

RULES AND REGULATIONS **RELATING TO COMPETITIONS IN GENERAL**

Edition 20

Revised December 2023 (amended 23rd February 2024)

- 1) All competitions shall be staged on an annual basis and shall be played under Bowls England, ECBA and/or ECWBA rules as applicable.
- 2) Control of the competitions will be with the Club Competition Secretary, who will be elected at the A.G.M. each year.

Competition games may be played when Club "day" events are in progress provided there are free rink(s) and the permission of the club day organisers has been obtained.

- 3) Competitors should, preferably, hold morning and adult or concessionary Council season tickets, enabling them to be available and eligible to play morning, afternoons and Saturdays.

Competitors without a Council morning ticket must be available to play afternoons and Saturdays.

Sunday play is permissible provided competitors mutually consent.

- 4) A straight draw for all competitions shall be made in the presence of one Club Committee Member, one Non-Club Committee Member, and the Competition Secretary. The draw shall be so arranged, and all odd number of players shall be eliminated by extra games played in a preliminary round before the first round, to ensure a straight elimination to the two finalists, without further byes or replays. The draws shall be displayed in the Clubroom, not later than 10th May.
- 5) All competitions, except the One Day competitions, shall be played on a knock-out basis and each round shall be completed by the date decided by the Competition Secretary. The first named competitor in each pairing shall be the challenger and be responsible for arranging the tie. Subsequent to the first round, in all competitions that are not completed in one day, the challenger shall within seven days of the start of each round or within seven days of a match involving a player where an extension had been granted in the previous round, offer his/her opponent three dates. These should be for one morning, one afternoon and one weekend day unless either player does not have a morning ticket, in which case an extra afternoon or weekend date must be offered.

One of the three dates offered must be accepted within three days. Should the challenger fail to comply, the right to challenge will pass to the non-challenger. In the event of illness, holidays, etc. or any difficulty that cannot be resolved by the players involved, the dispute should be referred to the Competition Secretary who will adjudicate accordingly. In the event of neither player making

arrangements to play the tie and no application being made to the Competition Secretary for an "extension" due to unusual circumstances, both players will be eliminated.

- 6) The onus of providing a marker in each round of a single-handed competition shall be upon the challenger, but may, by mutual agreement, be dispensed with (except for the Hutton Cup).
The marker for the final of each single-handed competition will be nominated by the Competition Secretary or if necessary, the Club Committee.
- 7) Games postponed due to inclement weather/green being declared unfit for play, shall be played at a mutually agreed date, up to seven days after the round closing date. Games interrupted/abandoned due to inclement weather/ green being declared unfit for play shall be resumed at a mutually agreed date, up to seven days after the round closing date at the same score as at the time of interruption/abandonment. In the event of a dispute the Competition Secretary shall be informed.
- 8) In the event of a match being started and any player being unable to continue, for any reason, he/she will retire and concede the game to the opponent(s).
- 9) The winning competitor in each round shall be responsible for entering his/ her name on the Competition Sheet. Should the winner fail to do so, the tie may be given to the opponent.
- 10) The final of each competition shall be played on Club Finals Days provided that no player shall play three or more finals in any one day. In the event of a player reaching three or more finals he/she may elect to play on Finals Days and this will be permitted or a date acceptable to both finalists should be arranged between themselves. The Competition Secretary should be advised of this change of date.
- 11) The winner of each competition shall be presented with the Trophy, which shall be retained for one year, and shall be returned to the Competition Secretary on demand. The Club Committee shall allocate expenditure for the purpose of prizes to be awarded to the winners and the losing finalist(s).
- 12) Any player who knows that he/she will be unable to play on Finals Days, should not enter any competition other than the one-day events. The playing rules for these competitions being found in the following Rules and Regulations Relating to Specific Competitions.
- 13) All members entering Club Competitions will be given a handicap decided upon by the Competition Committee - comprising Competition Secretary, Ladies' Captain, and Men's Captain prior to the start of the season. Assessment will be based on the individual's current ability/competition success. The allocation of handicaps cannot be disputed. The handicap range will be between zero and ten. New bowlers will be allocated a zero handicap in their first year.