and updates to that list shall be notified as additional members join.
 - b) Any player who participates in any Competition who has not been so notified to the County Secretary will be deemed an ineligible player and relevant penalties applied.
- (iii) A player can represent only one club in County Competitions in any one year, except that the Male Club Champion of the immediate past season may enter the Champion of Champions competition from the Club to which he belonged when he won the Championship.
- (iv) In all Team events, other than the Under 25 Pairs, all players MUST come from the same Club and must represent the same Club from which all other National Championship events have been entered. **Any team which includes an ineligible player will be disqualified, and their opponents will progress to the next round.**
- (v) Players entering the local heats of County and National Competitions must only do so, with the express intention of attending the County, Home Counties and the National Finals if they qualify. Players who qualify and do not attend the Finals may be subject to disciplinary action.
 - a) If for a legitimate reason a player is unable to attend for a match being played at any stage of the Competition, from local heats right through to and including at the National Championships – then he must ensure that the Competition Secretary or County Secretary –is notified at the earliest possible opportunity of the reasons why he is unable to attend. **His opponent must also be notified in sufficient time to avoid the opponent from travelling unnecessarily.**

- (b) It is the responsibility of the player to ensure that one of the above officers - and his opponent - have received this information and the fact that an email has been sent or a message left on an answerphone is not deemed sufficient. The player must obtain confirmation that the information has been received.
 - (c) If a player does not attend and has failed to ensure that the reasons for his non-attendance has been received by one of the above two officers, or if his reason for non-attendance is not considered acceptable, in such circumstances he may be barred from entering in future years that County and National Competition or in extreme cases all County and National Competitions under the auspices of Sussex County Bowls for a period of up to three years commencing on the date of notification. In a "play by date" competition, failure to contact an opponent, or failure to respond to a contact, resulting in the tie not being played by the given date, shall be considered as non-attendance within this and succeeding clauses. If the fault of the player in not attending, is that of his Club, then the player shall not be penalised.
 - (d) Prior to any decision being made, the player or Club shall be asked for an explanation by the person responsible for managing that competition. Any explanations provided, will then be considered with the basic facts of the situation by the Competition Secretary or in his absence the Secretary and a decision will be given in writing. Any appeal arising, concerning a ban for future years, should be made within fourteen days of the decision being notified to the player and Club involved, and will be dealt with through the Secretary, as an emergency matter as defined in the Men's Section Constitution Section 5 (e).
- (vi) Dress. See Section 5A below for the Dress Code for all stages of County Competitions.

b. Provisions

- (i) All Competitions shall be played under the Laws of the International Bowling Board and the Rules and Regulations of Bowls England, except where otherwise provided by these rules and shall be under the management of the Executive Committee of the Sussex County Bowls (Men's Section).
- (ii) The green shall be in accordance with the current Laws of the Game, as adopted by the World Bowls Board, and in accordance with the Bye-Laws currently laid down by Bowls England.
- (iii) Two trial ends will be allowed in all Competitions.
- (iv) On the day of a Competition or tie no player shall play on the rink before such Competition starts, except in the trial ends.
- (v) Bowls used to be in accordance with the "Laws of the Game".
- (vi) Notification of intention to enter, accompanied by the entrance fees, must reach the Divisional Competition Secretary not later than 31st October in the year prior to the competition. No club or member thereof shall take part in any of these Competitions until the Annual Subscription and entrance fees have been paid.
- (vii) The start time for all Competitions shall be 6 pm, other than for the Under 25 Pairs which shall have a start time of 7pm), unless mutually agreed otherwise by both players/teams, or as notified by the organiser for any 'Single day Competitions'. The standard 30 minutes 'grace time' shall be allowed.
- (viii) When any match reaches a stage where it is no longer possible for one of the players to win, the match shall be terminated.
- (ix) For all competitions that are initially under the control of this County, The 'Challenger' is defined as the first named (or topmost) player or team, of any pair of names/teams on any draw sheet for County/National Competitions. The second named is defined as the 'Opponent'.
- (x) **Draw for Rinks**

It is a requirement of World Bowls and Bowls England that players undertake a draw for rinks. Laws of the Sport of Bowls - para 3.

- (a) HOME PLAYERS/TEAMS **SHALL NOT** SELECT THE RINK ON WHICH **ANY** COMPETITION IS TO BE PLAYED. **For ALL Competitions, sufficient rinks must be made available for a draw for rinks to take place. Rinks CANNOT be allocated to individual games or disciplines in advance.**
- (b) Rinks shall be notified to the opponent(s) and a draw shall take place to decide on which rink - the/each of the - Competition(s) is to be played.
- (c) Where more than one competition is due to be played at the same time then the draw shall take place when the majority of the opposing competitors are present. **NB This allows for the draw to take place and matches to commence on time, if one opponent is late for any reason.**
- (d) In a team or side game where more than one rink is to be used, the rinks should preferably be consecutive and not interspersed with other games being played.
- (e) Any competitor/s who is/are not offered a draw for rinks on which the game is to be played, should report the fact to the Divisional or County Competition Secretary and subject to investigation any home player who is found to have failed to offer a draw for rinks – can expect to be disqualified unless there are sufficient extenuating circumstances.
- (f) In County One Day event Competitions, and for Quarter, Semi and Finals Day(s), the Competition Secretary (as Representative of the Controlling body) shall make the draw for rinks to be used.
- (g) A Set of cards or numbered discs, numbered from 1 to 6 shall be held by each club and the numbers for - **all the rinks that are options to be used** - shall then be used. Opponents should be notified of which rinks are available.

For a team game randomly paired Scorecards shall be placed on a table. **Only the opposing players may make selections for rinks - from cards or discs on which the rink number is not visible.**

Discs or cards may be in a bag or face down on a table. The rink(s) to be used shall then be drawn, **by the opposing player(s)** taking a disc or a card and that shall be the rink on which the game shall be played. In the case of a team game the relevant number of discs or cards shall be taken and placed on the randomly paired Scorecards and that shall be the rink on which each of those games is to be played.

If more than one game is to take place and an opposing player is not present when the draw takes place, one of the other opposing players must at the same time, draw a rink number for that match.

