

1 Introduction

- 1.1 **The National Championships** shall comprise: **Singles, Pairs, Triples, Fours, Men's Junior Singles, Mens Junior Pairs, Two Wood Singles, Senior Fours and Women's Junior Pairs, and Women's Junior Singles.** Rounds played in the County are the preliminary rounds of the National Championships leading to an appearance at the National Championships. **All others are National Competitions and managed by Bowls England.**
- 1.2 Rounds of the National Championships, that are administered and/or controlled by the Association, shall be conducted in accordance by the rules laid down by the Governing Body.
- 1.3 Championship/competition entry shall be confined to members of Affiliated Clubs whose fees for the current year have been paid.
- 1.4 Clubs shall be grouped into Divisions as determined by the Executive Committee.

The following Rules are supplemental to any Rules of the Governing Body and shall apply to all National Championships and County Competitions except where otherwise specified. (See the Individual Championship and Competition Rules, the Bucks County Cup/Plate Rules, the Trundell Trophy, Burnham Plate and the Ray Keen Association League Rules).

2 Conditions

- 2.1 All Championships and competitions shall be administered via the appropriate Competition Manager.
- 2.2 Bowls used in National Championships/competitions must bear a 'Test' stamp as defined in the Laws of the Sport or English Variations thereof.
- 2.3 The preliminary rounds of the National Championships and Competitions shall only be played on greens and/or rinks that have been starred.
- 2.4 A player:
 - 2.4.1 May enter more than one National Championship/National Competition.
 - 2.4.2 May only register once for any National Championship/National Competition in any one year.
 - 2.4.3 May not represent more than one Club or County in any one year for National Championships/National Competitions.
 - 2.4.4 May enter Association Domestic Competitions at another club if affiliated to that Club.
- 2.5 Should a team withdraw from a championship/competition, the reason for withdrawal must be sent in writing to the appropriate Competition Manager within forty-eight hours of withdrawal.
- 2.6 Should a game be cancelled or abandoned, it shall be played before the date of the next round.
- 2.7 'Condition of Entry' – all players/teams, if successful, will be expected to play in the National and County final of the competition entered.
- 2.8 Named entrants are excluded from being a substitute in the same discipline, even when a walkover in the first round has taken place.

3 Questions, Issues and/or Disputes

- 3.1 In the rounds up to, but not including the Q/Fs, Competition Managers are authorized, subject to the overriding authority of the Executive Committee, to answer questions and deal with issues and/or disputes raised appertaining to the administration and playing of the games.
- 3.2 From the Q/Fs onwards, the Competition Manager shall be responsible for dealing with such matters, subject to the overriding authority of the Executive Committee, and which do not come within the remit of the Umpires.
- 3.3 If the conduct of players and/or officials, or outcome of the game is in dispute, an appeal must be made by the affected team at least three days before the playing of a game, or not more than two days after the game has been played.
- 3.4 A team affected by a decision may appeal as defined in Association Regulations.
- 3.5 Players on international duty shall contact the relevant Competitions Manager to make alternative arrangements for play.
- 3.6 In singles play, entrants who are unavailable for any round, as specified in the Association diary, should withdraw prior to the commencement of that competition, or as soon as they are aware of an issue and before playing in the next round. Their opponent will be given a walkover. Failure to do so will result in them being ineligible to enter the following year.

4 The Championships

- 4.1 The draw for each championship shall be published.
- 4.2 The first name shown shall be the challenger, on whose green the game shall be played, and the second name shown is the opponent.
- 4.3 Where the green of a challenger is not starred the challenger shall have the opportunity of playing on a neutral green. If a neutral green cannot be found the game shall be played on the opponents green.
- 4.4 If neither green is starred, the challenger shall have the opportunity of playing on a neutral green. If a neutral green cannot be found, the game shall be played on the challenger's green.
- 4.5 It shall be the responsibility of the opponent to ascertain whether or not the match green or rink is starred before the start of the game.
- 4.6 Where more teams are drawn to play on the same green than green space allows, teams from the same Club playing each other must bring their match forward. Should the number of teams at a Club still exceed the green space available, it shall be the responsibility of the Divisional Secretary to decide which games are brought forward

5 Choice of Rinks

- 5.1 National championships and competitions shall take precedence over other competitions.
- 5.2 Clubs shall make available a minimum of two rinks, but when more than two games are to be played, the Club shall make sufficient rinks available and the opponent shall draw for a rink from the rinks made available, irrespective of gender.

6 Periods of Rounds

- 6.1 Competitors should play their games on the dates specified. Games may be played before the date specified by mutual agreement and the Competition Manager must be notified of any such arrangement before the game is played. The agreed date becomes the specified

date. Failing such agreement, the team desiring the alteration must give the other team a walkover.

- 6.2 Unless otherwise agreed, play shall commence at 6.00pm. A walk-over may be claimed by the opponent of any team not ready to play within 30 minutes of the specified/agreed time.
- 6.3 In the event of extenuating circumstances, weather, green closure, International Duty, etc, the appropriate Competition Manager, may extend the specified dates.

7 Notification of Results

- 7.1 The appropriate Competition Manager must be informed of the result of the game electronically within 24 hours of the game being completed.
- 7.2 The winner shall retain the scorecards for all rounds played and must bring them all to the Q/Fs for verification.
- 7.3 The scorecards must:
 - 7.3.1 Identify the particular competition.
 - 7.3.2 State the first name and surname of the participating players.
 - 7.3.3 Be signed by a member of both teams.Ensuring compliance with this rule is the responsibility of the winner of the game.

8 Final Stages

- 8.1 The quarterfinals, semi-finals and finals shall be played on a day and on a green, determined by the appropriate Competition Manager.

End

History:

Issue 1.0 - 16th February 2013 – issued for ratification.

Issue 1.1 – 20th May 2013 – changes to paragraph 2.4.

Issue 1.2 – 27th January 2014– changes to paragraphs 7.1 & 7.2.

Issue 1.3 – January 2019 – Senior Fours added to paragraph 1.1

Issue 1.4 – 18th November 2023 - Rename “League” as “Ray Keen Association League”, clarification on competitions, deletion of references to “Divisional Secretaries”