

# WINTER NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RULES 2026-2027

The Laws of the Sport of Bowls Crystal Mark Fourth Edition shall apply in all circumstances not covered by these National Championship Rules.

## 1. ORGANISATION

- 1.1 The National Championships are open to playing members of Clubs in membership of the Association.
- 1.2 Area Coordinators administer the Championships within designated areas under the guidance of 2 Regional Coordinators, who ultimately report to the Performance Lead. Any queries should be made in the first instance to your Area Coordinator.
- 1.3 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.
- 1.4 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.
- 1.5 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.
- 1.6 Other than by mutual agreement, no National Championship tie shall take place before 1st day of October in each season.

## 2. VENUES

- 2.1 All National Championship ties shall be played on approved greens belonging to Member Clubs with regulation banks and ditches and be a minimum rink 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.
- 2.2 Competitors must play on their home green unless exceptional circumstances prevent them from doing so. Then with the agreement of their Area Coordinator they may play on another green in the Competition Area.

## 3. RINK FEES

- 3.1 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.
- 3.2 Where competitors are members of the same club or where an Area Final or Inter Area Final that is organised by the Area Coordinator 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 **Except for the Champion of Champions and Family Pairs 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.
- 4.3 If a competitor having entered the Championships from one club changes clubs before the 30<sup>th</sup> of September prior to the start of the season (written confirmation is required) then that competitor shall be eligible to play in Team Championships for their new club providing that they have not, and do 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. If a competitor having entered the Championships from one club relocates to a new Competition Area, that competitor may play in any Championship at their new club providing that they have not and do not play in any Championship for their original club for that season.
- 4.4 For entries into age related Championship's competitors must have attained the required age 50/60 years by 30<sup>th</sup> September 2026. In Under 18, Under 25 and Under 30 events competitors must be under the required age limit on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2026.
- 4.5 Entries in all National Championships are accepted on the understanding that Competitors may be subject to random drug testing at any time.
- 4.6 (i) A Competitor entering in the Pairs, Triples and Fours, is not permitted to be a member of any other team in the same Championship. All players must be eligible members of the same club. 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. A substitute may play in any position. 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, Two Bowl Singles, Under 25 Singles, Novice Singles or Over 60 Singles Championships and subsequently change membership to another Club within the same Competition Area, may transfer their entry with them.

(iii) In Mixed Pairs, Open Pairs and Mixed Fours events all players must be members of the same Member Club and play their National Championships from that club.

Each "Mixed Pair" to consist of one man and one woman. Two substitutes are allowed (one man and one woman) but only one substitute may play at any one time. Once a substitute has been used, only he or she may be used as a substitute in future ties. The "Original Team" shall consist of those players who play in the first tie.

Each "Mixed Four" to consist of two men and two women. Two substitutes are allowed (one man and one woman) and both may play at the same time. Once a substitute has been used, only he or she may be used as a substitute in future ties. The "Original Team" shall consist of those players who play in the first tie.

(iv) Family Pairs - Both competitors and one substitute must be members of clubs affiliated to EIBA Ltd and be connected by any of the following relationship: -

- Husband / Wife / Married Partners / Partners joined by civil union
- Parents / Children (adopted, half and step are included in this definition)
- Grandparents / Grandchildren (adopted, half and step are included in this definition)
- Siblings (adopted, half and step are included in this definition)
- In-laws (only mother, father, brother, sister, daughter and son are included in this definition)
- Immediate Cousins
- Domestic Partners (a relationship between 2 individuals who live together and share common domestic life but are neither joined in marriage or civil union)
- Aunts / Uncles
- Nephew / Niece

4.7 (i) Players under suspension from a member club shall not participate in National Championships through that club, subject to an appeal to the EIBA.

(ii) Should a player, who has been banned or suspended from a club, be drawn to play at that club in any National Individual Championships the club shall either allow the player access to the venue to play the game or alternatively the Challenger to make arrangements for the game to be played on a neutral green.

## 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 or Regional basis. If 2 Clubs have the same colour stickers, the 'opponent' shall remove or change their stickers.

5.3 No competitor shall play on the same rink on the day of the competition before play commences. Competitors qualifying for the National Championship Finals may not play at the venue where the Championship is being played for a period of 24 hours prior to the event commencing unless covered by the Laws of the Sport Crystal Mark Fourth edition.

