



BHBC

BATCHWOOD BOWLS CLUB

CLUB COMPETITION GENERAL RULES 2026



BHBC

1) Administration

- a) All club competitions shall be overseen and managed by the Competitions Committee, hereinafter referred to as the Committee. The Committee is comprised of three members: the Competitions Secretary, the Ladies Captain, and the Men's Captain. Any matters arising in relation to the competitions, including disputes, queries, or issues requiring resolution, will be referred to the Committee. The decision reached by the Committee regarding any such matters shall be considered final and binding on all parties involved..
- b) All matches shall be played in accordance with the current version of the Laws of the Sport of Bowls (Crystal Mark 4th edition).

2) Handicaps

- a) Handicaps are assigned annually by the Competitions Committee for use in the Ray Singh Omni-Home Design Singles. All playing members of the club will be entered into the competition.
- b) The determinants for a handicap are:
 - Performance in previous season(s) competitions – finishing position
 - Performance in matches prior to the handicap award
 - General level of experience
 - General performance in matches the previous season
 - Levels of health or disability factors influencing ability to bowl
- c) Handicaps will be awarded on an increasing scale. Thus a novice will have a low, or even zero handicap, whilst a good or experienced player might have a handicap up to a maximum of 10 shots.

3) Competition Entry and Draw Procedures

- a) The Committee is responsible for setting and announcing the deadlines for competition entries. These dates will be clearly communicated to all club members ahead of time, ensuring the process is transparent and members have sufficient notice.
- b) Before the season begins, entry forms for competitions will be made available, both in print and at the clubhouse. Members wishing to take part must complete these forms and submit them to the Competition Secretary by the deadlines established by the Committee
- c) Once the entry deadline has passed, the official draw for all competitions will be carried out by the Committee. This process will take place after the closing date, guaranteeing that all timely entries are included. The Committee manages the draw to uphold fairness and consistency within all club competitions.
- d) The completed draw sheets will be displayed in the club and be posted on the BHBC website.

4) Scheduled Match Periods and 'Play By' Deadlines

- a) All competition matches must be played within the designated period for each round, as stated on the Club noticeboard and the official website. It is essential that matches are completed before the published 'play by' date to ensure the smooth progression of the competition.
- b) Failure to play a match within the allocated time frame will result in the elimination of the defaulter(s) from the competition. However, the Committee retains the discretion to review individual cases and may decide otherwise, depending on the specific circumstances and merits presented.

5) Responsibility for Arranging Matches

- a) It is the joint duty of both players or pairs to ensure arrangements are made for their match. Each participant is equally responsible for:
- b) Initiating contact with their opponent(s) to agree upon a suitable date and time for the match.
- c) Booking an appropriate rink for the match.
- d) Appointing a marker, if one is required for the competition.
- e) All arrangements must be completed before the designated 'play by' date published by the Club. If the match fails to take place within this period due to lack of communication, or because contact was made too late to agree a mutually acceptable date, the Committee reserves the right to remove either or both players or teams from the competition.

6) Extension of Match Deadlines

- a) The Committee has the authority to allow matches to be scheduled beyond the published 'play by' date. However, any such extension will be limited to a maximum of seven days. This extension will only be granted if a new date, falling within the extension period, has been mutually agreed upon by the participants. Furthermore, the Committee must be satisfied that the reason for requesting the extension is acceptable, as outlined in the Advice to Competitors section.

7) Notification of Match Arrangement Issues

- a) If participants encounter any difficulties in arranging their match prior to the designated 'play by' date, or should any other problems arise in relation to the scheduling or playing of the match, it is imperative that these issues are reported to the Competitions Secretary at the earliest opportunity. Prompt notification ensures that the Committee is made aware of the situation and can provide guidance or assistance if necessary.
- b) Should a match fail to take place before the published 'play by' date, and no notification of difficulties or problems has been submitted to the Competitions Secretary, the Competition Committee (CC) reserves the right to disqualify both parties involved. This measure is in place to uphold fairness and ensure the proper administration of the competition.

