



COMPETITION RULES 2025 / 26

FINALS WEEKEND

SATURDAY / SUNDAY 11 / 12 APRIL 2026

1. It is the Club's ruling that the finals of **all** Club competitions will be played over the Finals Weekend of - **11 / 12 April 2026**.

Any members knowing that they will be unavailable for either day, or, who are unlikely to be available for long periods of time during the season, should not enter the competitions. No other dates will be offered.

2. ARRANGING GAMES

a. The first named player/pair in each competition shall be the **challenger(s)**. They are responsible for contacting their opponents, offering dates and booking a rink (and arranging a marker for singles matches).

b. **No extension of time will be granted beyond the play-by date of each round**, (The only **exceptions** permitted are bereavement or sudden serious illness, or other *extenuating circumstances*, and agreed by the Competitions sub-committee. Their decision shall be final and binding).

c. **For the first round**, dates should be offered no later than **two weeks prior** to the play-by date. For subsequent rounds, no later than **a week after** the closing date for the previous round. Should a mutual date not be agreed upon, the challenger informs the competitions committee who will seek a resolution. If no resolution can be sought, then the tie will be decided on a toss of a coin.

d. **From the second round** of a competition, through to the finals, if a player, (or team), does not play an arranged game by the 'play by' date, for any reason, then they will concede the match, and their losing opponents in the previous round will be reinstated into the competition. (In the case of a pair then they will be both invited to play-off and the winner will be reinstated). **There will be no 'walkovers' after the first round.**

e. Similarly, should a player/team reach the Finals, if they are unable to play in the Finals, then their opponent in the previous round (pairs) will be invited to play-off and the winner will play in the Final.

3. SUBSTITUTES

A substitute may be allowed in Pairs Competitions provided that the Competitions Secretary is consulted in advance and that the substitute has not already participated in that particular competition. In the event of a 'drawn' competition, substitutes would also have to be 'drawn' from those available.

There will have to be a **strong and valid reason** (Rule 2b) for substitutions to be permitted.

Any substitute selected, must also ensure they are available to play on Finals day.

4. FAIR PLAY.

In the interest of fair play any Member playing Club Competitions must not practice on, nor play more than one Competition match on the **same rink** on the **same day**.

5. PLAYING TIMES:

The toss of a coin will decide who starts.

Two trial ends are permitted by each player, and must be *after* the start bell.

Singles matches will play to **21 points** or the **bell**.

Singles Finals to be played to 21 points.

Handicap singles - the 'handicap' score (which they need to reach to win) for both players will be shown on the appropriate draw sheets, and score cards.

Pairs matches will be played to 18 ends, or to the bell.

Pairs Finals to be played to 18 ends or 3.5 hours.

6. **SCOREBOARDS** should always be used and a scorecard indicating the competition being played **must** be kept for all matches. For singles games the marker will keep the scorecard and for all other matches, the skips of both team will mark the score cards, conferring with the other at regular intervals during the contest to verify accuracy. The scorecards needs be signed by both upon completion of the match, and left in the appropriate place by the large chalkboard.

7. **RE-SPOTS** will be used throughout the tournaments.

8. **TIED ENDS** - are where it cannot be decided which bowl is shot, (where bowls are equidistant from the jack). In this case the end is counted and added to the scorecard, but no score is added for either side.

9. **VISITING THE HEAD** is only permissible before delivery of your last bowl.

10. **LEAVING THE GREEN** - a player may leave the green at any time during a match for a call of nature, to get refreshments or for a medical issue. The maximum time allowed for such a break in play will be **10 minutes**.

11. **DRESS** - for all competitions for players and markers will be grey or black below, with bowls or club shirts. **Finals will be played in blacks with Club shirts.**

12. **FEES** – The registration fees are **£4.00** per player, per competition. (Rink fees still apply, however Finals will be free).

Note - a minimum of 8 players / teams are now required to make a competition viable.

13. **BOWLS STICKERS** – For the Finals, players *may* have to exchange their normal bowls stickers for coloured ones to aid spectator vision. New Oyster stickers will be made available afterwards.

14. **LAWS** - Excepting any amendments above, all games will be played in line with the **Laws of the Sport of Bowls, Crystal Mark Fourth Edition**. A copy of which is kept in the umpires kit, or [online](#).

COMPETITIONS COMMITTEE

- David Bartlett 07855 457953
- Adrian Judd
- Sylvia Sweeting