

BOWLS YORKSHIRE COMPETITION RULES

Questions & Answers

General & Eligibility

Q: Who is eligible to enter Bowls Yorkshire competitions?

A: Competitions are open to clubs or members of Bowls Yorkshire affiliated clubs. There is no restriction on a member playing in more than one competition.

Q: Can a player represent more than one county or club in the county competitions?

A: No. A player should not represent or allow their name to be submitted by more than one county or club for the county competitions in any one year.

Q: Where must competition games be played?

A: All county competitions must be played outdoors on a green that complies with the current Laws of the Sport of Bowls and has been passed by the Bowls Yorkshire Board.

Q: Who decides if a green is fit for play?

A: The green keeper or other appointed club official is the adjudicator on whether a green is fit for play, and has the power to postpone play.

Q: What happens if a player or team fails to appear on time?

A: If a player or team fails to appear within 30 minutes of the appointed time, the match is awarded to the opposing side. If both sides default, both are eliminated.

Q: What is the dress code for competitions?

A: All early rounds and finals must be played in registered club colours where applicable, or grey bottoms and white tops where there are no club colours.

Q: How and when must match results be reported?

A: Match results must be sent to the relevant Competition Secretary within 24 hours of the game. This can be by email, text or via the Bowls Yorkshire website. The notification must include the names of all players from both sides and the score.

Q: Can players on international duty still participate in county competitions?

A: Yes. Players, officers and officials on international duties must be allowed to play in all stages of the competitions, and their matches will be rearranged where competitions fall on selected dates.

Challenger / Opponent Format

Q: Who is the 'challenger' and who is the 'opponent'?

A: The first person/team drawn in each discipline is termed the 'challenger' and the second the 'opponent'. The challenger is generally responsible for arranging the match.

Q: How does the challenger arrange a match?

A: Unless competitions are played on set dates, the challenger must offer the opponent at least two dates within 48 hours of the closure of the previous round. These dates cannot be on the same day as a county match or county competition fixed date match (with limited exceptions). Check the calendar on the Bowls Yorkshire website before offering dates. The earliest acceptable start times are 6pm Monday to Friday, or 2pm on Saturdays and Sundays; no match can start later than 6:30pm on any day.

Q: What happens if the challenger fails to offer dates within 48 hours?

A: The 'opponent' becomes the new 'challenger' and has 48 hours to offer two dates. If no dates are offered within the round window, both teams are eliminated.

Q: Will round completion dates ever be extended?

A: No. There will be no extension to any round completion date.

Q: What happens if a match is cancelled due to bad weather and the players cannot agree a new date?

A: Both players should inform the respective Bowls Yorkshire Competition Secretary immediately.

Q: How many rinks must the challenger provide?

A: In all competitions using the challenger/opponent format, the challenger must have 2 rinks available. A coin toss determines which rink is used.

Q: Who provides a marker in singles matches?

A: The challenger in singles matches is responsible for providing a marker. Failure to do so results in forfeiture of the round.

Q: What if the opponent has to travel more than 160 miles round trip?

A: In women's competitions, if the opponent has to travel more than 160 miles round trip, they may request a neutral green, which the challenger must arrange. The green must be affiliated to the YBA. Men's competitions are played in Zones until the final stages so should not require travel of more than 160 miles round trip.

Teams & Substitutes

Q: Can the team composition change between rounds in Pairs, Triples and Fours?

A: The players taking part in the first game constitute the team throughout the competition. However, one additional substitute (and the same substitute throughout) may be used at any time, provided they have not already played in that competition.

Q: Who can act as a substitute?

A: A substitute must be a member of the same club to which the team belongs and must not have already played in that competition. The substitute may play in any position.

Q: Can a player who has conceded a walkover join another team in the same competition?

A: No. A named entrant who concedes a walkover before the first game cannot be a member of, or a substitute for, any other team in the same competition.

Q: What happens if a player is taken ill during a Pairs, Triples or Fours match?

A: Their place may be filled by a substitute in accordance with the current Laws of the Sport of Bowls.

Trophies & Appeals

Q: Who is responsible for competition trophies?

A: The holder of any Bowls Yorkshire trophy is responsible for its safe keeping. All trophies must be returned engraved and in good condition to the appropriate competition secretary before Finals Day.

Q: How do I make an appeal under the Laws of the Sport of Bowls?

A: Appeals must be made within 24 hours of playing a tie if reinstatement of a defeated appellant is desired. A clear written statement of the point at issue must be sent to the relevant competition secretary, together with any evidence.

Men's Competition Formats

Q: How is the Men's Two Bowl Singles played?

A: The Two Bowl Singles is played over 21 ends. Games can be conceded if a player cannot win enough shots in the remaining ends. It is held on a fixed date in each zone, with an open draw on the day.

Q: How is the Men's Four Bowl Singles played?

A: The Four Bowl Singles is a first-to-21-shots competition. It uses an open draw done in advance with play-by dates. Eight quarter finalists are produced from the three zones.

Q: How is the Men's Pairs competition played?

A: Pairs is played with 4 bowls each player over 18 ends. A tie results in an extra end decided by coin toss. The draw is open, done in advance with play-by dates.

Q: How is the Men's Triples competition played?

A: Triples is played with 3 bowls each player over 18 ends on a fixed Tuesday, on neutral greens. A tie results in an extra end.

Q: How is the Men's Fours competition played?