5.4 The Challenger will be responsible for all match arrangements except Area Finals that are arranged by the Area Coordinator. Then the Area Coordinator will arrange the date, venue and umpire for the Area Finals on a neutral green and the rink will be selected from those available on the day, unless advised otherwise at the start of the Season.

5.5 For 2026-27 all National Individual & Team Competitions will be played using side re-spots. This will mean that there will be no dead ends. If a jack in motion passes completely outside the boundaries of the rink of play or rebounds to 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 a bowl is on the re-spot, the jack will be placed as near as possible to the bowl without touching it, between the spot and the centre of the rink. If any other bowls are in the way the jack will be placed as near to that without touching it and the centre of the rink. In other words, directly between the 2 spots without touching a bowl.

## 5.6. MATCH FORMAT FOR INDIVIDUAL COMPETITIONS

SINGLES	= 4 bowls each player	21 shots
TWO BOWL SINGLES	= 2 bowls each player	21 shots
PAIRS	= 4 bowls each player	18 ends or 3hr 30 min
TRIPLES	= 3 bowls each player	18 ends or 3hr 30 min
FOURS	= 2 bowls each player	18 ends or 3hr 30 min

The 3hr 30 minutes does not include trial ends or extra ends. An end where the jack has been cast before 3hr 30 minutes must be played to a finish. Start time must be agreed by both players from the same timepiece and marked on the scorecard. If a game is unable to continue due to unforeseen circumstances, the competitors must return as soon as possible to complete the game.

NOVICE SINGLES = 4 bowls each player 21 shots (no time limit)

Eligibility –

- Competitors MUST be a member of an EIBA Affiliated Club
- Competitors MUST NOT have reached the National Finals in an Individual National Competition ie singles, pairs, triples fours (team events are excluded).

#### 5.7. SETS PLAY

- (i) The Under 18 Singles and Under 25 Singles Championships 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.
- (ii) 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 ends.
- (iii) 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 loser of the toss shall have the option of taking the mat or giving it away on the first end only of the second set.
- (iv) After the first end of any set, the player who wins an end will start the next end in the set.
- (v) 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.

(viii) Open Pairs – Match Format

- 4 bowls each player - 2 sets of 9 ends - 3hrs 30mins time limit
- 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 being either player having won a set or both sets being drawn 1 extra end will be played to determine the winner.
- After each completed set each team has the option whether to change positions, however the opposition **MUST** be informed of the change, and **MUST** be completed before the jack is cast signalling the start of the next set or extra end.

#### 5.8 OFFERING DATES

- (i) In all individual competitions (singles, pairs, triples, fours) the challenger shall offer their opponent the choice of two dates, one weekday evening and one weekend (excluding Bank Holidays). Ties at weekends shall not commence before 9.30 am and ties on weekdays shall commence at a stipulated time between 6pm and 7pm, other times may be offered if agreed by both players/teams. Dates for the opening round must be offered at least 14 days before the closing date of that round. Thereafter, dates must be offered within 5 days after the closing date of the previous round. Competitors not in the first round of the draw may agree to play their first game in advance of the previous round date. If the challenger does not offer dates within the required time period, the opponent becomes the challenger and shall offer dates as above at their own club. When dates are offered, the arrangement must be confirmed within 72 hours, verbal agreement should be followed by written confirmation and any arrangements made must be adhered to. If the opponent has previously arranged to play another National Indoor Championship on one or both of the two dates offered or is on Indoor International duty or on EIBA Ltd business, the Challenger is required to offer alternative dates. If the Opponent is a named player in a National Team Championship match and is offered that same date to play another National Championship the Challenger must offer an alternative date.
- (ii) When challenged, being on holiday, playing a County or Club game is not sufficient reason for demanding alternative dates. If an agreement cannot be reached on a date and time, then the tie will be arranged by the Area Coordinator.

5.9 A competitor who is challenging the result of a game should contact the Area Coordinator within 24 Hours of the conclusion of that game with the nature of the grievance. If the Area Coordinator cannot resolve the issue to the satisfaction of both competitors, then the issue will be escalated to the Regional Coordinator. If the issue still cannot be resolved, then this will be escalated to the Performance Manager whose decision will be final. The competitor will have the right of appeal as defined in the EIBA Ltd’s appeals procedure.