NB: Bowls England have clarified that a club may 'set aside' a number of rinks (3/4) that are required to enable an authorised external league match to taken place that may commence after National or County Competitions are due to start - but sufficient rinks must always remain to enable a draw for rinks to take place, for any competitions due to be played.

c. Questions and Disputes

- (i) Any question or dispute concerning competitions shall initially be made to either the relevant Divisional or County Competition Secretary, by one of the players concerned. Where related to the result of a match played, the dispute shall be lodged on the day of the disputed result, and confirmed in writing by email to both the Divisional and the County Competition Secretary, either by the player concerned or through one of the two nominated email contacts for his club, by mid-day of the following day. The written dispute shall include a clear statement of the point at issue together with a copy of any documentary evidence that may exist.
- (ii) The County Competition Secretary shall determine all questions and disputes that may arise and which do not come within the scope of the Umpire's duties. On disputes which could involve the reinstatement of a defeated appellant, the Competition Secretary shall inform his decision to the appellant, or to the club email contact, by email without undue delay.
- (iii) Any appeal against the Competition Secretary's decision shall be lodged to the County Secretary (with copy to the Competition Secretary) within 48 hours of the disputed decision being issued. The club or competitor lodging the appeal must provide full reasons and basis of the dispute, together with a

deposit in the sum of £10 which will be forfeited should the application be considered groundless, frivolous or vexatious.

d. Divisions

- i) The County shall be divided into four Divisions, 1, 2, 3 and 4.
- ii) A Divisional Competition Secretary, for each division, shall be elected at the AGM.
- iii) The Divisional Competition Secretaries shall be responsible to the Hon. Competition Secretary.

e. Championship Format

FIXED DATE - COMPETITIONS

See Rule G. re Substitutions in the Pairs, Triples and Fours Championships.

(i) SINGLES CHAMPIONSHIP

Each game shall consist of 21 shots (4 bowls each player). The winner will hold the Towner Cup and receive a commemorative blazer flash. His club will receive a commemorative pennant. The runner-up will hold the Hollis Cup.

(ii) PAIRS CHAMPIONSHIP

Each game shall consist of 21 ends (4 bowls each player). In the event of a tie an extra end must be played, the shots of this end to count in the final score. The winners will hold the John Carter Cup and each receive a commemorative blazer flash. Their club will receive a commemorative pennant. The runners-up will hold the two Rowland Cups.

(iii) TRIPLES CHAMPIONSHIP

Each game shall consist of 18 ends (3 bowls each player). In the event of a tie an extra end must be played, the shots of this end to count in the final score. The winners will hold the Madeira Cup and each receive a commemorative blazer flash. Their club will receive a commemorative pennant. The runners-up will hold the Herbert Cup.

(iv) FOURS CHAMPIONSHIP

Each game shall consist of 21 ends (2 bowls each player). In the event of a tie an extra end must be played, the shots of this end to count in the final score. The winners will hold the George Clark Cup and each receive a commemorative blazer flash. Their club will receive a commemorative pennant. The runners-up will hold the Galloway Cup.

(v) 2 WOOD SINGLES CHAMPIONSHIP

Each game shall consist of 21 ends (2 woods each player). The winner will hold the Wadey and Wilkins Trophy and receive a commemorative blazer flash. His Club will receive a commemorative pennant. The runner up will hold the Runners Up Trophy.

(vi) SINGLES (UNBADGED) COMPETITION

Entry is open to any member of an affiliated Club who is not entitled to wear any full outdoor County Blazer badge. Each game shall consist of 21 shots (4 bowls each player). The winner will hold the Richfield Cup. The winner will receive a commemorative blazer flash. His club will receive a commemorative pennant. The runner up will hold the Spires Rose Bowl.

(vii) DOUBLE FOURS COMPETITION (The Abergavenny Cup)

Each club shall be represented by eight players, who may be substituted in different rounds by players of the same club. Except in the Final, one Four shall play at home and one Four on the opponents green. Each game shall consist of 21 ends (2 bowls each player), but an extra end must be played on the green of the Challenger with a toss of a coin to decide who shall take the mat. The shots of this end to count in the event of a tie in the game proper. The winning club will hold the Abergavenny Cup and receive a commemorative pennant. The runners up will hold the Tithe Barn Cup.

PLAY BY DATE - COMPETITIONS

In the following Competitions the following arrangements will apply:

- (i) In the preliminary/first round – WHERE THIS IS THE FIRST GAME – the challenger must contact his opponent at least two weeks before the closing date of the round, offering three dates, one of which must be a Saturday or Sunday.
- (ii) For all subsequent rounds, the 'Challenger, must offer to his opponent – within three days – after the closing date for the previous round - three dates, one of which must be a Saturday or Sunday.
- (iii) If the 'Challenger' fails to contact the Opponent and take action as described in (i) or (ii) above, then the opponent becomes the 'Challenger' and assumes home advantage. He is required to offer - within a further three days of either of the dates as quoted above - three dates, one of which must be a Saturday or Sunday, and at the same time shall inform the Competition Secretary in charge of that competition that he is invoking this rule, and has accepted the responsibilities of now being the challenger.
- (iv) If the 'Challenger', or an opponent either when he is the opponent or when if he subsequently becomes the 'Challenger', is unable to make contact with the opponent within the specified time limits, he MUST attempt contact through the opponents Club Secretary and notify the Competition Secretary or DCS, of his inability to contact the opponent in order to avoid being penalised as in (v) or (vi) below.
- (v) Failure by an 'opponent' (either original or 'challenger' who subsequently becomes the opponent due to default as in (iii) above), to accept one of the three dates offered, within 48 hours of contact being made, shall result in the current 'Challenger' going through to the next round.
- (vi) If neither player makes contact to offer dates then both players will be disqualified.

NB Whilst messages left on answerphone or emails sent are an acceptable means to attempt contact they are not 'proof of contact', so if no reply is received from such methods, then actual verbal contact with the player must be made and if such contact cannot be made the player's Club Secretary must be approached. This will enable 'proof' that an attempt has been made to contact the opponent.

(v) **UNDER 25's SINGLES CHAMPIONSHIP**

Open to all players who have not attained the age of 25 on 1st April in the year in which the Championship is held. The format will be first player to 21 shots using 4 bowls. The winner will hold the Gordon Cummings Cup and receive a commemorative blazer flash. His club will receive a commemorative pennant. The runner-up will hold the Harry Gould Cup.

(vi) **UNDER 25's PAIRS CHAMPIONSHIP**

Open to all players who have not attained the age of 25 on 1st April in the year in which the Championship is held. The format will be 18 ENDS using 4 bowls. The winners will hold the **Sussex County Bowls Under 25 Pairs Cup** and receive a commemorative blazer flash. His club will receive a commemorative pennant. The runner-up will hold the **Sussex County Bowls Under 25 Pairs Runners Up Cup**.

Bowls England 'recommend' that the start time for the Junior Pairs will be no earlier than 7pm on a weekday (unless mutually agreed otherwise). The two players, may be from different Clubs, but they must both be affiliated to Clubs within the same County and have entered all other National Championship events from the same County.

