

National Championship Rules – 2011/12

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

1. ORGANISATION

The National Championships are open to playing members of Clubs in membership of the Association.

Area Competition Secretaries (ACS) administer Championships within designated areas of the country under the control and guidance of the Competitions Sub-committee.

The Association will issue official entry forms to each Club 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 Association and published with the entry forms in February/March of each year. An additional fee will be required from each named entrant for the purchase of the current Year Book, which includes all National Championship Rules.

In submitting a National 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 National 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 Championship 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 National Championship ties shall be played on approved greens belonging to Member 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 must play on their home green unless exceptional circumstances prevent them from doing so. Then with the agreement of their Area Competition Secretary they may play on another green in the Competition Area.

3. RINK FEES

Method of payment of rink fees will be agreed within individual Areas. The majority of clubs in the Area must agree with the method to be adopted.

Where competitors are members of the same club or where an Area Final or Inter Area Final that is organised by the ACS and is on a neutral green then rink fees will be shared

4. ELIGIBILITY

4.1. Unless otherwise provided in these Rules, all competitors entered by a Member Club shall be full playing members of that club.

4.2. A competitor may only enter or play in all National Championships through one Member Club (even though he or she may be an eligible member of more than one club.) Players under suspension, or expulsion from a Member Club shall not participate in National Championships through that club, subject to the 'right of appeal' under the EIBA Ltd Appeals Procedure. If a competitor having entered the Championships from one club changes clubs before the 1st September prior to the start of the season then that competitor shall be eligible to play in Team Championships for his/her new club providing that he/she has not, and does not, play in any Championship for their original club. If this is not adhered to then the club playing an ineligible player in a Team Championship will be disqualified from that Team Championship.

4.3 For entries into age related Championships, competitors must have attained the required age 50/60 years by October 1st in the season they play the Championship. In the Under 25 Singles events competitors 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 on 30th April in the year the final is played.

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 Section 13 – Influences affecting play). 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 Championships and subsequently change membership to another Club within the same Competition 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 Association will be declared invalid if a competitor has entered into another Country's Championships 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 Member Club and play their National Championships 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 National Championships will be played on an Area basis. If 2 Clubs have the same colour stickers, the 'opponent' shall remove or change their stickers
- 5.3 Competitors qualifying for the National Championship Finals of an event under the control of the Association 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 of Indoor Bowls.
- 5.4 The ACS will arrange the date and the venue of the Area Finals on a neutral green for all Championships except where there is an Inter Area Final to be played to qualify for the National Finals. In these cases the ACS will be responsible for arranging the Inter Area Final and the Area Final will be played in the same way as the earlier rounds. In the even numbered years the Inter Area Final will be arranged by the ACS for the odd numbered area, likewise in the odd numbered years the ACS for the even numbered area will be responsible ie. For areas 1 & 2 in the season 2010/2011 the Inter Area Final to be arranged by the ACS for Area 1 and in 2011/2012 the ACS for Area 2 will be responsible. Generally Area and Inter Area Finals will be arranged to be played at weekends unless circumstances dictate otherwise and if possible at alternative venues year by year.
- 5.5 All matches except Singles will be a maximum 4 hours duration excluding trial ends and extra 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.
- 5.6 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

- 5.7 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 or giving away the jack on this end only.

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.

5.8 OFFERING DATES

(i) In all competitions the challenger shall offer his/her opponent the choice of 2 dates, one weekday evening and one weekend. Ties at weekends shall not commence before 10.00am. Ties on weekday evenings shall be arranged to commence at a stipulated time between 6.00pm and 7.00pm other than by mutual agreement. One date offered may be to play during the day with a start time between 10am and 3pm if requested by the opponent. Other times may be offered if agreed by both players/teams.

These dates must be offered 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 official Bank Holidays) at their own club. 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. 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 or on EIBA Ltd business, the Challenger is required to offer alternative dates.

If an agreement cannot be reached on date and time then the tie will be arranged by the ACS.

(ii) When challenged, being on holiday, playing a County or Club game is not sufficient reason for demanding alternative dates.

(iii) Area and Inter Area Finals see 5.4.

