



County Competition Rules

1. All County Competitions will be played to the E.I.B.A. Laws of the Sport & Competition rules unless otherwise stated.
2. Each entrant to the County Competitions will pay an entry fee via his club & will represent only one club in any one season. Amount of entry fee payable will be determined annually by the L.I.B.A. Management Committee.
3. A player must play County Competitions from the same Club they play County League. The only exception to this is if a player has moved clubs and already entered, He may then play Competitions out of his old Club for that season only. This must be done in conjunction with the Competition Secretary as soon as possible.

Qualifying Stages

1. Clubs will be allocated a given number of places for qualifiers dependent on the number of entries submitted to the Competition Secretary by 1st May. The figures used in determining this allocation will be circulated to all clubs.
2. The rounds prior to the Final Stages of the competition will be played at the players own club, where there will be an open draw arranged in such a manner that it produces the required number of qualifiers to the County draw.
3. Individual clubs will decide the time limit & number of ends to be applied in the qualifying rounds.
4. The names of all players qualifying for the final stages, including any substitutes used, must be received at the latest by the dates provided by the County Competition Secretary, to allow time to publish the next stages.
5. **Players involved in HALF PLACE PLAY OFF** games will play in the preliminary round of the knockout stage.
6. The Over 60 Singles, Under 25 Singles & Set Singles will be open to male and female entries.

County Knockout Stages – Last 16 & Quarter Finals

1. An open draw will be made by the Competition Secretary in the presence of at least one other County Official whose name will appear on the sheets sent to clubs.

2. All matches to have a time limit of three hours thirty minutes including trial ends, and the jack shall not be cast after that time has expired. Within the constraints of the said time limits the number of ends will be as follows: -

Pairs, Mixed Pairs, Triples & Rinks - 18 ends.

Men's & Open Over 60s Singles - 21 up

Open Under 25 & Sets Singles - best of 3 sets (two by 9 ends with a 3 end tie break if required)

3. If the jack in motion passes completely outside the boundaries of the rink of play or rebounds to a distance of less than 20 metres from the mat line, the jack shall be re-spotted. If the jack passes outside the side boundary of the rink it should be placed on a pre-arranged spot on the rink which is 2 metres from the ditch and 1.5 metres to the left or right of the centre line, on the side that it left the rink of play. If a bowl is covering the re-spot, the jack will be placed as near as possible to the bowl without touching it, between the spot and the centre of the rink. If any other bowls are in the way the jack will be placed as near to near to them without touching between the re-spot and the centre line.
4. All trophies must be returned engraved to the County Competition Secretary by County Final weekend each season.
5. **PAIRS, MIXED PAIRS, TRIPLES & RINKS.** Players to make their own arrangements for the preliminary rounds, last 16 and the quarter finals. The draw for the last 16 will be on a regional basis to minimise travelling. The draw for the quarter finals will be an open draw across the county. Rink Fees will be shared and paid to the host club during these rounds.
6. **Offering of Dates.** * This is the same as offering dates for Nationals*

The Challenger (the home player) shall offer their opponents the choice of two dates, one must be a weekday evening and one must be a weekend. The midweek date shall start between 6.30-7.00pm and weekend dates shall not commence before 10.00am. Other start times can be discussed but only agreed by mutual consent.

The Competition Secretary shall publish on all draw sheets when dates must be offered by and also end of round dates for the Last 16 and the Quarter Finals.

If the challenger does not offer dates within the required time period, the opponent becomes the challenger and shall offer dates as above at their own club.

When dates are offered, the arrangements must be confirmed within 48 hours.

If the opponent has previously arranged to play a National Competition (individual or team), or another County Competition (L.I.B.A) on any of the dates offered, then the challenger must offer alternative dates.

When Challenged, being on holiday or playing Club Competitions is not sufficient reason for demanding more dates.

The failure of a player or players to appear after a maximum waiting period of 30 minutes (except in exceptional circumstances) from the agreed start time, shall cause the player(s) to forfeit the game to their opponents.

No extension will be granted beyond the closing date of the round, unless by exceptional circumstances and this can only be granted through the Competition Secretary.

7. All results must be sent to the County Competition Secretary within 24 hours of the game being played.

8. Dress for ALL knockout games will be EIBA Registered Club Kit, and any colour Bowls Manufactured shoes.
9. **SINGLES, OPEN SETS SINGLES, OPEN UNDER 25 SINGLES, OPEN OVER 60 SINGLES.**
The Competition Secretary will arrange to play these games on previously published designated dates and greens. The host club will decide rink fees for these days.
10. The Host Club will be asked to provide sufficient Markers for the Day; the only exception is the Set Singles where losers will be expected to mark 1 game.
11. All players should have matching Club Stickers on ALL bowls.
12. Qualifying players will be expected to play in these finals on the specified fixed times and dates as listed in the L.I.B.A. programme for the season.
13. Failure to attend without adequate excuse shall result in exclusion from the competitions the following season.

Semi Finals & Final Stages

1. The Competition Secretary will arrange to play these games on previously published designated dates and greens. The host club will decide rink fees for the Semi Finals, there will be NO charge to the players for the Finals
2. The only reason allowed for re-arranging a match will be when players are involved in "fixed day" National matches governed by the E.I.B.A., the E.W.I.B.A or Bowls England. When a match must be re-arranged the Competition Secretary will fix a date, time & venue. County re-arranged matches will take preference over club fixtures.
3. Dress for ALL Semi Finals & Finals will be EIBA Registered Club Kit, and any colour Bowls Manufactured shoes.
4. All players should have matching Club Stickers on ALL bowls for the Semi Finals. The County will provide stickers for all Finalists
5. The Host Club shall be responsible for providing suitable markers if required. The County will provide umpires. Any dispute other than an umpiring decision will be settled by the controlling Authority, whose decision shall be final.
6. The draw for rinks will be made on the day of play in front of the players.
7. The Competition Secretary will ensure that no player plays on the same rink twice. Where this is not possible a match shall be staged on a rink that both players / teams have already played.