5.10 The failure of a player or players to appear after a maximum waiting period of 30 minutes (except in exceptional circumstances i.e., traffic, weather) from the time fixed for the start of the game, shall cause the player(s) to forfeit the game to their opponent.

5.11 The winning team to enter the result on the EIBA Competition portal within 24 hours of the game. If the match was a walkover then the Area Coordinator also needs to be advised within 24 hours of the game.

5.12 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.

- 5.13 In all Championships, Competitors Clubs more than 100 miles apart by road (50 miles apart for Under 18 Singles) will play on a neutral green as near as possible halfway between the two. Players to make their own arrangements and share the costs.
- 5.14 No extension will be granted beyond the closing date of the round unless exceptional circumstances arise. Only then an extension may be given by the Area Coordinator in agreement with the Performance Manager.

## 6 DRESS CODE

6.1 Dress for early rounds of individual National Championships, Men's Over 60 Double Rink, Mason Trophy and Under 30 Double Rink Triples will be greys and club / bowls shirts. Registered clothing and any coloured smooth soled shoes, plain white or registered colour trousers/regulation skirts/cropped trousers or EIBA / Bowls Manufacturer shorts.

6.2 Dress for Team Championships, Area Finals and National Finals

All competitors will wear:

Any coloured smoothed soled shoes, plain white or registered colour trousers/regulation skirts/cropped trousers or EIBA / Bowls Manufacturer shorts and any of the following shirts:

- Plain White or white with coloured piping
- Indoor International Shirt
- Indoor Club or County registered shirt
- Registered Coloured Bowls Manufacturers shirt.

All players should wear the same shirt design. In mixed events where men and women have different registered shirts, all men should wear the same shirt and all women should wear the same shirt. Teams can wear a mix of shorts and trousers and a mix of colours if clubs have different colour bottoms registered for Men and Women.

With the exception of registered shirts or trousers no advertising or promotional material may be displayed other than the Bowls Manufacturers' label.

Shirts/blouses must have collars and sleeves. White bowls jackets with coloured piping may be worn or registered coloured jacket.

## 7. GENERAL MATTERS

- 7.1 All trophies remain the property of the Association and must be returned to the Association Headquarters by 1<sup>st</sup> December 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 If a tie is unable to take place due to unforeseen circumstances on the day of play, the Area Coordinator may grant an extension for the playing of the tie with the agreement of the Regional Coordinator.

## 8. PLAYERS WITH DISABILITIES

- 8.1 Please refer to The Laws of the Sport of Bowls Crystal Mark Fourth Edition Law 41 Players with disabilities.
- 8.2 Details of specific Equipment and Aids that have been approved by EIBA as the "Controlling Body for EIBA National Competitions" can be found on the EIBA website at [www.eiba.co.uk/club-development/disability.php](http://www.eiba.co.uk/club-development/disability.php).
- 8.3 Artificial devices be used by players with disabilities for delivering the jack or bowl (Law 41.8) – The player using the device shall decide before a game starts if they are going to use an aid. If they so decide, then they shall use it for the entire duration of that game.
- 8.4 Players with a Hearing Disability (Law 41.7) – players can use electronic devices to communicate with each other while on the rink of play. They must be used in line with the regulations set out in the Conditions of Play by the Controlling Body.
- 8.5 Players who are classified as Partially sighted or Blind may have use of a Monocular or Binoculars when taking part in EIBA National Competitions. Competitors will be required to hold the necessary proof.

## 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. Copies available from the EIBA and can be downloaded [www.eiba.co.uk/championship-rules/code-of-conduct-national-competitions.pdf](http://www.eiba.co.uk/championship-rules/code-of-conduct-national-competitions.pdf)

- 9.2 All complaints regarding the Code of Conduct shall be reported to the Area Coordinator within 7 days of the alleged incident.
- 9.3 Disciplinary Action: The Code of Conduct escalation process will be as follows: -
- If the Area Coordinator cannot resolve the dispute between the two sides amicably; then the matter will be escalated to the Regional Coordinator. If the matter still cannot be resolved at this level, then the matter will be escalated to the Performance Lead whose decision will be final.
- If the matter is deemed serious enough for disciplinary action to be involved, then a full investigation will be organised by the Director of Performance involving an independent investigation committee. This will be communicated in writing to both parties. Following this, a player against who 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. <http://www.eiba.co.uk/Guidance/anti-doping.pdf>

