



## **National Competitions 2019 Frequently Asked Questions**

This guidance document has been prepared to respond to some of the questions most frequently asked by competitors in Bowls England National Competitions. It is to be read in conjunction with Bowls England Rules & Regulations 50-70 (as published on the Bowls England website). This guidance document is issued to assist participants in the following events:

- National Senior Singles and Senior Pairs (Men and Women)
- National Champion of Champions Singles (Men and Women)
- National Top Club (Men and Women)
- National Club Two Fours (Men)
- Tony Allcock Trophy (Mixed Over 60's Double Rink)
- National Family Pairs Competition
- National Mixed Pairs Competition
- National Mixed Fours Competition

### ***Who is the Challenger?***

In Bowls England National Competitions, the Challenger is shown on the published draw by an arrow and identified on the draw card circulated to the named contact of both teams/sides. The Challenger will be responsible for all match arrangements and the payment of rink fees if appropriate, unless when matches are held at a neutral venue, when green fees will be shared by both participants/teams/sides.

### ***How many dates must the Challenger offer and at what times?***

The Challenger must offer their opponent at least three dates for play, one of which must be a Saturday or Sunday. There is nothing within the National Competition Regulations to stipulate that any of the dates offered has to be a weekday. The offering of two different start times on a single date does not count as two dates. A minimum of 48 hours' notice is required for any dates offered to be eligible (*i.e. if the Challenger contacts their opponent at 6pm on Monday, the first eligible date that can be offered would be Wednesday at 6pm*). The time for commencing a match shall be mutually agreed but no player/team/side shall be compelled to accept a time earlier than 6pm Monday to Friday or 9.30am on a Saturday or Sunday, nor later than 6.30pm on any day.

### ***When must the Challenger offer dates?***

The Challenger must offer their opponent dates within 48 hours of the closing date of the previous round. When a draw and result card is issued in advance of the start of the Competition, the Challenger does not need to offer dates until 21 days before the closing date of that round, after which the aforesaid conditions (within 48 hours of the closing date of the previous round) will apply.

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### ***When must the Opponent accept dates?***

The Opponent or Opposing teams/sides shall, within 24 hours of receipt of the challenge, reply and accept one of the dates offered. If the timescales for arranging any match are not met, the defaulting party would forfeit the match.

### ***Can I offer dates of other Bowls England events i.e. International Events/Inter-County Dates/Regional Finals/Bank Holidays?***

Yes – there is nothing within the National Competition Regulations to prevent any such dates from being offered by the Challenger. A Bank Holiday Monday is classed as a weekday and is therefore a legitimate date should it be offered.

### ***What if I have NOT received a Challenge within the specified period?***

If a challenge has not been made within the specified period, the opponent shall become the Challenger and make all match arrangements including the offering of dates and choice of venue. If neither the Challenger nor Opponent make any attempt to arrange the fixture by the closing date of the round, the result will be determined by the toss of a coin.

### ***Can we have an extension as we have not been able to complete the game by the published play-by date?***

No extension of the closing date for any round will be granted for any reason whatsoever.

### ***How do we determine the rink/s to be played on?***

The draw for rink/s to be played on will be made in accordance with the current Laws of the Sport (Law 3.1). It is Bowls England's recommendation that for a match requiring one rink then a minimum of two rinks be offered to the opponent, for a match requiring more than one rink the minimum number of rinks offered should be at least equal to the number of rinks required.

### ***My opponent did not turn up at the agreed start time, what can I do?***

If a player/team/side fails to appear and be ready to play within 30 minutes after the agreed time for the tie, the opponent may claim a 'walk over'.

### ***What happens in the event of bad weather?***

In the event of no decision being reached IN ANY ROUND owing to exceptional weather conditions, and it is impossible to re-arrange a fixture before the closing date, please refer to Appendix J (Inclement Weather).

In Club Two Fours fixtures, a total of 10 ends or more across the two rinks must have been completed to constitute a game. In Top Club fixtures (both genders), five ends must be completed in each individual discipline to constitute a game.

### ***Can matches be played on artificial surfaces?***

There is nothing in the Laws of the Sport or in the National Competition Regulations, as at present constituted, which stipulates that matches may not be played on a surface other than grass. However, the Challenger must inform their opponent if there is a likelihood of play on a surface other than grass. It is, however, a condition that National Competitions are played outdoors and that the green has been approved by the relevant County Association.

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### ***How do I submit a result?***

The winner must submit the result on the same day by either:

- Using the Bowls England National Events Portal: <https://bowlsengland.247.tv>
- Calling the Bowls England Office on 01926 334609 (Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm excluding Bank Holidays)
- E-mailing: [comps@bowlsengland.com](mailto:comps@bowlsengland.com)
  - ***If sending results via e-mail please ensure that the full title of the event and your county is shown within the subject i.e. National Mixed Pairs - Warwickshire***

### ***What should I do in case of a dispute?***

All National Competitions shall be controlled by Bowls England. Details of all disputes must be sent via e-mail to: [comps@bowlsengland.com](mailto:comps@bowlsengland.com)

The matter will be referred to an Emergency Committee that consists of any three members nominated by the Director of Competitive Events to consider any disputes. The decision of the Emergency Committee in each and every circumstance shall be final and binding.

### ***Who do I contact regarding any other National Competition enquiry?***

If you can't find the answer within this guidance document or the Rules & Regulations as published, please e-mail: [comps@bowlsengland.com](mailto:comps@bowlsengland.com) or telephone 01926 334609 (Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm excluding Bank Holidays).

**PLEASE NOTE THAT NORMAL WORKING HOURS ARE MONDAY-FRIDAY 9AM TO 5PM**

***This FAQ document should be read in conjunction with:***

- Bowls England Competition Regulations 50-70
- Bowls England Summary of Changes to Regulations (Issued: October 2018)
- Bowls England Championship and Competitions Summary (Issued: April 2019)