



COWPLAIN BOWLING CLUB

INTERNAL COMPETITION REGULATIONS 2025

1. CONDITIONS

The Cowplain Competitions shall be played under the World Bowls Laws of the Sport of Bowls Current Edition and the Rules and Regulations of Bowls England.

2. CLUB COMPETITIONS

- a) The General Committee will decide, by a vote as to whether the current year's Club Competitions will be "**Entered**" or "**Drawn**" and the outcome for the current year is as follows: -

Men's Pairs: **Drawn**

Lady's Pairs: **Drawn**

Mixed Pairs: **Drawn**

Mixed Triples: **Drawn**

J & M Rinks: **Drawn**

Australian Mixed Pairs Competition will be an "**Entered**" event.

- b) The General Committee will decide the entry fee for the Club Competition.

3. ELIGIBILITY

- a) Club Competitions are restricted to Full, Life and Junior Members of Cowplain Bowling Club.
- b) All entries must be made through the Competition Secretary on the appropriate forms and accompanied by the appropriate fees.
- c) No entry will be accepted after the closing date. Spare entry forms are available from the Competition Secretary.
- d) Entry to the **Novice Singles** competition is open to all members with the following **exclusions**:

Previous winners of the Novice Singles competition, all other singles finalists, finalists of **entered** (not drawn) pairs, triples or rinks in any of the Cowplain club (or members previous bowling club) competitions. For clarification the Cowplain Club J&M Rinks, Mixed pairs, Mens pairs, Ladies pairs and Triples are **drawn** competitions. The Australian pairs is an **entered** competition.

- e) Entry to new members competition is for **new bowlers** who only started bowling within the previous three summer seasons. The same exclusions as in (d) above also apply to the new bowlers competition.

4. AVAILABILITY OF COMPETITORS

The Finals of all competitions will be played on specific dates decided by the General Committee.

Competitors should ensure that they are available on these dates before entering the competitions.

Competitors should also ensure they are available for the fixed date events before entering these competitions.

Competitors entering the Ladies and Gents Singles competitions should also ensure their availability for the P&D and County Champion of Champions events should they win the competition. These events take place in September of the current year and May the following year.

5. MANAGEMENT

- (a) The General Committee shall decide the rules of play for each competition.
- (b) The draw will take place in April or early May and will be made by the President (or their nominated representative) in the presence of the Club Captain, Secretary and Competition Secretary. The draw for the Mixed Triples and J & M Rinks competition will take place at a later date. Draw sheets for all competitions will be displayed on the club notice board and on the Club Website.

6. DRAWS, CHALLENGERS AND OPPONENTS AND PLAY BY DATES.

- a) The first named player in a draw is called the Challenger, the second named is the Opponent.
- b) In singles competitions, the Challenger must provide a marker who must be a full member of Cowplain Bowling Club or a Social member if they are registered as a Marker with the English Bowls Umpires Association (EBUA).
- c) **'Play by' dates are to be strictly adhered to** and NO extensions should be given without the express permission of the Competition Secretary. **Extensions will only be granted for extenuating circumstances.** Matches should be played as soon as possible, do not wait till the last minute to arrange a match.
- d) **All players** are responsible for arranging their knockout match before or on the final playing date for that round, players therefore do not have to wait for the Challenger(s) to make contact with the Opponent(s).
- e) In a singles match if one player cannot play by the final date then they must concede the game to their opponent (subject to para c above). If an opponent cannot be contacted the Competition Secretary should be informed.

Substitutes are not allowed in Singles competitions.

For these matches the markers name is also to be clearly shown (printed) on the scorecard.

- f) In a pairs match if one team cannot play by the final date then they concede the game to their opponent. This is subject to para 6c above.
- g) If both parties cannot play by the final date of the round, then they are both disqualified (subject to para 6c above).
- h) When a date/time for a match has been agreed, the Challenger should enter the time, competition, player/skips **first and surnames** (challenger first) in the Fixture Diary. **First names or surnames only are not sufficient and all names should be in capital letters for ease of identification.**

- i) In Team Competitions, if a player is unable to play on the date(s) and all other players in that match are available, they should contact the Competition Secretary requesting a substitute for that particular round or as an individual withdraw from the competition, in which case the Competition Secretary will appoint a substitute.
- j) Any competitor failing to appear on the green within 15 minutes of the agreed start time will forfeit his/her right to further participate in the competition unless, within 24 hours, adequate reason for his/her failure to appear is given to the Competition Secretary who will decide if the reason is valid and whether another date can be arranged.

