

GENERAL/COMPETITIONS RULES & REGULATIONS - Review 2025

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GENERAL RULES & REGULATIONS:

1. COUNTY MATCHES

- a) Women’s and Men’s Match secretaries will make available to members details of scheduled County Friendly matches, Men’s Midland Counties (MCBA), and Executive matches for members to notify availability. Selection for County Matches to be the responsibility of a Women’s/Men’s Selection Committee, members of which shall be: President, Vice President, Management Secretary, Match/Fixture Secretary, and North/South Area Delegates. Travel expenses will be paid to drivers on receipt of the required form.

2. COUNTY BADGES

- a) A player shall be awarded a BN Colt Badge upon playing in their first MCBA or County Friendly match.
- b) A full County Badge or cap shall be presented to unbadged players:
 - i) After playing their first game in the Middleton Cup or John’s Trophy.
 - ii) Who have played in six Midland Counties matches or MCBA Championships or six Middle England League (MEL) matches.
 - iii) Who have played in six (men) or three (women) County Friendly matches (excluding Executive matches) over a period of three years.
 - iv) A player selected as a reserve in any team as in 2.b-i, ii, or iii. above and does not play in the game shall not qualify towards any badge.
- c) A full County Badge shall be awarded, if unbadged, upon taking office as Vice-President, Management Secretary, Treasurer, Team manager, or Administrator.
- d) A full County Badge shall be awarded to all unbadged finalists in the County Championships Competitions regardless of BE National qualification policy.
- e) A player shall reimburse BN upon receiving their badge under 2b-i, ii, or iii.

3. DRESS CODE – COUNTY MATCHES

- a) County Uniform shall be worn by all officers and players attending County and Presidential matches. Players will change into Match Dress for the game, and then change back to County Uniform after the match. Players governed

- by a specific ethnic culture will be permitted to wear their traditional dress if they so desire.
- b) Women's County Uniform is: as approved by the women's management committee and as indicated on the team selection sheet.
 - c) Women's Match Dress is: BE approved County colours above and below the waist with regulation footwear. Headgear or additional clothing, if worn, shall be white or a registered colour. White or BE approved waterproof clothing can be worn in adverse weather. Any jewellery shall be discreet, inoffensive to any other player/official present and not interfere with the game.
 - d) Men's County Uniform is: as approved by the men's management committee and as indicated on the team selection sheet.
 - e) Men's Match Dress is: BE approved County colours above and below the waist with regulation footwear. Headgear or additional clothing, if worn, shall be white or a registered colour, White or BE approved waterproof clothing can be worn in adverse weather.
 - f) In certain circumstances whereby Government health restrictions are in place and/or changing rooms are not available for use the rules governing the wearing of County Uniform may be changed. In which event players shall be given notice before travelling by the Match Secretary or Captain.

Competition Rules & Regulations

4. Compliance

- a) All competitions shall be played in strict accordance with current BE Championship/Competition Rules & Regulations, the current Laws of the Sport of Bowls Crystal Mark edition and Domestic Regulations for BN.
- b) BE Championship Qualifiers consist of both finalists of the Women's and Men's championship competitions: 2 wood singles, 4 wood singles, u25 singles, Pairs, Triples, and Fours. Other qualifiers are the winners only of the U25 Pairs and O55 Fours. These qualifiers may be limited by BE by numbers of entries submitted by the County on a year by year basis. All permitted qualifiers are expected to represent the County at Regional and/or National Play-offs. Failure to comply may result in a ban from entry to all County competitions for a period of up to two years. Winners / R-Up of County Finals (men only) may be asked to represent the County at the MCBA championships competition Play-Offs.
- c) Contact-named entrants for Championship/Domestic competitions shall make themselves aware of these Rules & Regs contained herein and the BE competition rules held on the BE website. Claiming a lack of knowledge of these Rules will not be justified against a charge of rule infringement. Competition Secretaries are available for any Rule interpretation that a player may request.
- d) Offensive language as defined by the 'F' or 'C' or 'N' words, or any words that are considered offensive by a listener, shall not be tolerated. If used during a County comp game or a County fixture game AGAINST another person, then the default SKIP in a team game, or the MARKER in a singles game, shall first WARN the guilty party when it is first HEARD, and then REPORT the player to the relevant management committee for action on the second occurrence against the same person or another person. Such action to include a written warning on first report, sent to the player and their Club. If further reports are received in the same year then a penalty of suspension may be applied to entry in next year's County comps or fixtures. Bad language used by a player against themselves is not reportable but may still receive a warning if heard by others who find it offensive.

