

SUFFOLK COUNTY BOWLS (BE)

MEN'S COMPETITION RULES 2025

Updated August 2025

1. All competitions shall be confined to those Clubs who are affiliated with Suffolk County (BE). All members must be affiliated before playing in any competition.
2. County competitions shall be played in accordance with the Rules as laid down for B.E. National Championships and played under the latest edition of the Crystal Mark Laws of the Game.
3. Entries for all competitions and the subsequent draws will be made using the Competitions Portal.
4. All County competitions shall be played on greens to the standard required by Bowls England. Rinks that have not met the required standard the previous year must be inspected before being used for competitions during the current season.
5. Should the green of the Challenger not be passed, the tie will be played on a green of the Challenger's choice within the area.
6. A home green is one on which a player enters their B.E. competitions.
7. The neutral green stages of the Four Wood Singles, Two Wood Singles, Pairs, Triples, Fours, Senior Fours, Junior Singles and Junior Pairs shall be reached at the quarter-final stage.
For all other competitions the neutral green stage will be reached at the semi-finals.
All neutral greens are to be selected by the Competition Secretary and the Assistant Competition Secretary.
8. The winners of all games must enter the result on the Portal and send a copy of the card to the Competitions Secretary by email or WhatsApp, as shown on the portal. Failure to send a card / scoresheet with the loser's name and signature may render the game incomplete (in line with BE rules) should there be any post-match enquiries.
9. Where indicated in the draw, games will be played ON the dates set by the Competition Secretary but may be played earlier by mutual consent. From the quarter finals onwards, all games will be played ON the dates set by the Competition Secretary
10. All County competitions will be played in white tops and greys, or a Club uniform registered with the County, in matches prior to rounds played on pre-determined / neutral greens.
For matches played at pre-determined / neutral venues (Quarter-Finals onwards for National Championships, Semi-Finals onwards for domestic comps and County cups – see rule 7) white tops or registered club shirts must be worn, paired with white or registered club bottoms i.e. should a club have registered a design of shorts / trousers that is other than grey or white these are permitted at the semi-final and final stages.
Qualifiers for National Finals must wear the registered County uniform i.e. County shirts and white bottoms. In all games (i.e. all rounds) all members of any team must be dressed with shirts/tops of the same design and bottoms of the same colour.
11. All games must start no later than 6.30pm. Any player(s) not appearing within 30 minutes of the previously arranged time will be disqualified.
12. From the quarter finals onwards, the Competitions Secretary or Assistant Competitions Secretary will request the County Umpires Co-Ordinator to appoint Umpires.
13. All protests appertaining to the green or bowls must be intimated to the opponent before the sixth end, thereupon the tie shall be terminated. The competitor lodging the protest shall deposit within 48 hours to

the Competitions Secretary, or Assistant Competitions Secretary, a written statement of protest and the sum of £50, which may be forfeited as the Management Committee may determine, after considering and disposing the appeal. No appeal shall be withdrawn except by leave of the Men's Management Committee.

14. The winners and (subject to B.E. ratification) runners-up in the 2 wood Singles, 4 wood Singles, Pairs, Triples, Fours, Senior Four, Junior Singles and Junior Pairs competitions will be required to compete in the National Championships.
Failure to compete at the National Finals will be reported to the Suffolk County Men's Management Committee who will withhold the County title and ban that person (or persons) for 2 years from entering any National or County competition. If the person is unbadged, any consideration for a County badge shall be canceled for that period. The Suffolk County Men's Management Committee to inform Bowls England. If a person (or persons) competes at National finals but does not complete their matches, Bowls England are to take appropriate action, informing Suffolk County B. E. of the incident and resulting action. Suffolk Bowls B.E. are to take no action.
Exceptions to the above are sickness, injury, family bereavement or playing international matches.
15. Club secretaries of winning County Cup teams are to ensure that the result of the game is entered on the Portal, and a copy of the card sent by email or WhatsApp to the Competition Secretary, as shown on the Portal.
16. All trophies shall be presented to the winners on Finals Day and at the Annual Luncheon and Prize-giving, and to be held for 1 year. They shall be returned - clean - to the Competitions Secretary or a Management Committee member when requested, and within 14 days of the date of the next annual presentation. The holders to be responsible for the safe custody of the trophy, other than insurance.
17. All county winners are required to attend the annual luncheon and prize giving - in its entirety - where they will be presented with their trophy and award, unless there are mitigating circumstances. If non-attendance is agreed, then your trophy and award will be presented at the AGM. Failure to attend the AGM will result in the County withholding the award.
18. On occasions where a Club has drawn more home games than they have rinks available, the excess games to be played before the date of the next round. The Challenger to offer 2 dates.
19. A minimum of 2 rinks must be made available and offered to opponents for any County Competition, in line with BE Rules and Regulations, wherever possible. Should the number of Competitions being played match the number of rinks available then rink numbers should be drawn by the Visiting player/s using a fair and random method.
In all cases a County Competition takes precedence over any local or county league in terms of rink allocations, and where a County Competition and League match are due to start at the same time rinks for the League match will be determined after the County Competition/s have been allocated.
In all team / multi-rink Competitions and Cups the allocation of players to rinks will be done by / in the presence of both Captains / representatives and in a fair and random manner. The generally accepted process is for the Home Captain to turn their cards face down, the Away Captain to 'pair up' by placing their cards (face down) on top and then the Away Captain to assign rink numbers before turning the cards over and completing them.
20. In the event of a game not being completed due to exceptional circumstances, the game must be completed in good time and before the next round to allow the following round to continue unhindered. Suffolk Bowls B. E. games to take precedence over other games.
21. When a player or team is eliminated for breaking the Competition rules in any competition, individual or team event, the game shall be awarded to their opponent.
22. Any Club not fulfilling a fixture in any of the County team competitions will be fined the sum of £20.
All appeals to be dealt with by the Men's Management Committee.

23. Players who are invited to represent their Country or are involved in the British Isles Championships must be accommodated in their County competitions before their National involvement. Where this is not possible they must be accommodated immediately afterwards.
The onus is on the player to inform the Competition Secretary of their National arrangements.
24. Competitors in County competitions must be from the same Club.
This does not apply to Mixed or Open competitions i.e. Mixed Pairs, the Colin Buck Trophy or the Percy Rowe Trophy.
25. Players who are not available to play in the County semi-finals or Finals must withdraw before the quarter final stages are reached. Anyone not conforming to this Rule will not represent the County in any event at the National Finals. Competitors who do not play in their County Finals will be banned from all County competitions for 2 years, unless they have a legitimate reason, and have reported it to the Competitions Secretary or Assistant Competitions Secretary 7 days prior to the Finals.
This rule does not apply should a competitor have received a bye / byes to the final stages and withdraw before playing their first game.

Notes

There is nothing that can be laid down in a set of Rules or Regulations that cover all interpretations, incidents, or circumstances. It is therefore expected that true sportsmanship and common sense will prevail.

The Men's Management Committee shall have full power to deal with any matter not provided for in these Rules.