## NATIONAL TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS

WOMENS: Yetton Trophy, Yetton Plate, Vivienne Trophy, Mason Trophy  
MEN: Denny Cup, Denny Plate, Over 60 Double Rink  
MIXED: Egham Trophy, Top Club  
OPEN: Under 30 Two Rink Triples

1. These rules apply for the above Club Championships except where there is a specific rule relating to a particular Championship detailed over page.
2. Team (Sides) Championships are played on a knockout principle.
3. An Umpire should be used in preference to a Competent Person for all rounds.
4. Where a Club with only 1 rink is involved, one of the following options will 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 halfway between the two, playing all rinks at the same venue. The home team will find the venue and arrange the umpire with a start time as close to 10am as possible shall be agreed by both clubs. Costs shall be shared. Games may also be played home and away by mutual agreement.
6. Teams unable to use their home green may either play on another green in the Competition Area or play away on their opponents' green.
7. On the day of play - If a tie is unable to commence at either venue due to unforeseen circumstances (weather, power failure etc.) the tie shall be rearranged on a date mutually agreed by both clubs and in conjunction with the Area Coordinator.
8. An end where the jack has been cast before 3hrs 30 mins or 4hrs must be played to a finish. The Challenger shall nominate one designated rink number to play an extra end before the draw is made for rinks. The extra end should be played by the nominated rink after play has been completed on all rinks at all venues, unless the start time at each venue is staggered, in this case, the venue with the later start time will nominate one rink number before the draw is made. The extra end will then be completed once all rinks have finished at that venue.
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 of the Sport of 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.
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. At the National Championship Finals, the names of the players and the rinks on which they play will be published in the finals programme.

12. RESULTS - The winning team to advise the Area Coordinator of the result within 24 hours of the game followed by an email or posted copy of the scorecards. **Contact details on page 10.**

## ADDITIONAL RULES FOR NATIONAL TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS

### EGHAM TROPHY (MIXED)

1. This Championship is open to all Member Clubs who will be represented by a "single" entry of four rinks of 4 players (two women and two men) in each rink.
2. Games 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.
3. Games will be played on Sundays at 10.00am on dates as published on the [www.eiba.co.uk](http://www.eiba.co.uk) website or earlier by mutual agreement, a later start time is permissible if both clubs agree. Challenger must confirm arrangements.
4. Games will be 21 ends or maximum 4 hours; whichever is the shorter, not including trial ends or extra ends
5. The Final will be played on a date and at a venue arranged by the Competition Sub-committee

### TOP CLUB (MIXED)

1. This Championship is open to all Member Clubs who may have unlimited entries. All players will be members of the same Club and playing their National Championships from that Club.
2. Teams will be a mixed side of 11 players consisting of a mixed 2 wood fours (2 men, 2 women), a mixed 3 wood triples (any combination), a mixed 4 wood pairs, a women's 2 wood singles and a men's 2 wood singles.
3. All games will be played under the National Championship Rules and in accordance with the Laws of the Sport of Indoor Bowls with the following exceptions:
  - i) Pairs, Triples and Fours games will be 18 ends or maximum 3hr 30 mins; whichever is the shorter, not including trial ends.
  - ii) Singles games will be 21 shots no time limit to determine the winner.
4. 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.
5. 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 in the following order: -
  - i) The total number of shots scored
  - ii) Fours playing an extra end
6. Games will be played at 10.00am on dates as published on the [www.eiba.co.uk](http://www.eiba.co.uk) website or earlier by mutual agreement, a later start time is permissible if both clubs agree. The Challenger is responsible for providing an umpire and markers for the singles games.
7. Rink fees will be shared.
8. **Clubs with less than 4 rinks:** Singles and Pairs should play first unless all games can be accommodated at the same time.
9. Dress for all rounds will be whites/registered dress.
10. The Semi-Final and Final will be played on a date and at a venue arranged by the Competitions Sub-Committee