- e) Scorecards used for County competitions should designate the top contact in the draw as the HOME player, and the bottom contact in the draw as the AWAY player. A scoreboard if used should have the same designation as the scorecard. Winning the toss at the start of the game does not change this designation. Opponent scorecards can be set out in reverse.
- f) If a competition round requires a neutral green to be chosen then players who are members of more than one bowls club should not offer or accept a venue of which they are a member. Failure to declare such an interest may result in the disqualification of that player from that competition.
- g) If a challenger (first named) is drawn against a bowler who is suspended from the challenger's Club then for Singles play and Team play the challenger will make arrangements to use a neutral green OR the Club must allow sufficient Club access so that the match can be played (green, car park, toilets). BE rules 50.1.2 and 50.2.5.
If the Club refuses access then the suspended player may claim a walk-over.

5. National (Inter-County) Competitions

5.1 Women - Johns Trophy and Walker Cup (ten players per team)

- a) A team manager shall be appointed by the Women's Management Committee in accordance with criteria agreed prior to the appointment and will be for a period of three years. In the event of being no suitable candidate the Women's Selection Committee shall assume responsibility for the procedures and team selection.
- b) Players and Reserves for the Johns Trophy and Walker Cup teams shall be invited to represent the County in the competition and must make themselves available for any 'Trial' matches and most of the competition rounds including the Regional Finals.
- c) 24 players and two reserves shall represent the County in the Johns Trophy and ten players for the Walker Cup team. The reserve(s) and the Team Manager MUST travel with the Team with at least one Selector.
- d) In all rounds arrangements for bearing the costs and other incidental expenses are a County Domestic matter.
- e) Both Counties shall share all green fees and Umpire's expenses.
- f) Inclement weather BE Rules & Regulations No. 9, 11, 54, and 55 shall apply.

5.2 Women Under 24's Amy Rose Competition (five players per team)

- a) The Management Committee shall appoint a Team Manager annually. In the event of being no suitable candidate the Women's Selection Committee shall assume responsibility for the procedures and team selection.
- b) The team manager shall conduct the affairs of the **Under 24's** in accordance with the Rules & Constitution of BN. Duties will be strictly adhered to. If required, the Team Manager shall give a report to the Council meeting.
- c) Players and Reserves for the Amy Rose team shall be invited to represent the County in the competition and must make themselves available for any 'Trial' matches and the regional centre play-offs.
- d) Five players in each team shall represent the County.

5.3 Men - Middleton Cup, Balcomb Trophy (ten players per team)

- a) A team manager shall be appointed by the Men's Management Committee in accordance with criteria agreed prior to the appointment and will normally be for a period of three years. In the event of being no suitable candidate the Men's Competition Committee shall assume

- responsibility for the procedures and team selection.
- b) The Team Manager shall conduct the affairs of the Senior Squad in accordance with the Rules and Constitution of BN.
 - c) Players and Reserves for the Middleton Cup and Balcomb Trophy teams shall be invited to represent the County in the competition and must make themselves available for any 'Trial' matches and the Regional Centre play-offs.
 - d) 24 players and two reserves shall represent the County in the Middleton Cup and ten players in the Balcomb Trophy team. The reserve(s) and the Team Manager MUST travel with the Team with at least one Selector.
 - e) In all rounds arrangements for bearing the costs and other incidental expenses are a County Domestic matter.
 - f) Both Counties shall share all green fees and Umpire's expenses.
 - g) Inclement weather BE Rules & Regs. No. 9, 11, 61, 66 shall apply.
- 5.4 **Men – Under 24's White Rose Competition (five players per team)**
- a) The Management Committee shall appoint a Team Manager annually. In the event of being no suitable candidate the Men's Selection Committee shall assume responsibility for the procedures and team selection.
 - b) The team manager shall conduct the affairs of the Under 24's in accordance with the Rules & Constitution of BN. If required the Team Manager will report to the Council Meeting.
 - c) Players and Reserves for the White Rose team shall be invited to represent the County in the competition and must make themselves available for any 'Trial' matches and the Regional Centre play-offs.
 - d) Five players in each team shall represent the County.
- 5.5 **Mixed - Under 24's Open Matches**
- A Team Manager shall conduct the affairs of the Under 24's in accordance with the conditions as defined by the Management Committee and in accordance with the Rules & Constitution of BN.