(vii) **CHAMPION OF CHAMPIONS COMPETITION**

Open to the male club champion of the immediate past season. No substitute will be permitted. The winner will receive a commemorative blazer flash. The winner will hold the L.S. Goodger Trophy for one year. His club will receive a commemorative pennant. The runner-up will hold the A & F Trophy. The format of play is first to 21 shots (4 bowls each).

(viii) **SENIOR FOURS CHAMPIONSHIP**

Open to all players who have attained the age of 55 on 1st April in the year in which the Championship is held. Each game shall consist of 21 ends (2 bowls each player). In the event of a tie an extra end must be played, the shots of this end to count in the final score. The winners will hold the **Past**

Presidents Cup and each receive a commemorative blazer flash. Their club will receive a commemorative pennant. The runners-up will hold the **Past Presidents Salver**.

f. Bowls England National Championships and Home Counties Bowls Association Championships

Winners of Singles, 2 Wood Singles, Pairs, Triples, Fours, Senior Fours, and Under 25's Singles and Pairs, will represent the County at the Bowls England National Championships and with the Exception of the Senior Fours, Two Wood Singles and Under 25 Pairs in the Home Counties Bowling Association Championships.

Additionally, the losing Finalists in the Singles, 2 Wood Singles, Pairs, Triples and Fours will represent the County at the Bowls England National Championships. The winner of the Under 25's Singles will represent the County in the Bowls England National Junior Singles Regional finals and beyond.

g. Substitutes

- (i) In Pairs, Triples and Fours, the players taking part in the first game shall constitute the team and shall normally play together throughout the Championship.
- (ii) One additional, and the same player, may be used as a substitute at any time provided he has not already played in the Championship. He may play in any position.
- (iii) The named entrant conceding a walk-over before their first game in any Championship cannot act as a substitute in that Championship, as this is considered a game played and lost.
- (iv) The named entrant of a team cannot be a member or substitute of any other team in the same Championship.
- (v) If a substitute is required during a game then the rules in the Laws of the Sport of Bowls apply.

h. The Draw

- (i) The County Competition Secretary shall be responsible for making the Draw by computer and shall fix dates for playing of the ties. No extension beyond the dates fixed will be allowed except as after-mentioned in Rule h (iv) but competitors may mutually agree to play their ties before the date and times fixed and inform the appropriate Divisional Competition Secretary.
- (ii) If the Draw provides a club with more home ties on a due date than there are home rinks available, every effort shall be made by the club's committee to bring forward the time and/or date of enough ties to resolve the overcrowding, as provided for in (a) above. If the club's committee decides that this is not practicable, then and only then it shall conduct a draw to allot the home ties. The excess ties shall then be played **FIRSTLY** (i) on a neutral green or greens or **SECONDLY** (ii) on the Opponent's green. It shall be the responsibility, in these circumstances, for the home club to make all necessary arrangements and to keep the competitors informed. Home green priority should be offered to players from the same club who are drawn against each other.
- (iii) The Draw for all Competitions will be published on the County website; winners will be notified of their next opponents through club Honorary Secretaries and/or direct by e-mail.
- (iv) Any game that is unable to be played to its completion (unfinished game) will recommence from the last completed end, unless either team concedes the match - and will be played in accordance with v) below.

In a team event only the game(s) that are unable to be completed shall be stopped, other games shall continue if the conditions allow.

In the Double Fours substitute players may be used to complete the game if the original players are not available.

- (v) All unfinished or unplayed games (owing to climatic conditions) to be played on the same green two days later than the date originally fixed by the committee, unless mutually agreed upon to play previously. If any of the competitors in a postponed match are unable to play within two days because of involvement in other County Competitions the match must be played at 6.00pm on the next weekday evening on which all competitors are free from County Competition commitments, and if none available, at 10.00am on the next Saturday. If either team or player declines to play on the next available date the other team or player shall receive a walkover. This extension does not apply to

involvement in the County Double Fours Competition as that Competition allows for unlimited substitution.

Trial ends are allowed in all postponed games. If the Green Ranger or Grounds man declares the green fit for play, all games thereon must be played on the date and competitors refusing to play will be scratched. An extension of time will be allowed to any competitor or competitors engaged in County Competitions who may be selected to represent their country in any event in Great Britain, which may bring honour to the County and to competitors selected to play in Middleton Cup matches subject to the approval of the Competition Secretary or Divisional Competition Secretaries. The Divisional Competition Secretary shall immediately fix a date (mutually agreed if possible) to play off the postponed tie or ties in the Competition or Competitions.

- (vi) If a party is not ready to play within 30 minutes after the time fixed for the tie, the other party may claim a walk-over and the offending party not having reported his non-appearance to either his opponent or his Divisional Competition Secretary prior to the tie, will be subject to action in accordance with previous para a. (v). The claim for a walk-over must be made to the Divisional Competition Secretary as soon as possible after the period of grace has expired on the evening the tie was due to take place.

i. Preliminary Stage

- (i) Each Division shall be drawn together and play through until the last 2 in each of the four Divisions.
- (ii) The Challenger shall play on his own or Opponent's green, unless mutually agreed to play on a neutral green.
- (iii) The Challenger must pay green fees, if any, except in the Double Fours Competition where the Rink playing on own green shall pay the fees, if any, of the visiting rink.

j. Final Stage

The four Divisions 1, 2, 3 and 4 will be drawn together and with the exception of the Double Fours Competition will play on greens appointed by the County Competition Secretary, in the case of the Double Fours Competition, if it is mutually agreed by the clubs concerned, the Quarter and Semi- Finals may be played on a green appointed by the County Competition Secretary.

k. Finals Day

- a) Finals of all SCB (Men's Section) Championships and Competitions will be played on a Finals Day(s), the venue to be at the discretion of the President (Men's Section).
- b) If for religious reasons a finalist objects to playing on a particular day, other arrangements can be made.

l. Notification of Results

- (i) Results of each round MUST be notified – by the winning team/player - by telephone, e-mail or text SMS message as soon as possible – THE SAME EVENING after completion of the game - to the Divisional Competition Secretary (DCS) - for all competitions other than the Under 25's Competitions where they are to be notified direct to the County Competition Secretary.
- (ii) If the result IS submitted by email or text SMS message the names of the team members of both teams, who took part in the match MUST ALSO BE INCLUDED and THE SIGNED RESULT CARD FOR THE MATCH must be retained, UNTIL AFTER FINALS DAY, for future reference in case of a query.
- (iii) If the result of the match and the full details of team members who took part in the match, ARE NOT submitted by email or text SMS message - then a scanned copy of the scorecards or the score cards themselves, signed by both teams MUST BE in the possession of the Competition Secretary (U25's) or the Divisional Competition Secretary within 24 hours. See N.B. below re 'loss of cards'.
- (iv) Failure by a player/team to notify the result within the timescale as required in sub para (i) above - will on the first occasion result in the player/team being reminded of their responsibility and a second failure is liable to result in disqualification.

