

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RULES 2009/10

The Laws of the Sport of Indoor Bowls shall apply in all circumstances not covered by these National Championship Rules.

1. ORGANISATION

The Championships are open to playing members of Clubs Affiliated to English Indoor Bowling Association Ltd. (E.I.B.A.) referred to hereafter as the National Governing Body (NGB) governing the playing of Indoor Bowls.

Zone Competition Secretaries (ZCS) and Area Competition Secretaries (ACS) administer Championships within designated areas of the country under the control and guidance of the Competition Committee of the National Governing Body (NGB).

The National Headquarters will issue official entry forms to each Club Secretary who will be advised of the closing date for entries. The submission of any entry on behalf of a competitor shall imply acceptance of these Rules, with one name only being listed for Pairs, Triples and Fours. Fees shall be determined by the National Governing Body and published with the entry forms in February/March of that year. An additional fee will be required from each named entrant for the purchase of the current Year Book, which includes all competitions and playing rules.

In submitting a Championship entry Clubs undertake to accept that International Duties, National Events and Championships shall take precedence over any domestic arrangements that clubs might have.

In submitting a Championship entry on behalf of its members Clubs agree that entries are accepted on the understanding that adequate playing space will be provided to the competitor to play their competition ties to completion when competitors are playing at home.

Other than by mutual agreement, no National Championship tie shall take place before 1st day of October in each season.

2. VENUES

All Championship ties shall be played on approved greens belonging to Affiliated Clubs with regulation banks and ditches, and be a minimum width of 4.00m, provided that all outside rinks have a distance of at least 300mm between it and the boundary of the green. Single rink greens must be at least 4.00m wide with 300mm on each side. A rink of 3.65m in width may also be used provided it is not a rink immediately adjoining the side boundary of the green.

Competitors unable to use their home green because it does not comply with the foregoing requirements or for any other reason may (in order of preference):-

- (i) Play on a green in the area, which does comply with the foregoing requirements.
- (ii) Play away on the green of the opponent if available.

3. RINK FEES

LADIES

- (i) All competitors will be expected to pay their own rink fees.

MEN

Rink fees will be paid by the Challenger unless:-

- (i) Competitors are members of the same club when rink fees will be shared.
- (ii) The majority of Clubs in the Area have decided otherwise.
- (iii) In Area Finals rink fees will be shared.
- (iv) In all other cases the payment of rink fees are as indicated in Championship Rules.

ELIGIBILITY

- 4.1. Unless otherwise provided in these Rules, all competitors entered by an Affiliated Club shall be full playing members of that club.
- 4.2. A competitor may only enter the championships through one affiliated club (even though she or he may be an eligible member of more than one club.) Players under suspension, or expulsion from a club affiliated to the NGB shall not participate in National Championships through that club, subject to the 'right of appeal' under the Rules and Constitution.
- 4.3.
 - (i) For entries into age related competitions, competitors must have attained the required age 50/60 years by October 1st in the season they play the competition. In the Under 25 Singles events Ladies must be under the age of 25 on December 31st in the year of the entry, and men must not have attained 25 years of age on 30th April in the year when playing British Isles Championships. In the Under 25 Team Championships competitors must be Under 25 when the Finals are played.
 - (ii) Ladies entries into the Unbadged Pairs are limited to those players who have not qualified for a Ladies National Association Badge.
- 4.4. Entries to all National Championships are accepted on the understanding that Competitors may be subject to random drug testing at any time.
- 4.5.
 - (i) A Competitor entering a Team Championship is not permitted to be a member of any other team in the same Championship. All players shall be eligible members of the same club and shall normally play together throughout the Championship. In the Pairs, Triples and Fours, players taking part in the first game constitute the original entry. One additional (and the same) player of the same Club may however, be used as a substitute at any time provided they have not already played in the Championship, and provided they are eligible Competitors. A substitute may play in any position except Skip in a resumed game (game interrupted through illness or any other reason) (see Laws of the Sport of Indoor

Bowls). In Mixed events one substitute of either gender is allowable at any one time. Competitors who have entered a Championship and are a named entrant cannot afterwards play in another team in the same Championship, irrespective of whether or not they have actually played in their original entry.