5.9 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 ACS within 24 hours of the conclusion of the game. If the ACS cannot resolve the matter to the satisfaction of both parties, they shall refer the matter to the Chairman of the Competition Sub-committee who shall adjudicate. Their decision, subject to the right of appeal as defined in the EIBA Ltd Appeals Procedure.

5.10 An Umpire/Competent person is not required until the Area finals (or Inter Area Final if appropriate) when an Umpire/Competent person will be arranged by the ACS.

5.11 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.

5.12 The result of a match must be telephoned or emailed to the ACS as soon as possible after the match and the scorecard posted within 24 hours (by first class post) to include club name, all competitors names and signed by both players or skips. A game conceded is a game played with a scorecard being submitted to the ACS stating clearly which competitor/team has conceded the game. The ACS shall be responsible for advising the Challenger of their Opponent in the next round either by telephone, email or first class post. Results are updated on a regular basis by the ACS on the EIBA Ltd website (www.eiba.co.uk).

5.13 Champion of Champions. The Championship will be open to the current male and female Singles Champion entered by a Member Club, who is a full playing member of that club throughout the Championship. No substitution is permissible. In the event of a member being the Singles Champion of more than one Member Club in the same season, only one entry for that player will be accepted. Preference will be given to the Club from where the player entered the National Championships in the same season in which he/she won the club singles. If a Club Champion moves to another club they may still represent their previous club as Champion of Champions entrant for the next season.

5.14 All queries must be addressed in the first instance to the relevant ACS.

6 DRESS CODE

6.1 Dress for early rounds of individual National Championships subject to Club rules at which the tie is being played shall be white above the waist and grey below the waist.

Dress for Area Finals (where appropriate) and Inter Area Finals shall be white above and below the waist.

Dress for all Team Championships shall be whites for all rounds except the Men's Over 60 Double Rink and Mixed Under 25 Club Double Rink, where whites/greys shall be worn with the exception of the National Final.

Registered club shirts and/or trousers may be worn at all stages subject to Club Rules at which the tie is being played. If these are worn in either a team or a sides event, all players in the team or side must wear the same type of shirt. In mixed events where men and ladies have different registered coloured shirts, all men should wear the same shirt design and all ladies should wear the same shirt design. All coloured shirts, trousers (with logos etc) must have been approved and registered by the Association.

Shirts/blouses must have collars and sleeves. Skirts must be an approved style, trousers/culottes/cropped trousers must be tailored.

Dress for National Finals - men

All competitors will wear regulation dress, which consists of: -

White footwear with white or cream socks, plain white trousers. If either a belt or braces are worn they shall be white and braces shall not be visible.

Any of the following shirts:

- i. Plain white shirt with tailored collar
- ii. Indoor International shirt
- iii. Indoor Club or County Registered Coloured Shirt.

Where a shirt has a tailored collar, the appropriate Indoor Club, Indoor County or Indoor International necktie shall be worn (Neckties may be discarded during play at the discretion of the senior official present). Any other item of clothing (i.e. pullovers and zipper jackets) shall be plain white. Plain white or cream hats or caps may be worn. Other than on registered coloured shirts, no advertising or promotional material shall be worn but small maker's labels, where an integral part of the garment, may be worn.

Dress for National Finals - ladies

All competitors will wear regulation dress, which consists of :-

White/cream tailored full length/cropped trousers, culottes or skirt, white/club coloured shirt, plus white/club coloured waistcoat or cardigan, if available, with club badge or flash. White regulation shoes.

6.2 Member Clubs and County Associations may apply to the Association Headquarters for approval of the design of a coloured shirt and/or trousers on the appropriate form and payment of the appropriate fee.

7. GENERAL MATTERS

7.1 All trophies remain the property of the Association and must be returned to the Association Headquarters by January 1st each year.

7.2 Mobile phones must not be used on the green and should be turned off or on silent during play. They should be used with discretion whilst in the vicinity of the green. There must be no flash photography whilst play is in progress.

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 the winner and proceed to the following round.

7.4 Players who are in breach of these rules may incur disciplinary action by the Association which may include suspension or disqualification from participating in any National or International Championships.

7.5 In the event of exceptionally inclement weather the ACS in consultation with the Competition Sub-committee may grant an extension for the playing of a tie up to a maximum of 10 days.

