



PORTSMOUTH AND DISTRICT BOWLING ASSOCIATION

Founded 1925

P&D COMPETITION RULES

(As approved at the P&D 2025 AGM, held 30th January 2025)

All Changes are in Red)

Revision Information

Approval Date	Amendments
07/01/2014	The Following Amendments were Approved at the 2014 AGM: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• New Ivan Robb Memorial Trophy to be run.• Clarification that Sides for Rowland Cup Matches MUST contain 16 Players.
13/01/2015	The Following Amendments were Approved at the 2015 AGM: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Clarification of what makes up an entry to a P&D Competition.• Clarification of the Date & Time a Challenger Can Offer An Opponent.• Clarification that an Electronic Copy of the Match Scorecard Can Be Sent to the P&D Competition Secretary.• Clarification that Semi-Finals & Finals Need Not Be Played on a Neutral Green.• Local P&D ruling on who keeps the scorecard in Fours Competition.
10/01/2017	The Following Amendment was Approved at the 2017 AGM: <ul style="list-style-type: none">□ Clarification of How To Report Match Result to the Competition Secretary.

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09/01/2018	<p>The Following Amendments were Approved at the 2018 AGM:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clarification of the Maximum Amount a Club Can Charge An Opponent. • Clarification that the Challenger can chose which Rink a game is to be played on (Local Ruling). • Clarification that it is Only the Winner who sends in BOTH Scorecards to the Competition Secretary and the procedure to follow if a Walkover has been given. • Rule 0: Extended to cover Bowls used as well as Dress Code. • Update of the Score Card Responsibilities in Fours (Rinks) Games.
16/01/2020	<p>The Following Amendments were Approved at the 2020 AGM:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clarification that there are Local P&D Amendments to Bowls Laws. • Clarification of how a Substitute can be used. • Clarification on how to Offer Dates and Forfeiture of Challengers Rights. • Clarification on the running of the Rowland Cup. • Addition of the Rules governing the Champion Of Champions Tournament.
13/01/2022	<p>The Following Amendments were Approved at the 2022 AGM:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clarification of the Competitions run by the P&D and Trophies received. • Expansion of Player Eligibility for ALL P&D Competitions. • That Junior Bowlers will no longer be charged an Entry Fee.
26/01/2023	<p>The Following Amendments were Approved at the 2023 AGM:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teams playing in Mixed Competitions CAN ONLY be made up from a Maximum of 2 Clubs. • When Offering Dates, One MUST be a Weekday and One MUST be a Weekend
08/02/2024	<p>The Following Amendment was Approved at the 2024 AGM:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ All Team Games and Rowland Cup are now to be played over 18 Ends.
Approval Date	Amendments
30/01/2025	<p>Rules 2.1; 2.3; 2.4; 6.1; 16: Introduction of the New Centenary Cup</p> <p>The Following Amendments were approved at the 2025 AGM:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rule 4: Dress Code – to bring into line with current BE Guidance • Rule 12: Disqualification/Forfeiture Reasons Updates • Rule 14: Clarification why 2 Days are Set Aside for SemiFinals and Finals • Rule 15: Clarification on how Rowland Cup Semi Finals will be Run

P&D Competition Rules

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P&D Competition Rules

1 Playing Conditions

- 1.1 All games shall be played in accordance with the Laws of the Sport of Bowls, adopted by World Bowls, the Bowls England (BE) Variations (Bowls Laws).
- 1.2 NOTE: There are Local P&D Amendments to these Bowls Laws which are shown in the Rules that follow.