8) Substitution Rules for Pairs Competitions

- a) In all Pairs competitions, the expectation is that pairs play together as originally drawn. However, should one member of a pair become unavailable for a valid reason, and if the match cannot otherwise be played before the designated 'play by' date, a substitute may be permitted to participate. This is subject to approval from the Competition Committee (CC).
- b) Any substitute must be a full member of the club. It is not permissible for a substitute to be a competitor in the same competition, regardless of whether they have previously been eliminated. A pair may only make use of a substitute on a single occasion during a competition. If a substitute is required to play for more than one round, they will be considered a permanent member of the pair and will continue in the competition as such.

9) Walkover Claims

- a) Matches may be claimed as a walkover if the opponent or opponents fail to arrive within 30 minutes of the agreed time and date of the match, provided no prior notification of their absence has been given. In the event of such an occurrence, the player or team present must notify the Competition Secretary of the walkover claim within 24 hours for confirmation. It is essential that claims are submitted promptly to ensure proper administration and fairness within the competition.

10) Finals Day and Reserve Day Arrangements

- a) The dates for both the Finals Day and the Reserve Day will be announced prior to the closing date for competition entries. It is a requirement that all entrants ensure their availability to participate on these specified days. Any participant who is unable to attend on either the Finals Day or the Reserve Day may face disqualification from the competition.

11) Competition Play Procedures and Requirements

a) Dress Code for Competition

All participants are required to wear club colours for every round of competition play. This standard also applies to markers, who should be dressed in the same attire as the players to maintain consistency.

b) One-Day Competitions

Club colours must be worn by all competitors during one-day competitions. It is mandatory for every participant to be present at the time of the draw in order to take part in the competition.

c) Starting Procedure

At the beginning of each match, a coin is tossed to determine the choice of mat.

d) Recording and Reporting Match Results

Upon completion of a match, the losing player is required to sign the match card, which should then be placed in the designated result box. The winner must enter the result on the draw sheet located in the club and promptly inform the Competition Secretary of the outcome via phone, text, or email.

12) Inclement Weather Protocol

- a) If adverse weather conditions arise during play, the continuation or suspension of the match should be agreed upon by all parties. In the event that the match is stopped, it must be resumed and completed at a later date, starting from the point where play was halted and using the same match card. All matches must be concluded before the round ends. Should a match remain incomplete, the Competition Secretary will make a final adjudication regarding its outcome.

13) Disputes

- a) In any dispute, adjudications made by the Committee are final.

COMPETITIONS – The General Rules apply to all Club Competitions.

SINGLES COMPETITIONS

MENS CHAMPIONSHIP SINGLES: All men. 4 Woods. Trial Ends. First to **21 shots**.

LADIES CHAMPIONSHIP SINGLES: All ladies. 4 Woods. Trial Ends. First to **21 shots**.

OPEN SINGLES: Any playing member may enter. 4 Woods. Trial Ends. First to **21 shots**.

NON WINNERS OPEN SINGLES: Any playing member who has not previously won a singles competition¹ may enter. 4 Woods. Trial Ends. First to **21 shots**.

RAY SINGH HANDICAP SINGLES sponsored by Omni: All playing members will be entered. 4 woods. Trial Ends. First to **21 shots**. This is a handicap competition and scoreboards at the start of each match are to reflect the handicaps applied.

Handicaps are awarded on an increasing scale. Thus a novice will have a low, or even zero handicap, whilst a good or experienced player might have a handicap up to 10 shots. In a match, the difference in handicaps between player A and B is given to the player with the lower handicap. This difference is added to the scoreboard at start of play.

PAIRS COMPETITIONS

MIXED PAIRS: A pair is one man playing with one lady, of their own choosing.

3 woods. Trial Ends. 15 ends with an extra end played if the match is drawn after the 15th end. If a substitute is used they must be of the same gender as the player they replace. General Rule 8 also applies.

OPEN DRAWN PAIRS: Any playing member may enter. The pairs will be drawn by the Committee and may be 2 men, 2 ladies, or 1 man and 1 lady. 3 woods. Trial Ends. 15 ends with an extra end played if the match is drawn after the 15th end.

OPEN AUSTRALIAN PAIRS: Any man or lady may enter. The pairs will be drawn by the Committee and may be 2 men, 2 ladies, or 1 man and 1 lady. 4 woods. Trial ends. No visits to the head.

