

Berkhamsted Bowls Club 2016 Competitions Rules & Guidance

The Club runs the following competitions. Some have restrictions attached to them, as shown; and teams, when chosen, aim for a comparable mix of abilities and sexes.

Game	Competition Title	Entry restrictions	Match decision	Extra Information
Singles	Men		First to 21 points	
	Ladies		First to 21 points	
	Men – 2 wood		Result after 21 ends	
	Ladies – 2 wood		Result after 21 ends	
	Open - Novices	No previous singles winners	First to 21 points	
	Open - Veterans	60 years & older	First to 21 points	
	Open - Seniors	70 years & older	First to 21 points	
	Open - Handicap		First to 21 points	
	Open – Juniors	Under 19	First to 21 points	
Pairs	Mens	Select partner	Result after 21 ends	enter as a pair
	Ladies	Select partner	Result after 21 ends	enter as a pair
	Mixed	Select partner	Result after 21 ends	enter as a pair
	Pedlow - Handicap	Individual entry and Partner allocated	Result after 15 ends	Skip/Lead rotate through the game
Triples	Mixed (3 woods) - Handicap	Individual entry; team mates allocated	Result after 18 ends	
Fours	Mixed (2 woods) - Handicap	Individual entry; team mates allocated	Result after 21 ends	

All competitions are played under the laws of Bowls England

Bowls bearing the current date stamps should be used. Failure to comply may result in that player being scratched from the competition.

Each season all members are given a handicap determined by the Competitions Sub-committee to be used in the Handicap competitions and Team selection for the Pedlow Pairs, Triples & Fours. *The Competitions Sub-committee comprises the Competition Secretary and the previous season's Men's & Ladies Captains.*

All Club Competitions start on 1st June each year except the Novices Singles and the Triples & Fours for which entries will remain open until May 31st and July 8th respectively.

If a player or team arrives more than half an hour after the start time fixed for a match, then the other player or team may claim a walkover.

Rinks for all Finals are drawn by the Competitions Secretary.

Dress

Players:

All rounds up to the finals: grey trousers/skirts and club coloured shirts.
Finals weekend: white trousers/skirts and club coloured shirts

Markers:

All rounds up to the finals: grey trousers/skirts and white shirts.
Finals weekend: white trousers/skirts and white shirts

Singles Competitions

All Singles rounds must be umpired by a Marker.

For rounds up to the Final, Markers are appointed by the 'challenger' (see later) but agreeable to both players;

Singles Finals: The Competition Secretary will appoint the Markers.

The Highland Trophy is open to losers in the men's and ladies singles first round matches; entry will be open immediately after the closing date of those matches for 7 days.

However, if there is insufficient interest shown by those losers, then the Competition Secretary may open the entry to losers in the first round of other non-handicap singles competitions (e.g. Seniors, 2-wood).

The Novice Singles competition is open to any member who has not previously won a singles competition either in the club or externally (*i.e. despite the name it is not limited to inexperienced members only!*)

Pairs Competitions

For men's, ladies and mixed pairs competitions, members choose their playing partner and enter as a pair. For the Pedlow pairs competition, members enter as individuals and pairs are selected by the Competition Sub-committee taking account of members' playing handicaps.

Triples and Fours Competitions

The selection of teams for the Triples and Fours competitions will be made by the Competitions Sub-committee as soon as possible after the closing date for entries.

All rounds of the Club Triples and Fours are pre-booked by the Competition Secretary prior to the start of the season (date/time/rink) and appear in the Club Fixture Card. However, **if mutually agreeable to all involved**, teams may arrange **earlier dates** than those pre-booked and confirm that date with the Competition Secretary.

If, when completing the entry form, a player knows they cannot make the first fixed date of the Triples or Fours, then they cannot enter the competition except as a substitute.

Substitutes

Members who have not entered the Triples or Fours competitions may put their name forward to be considered as substitutes in those competitions. Those names will be graded by handicap and the list published on the notice board. Names may continue to be added to that list until it closes on the day before the commencement of the preliminary or first round, as appropriate.

The players in the preliminary/first round are deemed to be the players comprising the team.

If a player is named in a team and subsequently has to drop out, that player can only be used as a substitute in their original team – they cannot place their name on the substitute list.

The following applies to substitutions:

- Substitutes will be grouped into three (Triples) or four (Fours) skill groups.
- A substitute cannot play for more than one team in any one competition.
- Substitutes should be sought initially from the same skill group as the player unable to play. They should be selected in the order that they are written in the list i.e. looking down the substitute list the first person in the requisite grouping must be selected.
- No substitute can be called into a team if a substitute appearing higher up in the same skill group is available.
- No substitutes can be called from another skill group if substitutes are available in the same skill group as the player being replaced
- **If no substitutes are available in the relevant skill group**, then substitutes may be sought from a higher or lower skill group, with a corresponding minus or plus adjustment made to the team's handicap.
- **All substitutions must be approved by the Competitions Secretary** before the match is played.
- In any one round no team may have more than one substitute.
- If the substitute plays two consecutive rounds then the substitute remains in the team, and the player who has been substituted leaves the team.
- A team playing in the semi-finals and the finals must have at least two of the original Triples and three of the original Fours team.

Arranging Matches

Draws for all competitions are displayed in the Competitions section of the Clubhouse Notice Board. The closing date, and the initial 'arrange by' date (see later), for each round is clearly shown.

For teams/pairs the name that appears first in the team selection is designated the player to liaise with the opposing first name, unless he/she delegates the task to another team member.

For all rounds up to the Final, the uppermost player or team in each drawn pair is deemed to be the **challenger** (shown in blue in the draw) and has **responsibility for arranging the match**.

The Competition Secretary hopes that matches can be arranged by mutual agreement; however if this is not possible then **the following summarises the official match arranging procedure laid down in the Club Constitution**

First Rounds

- The challenger **must** offer his/her opponent (shown as red in the draw) three dates for the round to be played – **'the challenge'**.
- The challenge must be issued within **4 days of the start of the competition**.
- The opponent/opposing team **must respond and accept one of the dates offered by the challenger within 3 days or forfeit the round**.

In the event of a challenge not being issued within the 4 days, the challenger now becomes the second name in the tie and his/her opponent becomes the new challenger and has the right to offer three dates to their opponent.

Once a match is agreed, the challenger enters the match details into the Rink Book, in order to reserve a rink for the match.

If neither player has made the attempt to arrange and play the match by the closing date of the round, both players/teams will be eliminated from the competition.

Subsequent Rounds

- The challenger must offer his/her opponent (shown as red in the draw) three dates for the round to be played – **'the challenge'**.
- The challenge must be made within **3 days after the previous round closing date**.
- The opponent/opposing team **must respond and accept one of the dates offered by the challenger within 3 days or forfeit the round**.

No matches are to be played after the closing date of that round, unless the Green Manager has declared the green to be unfit for play, e.g. due to inclement weather. In that event the game must be played or resumed within 48 hours. If mutual agreement cannot be reached on a new time and date for the match, then the opponent will toss a coin and the challenger will call to determine the match result.

Match Results

Each singles player, or skip of a team, must complete a Result Card and after the match have that card signed by their opponent before putting it into the Score Cards pigeon-hole in the Clubhouse. The winner shall also enter his/her name onto the draw sheets displayed in the Competition section of the Clubhouse Notice Board.

Anything requiring clarification, or in the event of a dispute, please contact the Competitions Secretary.

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March 2016

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