- (v) Failure by a player/team to ensure that the DCS is in possession of the names of players who took part in a match to enable a check of eligibility to be carried out - prior to the next round – is liable to result in disqualification.
- (vi) Content of Scorecards: Scorecards **MUST BE** completed by players at the same end of the rink and must be checked and agreed against one another and the scoreboard - at regular intervals. On completion of the match they **MUST BE** signed by both players/teams after the total shots and result have been agreed. It is the responsibility of the players to ensure that the correct number of ends was played and the score recorded is correct - and the score and number of ends - as recorded on the cards will be final result and will determine the winning player/team - unless in exceptional circumstances the Emergency Committee decide otherwise.
- (vii) Where cards have been retained by the winning team/player and where a scanned copy has not been forwarded to the Competition Secretary (or DCS) - a request is received from the Competition Secretary that those cards be forwarded to him - then arrangements **MUST** be made for those cards to be in the possession of the Competition Secretary within 48 hours of the request. Any team/player that fails to comply with such a request is liable to be disqualified.

NB It is the responsibility of the team/player to ensure that result cards reach the Comp. Sec. or DCS as and when required and 'lost in the post' WILL NOT be accepted as a reason for non-compliance. CARDS CAN BE FORWARDED AS A SCANNED COPY OR ARRANGMENTS MADE FOR THEM TO BE DELIVERED.

m. Markers and Umpires

The challengers to be responsible for appointing Markers in the early stages of the Singles competitions. In the Final Stages the County Competition Secretary/County Umpire Co-ordinator will appoint Markers and Umpires.

n. Trophies

The Trophies will be presented to the winners on Finals Day of the Association to hold until the 30th June the following year or as otherwise requested in writing by the Honorary Secretary of the Association. A satisfactory guarantee must be given to the Association that they will be kept in the clubhouse or the home of a committee member of the Association or of a cup holder in accordance with the terms of the Association's Insurance Policy, and returned in good order and condition appropriately engraved.

o. Entrance Fees

The entrance fees for the County Championships and Competitions shall be determined annually by the Executive Committee.

p. Alteration of Rules

Alterations of or additions to all or any of the foregoing Rules shall be made only at the Annual General Meeting or at a Special General Meeting convened for that purpose. Written notice of the terms of the proposed alterations must be sent to the Honorary Secretary not later than four weeks prior to the date of such meeting, and notice of such proposed alteration shall be sent to each Club with the notice convening the meeting.

q. Notification of Rules

It is the duty of every Club to ensure that each of its members is aware of these rules.

2. COUNTY BLAZER BADGES AND FLASHES - AWARD PROCEDURES

a. County Badge Award Procedure

To be awarded a County Badge a player will be required to achieve one of the following:

- (i) Be selected and play in a Middleton Cup Match;
- (ii) Achieve a total of nine 'credit points' earned as detailed in para c. below.
- (iii) Be elected President of Sussex County Bowls - Men's Section.

NB: Any other Officer who is not a County badged player, will automatically be entitled to wear the County Blazer Badge for the duration of his time in office, but will no longer be entitled to wear the County Blazer Badge when he leaves office – **unless** - during that time he has become a County badged player, is elected as an Hon. Member, or is authorised by the GPC to continue to wear the County Blazer Badge.

b. Award of County Colt Badge and Middleton Cup and Home Counties League Flashes

- (i) On achieving a total of four 'credit points' a player shall be awarded his County Colt Badge.
- (ii) On completion of three Middleton Cup matches a player shall be awarded a Middleton Cup Flash.
- (iii) On completion of three Home Counties League matches a player shall be awarded a Home Counties League Flash.

c. Credit Awards towards the County Blazer Badge

(i) In the County Singles, 2 Wood Singles, Pairs, Triples, Fours or Senior Fours:

Any player who has played in - at least TWO rounds - prior to playing in any of the following rounds - will receive A CREDIT OF ONE (accumulative) POINT for each/any of the following rounds in which he plays:

- (a) the last eight in their Division;
- (b) The last four in their Division;
- (c) the Quarter Finals;
- (d) the Semi-Final;
- (e) the Final.

Any player who had played in - at least **THREE** rounds – prior to playing in the Quarter or Semi Final - will receive **A CREDIT OF ONE ADDITIONAL (accumulative) POINT** for each/any of these two rounds in which he plays;

Any player who had played in - at least **THREE** rounds – prior to playing in the Final - will receive **A CREDIT OF TWO ADDITIONAL (accumulative) POINTS** - and the award of a County Badge.

(ii) In the Champion of Champions and Unbadged Singles:

Any player who has played in - at least TWO rounds - prior to playing in any of the following rounds - will receive A CREDIT OF ONE (accumulative) POINT for each/any of the following rounds in which he plays:

- (a) the last four in their Division;
- (b) the Quarter Final;
- (c) the Semi-Final;
- (d) the Final

Any player who had played in - at least **THREE** rounds – prior to playing in the Semi final or Final - will receive **A CREDIT OF ONE ADDITIONAL (accumulative) POINT** for each/any of these two rounds in which he plays:

(iii) In the Under 25 Singles and Pairs

- (a) Is/Are the Winner(s) - a credit of - **three points**.
- (b) Is/are the losing finalist – a credit of - **two points**.

NB. These points are accumulative, round by round.

i(v) In Home Counties League Matches

- (a) A player will be awarded a credit of – **2 points** - for each Home Counties League match that he plays in, provided he was a member of the initial team selected and notified.

d. Award of Under 25 Flashes

On completion of any combination of three Home Counties League or White Rose Trophy matches a player shall be awarded an Under 25 Flash.

e. Administration of the Award of County Badges

- (i) On transfer from one system to the other any player who:
 - (a) Has been awarded colts badge was given - a credit of – **four points**.
 - (b) Is currently in possession of two credits under the current system was given - a credit of – **six points**.
- (i) Points may be accrued over a period of six years. At the end of each year the number of points that were gained over six years ago, will be reduced by a maximum of two.

f) Vice Patrons

Vice Patrons who have played in four VP games over a minimum period of three years will at the end of that time receive a Vice Patrons badge to be worn on their blazer.