6. Competition Entry Details and Procedure

- a) BN have made available an on-line Competition Portal system that is accessed via the BN website OR directly by accessing web site: 'bowlsnorthamptonshirecomps.co.uk' using multiple devices including smartphone. The portal system is maintained by the Portal Manager and other trained County Officers, and is available for:
 - i) Portal registered users to **enter** County competitions before the deadline-for-entries date as agreed by the Competition committee, **pay** for their entries using the Stripe Payment System, and finally to **confirm** the entry with the option to add names of any team players, using the **Edit** facility.
 - ii) For paper entry forms submitted by Clubs the Portal Manager will manually **register** any contact names listed on the paper entry forms, who have not previously self-registered, and providing that **payment** has been made by the deadline-for-entries to the BN treasurer, will manually enter competitions on behalf of those contact-names listed on the forms, and complete the process by confirming the entries, and adding names of any team members.

* A contact-name listed on a paper form for a team competition entry must be a playing member of the team and must be registered as a Portal user. If both conditions are not met then another player in the team must be chosen as the new contact-name provided that player

meets the same two conditions. *

** A contact name listed on a paper form for a Singles competition entry who has not provided a personal email address and who is not willing or not able to register as a Portal user will assume full responsibility for contacting their opponents using the contact-name phone list on the BN website. **

- iii) The Portal will be used to submit match results by either contact name or by the Portal Manager or by other officers in case of difficulties.
- b) Paper forms for competition entry and summary will continue to be made available for Clubs and their members to submit entries by the competition entry deadline.
- c) Competitors are advised that they should enter a competition ONLY if they or their team can make themselves available for all rounds of a competition or there is a substitute that can be used in the absence of a team member.
- d) Players who cannot play on the scheduled round date should contact their opponent to re-arrange to play the round early.
In the event players cannot agree on another play date then the default team must give their opponents a walk-over.
- e) **Exception to 6(d)** – The County is obliged under BE rules to allow an exception to this ruling (6d) above that will apply to National/International players who have National/ Regional /BE scheduled duties, **PROVIDED** that the competition in conflict is a Championship competition. In the event of a clash the Competition Secretary may amend the play date to allow the player to fulfil their scheduled duties. If the competition in conflict is a County Domestic competition then the County is not obliged to allow this exception for a player with such commitments. The player must play the round on or before the round date OR give a walk-over to their opponent.
- f) The contact name for each team competition is responsible for ensuring that their contact details are complete and correct. Phone details of contact names are held on a password protected page on the BN website. Email addresses of contact names are not available except through the email notification system or on request by an opponent to the Portal Manager
- g) **A.N.OTHER** – One entry only shall be allowed in Pairs, Triples and Fours team competitions – (exception is Exec Triples). The winning scorecard of the first round must show the A.N.O player's name prior to being photo'd/emailed to the Competition Secretary/Coordinator for checking.
- h) Team players in the following team competitions: Pairs, Triples, Fours and O55 Fours shall be from the same affiliated Club. Team players in the U24 Pairs, and Ben Triples can be from different affiliated Clubs.
- i) The winning contact name will ensure that the scorecard is complete with both team's details and any substitutes identified. For the first round of a team competition and whenever substitutes are used by either team the winning scorecard shall be photo'd and emailed or WhatsApp'd to the Competition Secretary or Area Co-ordinator for checking. Failure to comply may lead to disqualification of the winning team.
- j) Affiliation checks will be carried out on all players prior to the first round of competitions or asap after receipt of the first match scorecard. If any player fails this check they will be notified by the Competition Secretary and given 24 hours notice to correct the situation otherwise they will be disqualified from all Inter-County, Championship and Domestic competitions that they have entered or been asked to play in, including substitutes and new/novice members of a Club that joined after the affiliation deadline.