- (ii) Players who have entered a National Singles, U25 Singles or O60 Singles Championship and subsequently change membership to another Club within the same Competition Zone/Area, may transfer their entry with them.
- (iii) In the case of National Singles, Pairs, Triples, Fours, O60 Fours and Under 25 Singles Championships, an entry in a National Championship under the control of the NGB will be declared invalid if a competitor has entered into another Country's Championships or Competitions, or has represented that Country in the same season.

4.6 In Mixed Pairs and Mixed Fours events all players must be members of the same Club affiliated to the NGB and play their National Competitions from that Club.

5 PLAYING ARRANGEMENTS

- 5.1. The player whose name appears first in a draw is designated the 'Challenger' on behalf of themselves and, where appropriate their team, similarly the player whose name appears second is designated the 'Opponent'.
- 5.2. All Championships will be played on a Zone or Area basis. If 2 Clubs have the same colour stickers, the 'opponent' shall remove or change their stickers.
- 5.3. The Over 60 games will be played Monday to Friday with a start time between 10 am and 3 pm unless by mutual agreement.
- 5.4. Competitors qualifying for the National Championship Finals of an event under the control of the NGB may not play at the venue where the Championship is being played for a period of 48 hours prior to the event commencing unless covered by the Laws of the Sport.
- 5.5. The ZCS/ACS will arrange the date and the venue of the Zone/Area Finals. Generally Area and Zone Finals will be arranged to be played at weekends unless circumstances dictate otherwise.
- 5.6. All matches except Singles will be 4 hours duration to exclude trial ends. Play must be continuous. The delivery of the Jack (from a correctly positioned mat) shall constitute the start of an end. An end started before the 4-hour time limit has elapsed must be completed. In the event of a tie, an extra end will be played, and replayed to a conclusion. All dead ends must be replayed. The start and finish time must be agreed by both players/teams from the same timepiece and entered on the scorecard. If a game is unable to continue due to unforeseen circumstances competitors must return to complete the game as soon as possible
- 5.7. The term 'Singles game' shall be equivalent to 'singles game' or 'single-handed game' where they occur in the 'Laws of the Sport of Indoor Bowls'. In all Singles games, unless otherwise prescribed, the winner shall be the first player to reach 21 shots.

Match Format

SINGLES	= 4 bowls each player	21 shots
PAIRS	= 4 bowls each player	21 ends or 4 hours
2 WOOD TRIPLES	= 2 bowls each player	18 ends or 4 hours
TRIPLES	= 3 bowls each player	18 ends or 4 hours
FOURS	= 2 bowls each player	21 ends or 4 hours

- 5.8. The Under 25 Singles Championship will be played in sets. Each match will consist of two sets, each set being played over 9 ends. A set will be decided if at any point it becomes impossible for one player to draw, or win, the set given the number of ends remaining.

If the game is tied after 2 sets, by either player having won 1 set or both sets being drawn, a best of a three end "tie breaker" will be played to determine the winner. If the game is still drawn after three tied ends have been played then one extra end will be played. The match tie breaker is decided by the winner of each end, and not by the total number of shots won in the three sets.

The winner of the toss prior to the start of the match shall have the option to either take the mat or give it to his opponent on the first end only. The winner of the first set shall have the option to either take the mat or give it away on the first end only. Should the first set be drawn, the winner of the last scoring end in that set shall have the option to either take the mat or give it away.

In all ends subsequent to the first in each set the winner of an end will start the next end in the same set.

In a match tie breaker the player winning the toss shall have the choice of starting or giving away the jack on the first and third ends. The loser of the toss shall have the choice of starting the second end.

If a jack in motion passes completely outside the boundaries of the rink of play or rebounds to a distance of less than 20 metres from the mat line, the jack shall be re-spotted. If the jack passes outside the side boundary of the rink it should be placed on a pre-arranged spot on the rink which is 2 metres from the front ditch and 1½ metres to the left or right of the centre line, on the side that it left the rink of play.

If any of the pre-defined spots are obstructed by a bowl the jack shall be placed on a pre-defined spot which is a half metre further from the front ditch than the spot which has been obstructed.