3. SELECTION COMMITTEE AND PROCEDURES**a. Selection Committee Members and Responsibility for Selection**

- (i) **International Trial matches, County Matches and other County nominations:** - The Selection Committee shall comprise two members from each of the Four Divisions [who are to be elected at the AGM by members of the Executive Committee voting only for nominees in their Division]. The Chairman, and Hon. Secretary shall be in attendance. Six of these to form a quorum. The MC/HCL Manager and/or Under 25 Manager, to be invited to attend as required.
- (ii) **HCL & MC Matches:** The General Purposes Committee shall appoint a Team Manager **or alternatively two Joint Team Managers** who may have up to two nominated assistants approved by the General Purposes Committee for the Home Counties League and Middleton Cup matches. In conjunction with the Selection Committee, he/they will at the first selection meeting, select the players who will form the HCL and MC Squads. He/they will then with any assistants, manage and select teams for all HCL and MC matches. He/they will also be empowered to adjust the composition of the two squads to cover non-availability of players. He/they may then during the season recommend to the Selection Committee - via the County Chairman and Secretary - any additional or replacement players for inclusion in the squad.
- (iii) **Other County Matches:** The Selection Committee shall select the players required for non HCL or MC County Matches from players nominated by their respective Clubs, Badged players to be shown separately, it having been first ascertained by the Divisional Selectors that such players are available and will play if selected. The Committee have the power to invite any strong player or players to complete a County Team although not nominated by a Club.
- (d) **Executive Matches:** The Assistant Secretary shall be responsible for submitting the names of available players for Executive Matches to the President and Vice President. The President will select his rink and the Vice President the other rinks.
- (e) **Under 25 Matches:** The General Purposes Committee shall appoint a Team Manager to manage and select teams for all Under 25 matches.

b. Officers, Responsibilities after Selection

- (i) **HCL & MC Matches:** - The HCL & MC Manager will be responsible for notifying all players selected for such matches and confirming their continued availability and making any replacements necessary. He shall also ensure the County Webmaster is notified of teams as selected and any changes made.
- (ii) **Other County Matches**

- (a) The County Secretary will be responsible for notifying the County Webmaster of all teams selected for all other County Matches. He shall also be responsible for notifying any reserves of the requirement for them to play should he be notified that a selected player has withdrawn. In addition he shall notify any requirements for County Shirts and prepare the Match sheet for the officer of the day.
- (b) The Webmaster shall arrange for all teams as selected and passed to him to be uploaded onto the County Website together with any subsequent changes as notified.
- (c) The County Secretary shall arrange for details of all such teams selected to be sent out to the Divisional Selectors and Club Secretaries of the respective players clubs.
- (d) The Divisional Selectors will be responsible for ensuring they receive confirmation of attendance from all selected players in their Division and notifying the Match Secretary of any withdrawals for any reason.

(iii) **Executive Matches:** The Assistant Secretary shall notify players of their selection, arrange for any replacements required and ensure the webmaster is notified of the initial teams selected and any changes as necessary.

c. Players and Clubs – Conduct and Obligations on Selection

- (i) When a player selected by the Selection Committee for a County game fails to attend for that match, and no reasonable excuse is provided by player or his Club, he shall not be selected for any County match for a maximum of three years commencing on the date of notification. If the fault of the player in not attending is that of his Club then the player shall not be penalised.
- (ii) When a player for a County game does not attend and a reasonable excuse is not provided, his Club shall be responsible for paying his match fee.
- (iii) Prior to any decision being made, the player or Club shall be asked for an explanation. This will then be considered by the Secretary and/or the Match Secretary and a decision will be given in writing. Any appeal arising should be made within fourteen days of the decision being notified to the player and Club involved, and dealt with as an emergency matter as defined in Constitution Section 5 (e).

4. VICE PATRONS

- (a) In respect of Vice Patron matters the County shall be divided into the same four Divisions containing the same clubs as those for County Competitions.
- (b) A Divisional Controller for each division shall be appointed by the GPC Committee after the GPC Committee – or a sub committee comprising of a minimum of three members of the Emergency Committee plus the Assistant Secretary - have interviewed any prospective candidates and reported back to the GPC. These controllers once appointed, shall remain in post until such time as they retire, unless the GPC consider that it is necessary to replace them.
- (c) The Controller for each division shall be responsible for selecting teams of Vice Patrons to play both friendly matches against any club within their respective division who wishes to play against the VP teams and also for competitive Inter Divisional Matches.
- (d) The four Divisions shall each season play matches on a home and away basis, against each of the other Divisions to determine the winner of the Billingham Shield.
- (e) In addition the four teams shall contest the Pullen Cup on a straight knockout basis with the teams for the two semi - finals being drawn at the preceding year's final.
- (f) Any registered bowler from any club can apply to play in Vice Patrons matches on payment of the appropriate annual registration fee.
- (g) The main objective of the Vice Patrons is to encourage bowlers to play with players from other clubs and at green they might not normally play on. In order to best achieve this objective Selectors when selecting teams, should attempt to ensure that rinks comprise of players from as many different clubs as possible.

5. DRESS CODE

a. County Competitions

BE Regulations stipulate that:

The dress code in all rounds of County Championships leading to the Final Stages of the National Championships shall be stipulated by the County Association, having regard to Regulations 50.5.1.1 (Men) and 50.5.1.2 (Women).

Please note: All reference to white shoes, shirts, waterproofs etc., should read predominately white shoes, shirts, waterproofs etc.

- (i) BE Regulation 5.1.1. (Dress Specific to Men)
 - a) Dress will be grey or white trousers and white, club or county registered shirts with brown, white or grey flat soled shoes. Sandals will not be permitted, in events under the jurisdiction of Bowls England, except in medical circumstances where a doctor's note has been provided.
 - b) Club/County apparel may be worn provided that all members of the side or team wear the same and provided that the design of such apparel has been registered to the County/Bowls England.
 - c) Bowls England licensed and approved apparel may be worn provided that all members of a side or team bear the same colour above and/or below the waist.
 - d) Players governed by requirements of a specific ethnic culture will be permitted to wear their traditional dress if they so desire.
 - e) Tracksuits, shell suits and jeans are not acceptable.
 - f) Headgear, if worn, should be white or a registered colour.
 - g) White waterproof clothing may be used, or, providing all members of a side wear the same, registered colour waterproof/fleeces are permitted. Bowls England licensed and approved apparel may also be worn.

Specific County Regulations:

- (i) **Shirts:** All players entering County Competitions shall - **in all matches** - be dressed in club colours as registered with the County Association and as per BE Regulations and all players shall be dressed the same. **If a club does not have club colours registered with the County Association then all players shall be dress the same in plain white shirts with a collar – t-shirts are not permitted nor are other coloured shirts.**
- (ii) **Trousers/Shorts:**
 - a) For all rounds - prior to the Quarter Finals:

Players may wear White trousers - or White TAILORED shorts - or grey trousers (NO grey shorts) but all members of a team MUST BE dressed in the same colour clothing.
 - b) For Final Stage matches - Qtr Finals onwards:

Even though they are played in the evening, the dress shall be White Trousers - or White TAILORED shorts. Individual members of a team may wear White TAILORED shorts.
 - c) Coloured Shorts:

Shorts - other than White TAILORED shorts - may only be worn - if they are Bowls England licensed and approved apparel and if ALL MEMBERS OF A SIDE OR TEAM - wear the same coloured approved shorts. Individual members of a team MAY NOT wear any shorts other than White TAILORED shorts.
- (iii) Trousers if worn shall NOT be rolled up in any way.