7. **Competition Draw, Venues, Dates & Times**

- a) The draw for all County competitions will be done using the Portal system, except for the Manfield Cup competition which will continue to be randomly drawn by three members of the Men's Management committee present.
- b) County competition's early rounds may be played on a challenger's available green provided that the green has a 'current' grading of 'A', 'B', or 'C' grade. 'Current' means the grade awarded after an inspection within the last 2 years.
- c) Required venues for late stage rounds will be chosen from a list of available North & South Clubs with a current green grading of 'A' or 'B'.
- d) Play-On dates will be set for all stages of Championship team competitions, except where a Play-By date would fit better into the schedule.
Championship Singles play will be Play-By dates.
Neutral greens to be used and agreed by both opponents for the playing of some Domestic S/Finals. Neutral greens for Top Club matches will not apply. Finals will be played on available dates at the Men's and Women's President home green if possible. If an alternative venue is required for late start/play then a venue with a flood-light facility may be chosen.
- e) The 'Play By' dates and 'Play On' dates for the competition rounds must be strictly adhered to. Extensions to round dates will only be granted by the relevant competition secretary for reasons of bad weather or green unfit to play. Failure to comply may result in both teams being disqualified from the competition.
- f) All competition rounds shall have a start time of no later than 6.30pm and shall allow for trial ends to be played before this deadline. Games can be played earlier than the round date by mutual agreement.
- g) If a player is more than 30 minutes late, the defaulting player/team shall forfeit the game to the player/team who were present at the appointed time. If the late player informs his team before the start time that his delay is due to bad weather or traffic hold-up then a further 15 mins can be allowed. Late arrivals may not be allowed Trial ends.

8. Substitution Rule 1 - Team Competitions (Pairs, Triples, Fours)

- a) The team that plays in the opening or first round of a competition shall be known as the Base Team. The winning scorecard must identify all players of the Base Team.
- b) If in future rounds a member of the Base Team is unavailable to play then a substitute can be used and can play in any position. This substitute shall be known as the Base Substitute and is the only substitute that can be used by the Base Team throughout the course of the Competition – see **EXCEPTIONS** (i).
- c) The Base Substitute used must not have played for another team in the same competition, and must be an affiliated and paid-up member of the same Club as the Base Team – see **EXCEPTIONS** (ii)
- d) If the Base Team cannot field a full team due to a lack of base players and/or Base Substitute player in any round then the Base Team must forfeit the match.
- e) For any round where the Base Substitute is used as part of the Base Team the winning scorecard must identify that player.
- f) **EXCEPTIONS** to Substitution Rule 1 are:
 - i) Two Base Substitutes are allowed for Exec Triples and Benevolent Triples Competitions.
 - ii) U25 Pairs players can be affiliated members of different Clubs.

9. Substitution Rule 2 – for Stoppages & Leaving the Green

- a) In the event that a competition round has started and the game has been halted due to poor light, weather conditions, or any other valid reason

acceptable to the skips playing then **BE Law 32 – Stoppages** will apply. That is – if when the game is restarted a member of the team that played before the stoppage is unavailable then a substitute can be used and can play in any position except Skip.

- b) In the event that a team player has to leave the green during a competition round and is away for more than 10 minutes then **BE Law 33 – Leaving the Green** . . will apply. That is - a substitute can be used, if necessary and if agreed by both skips, for the duration of the team player's absence and can play in any position except Skip.
- c) The substitute used under **BE Law 32** and **BE Law 33** can be the Base Substitute (Point 8b) or another eligible substitute. Eligibility of this substitute under these Rules are same as for the Base Substitute (Point 8c). If there is no substitute available under these Rules the playing team affected must forfeit the game.