7. RINK BOOKING

- a) The rinks will be drawn for all rounds of Club Competition matches.
- b) Any rinks that have been booked for external competitions and league matches **MUST NOT** be entered into the Draw if the time of play would or could conflict with the internal competition. **External Competitions, League Matches and Club Representative Matches always take rink priority over internal club competitions.**
- c) Any rinks that have been officially designated on the day of play as 'not playable' **MUST NOT** be entered in the draw.
- d) All rinks available for internal competitions are to be entered into the draw. The draw bag and set of numbered balls will be found on the corner desk. The challenger draws the number.
- e) Morning matches should all start at 10:00; afternoon matches at 14:00, evening matches at 18:00 and the draw should therefore take place 15 minutes before the start time to allow the match to commence on time. Competitors should therefore arrive at the club at least 15 minutes before start time.

NOTE: Morning matches must be clear of the green by 13:45 and afternoon matches by 17:45.
- f) **Picking of rinks:** When both opponents arrive (singles) and one player from each pair arrive then they can pick their rink ball as normal (out of the bag) irrespective of sequence of where their names appear in the booking diary.

8. COMPETITON FORMAT

- a) The rules of play for each competition shall be decided by the General Committee and will be displayed on the club notice board at the commencement of each season.

In line with Bowls England and Bowls Hampshire the following competition format apply:

Singles	21 shots	4 Bowls
Two Wood Singles	21 ends	2 Bowls
Novice Singles	21 shots	4 Bowls
Pairs (Mens, Ladies and Mixed Pairs)	18 ends	4 Bowls each player
Triples	18 ends	3 Bowls each player
J&M Rinks	18 ends	2 Bowls each player
Australian Pairs	18 ends,	4 Bowls each player.

NOTE: The Challenger will be the “Home” team on the scoreboard.

- b) **Handicap Singles:** The handicaps will be determined by the respective Club Captains and will be displayed on the handicap competition draw sheets. Handicaps will be positive (say 0-10) and will be added to the score and entered onto the scorecard/scoreboard after the first end.
- c) **Drawn Competitions:** Once the Draw has taken place, any remaining entries will form a substitutes list. Unused substitutes will have their entry fee refunded at the end of the season. Where listed substitutes are required to play, the Competition Secretary will select a substitute of similar handicap or bowling ability where possible.
- d) Should a player become unavailable and there are no listed substitutes, every effort will be made by the Competition Secretary to find a suitable replacement using the following criteria:-
- The substitute must not already have played in the same competition.
 - The substitute must be the same gender as the person they are replacing.
 - Where possible the substitute should have a similar handicap or bowling ability as the person they are replacing.

NOTE: Substitutes cannot Skip

- e) The playing order is decided by the team members and between rounds playing order can be changed but not during a match.
- f) **The Australian Pairs:** In entered competitions, a team may choose any substitute provided they have not previously played in the same competition. The rules for this competition will be displayed separately on the notice board.
- g) **Extra End:** If at the completion of the designated number of ends the scores are level, an extra end is to be played.

The players or skips are to toss and the winner of the toss is to decide who will play first. The extra end is to start where the previous end finished and the mat is to be placed as for the start of a game.

- h) **Score Cards:** At the completion of the match, completed score cards must be **checked and signed** by both players in singles matches and have the Markers name on the card. Both skips in team matches are required to **check and sign** the card. They should then be placed in the Results Box (located on the desk in the Clubhouse), for the Competition Secretary to record the result on the appropriate competition draw/results sheet.
- i) **Matches “Rained-Off”:** The Competition Secretary must be informed if arranged matches are rained off and cannot be re-arranged within the set period for that round. There may be occasions when due to inclement weather matches have to be postponed and in order to enable the competition to be concluded the date for that specific round may be deferred by the Competition Secretary.

9. QUESTIONS AND DISPUTES

The Competition Secretary will have the authority to make all decisions regarding the general running of the club competitions and their decision will be final.

All questions and disputes which arise that do not come within the scope of the Competition Secretary's duties shall, in the first instance be referred to the General Committee who will nominate a Competition Sub-Committee to arbitrate.

10. DRESS CODE

The General Committee decides the dress code of the club competitions. **For all competition rounds up to the Finals the dress will be white above the waist, navy blue below the waist. Navy blue tailored shorts can be worn by both genders.**

Dress for Finals will be Club shirt with club trousers or shorts.

Shoes for bowling shall be worn (i.e. flat bottomed – no heels). Flip flops and sandals are NOT permitted

NOTE: No Denim is permitted

11. CLUB FINALS

The Competition Secretary will select markers and Umpires.

12. TROPHIES

All perpetual Trophies are to remain in the safe keeping of the Club. All Club Trophies are to be insured against theft, loss or damage. Such insurance will be the responsibility of the Club Treasurer.