- (iii) **Penalty:** Any player/team who participate in a match incorrectly dressed - **will on the first occasion that it happens, be warned that if such a situation arises again in a later round - or in the following season - then they will be disqualified from the competition** – unless the Emergency Committee consider that there are exceptional circumstances – **or that the offence is so serious it merits an immediate disqualification.**

NB: Reference to 'TAILORED' shorts - means that the shorts will have a crease down the front.

(iv) **Finals Day(s):**

- a) Shirts and trousers as per (i) and (ii) above - except that Trousers/shorts - must be White and no other colour.
- b) All players shall remain in 'whites' until after the last match of the relevant session has been completed and the trophies presented and the photographs taken.

(v) **Penalties - Quarter Final Stages onwards and 1 Day Competitions:**

Any player/team who attempts to participate in a match incorrectly dressed - will be required to change into the correct dress and if they fail to do so will be disqualified from the Competition – unless the Senior Officers present - consider that there are exceptional circumstances.

(vi) **Bowls and stickers:**

- a) All bowls must bear the same stickers or none at all.
- b) The 1985 Regulation is fine for all rounds up to and including Finals Day, but all bowls must be dated with the current year or beyond - for anyone qualified for the Nationals.

b. County Matches

(i) **HCL & MC Matches:**

Players are expected to arrive for matches in Blazer and Grey flannel trousers, with either a white shirt and tie or County Shirt. Players will normally play in County Shirt, White Trousers - or White **TAILORED** shorts - and White shoes unless the dress is notified otherwise on the team sheet for a match being played in a morning.

(ii) **Under 25 Matches:**

Players are expected to arrive for matches in County shirt and Grey flannel trousers, with either a white shirt and tie or County Shirt. Players will normally play in County Shirt, White Trousers - or White **TAILORED** shorts - and White shoes unless the dress is notified otherwise on the team sheet for a match being played in a morning.

(iii) **County Matches:**

Players are expected to arrive for matches in Blazer and Grey flannel trousers, with either a white shirt and tie or County Shirt. Players will normally play in County Shirt, White Trousers - or White **TAILORED** shorts - and White shoes unless the dress is notified otherwise on the team sheet for a match being played in a morning.

(iv) **Executive Matches:**

Players are expected to arrive for matches in Blazer and Grey flannel trousers, with either a white shirt and tie or County Shirt. Players will normally play in County Shirt, White Trousers - or White **TAILORED** shorts - and White shoes.

(v) **Vice Patron Matches:**

Players will normally play in either County Shirts or plain white shirts dependant on the divisional agreement, with white trousers and bowls shoes. Tailored white shorts ARE permitted to be worn.

c. Meetings

- (i) **Executive Committee and AGM:** - as agreed by the delegates themselves the dress for these meetings will be County Blazer, Ties and Greys.
- (ii) **All other Committee Meetings:** Members should attend in smart casual clothing.

SUSSEX COUNTY BOWLS - MEN'S SECTION

GENERAL RULES

1. COUNTY COMPETITIONS – Section 1 – Appendix 1

DEFUNCT CLUBS AND THE EFFECT ON COUNTY COMPETITIONS

It is possible that an affiliated club could fold after the County Competition closing date but before the draw has been made or after the draw has taken place, but before the start of the competition.

The first assumption is that entrants are likely to join a nearby affiliated club but this may or may not be in the same division. This Appendix details the procedures that are to be followed when such an event occurs.

The draw shall proceed with all clubs that were in existence and with all entries made prior to 31 October included.

Competitors from defunct clubs must notify the County Competition Secretary as soon as they have joined another affiliated club and cannot play in knock out matches (even away matches) until they have done so.

A player who has submitted a Competition Entry (the named Player), from a club that subsequently become defunct, has two options available for the forthcoming season provided he has joined a new club.

A player who has submitted a Competition Entry (the named Player), from a club that subsequently become defunct, has two options available for the forthcoming season provided he has joined a new club.

a) **Option 1 – Withdrawal from all Competitions entered through the defunct club (other than Champion of Champions if entered).**

(i) The player may notify the Competition Secretary, in writing, as soon as possible and by 30th April at the latest, of his intention to withdraw from all Competitions that he has entered from the defunct club (other than the Champion of Champions – see Men's Section Rules as below – if applicable). If the draw has taken place his opponent(s) will receive a bye.

(ii) If such action is taken the player will then become eligible to take part as a member of any team for the new club that he had joined.

b) **Option 2 – Remain in the Competitions as entered through the defunct club.**

(i) If this option is chosen, for the purposes of Competitions for the season in question, the entrant(s) **will be deemed to be affiliated to the original club**.

(ii) In accordance with MENS SECTION RULES - 1. COUNTY COMPETITIONS - a. Eligibility, Conduct and Obligations – para (iii) clearly states that:

A player can represent **only one club** in County Competitions in any one year, except that the Male Club Champion of the immediate past season may enter the Champion of Champions competition from the Club to which he belonged when he won the Championship.

Members of the defunct club who continue in **any Competition(s)** on the basis as in (i) above **will not therefore be eligible to play in the Double Fours for their new club or to be part of any other team entered into National/County Competitions, by a member of their new club, during the season in question.**

(iii) Provided their new club is willing and able to accommodate them and is in the same vicinity entrants who elect to remain in the competition, can play their home games at their new club (even if it is in another division).

(iv) In the unlikely event that the entrant(s) decide(s) to join an affiliated club in a different division and the new club is a considerable distance from the original and the opponent(s) objected to travelling, the County Competition Secretary may allow the entrant(s) to remain in the competition and play all matches away from home.

(v) Pairs, Triples and Fours can continue on the above basis - **but all members of these teams MUST have been members of the original club. Substitutes can only be drawn from players from the original club under which the team is entered.**

SUSSEX COUNTY BOWLS - MEN'S SECTION

GENERAL RULES

1. COUNTY COMPETITIONS – Section 1 – Appendix 2

COMPETITION DRAW AND RESULT RESPONSIBILITIES

County Competition Secretary

The County Competition Secretary is responsible for the running of all County Knockout Competitions both Senior and Junior, from the initial draw through to the Finals Day and is assisted by four Divisional Competition Secretaries (DCS's).