A: Fours is played with 2 bowls each player over 18 ends on a fixed Friday, on neutral greens. A tie results in an extra end.

Q: How is the Men's Over 55 Fours played?

A: Over 55 Fours is played with 2 bowls each player over 18 ends. The draw is open, done in advance with play-by dates, loosely based on zones to limit travel. Two finalists result from the qualification process.

Q: How are the Men's Over 65 competitions structured?

A: Both Over 65 Pairs and Over 65 Fours are played on two fixed dates. The qualification is split into two zones (Zone 1 and Zones 2&3), each producing four quarter finalists. The eight quarter finalists then play on a further fixed date until two finalists remain.

Q: What are the Under 24 competitions for men?

A: The Under 24 Four Bowl Singles is a first-to-21-shots competition played on a fixed date. The Under 24 Pairs is played with 3 bowls per player over 18 ends (or fewer in a round robin format) on a fixed date. Age eligibility is based on not having reached the relevant birthday on 1st April in the year of the competition.

Marshall Shield (Men's Club Championship)

Q: What is the Marshall Shield?

A: The Marshall Shield is an inter-club men's competition open to all Bowls Yorkshire affiliated clubs. Clubs may enter an unlimited number of teams, but players can only play for the team they represented in the first match.

Q: How is the Marshall Shield played?

A: It consists of three rinks of four male players, played over 18 ends with two additional trial ends. A minimum of twelve players is required — it is not permissible to play with fewer.

Q: Where are Marshall Shield matches played?

A: Matches up to and including the quarter finals are played on the challenger's home green on Bowls Yorkshire published fixed dates. Where the round trip exceeds 160 miles, matches are played on a neutral green midway between the clubs. Semi-finals and finals are played at a single location on a fixed date.

Q: How is the winner of a Marshall Shield match decided?

A: The winner is decided by the total aggregate score of all three rinks. If the aggregate is tied, an extra end is played by a pre-elected rink (chosen by coin toss before play begins), continuing until a result is achieved.

Q: Who pays rink fees for the Marshall Shield?

A: Rink fees are paid by the challenger, unless it is a neutral venue in which case fees are shared equally between both teams.

Q: When is the entry deadline for the Marshall Shield?

A: All entries must be submitted to the Competition Secretary by noon on 1st March.

Women's Competition Formats

Q: How is the Women's Two Bowl Singles played?

A: It is played on a set date and green, with games played through to the final. Rinks are drawn before play commences.

Q: What is the County Champion of Champions competition?

A: This competition is open to the previous season's club four bowl singles winner. It is a 21-shot, four-bowl singles game played on a set date. Semi-finals and finals are played on one day at Northallerton.

Q: How is the Janet Harrow competition played?

A: The Janet Harrow is an inter-club competition played as three triples (three bowls, 18 ends) on set dates on a challenger/opponent basis. Nine players form three rinks, and substitutes may be used in subsequent rounds. If scores are level after 18 ends, all three rinks play an extra end. Two clubs may combine to form one team.

Q: How is the Anne Wilkinson competition played?

A: The Anne Wilkinson is an inter-club double-rinks competition using two bowls over 18 ends. Eight players form two rinks, and any team member may be substituted in later rounds. If scores are level after 18 ends, both rinks play an extra end, with the highest combined score winning. Two clubs may form a team.

Q: What are the substitution rules in the Anne Wilkinson and Janet Harrow?

A: Only one substitute per rink is allowed after a team game has commenced, in the event of illness or accident. If a further player in the same rink must leave, play in that rink stops and the score is held to the end of the game.

Q: How is the Benevolent Triples competition played?

A: The Benevolent Triples is an inter-club triples competition played on a set date, with two woods per player over 15 ends. It is a knockout competition played to a final, with the final on County Finals Weekend.

Q: How are the Women's Over 55 competitions played?

A: The Over 55 Singles (four bowls, 21 shots) and Over 55 Pairs (four bowls, 18 ends) are both played on a challenger/opponent basis up to the final, which takes place on County Finals Weekend.

Mixed Gender Competitions

Q: How is the Mixed Triples competition played?

A: Mixed Triples is held at two fixed venues on two fixed dates (maximum 24 entries per venue). Players use two bowls per player, with each match lasting approximately 45 minutes. Each venue produces a daily winner who proceeds to the County Final on County Finals Weekend.

Q: What disciplines make up the Top Club Championship?

A: Top Club consists of five disciplines: Four Bowl Singles (21 shots), Two Bowl Singles (21 ends), Four Bowl Mixed Pairs (18 ends), Three Bowl Mixed Triples (18 ends), and Mixed Two Bowl Fours (18 ends).

Q: What are the gender requirements for Top Club?

A: Each team must include one woman and one man in each of the two singles disciplines. Teams unable to field the correct number of players and gender mix for all disciplines will concede a walkover.

Q: Where are Top Club matches played?

A: Matches up to and including the semi-finals are played on the challenger's home green on YBA stated fixed dates. Matches must not start earlier than 10:30am or later than 6:30pm. Where the round trip exceeds 160 miles (club postcode to club postcode), matches are played on a neutral green midway between clubs.

Q: How is the Top Club scoring system decided?

A: One point is awarded for each discipline match won. In the event of a draw in any discipline, an extra end is played to determine the winner and the point. If a team cannot win a discipline, the losing team may concede.

Q: Who pays rink fees for Top Club?

A: The challenger pays rink fees. If it is a neutral venue, fees are shared equally between the teams.