- 5.9 (i) The Challenger shall offer their opponent the choice of 2 dates as follows:-
 - LADIES: 2 dates one of which must be an evening or weekend, if requested by her opponent.
 - MEN: 2 dates, one of which must be a weekday evening and one a weekendThese dates must be not less than 14 days before the closing date of the opening round of the Championship, or within 5 days, after the closing date of the previous round to exclude Bank Holidays at their own club or a club in their Zone/Area. In the event of this not happening the 2nd named becomes the Challenger and shall offer their opponent the appropriate

two dates and time at their own club or a club in their Zone/Area. When dates are offered, the arrangement must be confirmed within 72 hours and any arrangements made must be adhered to. If the opponent has previously arranged to play another National Championship on one or both of the two dates offered or is on International Duty, the Challenger is required to offer alternative dates.

- (ii) **LADIES:** Competitors may not be asked to play before 11 am if travelling more than 50 miles from Club to Club, nor to commence a competition after 2.30 pm, unless by mutual agreement.
MEN: Ties at weekends shall not commence before 9.00am. Ties in midweek shall be arranged to commence at a stipulated time between 6.00pm and 7.00pm other than by mutual agreement. An opponent who finds that because of another National Championship he is unable to accept either dates offered by the Challenger, may apply for an alternative date as 5.9 (i)
- (iii) When challenged, being on holiday, playing a County or Club game is not sufficient reason for demanding alternative dates.

- 5.10 A Competitor (Skip in a team game) who is challenging the result of a game, should inform their opponent(s) or opposing skip, and the marker or umpire (if present), within 10 minutes of the end of the game, of the nature of the grievance. If the matter cannot be resolved to their satisfaction, they may make a formal complaint in writing to the ZCS or ACS within 24 hours of the conclusion of the game. If the ZCS or ACS cannot resolve the matter to the satisfaction of both parties, they shall refer the matter to the Chairman of the Competitions Committee who shall adjudicate. Their decision, subject to the right of appeal as defined in the Constitution and Rules of the NGB shall be final.
- 5.11 An Umpire/Competent person is not required until the Zone or Area finals when an Umpire/Competent person will be arranged by the ZCS or ACS.
- 5.12 The failure of a player or players to appear after a maximum waiting period of 30 minutes (except in exceptional circumstances) from the time fixed for the start of the game, shall cause the player(s) to forfeit the game to their opponent.
- 5.13 The result of a match must be telephoned through to the ZCS or ACS immediately after the match and the card put in the post within 24 hours (by first class mail) with all the Competitors names on and signed by both players or skips. A game conceded is a game played with a scorecard being submitted to the ZCS or ACS stating clearly which competitor/team has conceded the game. The ZCS or ACS shall be responsible for advising the Challenger of their Opponent in the next round either by telephone, email or first class post.
- 5.14 **LADIES:** Champion of Champions. A player may enter the Club four-wood Singles (which qualifies for the National Champion of Champions) only from the Club in which they have entered National Championships, when in each round they must have reached 21 shots, unless a game is conceded. No substitution is permissible, only the Club Champion is eligible. In a Singles game, the Challenger shall be responsible for arranging for a Marker to be present.
- 5.15 **MEN:** Champion of Champions. The Championship will be open to the current male Singles Champion entered by an affiliated club, who is a full playing member of that club throughout the competition. No substitution is permissible. In the event of a member being the Singles Champion of more than one affiliated club in the same season, only one entry for that player will be accepted. Preference will be given to the affiliated club from where the player entered the National Championships in the same season in which he won the club singles.
- 5.16 All queries must be addressed in the first instance to the relevant ZCS or ACS.

6 DRESS CODE

- 6.1 **LADIES:** Early rounds of the National Championships Competitions: Either grey regulation full-length trousers, cropped trousers, culottes or skirt, Club coloured top or white top with collar and sleeves and Club coloured cardigan or waistcoat. Regulation brown, grey or white shoes (with no coloured trim) must be worn. Sandals are not allowed except for medical reasons when a doctor's exemption letter will be required together with permission from the NGB. Where no coloured cardigan or waistcoat is available, white cardigan or waistcoat may be worn with Club badge or flash. Club coloured tops must be registered with the NGB.

Final Stages of all National Championships (including Zone Finals) as above except White/cream shall be worn below the waist. White/club coloured shirt, white/club coloured waistcoat or cardigan, if available, with club badge or flash. White regulation shoes.