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 A Code of conduct has been introduced by the Association and relates to all National Championship events under their direct control. The Association 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 All complaints relating to the Code of Conduct shall be reported in writing to the Chief Operating Executive (COE) of the Association within 7 days of the date of the alleged incident.

9.3 **Disciplinary Action:** If the 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 Competitions Sub-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 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 EIBA Ltd Appeals Procedure.

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 Association. Reference will need to be made to the Association's Anti-Doping Policy.

ADDITIONAL RULES FOR NATIONAL TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS

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

1. These rules apply for the above Club Championships except where there is a specific rule relating to a particular Championship.
2. Team (Sides) Championships are played on a knockout principle.
3.
 - (i) Clubs may have one entry in all Club Team Championships, except in the Mason Trophy, Lingford Trophy, Mens Over 60 Double Rink and Top Club 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) Mens Over 60 Double Rink and Ladies Mason Trophy will be 1 rink home and 1 rink away. The Challenger shall offer their opponent 2 dates, not in the same week.
4. 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 "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.
5. 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, playing all rinks at the same venue. Clubs to make their own arrangements and share the costs. Games may also be played home and away by mutual agreement.
6. Games will be 21 ends (18 ends in the case of triples) or maximum 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 home and away rinks 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. At the National Championship Finals the coin toss and the draw for the extra end will be made on the green by the two Team Captains in the presence of the Umpire and Competition Official.
7. 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 of the Sport of Indoor Bowls, 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
8. If both clubs have the same coloured stickers, the non-challengers shall remove or change their stickers.
9. 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 Championship Finals the names of the players and the rinks on which they play will be published in the finals programme.
10. At the completion of all matches results must be notified to the appropriate person as follows:-

LADIES: The Captain/ Secretary of the winning team will inform the ACS by telephone within 24 hours of the result of the match. The scorecards should be sent to the ACS within 24 hours by first class post. The ACS will inform the challenger of their opponents in the next round.

MEN: The Captain/Secretary of the winning team will inform the Association's HQ within 24 hours by phone or email of the result of the match followed by the scorecards or preferably email showing team names and rink scores. The Draw for the next round will be shown on the Association website at www.eiba.co.uk

NATIONAL TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS

YETTON TROPHY & DENNY CUP

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

YETTON TROPHY:

Games 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 Semi-Finals and Final will be held at the National Championships.

DENNY CUP:

Games 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 Final will be played on a date and at a venue arranged by the Competitions Sub-committee and published in the Year Book.

YETTON PLATE & DENNY PLATE

These Championships are open to all first game losers in the above Championships. Disqualification, games conceded and walk over games does not entitle entry into these Championships. The Championships will be played under the same rules as the Yetton Trophy and the Denny Cup on the same 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, from Member Clubs already entered in the Yetton Trophy. Ties will normally be on a two 'fours' home, two 'fours' away basis. 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 by mutual agreement, which will include the previous weekend. Players may not interchange between the Yetton and Vivienne Trophies. 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 players being members of that same Club and playing their National Championships from that Club. Ties will be played on Sundays 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 Championship. Entries will be 2 rinks of four players playing one at home and one away with all players playing their National Championships from that Club. Clubs are allowed unlimited entries in both Championships 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, 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 Championship. There is no lower age limit. Entries will be 2 Triples (18 ends) playing one at home and one away with all players playing their National Championships from that Club. Clubs are allowed unlimited entries but players are not allowed to interchange between entries. All rounds will be played on fixed weekends either Saturday or Sunday, one of which should be offered by the Challenger. The 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 Member 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 30th April in the year the final is played.
 - (ii) Sides may consist of any combination of male and/or female competitors.
 - (iii) Where two Clubs do not have enough registered under 25 members they may join together to form a side, subject to the written approval of the Competitions Sub-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 Competitions Sub-committee, or before by mutual agreement. The starting time shall be 10.00 am but by mutual agreement, shall not be later than 3.00 pm.
3. The Final will be played on a date and at a venue arranged by the Competitions Sub-Committee.

