

WELWYN AND DISTRICT BOWLS CLUB

COMPETITION RULES 2024

GENERAL COMPETITION RULES

1. The first named player(s) shall be the challenger(s) and shall be responsible for **ALL** match arrangements.
2.
 - a. The Challenger shall offer their opponent, within 72 hours of the closing date of the previous round, at least three dates for play – one of which shall be a Saturday or Sunday. The three dates offered must fall within the window of the round. Matches may be played prior to the closing date of the previous round by mutual agreement. A minimum of 48 hours' notice is required for any dates offered to be eligible. The start time for any match shall be set by the Challenger when the dates are offered, but no player/team/side shall be compelled to accept a time earlier than 6.00pm Monday to Friday or 10.00am on a Saturday or Sunday. The date and start time in any round may be agreed by mutual agreement, but failing that, the dates and start times offered by the Challenger will stand. The offering of two different start times on a single date does not count as two dates.
 - b. If a date offered clashes with a Fixed Date National, County or District competition in which the opponent is involved, a new date shall be offered.
 - c. The Opponent or Opposing teams/sides shall, within 48 hours of receipt of the challenge, reply and accept one of the dates offered.
 - d. If a challenge has not been made in accordance with Regulation 2a the opponent will become the challenger and make all match arrangements (including the offering of dates). They must contact their opponent within 48 hours after becoming the challenger. The opponent shall accept a date within 48 hours of receipt of the offers made.
 - e. **No** extension of the closing date for any round shall be granted for any reason whatsoever.
 - f. If the match cannot be played for any reason, competitors must decide between themselves who is at fault and enter the innocent party to the next round.
 - g. If a decision is not made by the final date of each round, both parties will be eliminated unless any mitigating circumstances are accepted by the Competition Committee. It is recommended that matches are played as early as possible to avoid this occurrence.
 - h. Competitors results should be emailed to both the Competitions secretary and the webmaster:
 - comps-sec@welwynbowls.co.uk
 - webmaster@welwynbowls.co.uk

3. Dress code is for all competitions shall be one of the following:
 - White top with Grey below the waist
 - Old Club shirt with Grey below the waist
 - **New uniform**
 - This shall apply to Players and Markers.
 - Regulation bowls shoes ONLY.
4.
 - a. In Singles matches the challenger must arrange a marker for the game.
 - b. A Singles match must NOT be played without a marker.
 - c. The marker shall ensure that all aspects of play are in accordance with the "Laws of the Sport of Bowls".
 - d. The marker shall act as the umpire in the absence of any other suitable neutral person.
 - e. The umpire's decision is final.
5.
 - a. A substitute must be of the same sex and considered by the Competition Committee to be of no greater ability than the original entrant.
 - b. No substitutes are allowed in singles competitions.
 - c. Only one and the same substitute is permitted in pairs and triples competitions.
 - d. No member who has already played in a particular competition can be a substitute in that same competition.
 - e. In any competition, at any time, the player(s) giving a walkover cannot act as a substitute thereafter.
 - g. Substitutes can only be made up to and including the quarter finals, except under exceptional circumstances with the agreement of the Competition Committee.
6.
 - a. In the event of no decision being reached in any round owing to exceptional weather conditions, and when it is impossible to rearrange the match before the play by date of the round, the score in an uncompleted match in which 11 ends or more have been completed shall stand as a result.
 - b. If there is sufficient time before the play by date, a match that is abandoned can be arranged for another day continuing with the score as it was when the game was stopped.
 - c. If there is insufficient time before the play by date, matches in which less than 11 ends have been completed and cannot be completed before the play by date of the round will be decided by the toss of a coin.
7. Club stickers should be used in all internal competitions. They are available free of charge.
8. In all competitions, two trial ends of a minimum of two bowls for all players shall be allowed.
9. In any dispute, the decision of the Competition Committee (made up of the Competition Secretary, Men's Captain, Ladies Captain and Chair of the Playing Committee) shall be final.
10. Entry to all competitions is unrestricted unless otherwise stated.

COMPETITION FORMATS

Ladies/ Men's Singles

11. a. The draw for the rink to be played on shall be made in accordance with the current Laws of the Sport (Law 3.1).

As these matches require one rink, a minimum of two rinks shall be offered to the opponent.

- b. 4 Bowls per player.
c. Winner is first to 21 Shots.

Ladies/ Men's Pairs

12. a. 4 Bowls per player, Australian Pairs.
b. Odd numbered ends "Player A bowls 2 woods, Player B bowls 4 woods, Player A bowls 2 woods".
c. Even numbered ends "Player B bowls 2 woods, Player A bowls 4 woods, Player B bowls 2 woods".
d. In the event of a tie, a tiebreak end will be played. The toss of a coin shall take place, the winner of the toss deciding who is to play first.
e. The tiebreak shall be treated as an odd numbered end (see rule 13b).