- 6.2 **MEN:** Prior to Area Finals, the dress code of the Club at which the tie is being played shall be observed and, subject to Club rules, players are permitted to wear coloured shirts.
- 6.3 In the Area Finals and Final stages of the National Championships players will wear regulation dress.
 - (i) White footwear with white or cream socks, plain white trousers and white shirt. If either a belt or braces are worn they shall be white. Braces shall not be visible. Players are also permitted to wear a registered coloured shirt (see (ii) below).
 - (ii) Indoor Clubs and Indoor Associations may apply to the Competition Administrator of the Association using the appropriate form available from the National Headquarters, for approval of the design of a coloured shirt. The shirt may include, within specified dimensional guidelines, the official Club or County badge together with a sponsor's logo. Once approved, this becomes the 'Registered Coloured Shirt' of the Club or County Association. The Association will issue a 'Certificate of Registration' confirming this.
 - (iii) Ladies playing in the Mixed Championships shall dress in accordance with standards of the NGB The wearing of white shoes in the final stages shall be obligatory.

- 6.4 Dress for all Team Championships shall be Whites or Registered Coloured Shirts for all rounds with the exception of the Over 60 Double Rink and Under 25 Club Double Rink where the dress shall be Greys/Whites or Registered Coloured Shirts for the early rounds and white shoes, white below the waist and either white top or registered coloured shirt for the final stages.

7. GENERAL MATTERS

- 7.1 All trophies remain the property of the NGB and must be returned to the office by January 1st each year.
- 7.2 Mobile phones must not be used on the green. They should be used with discretion whilst in the vicinity of the green. There must be no flash photography until play on all rinks has been completed.
- 7.3 In the event of a completed match where the winning player, team or side is disqualified by default, the loser of the match will be re-instated as a winner and proceed to the following round.
- 7.4 Players who are in breach of these rules may incur disciplinary action by EIBA Ltd. which may include suspension or disqualification from participating in any National or International Championships.

The Competitions Committee reserve the right to amend or modify any National Championship rule, from time to time, as required.

8. DISABLED PLAYERS

- 8.1 Where a competitor is a 'Wheelchair Player', the wheelchair must be of a type approved by the British Wheelchair Bowls Association (B.W.B.A) and the NGB
- 8.2 At the point of delivery of the bowl, players using a purpose designed and approved wheelchair (PDW) must have one wheel on or over the confines of the mat. The mat must be in the normal position. Failure to observe this rule constitutes foot-faulting.
- 8.3 The wheelchair shall be recognised as being an integral part of the wheelchair player in all instances when a bowl or jack is displaced or interfered with by the wheelchair.

9. CODE OF CONDUCT

- 9.1 Scope: This code of conduct has been introduced by the NGB and relates to all National Championship events under their direct control. The NGB reserves the right to conduct a full enquiry into all reported incidents and take whatever action is deemed to be appropriate in the circumstances.
- 9.2 Method of Reporting: All complaints relating to this Code of Conduct shall be reported in writing to the Chief Operating Executive (COE) of the NGB within 7 days of the date of the alleged incident.
- 9.3 Disciplinary Action: If The NGB COE (or his/her delegated representative) is not able to resolve the matter directly with the players involved, or if, in the opinion of the COE, the matter is of a serious nature, which may result in disciplinary action being taken against a player, they will, by consultation, determine the next course of action and may request that an investigation be carried out by a person or persons selected by the Chairman of the Competition Committee. At the conclusion of the investigation, if it is the opinion of the person(s) carrying out the investigation that there is a case to answer, a Disciplinary Panel of three Directors selected by the National Governing Body Executive Council may be formed to hear the complaint at which the player(s) involved and the person(s) carrying out the investigation may be required to attend. The decision of the Disciplinary Panel will be communicated in writing to the player(s) involved and will give details of any action proposed. Following this, a player against whom a judgement has been made has the right to appeal using the procedure defined in the Articles of Association of the National Governing Body.
- 9.4 Abuse to the person: A player shall not abuse in any way whatsoever, any other person during the course of a game.
- 9.5 Abuse of Equipment: A player shall not cause wilful damage to any equipment whatsoever during the course of a game.
- 9.6 Drug and Alcohol Abuse: No player shall cause himself/herself to be unfit to play through either drug or alcohol abuse during the course of any event under the direct control of the National Governing Body.

