



National Championships and National Competitions

Issued: April 2019

Summary of Rules 2019

The following summary highlights key rules regarding eligibility and format for events under the jurisdiction of Bowls England in 2019. Full details may be viewed in Bowls England Regulations 50-70 at: <https://bowlsengland.247.tv/?>

This document should be read in conjunction with the 'Summary of Changes to Regulations' issued to County Associations and published on the Bowls England website in October 2018.

National Championships (Men and Women)

Eligibility

All Competitors in National Championships shall have paid affiliation fees, through their Club, for the current year.

Each entry shall be made by one named player only, and that player shall be excluded from being a substitute in the same discipline. Should the named entrant in a County Championship event be unable to participate from the outset in the Championship due to exceptional circumstances, the team may request the use of an additional player if required (in addition to the original players that formed the team in the first match). Such a request shall be made in writing to Bowls England via the County Association for consideration.

A competitor shall not enter any Bowls England Championship under an assumed name, nor shall they represent or allow their name to be submitted by more than one Club or County, in any one year. All players in team games shall be affiliated members of the same club (with the exception of the Junior Pairs Championship) and they may only represent that club in all championship events.

Format of Events

Singles: 21 shots – four bowls each player

Pairs (Two players from the same club): 21 ends – four bowls each player

The Leads to play their four bowls before the skips. In the event of the scores being equal when all ends have been played, an extra end or ends shall be played until a decision is reached.

Triples (Three players from the same club): 18 ends – three bowls each player

In the event of the scores being equal when all ends have been played, an extra end or ends shall be played until a decision is reached.

Fours (Four players from the same club): 21 ends – two bowls each player

In the event of the scores being equal when all ends have been played, an extra end or ends shall be played until a decision is reached.

Two-Wood Singles: 21 ends – two bowls each player

In the event of the scores being equal when all ends have been played, an extra end or ends shall be played until a decision is reached.

Junior Singles: 21 shots – four bowls each player

The Championships shall be open to players who have not attained their 25th birthday on the 1st April in the year of the Championship.

Junior Pairs (Two players from the same County): 18 ends – four bowls each player

The Leads to play their four bowls before the skips. In the event of the scores being equal when all ends have been played, an extra end or ends shall be played until a decision is reached. The Championships shall be open to players who have not attained their 25th birthday on the 1st April in the year of the Championship. The two players may belong to different clubs within the same county, so long as both clubs are affiliated to Bowls England.

Senior Fours (Four players from the same club): 18 ends – two bowls each player

In the event of the scores being equal when all ends have been played, an extra end or ends shall be played until a decision is reached. The Championships shall be open to players who have attained their 55th birthday by the 1st April in the year of the Championship.

PLEASE NOTE AMENDMENT TO NUMBER OF ENDS IN THIS EVENT IN 2019

National Competitions

Eligibility

All Competitors in National Competitions shall have paid affiliation fees, through their Club, for the current year. In any year a competitor selected to play in Inter-County Competitions may only represent the county from which they have entered National Championships.

The events below are classed as ‘National Competitions’ – see individual Regulations for specific rules.

- Johns Trophy – Inter-County Competition (Women)
- Walker Cup – Inter-County Top Two Fours Competition (Women)
- Amy Rose Bowl – Inter-County Junior Competition (Women)
- National Senior Singles and Pairs Competition (Women)
- National Top Club Competition (Women)
- National Family Pairs Competition
- National Champion of Champions Singles Competition (Women)
- Middleton Cup – Inter-County Competition (Men)
- National Club Two Fours Competition (Men)
- National Top Club Competition (Men)

- National Senior Singles and Pairs Competition (Men)
- National Champion of Champions Singles Competition (Men)
- Balcomb Trophy – Inter-County Top Two Fours Competition (Men)
- White Rose – Inter-County Junior Competition (Men)
- National Mixed Pairs Competition
- National Mixed Fours Competition
- Tony Allcock Trophy – National Club Mixed Over 60s Double Rink Competition

The following highlights **AMENDMENTS ONLY** from 2018 season for your ease of reference:

1. **Eligibility – Mixed Pairs/Mixed Fours/Senior Pairs/Senior Singles**
Players must represent the club/county from which they entered National Championships.
2. **Senior Pairs/Tony Allcock Trophy**
Number of ends reduced to 18 in all rounds.
3. **Inclement Weather**
Provision for ‘common sense’ in hot weather included following the exceptional conditions experienced in 2018. Number of ends required for a ‘game’ reduced in all events covered by Appendix J.
4. **Final qualification round in National Competitions**
The final match prior to the National Finals in all National Competitions will be played on a neutral green (regardless of mileage)
5. **Match Arrangements**
County Associations may set fixed dates for Top Club (Men and Women) and Club Two Fours (Men) subject to the rounds falling within the play-by dates set by Bowls England AND both participating clubs in that round being from within the same county. Additional wording has been included to clarify the responsibility of the Challenger and Opponent when arranging any National Competition match (Regulation 52.1.14 to Regulation 52.1.23 inclusive refers).
6. **Johns Trophy/Middleton Cup – Start Time**
Matches shall start at 1.30pm (Johns) and 2pm (Middleton) unless mutually agreed. The last round of group games within the same group (excluding dead rubbers) shall start at the same time – 1.30pm (Johns) and 2pm (Middleton) unless mutually agreed between all competing counties.
7. **Men’s Top Club – Start Time**
All disciplines shall start at the same time unless, when arranging the fixture, it is agreed that the singles matches shall be played on the same rink one after the other.