

Bowls England Regulation: No. 62
Approved October 2019

National Top Club Competition (Men)

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 11 players. The disciplines are Two-Wood Singles (21 ends), 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-area stage.
5. Failure to field 11 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, a further toss of a coin for choice of jack (extra end) should one be required and make the draw for rinks for each discipline. All disciplines shall start at the same time unless, when arranging the fixture, it is agreed that the singles matches shall be played on the same rink one after the other. An extra end shall be played in any discipline should it be a tie – no drawn matches. The winning side shall be the one winning the most disciplines.
7. If, in any round of this competition, a singles player is unable to continue due to ill health or any other reason, then that discipline shall be conceded. The remaining disciplines should continue to their natural conclusion. Substitutes are allowed during play in the Pairs, Triples and Fours of this event in line with the current Laws of the Sport.
8. 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.
9. **Final Stages**
 - 9.1 The final stages shall take place on dates and at a venue specified by Bowls England and consist of the eight qualifying sides (88) players. This shall be a knockout basis with the Quarter-Final on Saturday and the Semi-Final and Final on Sunday morning and Sunday afternoon respectively.
 - 9.2 Each Club qualifying for the final stages shall supply to Bowls England the names of 11 players and two reserves no later than the Monday of Week 36. A maximum of 13 National Competition badges shall be presented to players involved at the finals.
 - 9.3 Bowls England shall provide bowls stickers for the final stages of this event.
 - 9.4 The Winners shall be presented with a maximum of 13 medals, fleeces and a Club Pennant at the Annual Dinner with 13 medals for the Runners-Up.