TLH NATIONAL TOP CLUB, SPONSORED BY TLH LEISURE RESORT

1. The Championship is a mixed championship open to all Member Clubs of the Association. Entry is not restricted and Clubs may enter more than one team if required. The Championship shall be played on a knock out basis in 4 areas of the country as determined by the Competitions Sub-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 Competitions Sub-committee and will be dependant on the number of teams entering the Championship. 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 (2 men, 2 ladies), 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 and in accordance with the Laws of the Sport of Indoor Bowls with the following exceptions:
 - a) Pairs and fours games shall be 21 ends or maximum 4 hours; whichever is the shorter, not including trial ends.
 - b) Triples games shall be 18 ends or maximum 4 hours; whichever is the shorter, not including trial ends.
 - c) Singles games shall be 21 ends to determine the winner.Both singles games should be played to 21 ends to cover the possibility of a tied game. In the National Finals the singles matches will commence later than the pairs, triples & fours to ensure all matches are completed at approximately the same time.
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 Championship. 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 16 points with 2 points awarded to the winner of each singles game and 1 point to each side if drawn. 4 points awarded to the winner of each pairs, triples and fours game and 2 points 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 2 dates, 1 of which must be on a Saturday or Sunday which shall be accepted by their opponents under the conditions of the general National Championship Rules. The challenger shall be responsible for providing an umpire and markers for the singles games.
8. Clubs with less than 4 rinks: Triples and Fours should play first unless all games can be accommodated at the same time.
9. Rink fees will be shared between competing clubs.
10. The draw for rinks shall be carried out in the presence of both team captains by the officiating Umpire/Competent person.

NATIONAL INTER COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS

ATHERLEY TROPHY & LIBERTY TROPHY

1. Member Counties will be allowed one entry into the above Championships. Players must be from Member Clubs affiliated to that county and play their National Championships from those Clubs.
2. Entries will be 6 rinks of four players from each County. All 6 rinks will play at a venue arranged by the challenger, in the challengers' County, unless the County towns are more than 100 Miles apart, when the game should be played on a green as near half way as possible determined on a mileage basis and agreeable to both counties.
3. The game will be maximum 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.
4. Prior to the Final stage of the Championships 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. At the Championship National Finals where the rinks are pre-drawn the coin toss and the draw for the extra end will be made on the green by the two Team Captains in the presence of the Umpire and Competition Official.

All games will be played on designated dates set by the Competitions Sub-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 Captain/Secretary of the winning team will inform the Association Headquarters immediately after the match by phone, website or email of the result followed by the scorecards or email showing team names and rink scores. The Draw for the next round will be shown on the EIBA Ltd website at www.eiba.co.uk
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 Member Club who have not attained the age of 25 years on 30th April in the year 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 unless the County towns are more than 100 miles apart, when the tie should be played in a neutral County as near half way as possible between the two.
3. All ties prior to the Final are to be played on a Sunday on a date fixed by the Competitions Sub-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.
4. Games will be 21 ends or maximum 4 hours; whichever ever 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 Final stage of the Championships 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. At the Championship National Finals where the rinks are pre-drawn the coin toss and the draw for the extra end will be made on the green by the two Team Captains in the presence of the Umpire and Competition Official. When playing home and away each County is responsible for appointing an Umpire/Competent Person at their venue.
5. The Final will be played on a date and venue arranged by the Competitions Sub-committee.

MENS OVER 60 INTER COUNTY LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP

1. The rules relating to the Inter County Team Championships and National Team Championships shall apply except where stated below.
2. The Championships shall be played on a round-robin basis within 4 Groups as determined by the Competitions Sub-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 Sub-committee.
3. The 100 mile rule does not apply to this Championship.
4. Games 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.
5. The home team at each venue shall be responsible for providing an Umpire/ Competent Person to officiate.
6. 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 Competitions Sub-committee. The Final of the Championships shall take place during the National Championship Finals.
7. The Captain/Secretary of the winning team will inform the Association Headquarters within 24 hours by phone or email of the result followed by the scorecards or email showing team names and rink scores. The Draw for the next round will be shown on the EIBA Ltd website at www.eiba.co.uk
The games 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 Championship 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 Sub-committee reserve the right to amend or modify any National Championship rule and programme of events, from time to time, as required or considered necessary for the smooth running of the Championships.