

BIRMINGHAM BOWLING ASSOCIATION
COMPETITION RULES

(As adopted by the AGM of December 2016)

1. QUALIFYING COMPETITIONS

These rules shall apply to the following Association Competitions:

- Champion of Champions Championship
- Two Bowl Singles Championship
- Four Bowl Singles Championship
- Pairs Championship
- Centenary Mixed Pairs Championship
- Triples Championship
- 'Innes' Fours Championship
- Under 25's Open singles
- W G Walker trophy

Competitions will be played in compliance with current Laws of the Sport of Bowls (current Crystal Mark Edition), together with properly constituted rules approved by the Association's Annual General Meeting or Extraordinary General Meeting.

Such rules and regulations can only be changed by a properly constituted General meeting of the Association's member clubs.

2 QUALIFICATION FOR ENTRY

- Only bona fide Full Playing or Life Members of Club's affiliated to the Association, and Life Members of the B.B.A, shall be eligible to compete. Social or Associate Members are not eligible.
- In the Pairs, Triples and Fours, and the W G Walker Trophy, all participants must be Members of the same Club
- A competitor shall not represent or allow his name to be submitted from more than one club in any one year.
- Under 25's entrants is open to members who have not attained their 25th birthday by 1st April in the competition year.
- All entries, on the official entry forms, must be with the Hon.Comp.Sec. by the closing date accompanied by the appropriate entry fees.
- The complete Draw to be issued as soon as possible after the closing date and distributed to the nominated club contacts.

3 SCORING and GAME DURATION

The above games will be played as prescribed below.

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| • All singles games except the 2 bowl singles | played to 21 shots |
| • Two (2) bowl singles | played to 21 ends |
| • All pairs | Played to 21 ends |
| • All triples | Played to 18 ends |
| • All fours | Played to 21 ends |

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These specifications also apply to the singles, pairs, triples and fours which form the W G Walker trophy

In the event of scores being equal after the specified number of ends, an extra end will be played immediately after the last of the specified ends.

4 WALKER TROPHY

This competition shall comprise of a Team from each Member Club, consisting of 10 players who will play as a Four, a Triple, a Pair and a Four Bowl Singles all on the same green and on the same day; ends and shots as prescribed above in section 3.

Points to be awarded thus:

Each winning rink = 2 points (maximum of 8 points per team)

Each drawing rink = 1 point

If equal on points then Shots difference will apply

If teams are still tied then an extra end shall be played by the Triples team to decide the winner. If an extra end is required, it is to be played after all games have been completed and the match has resulted in a tie on points and shots difference.

If necessary, a side may comprise and the tie played with 9 players. In this event, the Four will play as per CM Law 46.2.2. A player, not present at the start of the match, who subsequently arrives, shall play in the Four in any position other than Skip. The appropriate forfeit of shots shall be applied only to that part of the score when the Four was a player short.

The Walker trophy will be played on specified dates, but can, by agreement between both participant clubs, *be brought forward to any other date*. It may also be played on the weekend following the specified date. If there is no agreement then the specified date will apply.

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5 PLAY

General Rules

- There is nothing in the Competition Rules which stipulates that games must be played on a grass surface, but must be played outdoors.
- Matches may be played on a regulation size green of any Birmingham Bowling Association club which is affiliated to Warwickshire County Bowls Association.
- Fours and Triples competitions shall be played on set dates, but may be brought forward to any other date, only by mutual agreement.
- The challenger shall provide at least 2 rinks from which the Opponent shall draw the rink for play. Failure to observe this will result in the Challenger being disqualified.
- Before the start of play in any game, or before continuing an unfinished game on another day, one trial end may be played in each direction.
- Competitors shall not play on the rinks available in the draw on the day of the game. The penalty for doing so will be disqualification.
- All entrants must be able to proceed to the Final stages of any Competition. If they are unable to proceed, they must withdraw prior to the Quarter Final round. Competitors contravening this regulation will be disqualified only from that Competition in the following year.
- In the event of a game being started but not completed before the round's end date, the last recorded score in which *eleven (11) ends* or more have been played will stand as a result.
- Games either not started, or in which less than *eleven (11) ends* are played, may be either played, or restarted respectively, only prior to the end date of that round. If that is not possible, the game shall be decided by the toss of a coin or by mutual agreement of the two teams.
- In event of the rule immediately above, the Hon.Comp.Sec. can sanction a reasonable extension of the time permitted, before this "coin toss" rule applies, providing both teams agree. The scores will be as they were when the game was stopped.
- If any Competitor/s fails to appear within 30 minutes of the fixed or agreed time allowed, the opposition may claim the game. Claims must be submitted by email or text to the Hon.Comp.Sec. within forty-eight (48) hours of default. Any claim will be determined in accordance with the dispute resolution and appeals process.

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Dress Code

- Dress code for all rounds up to and including semi-finals is greys, with all players in a pair, triple, four or side, in either registered club shirts or plain white top. All players to wear the same style, i.e. all club shirts or all plain.
- All finals day games will be played in whites, with all players in a pair, triple, four or side, in either registered club shirts or plain white top. All players to wear the same style, i.e. all club shirts or all plain.

U-25 singles.

- Unless there are 4 or more entries the competition will be deemed to be "Not played", but the competition will remain open pending restoration of this minimum entry number.