He will arrange for the draw for all Competitions (other than the 2 Wood Singles which shall be undertaken about two weeks prior to the event) to be undertaken prior to 31st December. He will pass such information on all Competitions, to the DCS's and arrange for it to be uploaded to the County Website prior to 28th February.

He will send draw reminders to clubs in respect of the Under 25's Competitions which are under his direct control.

Club Secretary

The Club Secretary is responsible for ensuring that a copy of the draw - for each Competition that any player from his club is entered in to - **is downloaded from the County website and a copy placed on the Club Notice Board.**

He is also responsible for ensuring that all members of his club who are entered into any Competitions administered by the County, are fully aware of any such information relevant to them.

On subsequent notification by a DCS, of details of a future opponent for any of his successful players/teams he is required to ensure that the relevant information is passed the appropriate person.

On receipt of a request from a DCS for information as to why any player failed to fulfil his obligations, he shall investigate and notify the DCS of his findings - within the time period specified.

Divisional Competition Secretaries(DCS's)

Each DCS will receive results of matches in their Division and check and confirm eligibility of players.

They will notify the Club Secretary, of each successful player/team, who the next opponent for the team will be.

Players

The results of each round must be notified to the Divisional Competition Secretary (DCS) – **by the winning team/player** - by telephone or e-mail as soon as possible the same evening after completion of the game. If the result is submitted by email the names of the team members of both teams, who took part in the match should also be included in the email and then the signed result cards for the match **must be retained** for future reference in case of a query.

If the result of the match and the full details of team members who took part in the match, are not submitted by email - **then supporting scorecards, signed by both teams *MUST BE* sent by 1st class post the day following the game or handed to the Divisional Competition Secretary within 24 hours.**

Failure by a player/team to ensure that the DCS is in possession of the names of players who took part in a match to enable a check of eligibility to be carried out prior to the next round - could result in the team being disqualified.

SUSSEX COUNTY BOWLS - MEN'S SECTION

GENERAL RULES

1. COUNTY COMPETITIONS – Section 1 – Appendix 3

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPETITORS

Full details of the particulars of each County Competition can be located in the Men's Section Rules shown in [www.sussexcb.co.uk / Men's Pages / Governance / Men's Section Rules].

To determine who/where/when you're playing please look at the relevant Draw Sheet (posted on your Club Noticeboard & available to view on www.sussexcb.co.uk / Men's Pages / Competitions / 201? Competitions). If you are unfamiliar with 'reading' this type of Draw Sheet, please refer to **INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE NEW COUNTY COMPETITION COMPETITOR**.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE FOLLOWING RULE IS NOW BEING STRICTLY ENFORCED. A DRAW MUST TAKE PLACE FOR RINKS. The Home player /Team **MUST** offer at least **TWO Rinks**.

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN A TIE IS PLAYED: The Competitors - in particular, the winner, **phones their Divisional Competition Secretary (only)** 'directly after the match' (not the following day) stating clearly the **Winners Name(s), Score & Venue** played at. He updates the Draw Sheet. When all results are collated he then sends out the fully updated Draw Sheet to each **Club Contact** for them to post on their Club Noticeboard. The updated Draw Sheet also goes to the County Webmaster for uploading onto the County Website.

The **Club Contact** can further/directly disseminate the info. to their County Competitors as they see fit (Tel / email etc.) - their primary job though is to ensure the **updated Draw Sheet is posted on their Club Noticeboard**.

Of course, all competitors, where able, can access the County Website at any time for the updated Draw Sheets [www.sussexcb.co.uk / Men's Pages / Competitions / 201? Competitions / Division ? / Singles or Pairs or Triples or Fours or Unb. Singles or Champion of Champions or Senior Fours or 2 Wood Singles or Double Fours].

TEAM MEMBER NAMES. The winning player/team are required to notify the Divisional Comp. Sec. the names of the players who took part and he will maintain a record. The winning player/team **MUST KEEP THE CARD**. Lost or No Card - face possible disqualification. Team Events - Pairs/Triples /Fours (not Double Fours) ... **ONLY ALLOWED ONE AND THE SAME SUBSTITUTE** at any point during the Competition. This **MUST** be noted down on the Scorecard & their Opponents told that a substitute is playing. The First Team who go out to play in the competition constitutes the 'TEAM' - a substitute is anyone who temporarily OR permanently takes the place of any member of the original TEAM.

WHAT SHOULD BE UP ON YOUR CLUB NOTICEBOARD

Draw Sheet(s) & their subsequent updates A Copy of the Men's Section Rules (mainly Page 1-6)

[www.sussexcb.co.uk / Men's Pages / Governance / Men's Section Rules]

A Copy of the INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE NEW COUNTY COMPETITION COMPETITOR

[www.sussexcb.co.uk / Men's Pages / Competitions / 2017 Competitions / Draw Sheets Instructions]

A Copy of the CLUB ABBREVIATIONS FOR COMPETITIONS document.

[www.sussexcb.co.uk / Men's Pages / Competitions / 2017 Competitions / Club Abbreviations for Competitions]

PROBLEMS - Either the Competition Secretary or the Divisional Competition Secretary can be contacted with non-urgent queries. If URGENT, try contacting them but as they still take part in the County Competitions ourselves - you may have to ascertain a Ruling from The Men's Section Rules [**posted on your Club noticeboard at least or viewed at** www.sussexcb.co.uk / Men's Pages / Governance / Men's Section Rules].

CONTACT DETAILS – Division Competition Secretaries – for Results (Except U 25's)

DIVISION ONE	Simon Moore	07780 913183		simonmoore@bexhillcollege.ac.uk
DIVISION TWO	Len Ashby	01825 762255		lenashby2@gmail.com
DIVISION THREE	Ken Staton	01273 735400		todenke@padoken.plus.com
DIVISION FOUR	Simon Tooley	01243 930924	07723 915731	simonvafs@aim.com

CONTACT DETAILS – COMPETITION SECRETARY – for all Under 25 Results

Robin Llewellyn-Powell

01273 734009

rl-powell@tiscali.co.uk

SUSSEX COUNTY BOWLS - MEN'S SECTION

GENERAL RULES

1. COUNTY COMPETITIONS – Section 1 – Appendix 4

CLUB ABBREVIATIONS USED ON DRAW SHEETS

DIV.1 CLUBS	ABBREV.				
Alexandra	ALXDRA	Hailsham	HAILSH	Rosemount	ROSEMO
Battle	BATTLE	Hailsham	HAILSH	Rotherfield	ROTHER
Bexhill	BEXHIL	Hampden Park	HAMPPK	Royal Sovereign	ROY'SV
Crouch, The	CROUCH	Hellingly	HELLIN	St Johns (Meads)	ST'JO'M
Crowborough Wolfe	CR'WLF	Herstmonceux	HERSMO	Seaford	SEAFRD
Deanland	DEANLA	Motcombe Gardens	MOT'GN	Sidley Martlets	SIDLEY
Eastbourne	EASTBO	Ninfield	NINFLD	Spartan & Lakeside	SPA&LA
Gildredge Park	GILD'PK	Northiam	NORTHI	Staplecross	STAPLE
Gullivers	GULLIV	Parade, The	PARADE	Wadhurst	WADHST
		Polegrove	POLEGR	White Rock	WH'RCK