Men's Pairs specific:

- f. Winner is pair with highest score after 16 ends.
g. Pairs will be determined by splitting players into 4 pots depending on ability as perceived by the Competition Committee.

Ladies Pairs specific:

- h. Winner is pair with highest score after 14 ends.
i. Pairs will be determined by splitting players into 2 pots depending on ability as perceived by the Competition Committee.

Ladies/ Men's 2 Woods

13. a. 2 Bowls per player.
b. Winner is player with highest score after 21 ends.
c. It is expected that the match should be conceded if an unassailable gap has been achieved.
d. In the event of a tie, a tiebreak end will be played. The toss of a coin shall take place, the winner of the toss deciding who is to play first.

Ladies Fixed Jack/ Lane Cup (Men only)

14. a. 4 Bowls per player.
- b. Winner is first to 90 points.
- c. The Bowl nearest the jack scores 4 points, second nearest scores 3 points, nearest scores 2 points and fourth nearest scores 1 point. This means the total score in each end must add up to 10.
- d. The player who casts the jack and begins the end is the player with the shot bowl in the previous end.
- e. If any two bowls which are in the count are exactly the same distance from the jack, unless the two bowls belong to the same player, the two bowls, and those two only, are played again to decide who will have the higher score. This occurs once the other scoring bowls have been agreed and all bowls are removed from the rink. The player who began the end shall bowl first.

Ladies Fixed Jack specific:

- f. The following ends are to be played to a short jack: **1, 4, 5, 8, 9, 12, 13, 16 and 17.**
- g. The following ends are to be played to a long jack: **2, 3, 6, 7, 10, 11, 14, 15 and 18.**
- h. If the jack is moved, the marker must replace it on the marked spot.
- i. If a bowl is covering the marked spot where the jack should be placed, that bowl must be rolled back along its line of entry until the jack can be placed on its spot.
- j. In the event of a 90-90 tie, **2 extra ends** shall be played. The toss of a coin shall take place, the winner of the toss deciding who is to play first.
- k. End 19 is to be played to a long jack, end 20 is to be played to a short jack. Subsequent tiebreak ends, if required, shall follow the pattern of ends.

l. Instructions on how to mark the rink:

- Golf tees are placed on the centre link of the rink at points A, B and C.*
- *** Please ensure golf tees are pushed well into the ground so as not to impede moving bowls.**
- Points A and B are two metres from the ditch.
- Point C is 23 metres plus 5 centimetres from point A and point B.
- The front of the mat is placed at point A in odd numbered ends and point B in even numbered ends.
- For the short jack, the jack is placed at point C; the end is played from points A to C.
- For the long jack, the jack is placed at point A; the end is played from points B to A.

Lane Cup specific:

- m. In the event of a 90-90 tie, one extra end shall be played. The toss of a coin shall take place, the winner of the toss deciding who is to play first.
- n. Should the extra end finish a tie, a further end shall be played, once again following the toss of a coin as per rule 15-m. Further ends shall continue to be played until one player wins an end.

Barclay Cup

15. a. 4 Bowls per player.
- b. Winner is player who wins most sets.
 - c. This is a seeded competition.
 - d. Seeds will be decided by the Competition Committee.
 - e. 2 Sets of 9 ends.
 - f. In the first end of the second set, the player who did NOT start the 1st set plays first.
 - g. In the event of both players winning a set each, there shall be a 3-end deciding set. The toss of a coin shall take place, the winner of the toss has the choice of jack on ends 1 and 3, and the loser of the toss has the choice of jack on end 2.
 - h. In the tiebreak set, it is scored by the number of ends won, not by shots.

Ladies / Men's Handicap

16. a. Players will be given a handicap on a player-by-player basis dependent on ability as perceived by the Competition Committee.
- b. If they enter, new members in **2024** will automatically be given a handicap of **ZERO**.
 - c. 4 Bowls per player.
 - d. Winner is first to 21 shots.
 - e. The difference between players' handicaps will be put on the scoreboard at the beginning of the game.
- * For example, if player A has a handicap of 6 and player B has a handicap of 10, at the start of the game the scoreboard should read: Player A 0, Player B 4.
- f. If one player has a 'plus' handicap and the other has a 'minus' handicap, both handicaps should be put on the scoreboard at the beginning of the game.
- * For example, if player A has a handicap of -3 and player B has a handicap of 4, at the start of the game the scoreboard should read Player A -3, Player B 4.

Dansie Trophy

17. a. Previous winners of the Ladies Singles, Men's Singles, Barclay Cup, Ladies Handicap, Men's Handicap, Mixed Handicap and Dansie Trophy competitions are ineligible to compete.
- b. 4 Bowls per player.
 - c. Winner is player who wins most sets.
 - d. 2 sets of 9 ends.
 - e. In the first end of the second set, the player who did NOT start the 1st set plays first.
 - f. In the event of both players winning a set each, there shall be a 3-end deciding set. The toss of a coin shall take place, the winner of the toss has the choice of jack on ends 1 and 3, and the loser of the toss has the choice of jack on end 2.
 - g. In the tiebreak set, it is scored by the number of ends won, not by shots.