### UNDER 30 CLUB TWO RINK TRIPLES (OPEN)

1. These Championships are open to all Member Clubs who may have unlimited entries of two rinks of 3 players in each rink.
2. Games will normally be on a one 'triple' home, one 'triple' away basis and all players will be members of the same Club and playing their National Championships from that Club. However, if two clubs in the same area wish to enter a combined team, due to limited players to fulfil an entry, they can apply to the EIBA for consideration and approval.
3. Games will be played at 10.00am on dates as published on the [www.eiba.co.uk](http://www.eiba.co.uk) website or earlier by mutual agreement, a later start time is permissible if both clubs agree. Challenger must confirm arrangements.
4. Games will be 18 ends or maximum 3hr 30 minutes; whichever is the shorter, not including trial ends or extra ends
5. Sides may consist of any combination of male and/or female competitors.
6. The Semi-Finals and Finals will be played at the National Championship Finals.

#### YETTON TROPHY (WOMENS) DENNY CUP (MENS)

1. These Championships are open to all Member Clubs who will be represented by a "single" entry of four rinks of 4 players in each rink.
2. Games 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.
3. Games will be played simultaneously on Saturdays at 10.00am on dates as published on the [www.eiba.co.uk](http://www.eiba.co.uk) website or earlier by mutual agreement, a later start time is permissible if both Clubs agree. Challenger must confirm arrangements.
4. Games will be 21 ends or maximum 4 hours; whichever is the shorter, not including trial ends or extra ends
5. The Semi-Finals and Final will be played on a date and at a venue arranged by the Competition Sub-committee.
6. **Clubs with less than 4 rinks for the 2026/2027 season – Yetton Trophy all rinks at 10.00am, Denny Cup all rinks at 2.00pm.**

#### YETTON PLATE & DENNY PLATE

1. 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 on the [www.eiba.co.uk](http://www.eiba.co.uk) website.
2. The Final will be played at the National Championship Finals.
3. **Clubs with less than 4 rinks for the 2026/2027 season – Yetton Plate all rinks at 10.00am, Denny Plate all rinks at 2.00pm.**

#### OVER 60 DOUBLE RINK (MENS) & MASON TROPHY (WOMENS O60)

1. These Championships are open to all Member Clubs who may have unlimited entries of two rinks of 4 players in each rink.
2. Games will normally be on a one 'four' home, one 'four' away basis and all players will be members of the same Club and playing their National Championships from that Club.
3. Games will be played at 10.00am on dates as published on the [www.eiba.co.uk](http://www.eiba.co.uk) website or earlier by mutual agreement, a later start time is permissible if both clubs agree. Challenger must confirm arrangements.
4. Games will be 18 ends or maximum 3hr 30 minutes; whichever is the shorter, not including trial ends or extra ends
5. The Semi-Finals and Finals will be played at the National Championship Finals.

#### VIVIENNE TROPHY (WOMENS)

1. This Championship is open to all Member Clubs who will be represented by a "single" entry of four rinks of 3 players in each rink from Member Clubs already entered and playing in the Yetton Trophy.
2. Games will normally be on a two 'triples' home, two 'triples' away basis and all players will be members of the same Club and playing their National Championships from that Club.
3. Games will be played at 10.00am on dates as published on the [www.eiba.co.uk](http://www.eiba.co.uk) website or earlier by mutual agreement, a later start time is permissible if both Clubs agree. Challenger must confirm arrangements.
4. Games will be 18 ends or maximum 3hr 30 minutes; whichever is the shorter, not including trial ends or extra ends
5. Players can now interchange between the Yetton and Vivienne Trophies, but only up to 4 Yetton players can play in any one match.
6. Failure of a club to provide 12 players (4 triples) shall result in a walkover
7. The Final will be played at the National Championship Finals.