10. 'Play By' dates Procedure

- a) Dates may be offered during a County tour week but players on the tour can request an alternate date.
Opponents who are offered dates that conflict with Play-On dates for other County/National competitions can request alternative dates.
- b) The Challenger shall make all arrangements: For first rounds the challenger will contact the opposition contact-named to offer two dates at least seven days before closing date of first round; For subsequent rounds (up to and including the last 16 of the competition) the challenger will contact the opposition contact-name within 48 hours of the end of the previous round and offer two dates.
- c) Opponent to accept one date within 48 hours.
- d) Failure of challenger to contact the opponent within the required notice period may result in the opponent assuming the challenger role for this round only and will offer two dates to the 'old' challenger and if not accepted within 48 hours then this may result in a walk-over being awarded to the new challenger. If a date is agreed a new challenger may choose to play the match at their own green if they wish.
- e) Challenger shall book a rink at their home green and arrange a competent marker for Singles if required.
- f) In the event of inclement weather and the green keeper/club official declares the green unfit for play the tie must be played prior to the date of the next round, and the relevant competition secretary notified.
- g) Once a Play-By date/time/venue is accepted by the opponent it cannot be changed without agreement by both players.

11. Dress Code for County Competitions

- a) For early rounds the on-green dress code shall be: Registered Club colours above and below the waist OR White/Registered Club colours above, and Grey OR BE approved shorts below.
- b) For late stage rounds (under County supervision) the on-green dress code shall be: Registered Club colours above and below the waist OR Registered Club colours above the waist and White below.
- c) BE approved shorts may be worn for late stage Q/Fs, S/Fs, and Finals provided all the team wear the same colour.
- d) Regulation footwear shall be worn of any BE approved colour. Sandals are prohibited at all times.
- e) White or BE approved waterproof clothing may be worn in adverse weather. Headgear and additional clothing worn shall be white or a registered colour.
- f) Jewellery, if worn, shall be discreet, inoffensive to any other player or official

- present, and not interfere with play.
- g) The County representative at late stage rounds shall give a warning notice to any player/team considered to be improperly dressed. The warning will be recorded and confirmed by email to the player(s) concerned after the match. If there is an exceptional reason for the mis-dress incident then the Competition representative should be notified, otherwise if the incident is repeated in future rounds then the player/team will be disqualified without further warning.
 - h) Players representing the County at National Championships shall be required to wear County colours above and below the waist or white below or BE approved shorts may be worn providing all the team wear the same colour.
 - I) Any bowler wearing any dress indicators of national/ international/ political/ activist/ personal affiliation will be asked to remove them before being allowed on the green. Refusal will be treated as misconduct, and may lead to immediate disqualification of the player/team. The only dress indicators allowed are black armbands that may be worn as a sign of respect for someone passed, and text/or logo for sponsorship.
 - j) Supporters/Flags: - the Union flag, St George's flag, host Club/County and opposition flags are the only flags that are allowed to be displayed at a fixture or competition matches. Other flags displayed by players should be removed before play starts or when noticed – with a complaint of misconduct as a penalty for non-compliance to the guilty party or Club.

12. Championship Competitions

- a) Players entered in team games shall be affiliated and paid up members of the same Club. Exception being that U24 Pairs players can be from different Clubs.
- b) Formats: 2 wood singles-21 ends, 4 wood Singles-21 shots, 4 wood U24 Singles-21 shots, 4 wood Pairs-18 ends, 4 wood U24 Pairs-18 ends, 3 wood Triples-18 ends, 2 wood Fours-18 ends, and 2 wood O55 Fours-18ends.
- c) Under BE ruling – County Winners only of the U24 Pairs and O55 Fours qualify for National championships.

13. Domestic Competitions

13.1 Champion of Champions (women)/Mason Cup (men)

- a) The competitions shall remain separate for each gender
- b) Format is: 4 wood Singles-21 shots
- c) The competition is open to the previous 4 wood Singles champion of affiliated Clubs provided that any competitor shall be restricted to one entry in any year.