DIV.2 CLUBS	ABBREV.				
Barcombe	BARCOM	Lindfield	LINFLD	Rottingdean	ROTTDN
Brighton	BRIGHT	Mackie	MACKIE	Saltdean	SALTDN
Buxted Park	BUXTPK	Newhaven	NEWHVN	Uckfield	UCKFLD
Coleman's Hatch	COL'HA	Newick	NEWICK	Vicarage	VICRGE
East Grinstead	E'GRIN	Nutley	NUTLEY	Wealden	WEALDN
Isle of Thorns	I'O'THO	Peacehaven & Tels.	PEA&TE	West Hoathly	W'HOAT
Lewes	LEWES	Preston	PRESTN	Woodingdean	WOODIN
		Ringmer	RINGMR		

DIV.3 CLUBS	ABBREV.				
Adastra	ADASTA	Haywards Hth & B'	HAY'HT	Portslade	PORTSL
Billingshurst	BILHST	Henfield	HENFLD	St Francis	ST'FRA
Burgess Hill	BUR'HI	Hollingbury Park	HOLL'PK	Shoreham by Sea	SHOREH
Crawley Town	CRA'TN	Horsham	HORSHA	Southgate Park	SGT'PK
Downsman, The	DWNSMN	Horsham Park	HOR'PK	Southwater	S'WTER
Drive, The	DRIVE	Hove & Kingsway	HOVE&K	Southwick	S'WICK
Handcross	HANDCR	Hurstpierpoint	HURSTP	Southwick Park	SWI'PK
Hangleton	HNGLTN	Lancing	LANCNG	Steyning	STEYNIN
		Popes Mead	POP'MD		

DIV.4 CLUBS	ABBREV.				
Aldingbourne & Di.	ALDING	Little Spain	LSPAIN	Stedham	STEDHM
Arundel	ARUNDL	Maltravers	MALTRA	Storrington	STORRI
Bognor Regis	BOGNOR	Marine Gardens	MARINE	Sutton	SUTTON
Chichester	CHICHR	Middleton Sports	MIDLTN	Tarring Priory	TARRIN
Crablands	CRABLD	Midhurst	MIDHST	W Sussex Masonic	WSMASO
East Preston & K	EPR&KI	Norfolk	NORFLK	W Sussex Tourists	WSTOUR
Fishbourne	FISHBO	Pagham	PAGHAM	Witterings & Distr.	WITT&D
Goring Manor	GORING	Petworth	PETWTH	Worthing	WORTHG
Homefield Park	HOMEPK	Pulborough	PULBOR	W Grasshoppers	WGRASS
Hotham	HOTHAM	Rogate	ROGATE	Worthing Pavilion	WPAVIL
		Southbourne	S'BOURN		

SUSSEX COUNTY BOWLS - MEN'S SECTION

GENERAL RULES

1. COUNTY COMPETITIONS – Section 1 – Appendix 5

DRAWING FOR RINKS PROCEDURE

It is a requirement of World Bowls and Bowls England that players undertake a draw for rinks. Laws of the Sport of Bowls - para 3.

- (a) HOME PLAYERS/TEAMS **SHALL NOT** SELECT THE RINK ON WHICH ANY COMPETITION IS TO BE PLAYED. For all Competitions, sufficient rinks must be made available for a draw for rinks to take place. Rinks **CANNOT** be allocated to individual games or disciplines in advance.
- (b) Rinks shall be notified to the opponent(s) and a draw shall take place to decide on which rink - the/each of the - Competition(s) is to be played.
- (c) **Every challenger must offer his opponent the option of a minimum of two rinks.**
- (f) Where more than one Competition is being played each 'Challenger' may individually offer a minimum of two rinks and once one has been drawn, other matches will choose from any remaining rinks that are available and offered. This allows a match to start earlier than other games due to start at the same time.
- (g) Alternatively, any number of 'Challengers' may together offer a 'set number of rinks' on which the relevant number of games will be played (2 matches – minimum 2 rinks, 3 matches minimum 3 rinks, etc.) and if only the minimum number of rinks required have been offered, **once the initial one, two, etc., rinks have been drawn the final game will be played on the rink remaining, as a 'legal draw' will have taken place for these rinks and the rink remaining could be any one of those initially on offer.** If this method is to be used the draw shall take place when more than one of the 'Opponents' are in attendance.
- (h) Any competitor/s who is/are not offered a draw for rinks on which the game is to be played should report the fact to the Divisional or County Competition Secretary and subject to investigation any home player who is found to have failed to offer a draw for rinks, **may be disqualified.**
- (i) In County One Day event Competitions, and for Quarter, Semi and Finals Day(s), the Competition Secretary (as Representative of the Controlling body) shall make the draw for rinks to be used.
- (j) In a team or side game where more than one rink is to be used, the rinks should preferably be consecutive and not interspersed with other games being played.
- (k) A Set of cards or numbered discs, numbered from 1 to 6 shall be held by each club and the numbers for - **all the rinks that are options to be used** - shall then be used. Opponents should be notified of which rinks are available.

For a team game randomly paired Scorecards shall be placed on a table. **Only the opposing players may make selections for rinks - from cards or discs on which the rink number is not visible.**

Discs or cards may be in a bag or face down on a table. The rink(s) to be used shall then be drawn, **by the opposing player(s)** taking a disc or a card and that shall be the rink on which the game shall be played. In the case of a team game the relevant number of discs or cards shall be taken and placed on the randomly paired Scorecards and that shall be the rink on which each of those games is to be played.

If more than one game is to take place and an opposing player is not present when the draw takes place, one of the other opposing players must at the same time, draw a rink number for that match.

NB: Bowls England have clarified that a club may 'set aside' a number of rinks (3/4) that are required to enable an authorised external league match to taken place that may commence after National or County Competitions are due to start - but sufficient rinks must always remain to enable a draw for rinks to take place, for any competitions due to be played. If sufficient rinks are not available for a draw to take place then Men's Section Rules h. (ii) applies.