The format is 2-4-2. The first players in a pair deliver 2 woods each, players change ends, the second players in each pair deliver all their 4 woods, players change ends, the original players deliver their last 2 woods. The lead players in a pair will alternate with each end.

The match is played as 2 sets, each of 7 ends, with 1 point for winning a set and 0.5 points each pair if drawn. The side that wins the toss has choice of mat for the first end in the first set. The other pair has choice of mat for the first end in the second set. If the match is drawn after 2 sets, there is another toss for choice of mat and a tie breaker set of 3 ends is played, in which only the shot wood counts in each end. 1 point per end won.

ONE DAY COMPETITIONS

OPEN 2 WOOD SINGLES: Any playing member may enter. 2 woods. Trial Ends. **21 ends.** An extra end is played if match is drawn after the 21st end. Match finishes if a player cannot catch up in remaining ends.

OPEN FIXED JACK SINGLES: Any playing member may enter. 4 woods. Trial Ends. Alternate fixed length short and long jacks, starting with the short jack.

The front edge of the mat is always placed at 2 metres from the back ditch. The short jack spot is placed in line with the 25 metre marker. ie 23 metres from the front edge of the mat and the long jack spot is placed 4 metres from the back ditch. ie 2 metres shorter than a full length jack.

If the jack is moved off the spot, the marker returns it. If a wood is on the spot, the marker repositions the jack as near as possible to the spot. If the wood obscuring the spot is subsequently moved in play, the marker returns the jack to the spot.

Scoring: Shot wood – 4 points, 2nd wood – 3 points, 3rd wood – 2 points, 4th wood – 1 point. No other wood scores. If 2 woods are drawn in any of the scoring positions, the total points for those positions are equally divided between the players. On each end the added scores for the two players will total 10. The player who scores the shot bowl takes the mat on the next end. This may not be the player scoring the most points. In all rounds up to the final, the winner is the first player to reach 70 or more points. If both players reach exactly 70 on the same end, play continues until one player scores more points on a completed end, with extra ends being scored as usual. On extra ends toss for choice of bowling first or second. The final is played to 90 or more.

¹The following competitions apply: **Men's Championship, Ladies Championship, Open Singles, Fixed Jack, 2 Wood and Ray Singh Handicap Singles.**

ADVICE TO COMPETITORS

Arranging Matches and Playing Deadlines

It is essential to make arrangements for your match at the very start of the time window allocated for the current round of your competition, or as soon as you learn who your next opponent will be. Avoid postponing arrangements until the final week, as this could lead to issues if your opponent is unavailable due to holiday, involvement in a county competition, illness, or any other significant reason.

The Committee aims to provide a 'play by' date that gives competitors a window of at least three weeks to complete each round, though this period may be longer in some cases. As the number of entrants increases, so does the number of rounds, making it even more important to respect these deadlines. Late matches reduce the time available for subsequent rounds, thereby making it harder for the remaining players to agree on a suitable date.

Pairs Competitions and Substitutes

In pairs competitions, every effort should be made to play as the drawn pair. However, if this proves impossible, you should try to find a substitute rather than postpone the match beyond the play by date. Any substitute must be a full playing member of the club and must not have previously played in the same competition, even if they have already been eliminated. You must inform the Competition Secretary if a substitute will play, and as a courtesy, notify your opponents as well. If you are unsure about eligibility, consult a member of the Competition Committee.

Extensions and Delays

Extensions to the play by date are permitted only for compelling reasons, such as illness or injury, an unplayable green or severe weather on the planned day, or a family emergency or bereavement. The maximum extension allowed is one week (seven days). If your illness, injury, or other emergency extends beyond this period, you will be expected to withdraw from the competition or be scratched. Please note that planned holidays are not considered acceptable reasons for an extension. If you anticipate that a holiday might affect your availability, you should discuss this with your opponent as early as possible to prevent any scheduling issues.

The Committee is more likely to be sympathetic to requests for extensions if it is clear that you began making arrangements early and did not wait until the last minute only to find that no mutually convenient date was available.

**Competitions Committee
February 2026**