13.2 Secretaries/Treasurers Cup (Competition suspended from 2025)

- a) Mixed competition from 2017
- b) Format is: 4 wood Singles-21 shots
- c) The competition is open to Club officials in the year of office: Secretary, Treasurer, Match/Fixture Secretary, Competition Secretary to a maximum of four entries any gender per club, and County officers in the year of office: Management Committee Secretaries, Treasurer, Match/Fixture Secretaries, Competition Secretaries, Greens Inspectorate Secretary, and Benevolent Fund Secretary.
- d) An entrant who no longer holds office on May 1st following the entry shall no longer be eligible to compete, but the entry may be transferred to the new holder of the office.

13.2 Fred Hodge Executive Open Triples

- a) Competition is open to all outdoor/general committee Club officers in the year of office and all County officers in the year of office.

- b) Format is: 3 wood Triples-18 ends
 - c) Three (3) Triples teams allowed for each club and for County.
 - d) All players making a team must be from the same club, or all must be current officers of BN.
 - e) Two (2) substitutes may be used in this competition provided that they have not played in another team.
 - f) If an entrant is no longer in office on May 1st following the entry, the position may be filled by the new holder of the office.
- 13.3 **Mixed Pairs & Mixed Triples**
- a) Pairs shall consist of one of each gender, Triples shall consists of one of each gender and another.
 - b) Format is: 4 woods/player for Pairs-18 ends,
and 3 woods/player for Triples-18 ends.
- 13.4 **Women's & Men's Senior Singles, Pairs and Fours**
- a) To be eligible to enter each competition a player must have reached their 55th birthday by 1st April in that year.,
 - b) Format is: 4 woods/player Singles-21 shots, 4 woods/player Pairs-18 ends, 2 woods/player Fours-18 ends.
 - c) Fees for the Singles and Pairs shall be paid as other County Domestic Competitions. Fees for Senior Fours shall be paid as other Championship Competitions.
 - d) The Fours winner only will represent the County at the National finals
- 13.5 **Crystal 3-Bowl Singles**
- a) The competition is open to both genders and any age.
 - b) The entrant must not have played in BE Regional Finals or National Finals at Leamington in the last 10 yrs, except as a player in a National Top Club team.
 - c) Format is: 3 bowls/player-16 ends with two (2) trial ends.
A player may concede if unable to win in remaining ends.
 - d) Participating clubs shall enter the competition on behalf of it's members by submitting the club entry either on the Competition Portal or on the summary payment form to the BN Treasurer by the competition deadline. A late entry by a Club after the deadline or after running the Club rounds will not be included in the draw.
 - e) Participating Clubs shall play the early rounds as a knock-out Club competition to produce two Club Finalists (A and B). Clubs will forward details of Club finalists to the Men's Competition Secretary at least 10 days before the start of the County play-off rounds which will be 'Play By' dates.
 - f) Participating clubs who fail to forward the details of the finalists by the deadline will take no further part in the competition.
 - g) Fees shall be paid to the County as other County Domestic competitions for the two Club finalists only. Clubs may decide an entry fee of their own to cover their costs of early rounds.
- 13.6 **Crystal Pairs – Mixed**
- a) The competition is open to players of any age, and teams shall consist of one player of each gender.
 - b) Both players must **not have played** in BE Regional Finals or National Finals at Leamington in the last 10 yrs, except as a player in a National Top Club team.
 - c) Format is: 3 woods/player – 2 sets of 7 ends and a third set decider of 3 ends to be used only if the set score is tied after two ends. For the third set the number of Won ends decides the winner. Played ends in