RULES FOR NATIONAL TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS

LADIES:	Yetton Trophy, Yetton Plate, Vivienne Trophy, Lingford Trophy, Mason Trophy
MEN:	Denny Cup, Denny Plate, Over 60's Double Rink
MIXED:	Egham Trophy, Under 25 Double Rink

1. These rules apply for the above Club Competitions except where there is a specific rule relating to a particular competition.
2. Team Championships are played on a knockout principle.
3. Entry fees will be published on the entry form.
4. The closing date for entries will be May 1st each year.
5.
 - (i) Clubs may have one entry in all Club Team Championships, except in the Mason & Lingford Trophies and Men's Over 60 Double Rink when unlimited entries will be allowed.
 - (ii) Over 60 games will be played Monday to Friday with a start time between 10.00am and 3.00pm unless by mutual agreement.
 - (iii) Ladies: Mason Trophy games will be 2 rinks played on the Challengers Green. The Challenger shall offer their Opponent 2 dates, not in the same week.
 - (iv) Men: The Over 60 Double Rink will be 1 rink home and 1 rink away. The Challenger shall offer their opponent 2 dates, not in the same week.
6. Where a Club with only 1 rink is involved, one of the following options shall apply at the discretion of the one rink club:-
 - (i) the ties may be played in consecutive sequence
 - (ii) in the "two home, two away" events, the second "home" four of the one rink Club may play on an approved neutral green.
 - (iii) three "fours" (where applicable) may play on their opponents green if available.
7. In all Championships, Clubs more than 100 miles apart by road will play on a neutral green as near as possible half way between the two, with Clubs playing all rinks at the same venue. Clubs to make their own arrangements and share the costs. Clubs may also play home and away by mutual agreement.
8. Games will be 21 ends or 4 hours; whichever is the shorter, not including trial ends or extra ends. An end started before the 4 hours (jack cast) must be played to a finish. All dead ends will be replayed. The Challenger shall nominate one designated rink number to play an extra end, before the draw is made for rinks. The extra end should only be played if the game is a draw. The only exception to this is when the 2 rinks at home and 2 rinks away are unable to play at the same time when the extra end will be played by the nominated rink immediately after the 21st end is completed. If all rinks are playing at the same venue, the extra end will only be played after all 4 rinks have completed their game and the extra end will only be played if the result is a tie.
MEN In the Quarter Finals, Semi-Finals and Final, where the scores are level after the completion of 21 ends, all "fours" will play extra ends simultaneously until a winner is determined by shots.
9. If within a period of 30 minutes from the time fixed for the game a single player is absent from one or more teams in a side game of four players in each rink, in accordance with the Laws on the Sport, the game shall proceed but,
 - (i) in the defaulting team, the number of bowls shall be made up by the lead and second players playing three bowls each
 - (ii) one fourth of the total shots scored by each team comprising three players shall be deducted from their score at the conclusion of the game. Fractions will be taken into account

The Laws of the Sport of Indoor Bowls will apply.

10. If both clubs have the same coloured stickers, the non-challengers shall remove or change their stickers.
11. The rinks to be used will be allocated by the home team or by the Club if a neutral green, and the draw and the toss will be made by the representatives of the participating Clubs in the presence of an Umpire/Competent person. At the National Championships the names of the players and the rinks on which they play will be published in the finals programme.
12. LADIES in the last 16 and Quarter-Final rounds and (where applicable) the Semi-Finals, when the National Finals fall in an odd numbered year i.e. 2009, the first named will be the Challenger, and when the National Finals fall in an even numbered year i.e. 2010, the second named will be the Challenger. Where Zones are divided into A and B sections, this will apply to the Zone Finals, so that Zone Section A will be the Challenger when the National Finals fall in an odd numbered year and Zone Section B will be the Challenger when National Finals fall in an even numbered year.
13. At the completion of all matches, results must be notified to the appropriate person by telephone.
LADIES The Captain/ Secretary of the winning team will post the cards to the ZCS within 24 hours by first class post who will tell the challenger of their opponents in the next round.
MEN The Captain/Secretary of the winning team will send the official form by first class post to National Headquarters within 24 hours. Successful Clubs will be notified by post of their opponents in the next round.

