

## **SUFFOLK COUNTY BOWLS (BE)**

### **LADIES COMPETITION RULES 2026**

1. All competitions shall be confined to those Clubs who are affiliated to 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 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 Singles, Two Wood Singles, Pairs, Triples, Fours, Senior Fours, Junior Singles and Junior Pairs shall be reached at the semi-final stage. All neutral greens to be selected by the Competition Secretary.

8. The winner of all ties must enter the result on the Portal, and send a copy (photograph or scanned copy) of the card to the Competition Secretary by email or WhatsApp, as shown on the portal.

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 semi-final stage 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. Should teams wish to play in registered shirts and/or registered coloured bottoms then all shirts to be a matching design and all bottoms to be a matching colour. From the semi-final stage onwards, whites, both top and bottom, or Club uniform tops and white bottoms must be worn by all players. All white tops to be matching if worn.

11. All games (excluding the Hadleigh Cup; see rule 27) 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 semi-final stage onwards, the Competition 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 Competition Secretary, a written statement of protest and the sum of £50, which may be forfeited as the Ladies Management Committee may determine, after considering and disposing the appeal. No appeal shall be withdrawn except by leave of the Ladies 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 Fours, Junior Singles and Junior Pairs competitions will be required to compete in the National Championships. County shirts must be worn at National finals.

Failure to compete at the National Finals will be reported to the Suffolk County 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 cancelled for that period. The Suffolk County Ladies 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, and valid reasons only, are: Sickness or injury, family bereavement, or playing International matches. No other exceptions to be allowed.

15. Club secretaries of winning County Cup teams (Hadleigh Cup and Top Team) are to ensure that the result of the game is entered on the Portal, and a copy (photograph or scanned 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 to the Competition Secretary when requested, and no later than 14 days before Finals day. The holders to be responsible for the safe custody of the trophy, other than insurance.

17. 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.

18. In all competitions a draw for rinks will be made in the presence of an opponent. This includes the Hadleigh Cup and Top Team.

19. In the event of a game not being completed due to exceptional circumstances, the game must be completed by the Sunday before the next round, to allow the following round to continue unhindered. Suffolk Bowls B. E. games to take precedence over other games.

20. 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.

21. Any Club not fulfilling a fixture in the Hadleigh Cup and Top Team competitions in the semi-finals and final stages will be fined the sum of £20. All appeals to be dealt with by the Ladies Management Committee.

22. 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.

23. 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, the Percy Rowe Trophy) or the Hadleigh Cup, Top Team or Benevolent Triples competitions. Any substitute must be from the original entrants Club.

24. 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 Competition Secretary 7 days prior to the Finals.

25. To be eligible to compete for Champion of Champions in any one year, a member must have won the 4 wood singles at her club the previous year, played under B.E. rules, and recognised by her club as producing their Champion. Should any member be a member of more than one club, she is only eligible by winning the singles at the Club from which she enters the County competitions.

26. Substitutions: With the exception of singles matches, any player may have a substitute for any reason other than playing or attending any other bowls game. Also, with the exception of singles competitions, if a player reaches County Semi-Finals/Finals and is successful but is subsequently unable to play at the National Championships a substitute may be used but the National Championship badge is presented to the substitute. One substitute only allowed.

27. HADLEIGH CUP. This competition requires a minimum of ten competitors (nine players and one reserve). Format is three bowls, three rinks of triples each playing 18 ends. If the match is drawn, all rinks to play an extra end. If a club enters more than one team, there is to be no exchange of players between the teams. Multiple clubs may combine to enter this competition provided that their combined number of affiliated players does not exceed 20 (i.e. total of 20 or less). The Competition Secretary must be notified of any decision for clubs to combine at the time the competition entry is made. Games to start at 2.00 pm **on or before stipulated date unless arranged otherwise by mutual agreement. County to be divided into two sections for first round of competition.**

28. TOP TEAM. This competition requires a minimum of 11 competitors (ten players and one reserve). Format is 4-bowl Singles (21 shots), Pairs (4 bowls, 18 ends), Triples (3 bowls 18 ends) and Fours (2 bowls, 18 ends). In accordance with National rules, if, after all rinks are complete, the match is tied (i.e. two winning rinks each), the total number of shots scores will be used to determine the winner. If the total shots scored is equal across the two teams, then the Pairs, Triples and Fours rinks will each play an extra end to determine the winner. If a club enters more than one team, there is to be no exchange of players between the teams. Multiple clubs may combine to enter this competition provided that their combined number of **registered** players does not exceed **16** (i.e. total of **16** or less). The Competition Secretary must be notified of any decision for clubs to combine at the time the competition entry is made. **Players to be registered with the Competition Secretary prior to 31st March 2026. If an unregistered bowler plays, the team will forfeit the game. County to be divided into two sections for first round of competition.**

29. Peggy Barber Millennium Trophy: Presented to BOWLER OF THE YEAR. This title to be given to the player(s) gaining most points through County/National competitions within the agreed points system (amended and ratified by Council when appropriate).

## Notes

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

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