the third set will continue until there is a result

13.7 **Women's & Men's County Top Club Competition**

- a) The competition is open to all affiliated Clubs within BN, and a maximum of two entries are allowed of each gender from each club.
- b) Prior to the match team captains will toss a coin: for Jack (first end, and for extra ends if required) the winner having the choice of keeping or giving the jack away; and draw for rinks for each discipline.
- c) Players are **not** required to play from the same club in which they play their County Competitions (see point i))
- d) Women's Club team shall consist of 10 players, and the four disciplines are: 4 woods/player Singles-21 shots, 4 woods/player Pairs-18 ends, 3 woods/player Triples-18ends, and 2 woods/player Fours-18 ends.
- e) Scoring for Women's matches will be one point scored for each discipline won, the winning team is that which has most points. In the event of a points tie after all games played to a result then the highest number of shots will determine the winner. If shots are tied then a one end decider to be played by each team discipline (Pairs, Triples, Fours), to a majority result.
- f) Men's Club side will consist of 11 players, and the five disciplines are: 2 woods/player Singles-21 ends, 4 woods/player Singles-21 shots, 4 woods/player Pairs-18 ends, 3 woods/player Triples-18 ends, and 2 woods/player Fours-18 ends.
- g) Scoring for Men' matches will be one point for each discipline won, the winning team is that which has most points.
- h) Failure to field the required number of players will result in a walkover for the opposition.
- i) With agreement from the relevant Competition Secretary, affiliated Clubs with insufficient playing members, may use up to two players from any other club who currently do not enter this competition from their own club. The two imported players may only play in the position/s of No. 2 in the Triples or Fours.
- j) BE regulation 58.6 and 58.7 Top Club Competition shall apply.

13.8 **Women's J. Grundy Triples – Renamed from Benevolent Triples.**

- a) A team shall consist of 3 players from affiliated Clubs within the County. Players do not have to belong to the same Club.
- b) Format is: 2 woods/player Triples-15 ends with 1 trial end.
- c) All ends shall be played as the total number of shots 'for' and 'against' determine the eventual winners.
- d) Two substitutes may play in any one team provided they have not played in another team.
- e) All rounds to be played on a chosen week-end on a knockout basis.

14. **Domestic – Other Competitions/Leagues**

14.1 **Manfield Cup Competition (Men Only)**

- a) Clubs that wish to participate in the Manfield Cup competition are required to submit their entry via the Portal or on paper form by the deadline date as decided by the Competition Committee. Draw details will be placed on the BN website and issued to clubs and host venues at least one month before the match day.
- b) Payment shall be made by participating clubs at the time of entry to cover the entry fee and green fee per player (x 16), as agreed by the competition committee. The BN Treasurer will bank transfer the green fee owed to each host venue at least one week before match day.
- c) This competition is open to all affiliated Clubs, and is scheduled for

play on the Saturday of Week 26 or Week 27 depending on the timing of the last 53 week year: e.g. 2020 = 53 wk year so 2021 = Sat 3rd July, 2022 = 2nd July, 2023 = 1st July, 2024 = 29th June (leap year), 2025 = 28th June, 2026 = 27th June (53 week year), 2027 = Sat 3rd July.

- d) Format is: 2 woods/player, Fours -21 ends and a 22nd end scored separately. Two trial ends will be played before normal play. Club teams are 4 teams of Fours. Two affiliated Clubs not already represented in the competition may seek permission from the Competition Secretary to merge to field four teams of Fours.
- e) Each team will play another team from another Club/Clubs on a neutral green as determined by the Competition committee. Each Club will receive a full copy of the draw with games numbered 1 to 4 with each referencing the neutral venue the game is played at. Players who are members of more than one club can only be selected by one club. If a player is selected to play at a venue of which he is a member he should declare his interest and ask to be moved to another team playing at a different venue, failure to do so may result in the disqualification of that team.
- f) A current Bowls Stamp is not required.
- g) A host venue will:
 - appoint a competent person that can officiate and act as umpire for the duration of the match.
 - will ensure that a Club member/official is available after the match that can photo scorecards and send by email to the Adjudicator.
- g) Dress Code for players will be as Point 11b. The host representative can give a warning notice to any players/teams if they are not properly dressed for the game. The Competition Secretary will be advised of the warning notice and the offending Club shall be warned of the incident. If the incident is repeated at a future match the offending player/team will be disqualified and the opposition team given 10 shots and a win.
- h) All games will start at 2pm after 2 trial ends starting at 1.50pm. Games shall consist of 21 ends followed by an extra 22nd end, all shots count on the extra end and shall be recorded separately.
- i) In the event of a complete Club team failing to start by 2.20pm a default win + 10 shots will be awarded to the opposition team. If the delay is due to bad weather and/or traffic accidents and the venue club is advised before 2pm then the deadline will be extended to 2.45pm. After the deadline the opposition team will be awarded the game. The remaining teams of an offending Club having completed their games shall have their final scores, including the extra end, recorded but will take no further part in the competition.
- j) A game started, if halted due to inclement weather conditions or other circumstance, a minimum of seven (7) ends must be played to establish a final score. Commencement of a game after any halt due to any circumstance can be delayed for a period of 2 hours, when a minimum of 7 ends will be played to reach a decision. Should no play be possible or a minimum of seven ends cannot be played then 10 shots will be awarded to each team and the game to be a tie.
- k) At the end of each game the scorecards will be signed by both skips and given to the host representative who will check the cards for completeness and accuracy and that the 22nd end score has been entered. When all games have been completed and checked the host delegated person will photo the scorecards and email the results and