2 P&D Competitions

The P&D runs the following Competitions:

2.1 Men Only

- Singles and Over 60"s Singles
- Pairs
- Triples
- Fours
- Rowland Hospital Cup
- **Centenary Cup**
- Champion of Champions (Singles)
- Junior Competitions (When Number Of Entries Permits) ○ Under 25 Singles
○ Under 18 Singles

2.2 Mixed Competitions

- Pairs
- Triples
- Fours
- Ivan Robb Memorial Singles

2.2.1 Entries in the Mixed Fours MUST consist of 2 Men and 2 Ladies.

2.2.2 The Ivan Robb Memorial is for a Club"s Secretary, Treasurer or Both.

2.3 Playing Formats

2.3.1 **All Team Competitions, the Rowland Hospital Cup and the Centenary Cup** will be played over a **Maximum of 18ends**

2.3.1.1 Extra End(s) To Be Played IF Score Is Level After the Final End of the Match Has Been Completed.

2.3.2 All Singles Competitions is the First to 21 Shots

2.4 Trophies

2.4.1 Annual Trophies

2.4.1.1 The Winners of all the above Competitions will receive a Trophy, which is to be Returned at the End of the Following Season.

- **The Winner of the Rowland Cup will receive the Rowland Hospital Cup.**
- **The Winner of the Centenary Cup will receive the P&D Centenary Cup.**

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2.4.1.2 In addition, the Runners-Up in the Men's Singles and Rowland Cup will also receive a Trophy, which is to be returned at the end of the following season.

2.4.2 Commemorative Plaque

2.4.2.1 The Winning and Runners-Up Sides in the Rowland Cup and Centenary Cup will each Receive a Commemorative Plaque.

2.4.3 Individual Trophies

2.4.3.1 Every Winner and Runner Up will also receive a Trophy to keep.

2.4.4 P&D Blazer Badge

2.4.4.1 In addition, any "un-badged" male bowler (i.e. someone who doesn't have a P&D Blazer Badge) who wins a P&D Men's Competition **(excluding the Rowland and Centenary Cups)** will be presented with a P&D Blazer Badge.

2.4.5 P&D Lapel Badges

2.4.5.1 All Runners-Up in a P&D Men's Competition **(excluding the Rowland and Centenary Cups)** will also receive a P&D Lapel Badge.

3 Player Eligibility

3.1 Rowland Cup & Champion of Champions

3.1.1 Players taking part in these Competitions MUST be Members of the Club for whom they are Registered with the Association.

3.1.2 Failure to Comply with this Rule will Disqualify Clubs and Players from the Competition(s).

3.1.3 Players who Transfer Clubs during the Season ARE Eligible to play for their New Club in the Rowland Cup, PROVIDED they have not played in earlier rounds for their Previous Club that Season.

3.2 Men's Competitions

3.2.1 Any Player wishing to enter a P&D Men's Competition MUST do so via the Club who has Registered him with to the P&D (i.e. IF they are a member of more than one Club, then it is only from the Club who has Registered them that they can enter from).

3.2.2 In Team Competitions (i.e. Pairs, Triples & Fours), ALL the Members of the Team MUST be from the SAME Club and ALL be Registered with the P&D.

3.2.3 If a Player Transfers from one P&D Club to another during the Season and is Registered with his new Club, then:

- If He Has Entered any P&D Competition from his Old Club then He Is No Longer Eligible to Play in any Single or Team Competition in which He WAS a Named Player.
- If He Didn't Enter any P&D Competition from His Old Club or Play In Any P&D Competition Prior to His Transfer, then He Can Be Used as a Substitute in a Team from His New Club.

3.3 Mixed Competitions

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- 3.3.1 Teams playing in these Competitions CAN ONLY be Made Up From a Maximum of Two (2) Clubs, Provided that the Male Players are Registered with the P&D.
- 3.3.2 Refer to Rule 3.2.1 above re Registration and also Rule 3.2.3 should a Male Player Transfer Clubs during the Season.