## NATIONAL INTER COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS

### ATHERLEY TROPHY (WOMENS) & LIBERTY TROPHY (MEN'S)

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 however, if the Challenger's chosen venue to the Opponents County town is more than 100 miles by road (calculated by the shortest route), the game should be played on a green as near half way as possible between the counties determined on a mileage basis and agreeable to both Counties.
3. Games will be 21 ends or maximum 4 hours; whichever is the shorter not including trial ends or extra ends. An end where the jack has been cast before 4 hours must be played to a finish. The Challenger shall nominate one designated rink number to play an extra end before the draw is made for rinks. The extra end should be played by the nominated rink after play has been completed on all rinks.
4. All rounds will be played on dates set by the Competition Sub-Committee. Start time will be 10.00am but can be later by mutual agreement.
5. At the National Finals where the rinks are pre-drawn a draw will be made to select the rink to play the extra end in the event of a tie. The draw will take place before play commences between the team managers, Umpire and Competition Official.
6. The failure of a team to field the required number of players 30 minutes after the start time will abide by the Laws of the Sport of Bowls Crystal Mark Fourth Edition.
7. The draw for rinks and the toss will be made by the County Representatives in the presence of an Umpire
8. Prior to the Final the Challenger will be responsible for providing Umpires. Teams will share green fees and Umpires expenses.
9. 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 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](http://www.eiba.co.uk)
10. The Final will be played at the National Championship Finals.

### UNDER 18 COUNTY TWO RINK TRIPLES (OPEN)

1. This Championship is open to all Member Counties who may have unlimited entries of two rinks of 3 players in each rink (any combination). Once a player has played for one team they are not permitted to play for any other team.
2. Players must not have attained the age of 18 on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2026
3. The competition will be played in a regional round robin league, with teams playing each other once, either 1 rink home and 1 away or both rinks at a neutral venue if mutually agreed regionally.
4. Games will be 18 ends or maximum 3 hours 30 mins; whichever is the shorter not including trial ends. An end where the jack has been cast before 3 hours 30 mins must be played to a finish.
5. 3 points for the winning team, 1 point each if match is tied.
6. The winner of the group will qualify for the Final or Semi-Final (depending on the number of regional leagues). If two or more teams have the same number of points the winner of the group will be decided by overall shot difference.
7. The Final will be played at the National Championship Finals.

#### UNDER 25 COUNTY DOUBLE RINK (OPEN)

1. All competitors must be full members of a Member Club affiliated to that county and play their National Championships from those Clubs.
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. 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 halfway 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 start time shall be 10.00am or later by mutual agreement.
4. Games will be 21 ends or maximum 4 hours; whichever is the shorter not including trial ends or extra ends. An end where the jack has been cast before 4 hours must be played to a finish. The Challenger shall nominate one designated rink number to play an extra end before the draw is made for rinks. The extra end should be played by the nominated rink after play has been completed on all rinks at all venues, unless the start time at each venue is staggered, in this case, the venue with the later start time will nominate one rink number before the draw is made. The extra end will then be completed once all rinks have finished at that venue.  
At the National Finals the draw for the extra end will be made on the green by the two Team Captains in the presence of the Umpire.
5. When playing home and away each County is responsible for appointing an Umpire at their venue.
6. The Captain/ Secretary of the winning team will inform the Association's HQ within 24 hours by phone or email the result of the match 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](http://www.eiba.co.uk)
7. The Final will be played at the National Championship Finals.

#### MEN'S OVER 60 INTER-COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

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. Ties will be on a 3 rinks home and 3 rinks away basis, to be played on the same day simultaneously unless otherwise mutually agreed.
3. Games will be 21 ends or maximum 4 hours; whichever is the shorter not including trial ends or extra ends. An end where the jack has been cast before 4 hours must be played to a finish. The Challenger shall nominate one designated rink number to play an extra end, before the draw is made for rinks. The extra end should be played by the nominated rink after play has been completed on all rinks at all venues, unless the start time at each venue is staggered, in this case, the venue with the later start time will nominate one rink number before the draw is made. The extra end will then be completed once all rinks have finished at that venue.
4. Games will be played at 10.00am on dates as published on the [www.eiba.co.uk](http://www.eiba.co.uk) website or earlier by mutual agreement, a later start time is permissible if both counties agree.
5. If the chosen venue to opponents County town is more than 100 miles by road (calculated by the shortest route), the game should be played on a green as near halfway as possible between the counties determined on a mileage basis.
6. When playing home and away each County is responsible for appointing an Umpire at their venue.
7. 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 email showing team names and rink scores. The Draw for the next round will be shown on the EIBA Ltd website [www.eiba.co.uk](http://www.eiba.co.uk)
8. The Final will be played at the National Championship Finals.

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.

# REGIONAL CO-ORDINATORS

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