NATIONAL TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS

YETTON TROPHY & DENNY CUP

Entries are open to all affiliated Clubs who will be represented by a "single" entry of four rinks of 4 players in each rink (Ladies having 2 reserves). Ties will normally be on a two 'fours' home, two 'fours' away basis and all players will be members of the same affiliated Club and playing their National Championships from that Club.

YETTON TROPHY:

Will be played on Thursdays on dates as published in the current Year Book or earlier by mutual agreement, which will include the previous weekend. Start time will be between 10.00am and 2.30pm on the date indicated. Challenger must confirm arrangements. The finals will be held at the National Championships.

DENNY CUP:

Entries will be a 'single' entry of four rinks of 4 players in each rink, 2 rinks home and 2 rinks away. Matches will be played simultaneously on Saturdays at 10.00am on dates as published in the current Year Book or earlier by mutual agreement. (A later start time is permissible if mutually agreed by both Clubs) Challenger must confirm arrangements.

The Semi-Finals and Finals will be played on a date and at a venue arranged by the Competition Sub Committee and published in the Year Book.

YETTON PLATE & DENNY PLATE

These Championships are open to all first game losers in the above competitions and will be played on the designated dates. Disqualification, games conceded and walk over games does not entitle entry into this competition. The Championships will be played under the same rules as the Yetton Trophy and the Denny Cup on the dates as published in the current Year Book.

VIVIENNE TROPHY

Entries will be a 'single' entry of four rinks of 4 players in each rink, plus 2 reserves, from affiliated Clubs already entered in the Yetton Trophy. All players must be from the same Club and playing their National Championships from that Club. Games will be played on a Thursday on dates as published in the current Year Book or earlier, which will include the previous weekend, by mutual agreement. Players may not interchange between the Yetton and Vivienne. Challenger must confirm arrangements.

EGHAM TROPHY (MIXED)

Entries will be a 'single' entry of four rinks, 2 rinks home and 2 rinks away each comprising two ladies and two men, all the players being members of that same affiliated Club and playing their National Championships from that Club. Ties will be played on a Sunday morning at 10.00am on designated dates as published in the current Year Book or earlier by mutual agreement.

MASON TROPHY & MENS OVER 60'S DOUBLE RINK

Players must be 60 or over on the 1st October in the season they play in the competition. Entries will be 2 rinks of four players (plus 2 reserves for the Mason) all players playing their Nationals from that Club. Clubs are allowed unlimited entries in both the Men's Over 60's Double Rink and the Ladies Mason Trophy (2 rinks playing on the Challenger's green). In the Mens Over 60's Double Rink, 2 rinks playing one at home one away but players are not allowed to interchange between entries. Games will be played on weekdays (Monday to Friday) between the hours of 10.00am and 3.00pm, unless by mutual agreement. The Challenger shall offer their opponents 2 dates, not in the same week, one of which must be accepted. The Semi-Finals and Finals will be played at the National Championships Finals, and a substitute must be used in the Semi-Final and Final if players are involved in other finals at the same time.

LINGFORD TROPHY

Players must be under 60 on the 1st October in the season they play in the competition. There is no lower age limit. Entries will be 2 Triples (18 ends) plus 1 reserve with unlimited entries but players from each entry may not interchange and must play their Nationals from that Club. All rounds will be played on fixed weekends (either Saturday or Sunday). The game to be played on the Challengers green. The Semi-Final and Final will be played at the National Championship Finals, and a substitute must be used in the Final if players are involved in other finals at the same time.