4 Bowls and Dress Code

- 4.1 **ALL Players in All Men's & Mixed P&D Competitions MUST Ensure that the Bowls they Use and Their Dress Code on the Green Adheres with "P&D League Rule 13 - Player Regulations", unless in a Mixed Competition:**
 - 4.1.1 **The Team is made up of Players from Two Different Clubs, in which case, White MUST be Worn Above the Waist and Grey Below the Waist.**
- 4.2 **For all P&D Competition Semi-Finals and Finals and in ALL rounds of the Champion of Champions Competition, then Players Dress MUST be as follows:**
 - 4.2.1 **For Mixed Team Competitions where Players are from Two Different Clubs, then Whites MUST be Worn Above and Either Club Colour Or White Below the Waist.**
 - 4.2.2 **Where a Club Has its Own Dress Code for Clothing "Above AND Below the Waist", then Players MUST ALL Wear that Clothing.**
 - 4.2.3 **If a Club Does NOT Have a "Below the Waist" Dress Code, then Players MUST ALL Wear Whites Below the Waist.**
 - 4.2.4 **If a Club Does NOT Have ANY Dress Code, then Players MUST ALL Wear Whites Above AND Below the Waist.**

5 Fees

- 5.1 Competition Entrance Fee
 - 5.1.1 Entry for the Ivan Robb Memorial is Free.
 - 5.1.2 Entry for Junior Players (i.e. those Under 18 Years of as at 1st May of Season in Question) is Free.
 - 5.1.3 For all other P&D Competitions, the Entry Fee is determined by the Executive Committee of the Association.
- 5.2 Match Fees
 - 5.2.1 In the Rowland Cup, the **Home** Club pays the Green Fees.
 - 5.2.2 In all other P&D Competitions, it is the **Loser** of the Game who is responsible for paying the Green Fees.
 - 5.2.2.1 **NOTE:** The Maximum that a Club can charge a Loser is £3.00 per Player.
 - 5.2.3 The Green Fees of the Semi-Finals and Finals of ALL P&D Competitions and also the Champion of Champions are covered by the P&D.

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6 Competition Draw

- 6.1 Apart from the Rowland Cup (see Rule 15.3) **and Centenary Cup (see Rule 16.2)**, the Draws will be made on the Saturday following the Closing Day for Entries.
- 6.2 Dates on which Rounds are to be played, or by which they are to be completed, will be set by the Competitions Committee.

7 Men's Fours and Triples

- 7.1 The Men's Fours and Triples matches will be played on Fixed Days, as set by the Competitions Committee.
- 7.2 These matches MAY be played prior to the Fixed Date, but ONLY by Mutual agreement between the Teams involved.

8 Constitution of Teams and Player Substitution

- 8.1 In all Competitions, the Entry need contain only One Name.
 - 8.1.1 That Named Entry shall NOT play in any other Entry in that particular Competition.
- 8.2 The Players taking part in the First Game of the Respective Competition shall Constitute „The Team“ for the remainder of that Competition.
- 8.3 One Additional and the Same Player may be used as a Substitute at any time providing He/She has not already played in that Competition.
- 8.4 The Named Entrant of a Team CANNOT be a Member or a Substitute of any other Team in the same Competition.
- 8.5 A Substitute MAY play in any position except where the substitution occurs during a game which has had to be recommenced due to bad weather.
- 8.6 **Substitute Player:**
 - 8.6.1 If the Substitute Player plays in Future Rounds, then He/She MAY play in any Position.
 - 8.6.2 If the Substitute Player plays in a Game which has had to be recommenced due to bad weather, then He/She CANNOT Skip (as per Law 33.4 of the Bowls Laws).
 - 8.6.3 During a game, if a Player has to leave the green during a game due to illness or some other reasonable cause and they cannot return within 10 minutes, then, if both Skips agree, a Player Substitution can be made.
 - 8.6.4 The Substitute MUST play in any position OTHER than Skip, and the other members of the rink can rearrange their positions as necessary (as per Bowls Law 33.4).
 - 8.6.5 The Name of the Substitute MUST be shown on BOTH Scorecards.
 - 8.6.6 **NOTE:** If it comes to the attention of the Competition Secretary that this has been broken, then he will call a Council In Appeals meeting to adjudicate on the matter.
 - 8.6.7 If No Eligible Substitute is available, then the Defaulting Team will Forfeit the Game to their Opponents (as per Bowls Law 33.6).

