

Bowls England Regulation: No. 57
Approved October 2019

National Top Club Competition (Women)

This regulation should be read in conjunction with Regulation 52 – National Competitions.

1. The competition shall be open to all Clubs affiliated to Bowls England. Clubs may enter more than one side. No player shall play in more than one of those sides entered.
2. Players are required to play from the club in which they play their National Championships. Players entering National Championships in another country are not eligible to participate. In any year a competitor selected to play in Inter-Club Competitions may only represent one club should they belong to more than one club.
3. Fixed dates may be set for this competition by County Associations subject to the following:
 - Both clubs participating in the round are affiliated to the same County Association
 - The dates for each round set by the County Association shall fall within the round closing dates for that particular round set by Bowls England
 - The set date meets the requirement of the playing times/days specified in Regulation 52.1.18
4. A club side shall consist of 10 players. The disciplines are Four-Wood Singles (21 shots), Four-Wood Pairs (21 ends), Three-Wood Triples (18 ends) and Two-Wood Fours (21 ends). The challenger shall have the choice of green and shall make all match arrangements up to the Inter-County stage.
5. Failure to field 10 players shall result in a walk-over.
6. Before the start of the match, the nominated managers shall toss a coin for the choice of jack (first end), the winner having the choice of keeping or giving the jack away, and make the draw for rinks for each discipline. The format for the competition shall be as follows:
 - 1pt for every discipline won, total of four points available. In the event of a drawn discipline the point shall be shared, i.e. ½ point each. After completion of the four disciplines the winning side shall be decided by the highest number of points.
 - In the case of a tie, the winner shall be decided from the total number of shots scored from the four disciplines. Should these be equal as well as the match score, extra ends in the pairs, triples and fours, shall be played to determine the result. A further toss of the coin shall take place, the winner having the choice of keeping or giving the jack away on the extra ends.
 - Shots do not count on the extra end – only the result of the three disciplines, ie. 2-1, 3-0. All disciplines shall be played simultaneously.
7. Between rounds, substitutes/changes are allowed in the side and between disciplines provided the players are members of the same club and have not played for another side during the current competition. For this competition only, substitution during play is allowed for the singles player in case of illness or injury. The score being resumed after interruption. Substitutes are allowed during play in the Pairs, Triples and Fours of this event in line with the current Laws of the Sport.

8. Final Stages

- 8.1 The final stages shall take place on dates and venue specified by Bowls England and consist of the eight qualifying sides (80 players). This shall be a knockout basis with the Quarter-Final on the Saturday and the Semi-Final and Final on Sunday morning and Sunday afternoon respectively.
- 8.2 Each Club qualifying for the final stages shall supply Bowls England the names of 10 players and two reserves not later than the Monday of Week 36. A maximum of 12 National Competition badges shall be presented to players involved at the finals.
- 8.3 Bowls England shall provide bowls stickers for the final stages of this event.
- 8.4 The Winners shall be presented with a maximum of 12 medals, fleeces and a Club Pennant at the Annual Dinner along with 12 medals for the Runners-Up.