UNDER 25 CLUB DOUBLE RINK

1. The Championship is open to all affiliated clubs, each being represented by a 'single' entry of two rinks of four players. Ties to be played on the same day simultaneously unless otherwise mutually agreed on a one 'four' home one 'four' away basis.
 - (i) Competitors will not have attained the age of 25 years on the date the final is played
 - (ii) Sides may consist of any combination of male and/or female competitors.
 - (iii) Where two affiliated clubs do not have enough registered under 25 members they may join together to form a side, subject to the written approval of the Competition Committee. A signed declaration confirming that the club has insufficient registered members under the age of 25 will be required from the Secretary of both clubs.
2. All ties are to be played on a Saturday or Sunday as agreed between clubs on designated weekends fixed by the Competition Committee, or before by mutual agreement. The starting time shall be 10am but by mutual agreement, shall not be later than 3 pm.
3. The Final will be played on a date and at a venue arranged by the Competition Committee

**TLH NATIONAL TOP CLUB COMPETITION
SPONSORED BY TLH LEISURE RESORT**

1. The Competition shall be a mixed competition open to all clubs affiliated to the English Indoor Bowling Association Ltd. Entry is not restricted and Clubs may enter more than one team if required. The competition shall be played on a knock out basis in 4 areas of the country as determined by the Competitions Committee with 2 teams from each area qualifying for the final stages which shall be played over a single weekend at the TLH Leisure Resort. Final stages competitors are required to make their own accommodation requirements at the TLH Leisure Resort and will be offered competitive rates by the sponsors.
2. Prize monies to be determined by the EIBA Competitions Committee and will be dependant on the number of teams entering the competition. Trophies shall be provided by the sponsors.
3. A team shall be a mixed side consisting of 11 players with each player being a fully paid up member of the same club. Each side to consist of a mixed 2 wood fours, a mixed 3 wood triples, a mixed 4 wood pairs, a ladies 2 wood singles and a mens 2 wood singles.
4. All matches shall be played under the National Championship Rules as laid down and in accordance with the Laws of the Sport of Indoor Bowls with the following exceptions:
 - a) Pairs, triples and fours games shall be of 4 hour duration excluding trial ends.
 - b) Singles games shall be 21 ends to determine the winner.

5. Male and Female substitutes are allowed in the team providing the players are members of the competing club and have not previously played for any other team in the competition. All games are to be played, failure of a team to provide 11 players shall result in a "walkover" for their opponents.
6. Each of the games to be scored on a maximum of 10 points with 2 points awarded to the winner of each game and 1 point to each side if drawn. The overall winner will be the side scoring the most points. If equality exists the winning side shall be determined on the total number of shots scored, if equality still exists the side winning the most ends will be declared the winner.
7. The Challenger shall have the choice of green and offer their opponents not less than 3 dates, 2 of which must be on a Saturday or Sunday which shall be accepted by their opponents under the conditions of the general Competition Rules. The challenger shall be responsible for providing an umpire and markers for the singles games.

NATIONAL INTER COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS

ATHERLEY TROPHY & LIBERTY TROPHY

1. Counties affiliated to the NGB will be allowed one entry into the above competitions. Players must be from affiliated Clubs in that County and play their Nationals from those Clubs.
2. Entries will be 6 rinks of four players from each County. All 6 rinks will play at a venue, found by the challenger, in the challengers' County, unless the County towns are more than 100 Miles apart, when it should be played in a neutral County as near half way as possible, unless by mutual agreement they play at the challenger's choice of green.
3. The game will be 4 hours or 21 ends, whichever is the shorter, not including trial ends or extra ends. An end started before the expiration of the 4 hour time limit must be played to a finish. All dead ends will be replayed. If all rinks are playing at the same venue, the extra end will only be played when all 6 rinks have completed their game and the extra end will only be played if the result is a tie.

LADIES: The home team will offer two dates, one of which must be a weekend, not less than 14 days before the closing date of the opening round and within 3 days of the closing date of the previous round. In the event of this not happening, the 2nd named becomes the Challenger. When dates and venues are offered, the arrangements must be confirmed within 72 hours. At the semi-final and final stage, if the finals fall in an odd numbered year i.e.2009, the first named will be the Challenger. If the finals fall in an even numbered year, i.e. 2010, the second named will be the Challenger. This rule will take effect from the Quarter-Final stage of any split area

In case of a tie, one extra end will be played by one home team of four and their opponents nominated by the Challenger in the presence of the Umpire/Competent Person before the draw for rinks is made. The said rink will only play the extra end if the result of the game is a tie. In the final where rinks are pre-drawn the Umpire shall make a draw for the designated rink number to play the extra end.

Games shall not commence before 10.00am or after 2.30pm unless by mutual agreement.