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9 Match Arrangements

- 9.1 The First Named in the Draw shall be the Challenger and shall have the choice of the Green and Rink to which he belongs.
- 9.1.1 If either the Challenger or the Opponent belong to two or more Clubs, the Green shall be that of the Club for whom they play League Bowls. (See Rules 3.2 & 3.3)
- 9.2 Offering of Dates
- 9.2.1 Except where a Specific Date has been fixed for the playing of a round, the Challenger shall:
- 1 Either, in the case of their 1st game in the Competition, Fourteen Days prior to the Completion Date for that Round;
 - 2 Or, in all other cases, within Three Days of having being informed of their new opponent;
- 9.2.2 Offer Three Dates, one of which MUST be a Weekday (Monday to Thursday) and one MUST be a Weekend (Sundays included), within the period allowed, neither of which shall be a Fixed County or P&D Competition Date, although ties may be played on these occasions by Mutual Agreement.
- 9.2.3 The Time for the Commencement of a tie shall be Mutually Agreed, but no Competitor shall be compelled to accept a starting time earlier than:
□ 6.00pm Monday-Friday; □ 2.00pm on Saturdays or Sundays; □ AND No later than 6.30pm On Any Day.
- 9.3 Failure to comply with Rule 9.2 will result in the Challenger Forfeiting all Privileges, as such.
- 9.4 If, Four Days after of the New Draw being Published or Notification, the Opponent has not been contacted by the then Challenger, He/She can apply to the Competitions Secretary to become the Challenger.
- 9.5 If Permission is granted, the new Challenger shall proceed to comply with the conditions laid out in Rule 9.2 as if He/She were the Original Challenger.
- 9.6 Any Opponent MUST accept one of the dates offered, or communicate with the Challenger within three days of the receipt of the Challenge.
- 9.7 Failure to Comply or come to a Mutual Agreement will result in the tie being awarded to the then Challenger, provided the facts are reported to the Competitions Secretary.
- 9.8 No Extensions will be allowed without Prior Approval of the Competitions Secretary.

10 Score Card Responsibilities in Fours (Rink) Games

- 10.1 The Skip of each rink is responsible for ensuring that the Names of ALL players of BOTH teams are correctly entered on BOTH sets of Cards - As per Bowls Law 40.1.7.2.
- 10.2 After each end has been completed, the Skip is also responsible for recording on the scorecard the number of shots scored by both teams and ensuring that the Opponent's scorecard agrees - As per Bowls Laws 40.1.7.3/4.
- 10.3 As per the Bowls England variation, ONLY if BOTH Skips agree can the maintaining of the scorecard be transferred to another player in BOTH rinks.
□ i.e. On the same Rink, a Skip CANNOT maintain the scorecard whilst another player in the Opposing Rink maintains theirs.
- 10.4 At the end of their match, each Skip MUST then ensure that Both Scorecards show the same result and then sign both cards, thereby showing they have performed this check. They MUST also record the time the game finished on the card - As per Bowls Law 40.1.7.5.

11 Match Results

- 11.1 The Winner of a Tie MUST Inform the Competition Secretary of the Result As Soon As Possible After the Game Has Been Completed or, At The Latest, by 10am the Next Day.
- 11.2 The Winner of Each Round is Responsible for Ensuring that BOTH Scorecards From The Tie are Received by the Competition Secretary Within 4 (Four) Working Days Of The Match.
 - 11.2.1 An Electronic Copy of the Signed Score Card(s) Is Acceptable.
- 11.3 In the Event of the Winner Being Given a Walkover by his Opponent, then a Scorecard MUST Still Be Sent In, Containing the Names of the Winning Team that Would Have Played in the Conceded Game.
- 11.4 All Scorecards MUST Show:
 - The Name of the Competition to which they refer;
 - The Date the game was played;
 - The Names of ALL of the Competitors who took part;
 - Be Duly Signed by BOTH Players or Skips (as the case may be).
- 11.5 Failure to Comply With Any of the Above Will Lead To The Elimination Of Both Sets of Competitors from the Relevant Competition.