photos to the Adjudicator as soon as possible.

- l) Affiliation checks will be done for the leading teams in the Manfield Cup competition after all results have been received. If any player fails the affiliation check then the team in which he played will be disqualified and a Default Win + 10 points will be awarded to the opposition team.

The winning Club shall be the one with the highest number of winning teams (Played wins + Default wins) and the highest margin of shots. In the event of a tie between two or more Clubs the 22nd scores shall be taken into account to decide the winner. In the event there is still a tie the Competition Secretary shall arrange a play-off.

- m) The Winners Cup shall be presented to the winning Club at a match against BN Executive (Men) as specified in the County fixture list. A rink from the second placed Club will be presented with the Runners-up Cup at this match. Inscribed shields for the winning club and Runner-Up club will also be presented at such time and can be retained by the Clubs.

- n) Competition Committees decision shall be final in all matters.

14.2 **County League (Open)**

- a) The league shall be open to all affiliated Clubs, and is controlled by a joint Competition Committee.
- b) Clubs shall be divided into Divisions, according to numbers of Clubs entered. Players may only play for one Club and one team within that club during the season.
- c) Format is: 3 woods/player Triples-14 ends with two trial ends, a Club team shall be 4 rinks of Triples with two rinks playing at Home and two rinks Away on the same day, within date windows for each round. Start times shall be 10am for Sunday play and 6.30pm for week-day play or by mutual agreement. The home Club shall be responsible for paying any green fees.
- d) Points are: 2 points for a winning rink, 1 point for a tied rink, 6 points for the overall shots winner, 3 points each if scores are the same. Total points for one match are 14 points.
- e) All winning scorecards must be photo'd and emailed to either the County League Coordinator or Competition Secretary within 48 hours. The Portal Manager/Coordinator will verify results submitted to the Portal by clubs or results will be entered on their behalf if requested.
- f) The County League Coordinator must be kept informed of any matches cancelled and the reasons for. Any matches halted due to weather conditions, poor light, or other reasons acceptable to both skips should be re-started as soon as possible. Any game abandoned due to weather conditions will constitute a complete game if a combined total of 14 ends over 2 rinks or 28 ends over 4 rinks have been played. In this event the score at cessation of play shall be the match result. If less than the required combined number of ends is played the fixture will be nullified and voided and will be re-arranged.
- g) All matches and re-arranged matches should be played before end of Week 35. For any matches not played before this deadline the Competition Committee will consider one of two options to apply.
 - i) The match is not played and points are split equally between the two clubs concerned
 - ii) An extension (up to 10 days) is given for the match to be played if the result will affect promotion/relegation for that Division.

- h) The winning side in the league will be determined by the club scoring most points at the end of the season. If points are tied then firstly shots difference, and secondly the most shots scored will be used to determine the winning side. The winner of Division 1 will be County League Winners and the second place will be County League R/Up. There is also a cup for Div 2 winners
- i) A promotion and relegation arrangement may apply.

15 Presentation of Trophies

Trophies to be presented at Competition Finals and photos taken of Winners and Runners-up for the BN website. Each trophy may be held for **ONE** year, to be returned to the Competition Secretary not later than 1st May. BN and holders of trophies for the time being shall be responsible for safe custody. BN shall be responsible for having trophies engraved and shall bear such cost. Winners may request a pennant as part of their award. The cost of pennant to be deducted from any cash award for that competition.

Adopted Feb. 6th 2012.

Amended 2012, 2013, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025