MEN: Prior to the Final stage of the Championship the challenger shall nominate one designated rink number to play an extra end, before the draw is made for rinks. In the event of a draw an extra end will be played by the nominated rink immediately after all fours have completed 21 ends, should this happen the result of the extra end will determine the result. In the final where rinks are pre-drawn the Umpire shall make a draw for the designated rink number to play the extra end.

The matches will be played on designated dates set by the Competition Committee. Start time will be 10 am but by mutual agreement shall not be later than 3.00pm.

5. The failure of a team to field the required number of players 30 minutes after the start will abide by the Laws of the Sport of Indoor Bowls.
6. The draw for rinks and the toss will be made by the County Representatives in the presence of an Umpire/Competent person.
7. Teams will share green fees and Umpires expenses.
8. The result of each game will be telephoned to the National Governing Body NGB after the game and all scorecards signed and posted within 24 hours (first class post).
9. All finals will be arranged by the National Governing Body at a venue to be announced.
10. Prior to the Final the Challenger will be responsible for providing Umpires

UNDER 25 COUNTY DOUBLE RINK

1. All competitors must be full male members of a club affiliated to the NGB who have not attained the age of 25 years on the date the final is played.
2. The Championship is open to all Counties each being represented by a single entry of two 'fours'. Unless otherwise provided for in these rules, ties are to be played on the same day simultaneously unless otherwise mutually agreed. Ties will be on a one "four" home, one "four" away basis.
3. All ties prior to the Semi-Finals are to be played on a Sunday on a date fixed by the Competition Committee, or before by mutual agreement. The starting time shall generally be 12 Noon, but may be varied to start no earlier than 10.00 am and no later than 3 pm by mutual agreement.

- Games will be 21 ends or 4 hours; whichever is the shorter, not including trial ends or extra ends. An end started before the 4 hours (jack cast) must be played to a finish. All dead ends will be replayed. Prior to the Semi-Final stage of the Championship the Challenger shall nominate one four to play an extra end, before the draw is made for rinks. The extra end must be played by the nominated rink immediately after all games have been completed. In the event of a draw the result of the extra end will determine the tie. In the Semi-Finals and Final, where the scores are level after the completion of 21 ends, both "fours" will play extra ends simultaneously until a winner is determined.

When playing home and away each County is responsible for appointing an Umpire/Competent Person at their venue

- The Final will be played on a date and venue arranged by the Competition Committee.

MENS OVER 60 INTER COUNTY LEAGUE COMPETITION

- The rules relating to the Inter County Team Championships and National Team Championships shall apply except where stated below.
- The Competition shall be played on a round-robin basis within 4 Groups as determined by the National Competitions Committee. Entries shall be 6 rinks of four players who have attained the age of 60 years as set out in paragraph 2 of the Eligibility clause of the National Championship Rules from each participating County and shall be played on the basis of 3 rinks at home and 3 rinks away. The draw within Groups to be undertaken by the Competitions Committee
- The matches shall be played Monday to Friday with a start time between 10.00am and 2.00pm unless by mutual agreement. The first named team in the draw shall be designated the "challenger" and shall offer their opponent 3 dates in 2 separate weeks.
- The home team at each venue shall be responsible for providing an Umpire/ Competent Person to officiate.
- The winners of each Group shall progress to a Semi-Final stage with all rinks playing simultaneously at a single neutral green determined by the Competition Committee. The Final of the Competition shall take place during the National Championship Finals.
- The result of each game shall be telephoned to the NGB after the game and all result sheets shall be signed and posted within 24 hours by 1st class post. Scorecards to be retained by the Secretary. The matches up to the semi-final stage shall be scored on a points basis with a total of 26 points to be allocated as follows:

- 2 points for each winning rink (shared if the rink score is drawn)
- 4 points for each winning venue (shared if the venue score is drawn)
- 6 points for overall match win (shared if the match is drawn)

On completion of the Group stage of the Competition if equality exists the shot difference shall be taken to determine a winner; if equality still exists the result of the match between the two competing Counties shall be taken into account. In the event of a team or rink failing to turn up the non defaulting side shall be awarded 2 points and 10 shots for every rink in default. The Semi-Finals and Final will be played on a single green and the result shall be determined by the total number of shots scored overall.

The Competitions Committee reserve the right to amend or modify any National Championship rule, from time to time, as required.