12 Disqualification/Forfeiture

- 12.1 Failure to Comply with the Dates Fixed for the Competition in Any Round will **Lead To** Disqualification, UNLESS Decided Otherwise by the Competitions Committee.

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- 12.2 If a Player or Team Will NOT be Available for ALL of the Round Dates in the Competition They Have Entered, He/They Must Withdraw at the Outset.**
 - 12.2.1 Players/Members of Teams Who Have Advanced in a Competition and then Concede, Without An Acceptable Reason Agreed By The Competition Secretary will NOT be Allowed to Enter the Following Year's Competition.**
- 12.3 If, after Thirty Minutes of the Agreed Time for the Commencement of the Game, a Singles Opponent OR 1 or More players from A Team Is/Are Absent, then the Defaulting Player/Team Forfeits the Game to their Opponent, UNLESS there are Adequate Reasons for their Absence.**
 - 12.3.1 These Reasons MUST be Emailed to the P&D's Competition Secretary WITHIN 24 Hours of the Agreed Date the Match Should have been Played, so that he can make a decision. [As per Bowls Law Section 2.4]**
- 12.4 In Team Competitions, a Team CANNOT play 1 Short, so Forfeits the Game to their Opponents. [As per Bowls Law Section 1.2]**

13 Right of Appeal

Any Competitor Disqualified by the Competition Secretary has a right of appeal to the Council in Appeals, provided such Appeal is lodged, in writing (or Email), within **Three Days** of the Notice Of Disqualification.

14 Semi-Finals and Finals

- 14.1 The Semi-Finals and Final Rounds of All P&D Competitions will be Played on Greens Selected by the Competitions Committee, who will Make ALL the Necessary Arrangements.
- 14.2 The Dates and Venues will be Announced by the Competition Secretary at the April P&D Exec Meeting and shown on all Draw Sheets.
 - 14.2.1 A Weekend Will Be Set Aside for These Games, BUT, Where Possible, ALL Games Will Be Played on the Saturday of that Weekend.**
 - 14.2.2 The Sunday will ONLY be Used in the Event of Bad Weather OR A Player(s) Being in Multiple Finals.**
- 14.3 Should a Competitor NOT Be Available for the Finals Date, then Their Opponent(s) will be Awarded the Match and Title.**

15 Rowland Cup

- 15.1 This is a Four Rink Competition with Matches Being Played on the Same Venue and Over the Maximum Number of Ends shown in Rule 2.3 (Playing Formats).