The Challenger

- The Challenger is classified as the first name listed on the draw sheet.
- The Challenger shall have the choice of green; either to play on their own green, their opponent's green or a neutral outdoor venue.
- For Pairs and Singles competitions, the challenger must offer at least two dates, which shall be on or before the specified date for the completion of the round concerned played. Dates must include a weekday, and either a Saturday or Sunday. Weekday play should not start before 6.15p.m., unless by mutual agreement. Weekend play may be arranged for any start time, by mutual consent.
- Dates offered for play shall not include any National or County set dates if the opponent is involved in those competitions.

Timing of play

- The game shall be played no later than the specified end date for that particular round allowing for any player or teams involvement in County or National Competitions, as below, or inclement weather leaving the specified green unplayable.
- If the end date of any round coincides with either team's or individual's involvement on International, National or County business, then an alternative date will be set by the Hon.Comp.Sec.
- The following will be played on fixed dates
 - W. G. Walker Trophy
 - Men's Triples
 - Innes Fours
 - Semi-finals and finals

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- The specified dates for the above competitions will be shown on the Association's competitions calendar issued by the Hon.Comp.Sec.
- Competitors failing to appear or arrive after the 30 minute time limit allowed on the Fixed Date, for any Fours, Triples or semi-finals rounds above shall be disqualified, except in exceptional circumstances, which will be subject of an appeal to the Hon.Comp.Sec. as above.
- Walker Trophy team player numbers are covered in Rule 4.

6 SUBSTITUTES

- In Pairs, Triples or Fours Competition, one substitute who has not previously played in that Competition, may be played as a substitute. Should a substitute be required in subsequent rounds only the original substitute shall be eligible to play. When a substitute plays the Hon.Comp.Sec. must be informed when the scores are reported. Failure to do this will result in disqualification from that competition.
- In Pairs, Triples or Fours, where the named entrant does not play in that entry, he/she shall not play in any other Pair, Triple or Four.
- A Competitor having once played in any Pairs, Triples or Fours partnerships shall not be eligible to play in any other Pairs, Triples or Fours partnerships, in the same season.

7 INTERRUPTED OR ABANDONED GAMES

Where a game is interrupted for any reason and cannot be continued the following will apply

- A game being started but not completed before the round's end date, the last recorded score in which *eleven (11) ends* or more have been played will stand as a result.
- Games either not started, or in which less than *eleven (11) ends* are played, may be either played, or restarted respectively, only prior to the end date of that round. If that is not possible, the game shall be decided by the toss of a coin or by mutual agreement of the two teams.
- WALKER TROPHY
The above will also apply to the Walker Trophy. If one or more games in the Walker Trophy have not been concluded, the specified *eleven (11) ends* Rule will apply to the affected games, which will have to be replayed with the scores in any uncompleted games carried forward, or those having completed *11 ends*, counting toward the final match result.

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8 SCORE RECORDING

It is the responsibility of the winning Skip/Singles player to advise the Hon.Comp.Sec. within twenty four (24) hours of the result of the tie.

The scores can be reported by the following means

- By email
- By text

Each winning Skip/Singles player must retain the score cards for seventy two (72) hours to allow for the resolution of any disputes.

All reports of results must include the name of the competition, the names of all the players involved and the score. Failure to include all this information can lead to errors in recording results and delays to the playing of subsequent rounds.

9 SEMI-FINALS & FINALS

- Semi-Final matches will be played on greens specified by the Hon.Comp.Sec. prior to the draw being made, and published with the draw made available to competitors.
- These matches will be played on the dates designated on the Association's Competitions programme.
- Failure to play on these dates will lead to the disqualification of the players concerned from the following year's competition.
- The Finals will be played over the Saturday and Sunday of the Final's weekend as laid out in the programme, which will be scheduled, as far as practical, to avoid any player having to play two or more consecutive games.
- All players must commit to being available for the whole of the Finals weekend until such time as any and all finals in which they are involved have been completed. Failure to attend at the specified time for any game will result in award of the title to the party who attended.
- The times and dates of final games will not be rearranged, except where severe weather prevents play and causes significant delay to subsequent starting times.
- The W. G. WALKER TROPHY will be played at 10.00 a.m. on the Saturday morning of the finals weekend.

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10 DISPUTES and DISAGREEMENTS

- Any dispute or disagreement between competitors shall be referred to the Hon.Comp.Sec. whose decision, issued by email, or in writing, will be final, unless subject to the following appeals process.
- Competitors shall have the right of appeal from a decision made by the Hon.Comp.Sec. and all such appeals shall be in writing, to reach the Hon.Sec. of the Association within forty-eight (48) hours of a notice of decision by the Hon.Comp.Sec., being received by the Competitor(s) concerned. This notice from the Hon.Comp.Sec. will be issued by email, or in writing.
- All appeals shall be adjudicated by Executive Officers. Such Officers shall not be members of the club(s) concerned, nor be an interested party e.g. opponent, either immediate or in the next round. As many Officers as possible should be involved in the decision, but not less than two (2) in any event.
- Should this not be possible, then a decision shall be reached solely by, in order of priority, the President, Hon.Sec., Hon.Treas., Hon.League.Sec., Hon.Fixture.Sec.
- A response shall be communicated to the appellant in writing within 72 hours of being received by the Hon.Sec.
- The Hon.Comp.Sec. shall not participate in the adjudication process.

- The decision of this appeals panel shall be final and not subject to any other review process within the Association.