Orton Trophy

18. a. Only players aged **70** or over on **1st May 2024** are eligible to compete.
- b. Pairs must be mixed.
- c. 4 Bowls per player.
- d. Winner is the pair with the highest score after **15** ends.
- e. In each end, Player A bowls 4 woods then Player B bowls 4 woods.
- f. In the event of a tie, a tiebreak end will be played. The toss of a coin shall take place, the winner of the toss deciding who is to play first.
- g. Matches to be played on Weekday mornings / afternoons **ONLY**.

Open Mixed Pairs

19. a. 4 Bowls per player
- b. Winner is the pair with the highest score after **18** ends.
- c. In each end, Player A bowls 4 woods then Player B bowls 4 woods.
- d. In the event of a tie, a tiebreak end will be played. The toss of a coin shall take place, the winner of the toss deciding who is to play first.

Mixed Triples

20. a. 3 Bowls per player.
- b. Winner is triple with the highest score after **15** ends.
- c. All matches, except final, to be played during the week commencing **Monday 29th July 2024** beginning at 5.30pm.
- d. In the event of a tie (semi finals & final), a tiebreak end will be played. The toss of a coin shall take place, the winner of the toss deciding who is to play first.
- e. Triples will be determined by splitting players into 3 pots depending on ability as perceived by the Competition Committee.
- f. **NO visiting the Head**

Second Chance

21. a. Second Chance is only open to players who lose their first round Ladies or Men's Singles match.
- b. If a player gets awarded a bye in the first round of the Ladies or Men's Singles, they will still be eligible to participate if they are defeated in their second-round match.
- c. A player given a walk-over in the first round of the Ladies or Men's Singles first round cannot be considered for the competition.
- d. 4 Bowls per player.
- e. Winner is first to 21 shots.

Stag – **NEW FORMAT**

22. a. Open draw 2 wood Pairs
- b. Winners are the Man and the Lady with the highest points scores.
- c. Matches are 2 sets of 6 ends, total of 4 matches. Partners redrawn after each match.
- d. To be played on **Saturday 29th June 2024**.

Ron Howard Trophy for Beginners

23. a. Only novice bowlers who join the club in the **2023 & 2024** seasons are eligible.
- b. 4 Bowls per player
- c. Winner is player with the highest score.
- d. The Beginners Trophy is a skill based competition that will take the form of fun, yet meaningful challenges as set out by the competition organiser.
- e. To be played on finals weekend.
- f. In the event of a tie, players with highest score will be considered joint winners.

Ladies Triples League Winners v Men's Triples League Winners

24. a. Teams consist of representatives from the winning teams of the Men's and Ladies Triples Leagues.
- b. 3 bowls per player.
- c. Winner is triple with the highest score after 18 ends.
- d. In the event of a tie, a tiebreak end will be played. The toss of a coin shall take place, the winner of the toss deciding who is to play first.

Doris Atkins Cup

25. a. Tri-singles competition.
- b. 3 bowls per player.
- c. Mini league played over 4 rounds on one day. To be played on **Sat 27th July 2024**.
- d. Random draw for each round.
- e. First drawn player plays first.
- f. Each round to consist of 6 ends.
- g. Winner of end plays first, 2nd nearest player to play next, etc.
- h. Winner of each match will score 5 points, 2 points each if there is a tie. Shots will also count.

Dave Ratcliffe Trophy

26. a. Mixed Fours competition.
- b. Teams will be drawn after splitting players into 4 pots, according to ability, as perceived by the Competitions Committee.
- c. Competition will comprise of 4 rounds of 7 ends, all played on one day, this being **Monday 27th May 2024**.
- d. At the beginning of the first match, each team shall decide their playing order.
- e. For each subsequent match, players shall rotate position, Lead to 2, 2 to 3, 3 to Skip, Skip to Lead.
- f. Each end won will score 2 points. 3 points for winning each match, 1 point each for a draw. Shot difference shall only count in the event of a tie at the end of the competition.
- g. **NO** visiting the head.
- h. **NO** dead ends. If a team kills and end, they shall forfeit the end, also conceding 5 shots.

COMPETITION DRAWS

27. a. Ladies Singles, Men's Singles and the Barclay Cup will be drawn in the "full draw" format whereby the winner of match 1 will play the winner of match 2 in the following round etc. etc.

b. All other competitions will be drawn in their entirety prior to the 1st round in a "FA Cup style" format.*

*As an example, this means that the winner of match 1 will not necessarily play the winner of match 2 in the next round. Winners are placed into a new draw to decide matches in the following round.

c. Following round fixtures will be publicised on an individual match basis when the winners of the previous round matches have been decided.

d. The full draw will be sealed and kept in the clubhouse for reference in case of any dispute and will be available for members' perusal following publication of the semi-final draws.

Phil Russell
Competitions Secretary
March 2024