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- 15.1.1 A Match CANNOT Start until Both Clubs have Sixteen Bowlers Ready to Play.
- 15.1.2 If, after 30 minutes of the Official Match Start Time, a Club DOES NOT have ALL 16 Players, then their Opponent will Receive a Walk-over.
- 15.2 Prior to Commencement of the Match, the Captains Shall Decide which Rink Will Play the Extra End or Ends, until a Result is Achieved in the Event of a Tied Match after ALL Rinks have played the Maximum Number Of Ends.
 - 15.2.1 This will be Rink Number and NOT a Nominated Skip - e.g. Rink 3 will Play The Extra End(s).
 - 15.2.2 THIS IS TO BE AGREED BEFORE THE CARDS ARE MATCHED.
- 15.3 Rowland Cup Draw
 - 15.3.1 The Draw for the 1st Round of this Competition shall be made at the April P&D Executive Meeting.
 - 15.3.2 The Draw for all Subsequent Rounds will be made after the Previous Round has been Completed.
 - 15.3.3 Should the Draw have Clubs who Share Greens at Home in the Same Round, then the 1st Club out of the "Hat" will play on the Official Date for that Round, the other Clubs will need to play on the Weekend Before that date.
- 15.4 **Semi's at Milton Park played by Visiting Clubs**
 - 15.4.1 **The Rinks Will Be Set on the Best Settings the Host believe will provide a Fair Test.**
 - 15.4.2 **The Match Umpire will Draw which Green Will Be Used by Each of the Semi-Finals**
- 15.5 **Semi's at Milton Park where A Milton Park Club has Qualified**
 - 15.5.1 **The Club will NOT play their Semi on their Home Green**
 - 15.5.2 **The Rinks on each Green will be set up on the "Colour of the Day" as per the Milton Park Diary.**
- 15.6 **Semi's at Milton Park where the Milton Park Clubs are Playing Each Other**
 - 15.6.1 **The Rinks on each Green will be set up on the "Colour of the Day" as per the Milton Park Diary.**
 - 15.6.2 **The Green the game will be played on is as per 15.4.2**
- 15.7 **Semi's Hosted at a Neutral Club**
 - 15.7.1 **The Rinks will be set on the Best Settings the Host believe will provide a fair test**
- 15.8 **Pre Match Processes**
 - 15.8.1 **Once the Side Captains have supplied their Match Score Cards, the Match Umpire will pair Opposing Cards and then Draw which Rinks the matches will be played on**

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- 15.8.2 **Before exposing the Rinks, the Match Umpire will then oversee the process of deciding: Which rink will play the Extra End; Which Side has choice of Jack for Start of Match and Extra End**
- 15.8.3 **The Cards will then be turned over so that the Side Captains can enter the players' names and then return to Umpire to ensure ALL Rink Members have been entered correctly**
- 15.8.4 **At That Point, NO Alterations can be made with Regards to Player Names Or Positions.**

16 Centenary Cup

The Centenary Cup was Introduced to Celebrate the P&D's Centenary in 2025 and is to be played Annually between ALL Clubs Affiliated to the P&D.

□ From 2026, Clubs can enter Multiple Sides

16.1 Its Format is as follows:

16.1.1 A Men's Two Rink Competition

16.1.2 Up to Semi-Finals, Matches are Played with 1 Rink at Home, the Other Away

16.1.3 Both Rinks Play Over the Maximum Number of Ends shown in Rule 2.3 (Playing Formats).

16.1.4 When the Draw is Made, the 1st Out Of The Hat for Each Match is Designated the "Home Team"

16.1.5 The "Home Team" in each Round Choses Which Rink will play the Extra End(s) if the Scores are level after both Rinks have Completed the Maximum Number of Ends

16.1.6 Both Games Start at the Same Time

16.1.6.1 A Match CANNOT Start until ALL Sixteen Bowlers are Ready to Play.

16.1.6.2 If, after 30 minutes of the Official Match Start Time, a Team DOES NOT have all 4 Players present at a Venue, then their Opponent will receive a Match Walk-Over.

16.1.7 The Team with the Highest Overall Shot Difference will be the Winner of the Match

16.2 The Draw for the Earliest Round will be made at the April Exec Meeting

16.3 The Matches will be played on a Weekend

16.4 Both the Semi-Finals and Final will be played on the 1 Day, as part of one of the P&D Finals Days.

P&D Competition Rules

17 P&D Champion Of Champions Tournament

- 17.1 The P&D Champion Of Champions Tournament is Open to the Winners of all the Affiliated P&D Club's Men's 4-Wood Singles Competition.
- 17.2 The Tournament Takes Place Over A Weekend in Early September.
- 17.3 The Tournament Draw is Made on the Saturday Morning Once all Club Champions have Registered.
- 17.4 Saturday's Matches will Cover Games Up To the Semi-Finals, with the Semis and Final being played on the Sunday.
- 17.5 Club Champions Should Make Every Effort to Bring A Marker With Him.

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