

COUNTY COMPETITION CHAMPIONSHIP RULES – Amended 25th July 2026

Governing the Singles, Under-25 Singles, Matchplay Singles, Pairs, Triples and Fours County Championships

1. The County Competition Championships are open to full male members of affiliated clubs with no age restriction, except for the Under-25 Singles Championship which will be open to both male and female competitors who are under the age of 25 on 1st October.
2. With the exception of the Under-25 Singles Championship and the Matchplay Singles Championship, the current season club competitions will be used to run the County Championships Play-offs.
3. Clubs must hold a club competition (between 1st October and 31st January of the current season) in the respective disciplines to determine their qualifiers which must have at least 2 entries. A club cannot nominate a player / team to represent them in the County Play-offs.
4. Clubs are permitted to run and organise their club competitions applying their own rules on format of matches as they feel appropriate.
5. All play-off games to be played as set out in these rules other than the Under 25 Singles & Matchplay Singles which are defined in Appendix A. Singles 21 up, Pairs, Triples and Fours 18 ends or 3 hours 30 minutes.
6. If a club has more than 2 but less than 8 entries in a club competition, they will receive a single qualifier for the county playoffs with the club winner(s) qualifying only for the play-offs.
7. If a club has 8 or more entries in a club competition they will receive 2 qualifiers for the county playoffs. Both club finalists will qualify for the play-offs with Qualifier 'A' being from the top half of the club competition and Qualifier 'B' being from the bottom half of the club competition.
8. The County Competition Secretary, or Executive, shall have the authority to implement any new rule or amend an existing rule for a situation or scenario that is not covered by these rules and to raise this as a formal change for consideration at the AGM.
9. The Laws of the Sport of Bowls Crystal Mark Fourth Edition will apply unless otherwise stated in these rules
10. Eligibility
 - a. A competitor entering a team in the Pairs, Triples and Fours Championships is not permitted to be a member of any other team in the same championship.

COUNTY COMPETITION CHAMPIONSHIP RULES – Amended 25th July 2026

- b. The competitors playing in the first match of any championship shall constitute the team which must consist of one player in the original entry.
- c. A competitor who has entered a championship team in his name cannot afterwards play in another team in the same championship irrespective of whether or not he has actually played in his original entry. One additional (and the same) player may, however, be used as a substitute at any time provided, he has not already played in the championship.
- d. A player may only represent one and the same club in any one season in the County Singles, Under 25 Singles, Matchplay Singles, Pairs, Triples and Fours Championships.
- e. A player competing in the Club Competitions leading to the Norfolk CIBA County Competition play-offs can only play from the same Club that that competitor plays for in the Norfolk CIBA County League.

11. Respots

- a. In all competitions 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 a minimum of 1 metre and maximum of 1.5 metres to the left or right of the centre line, being positioned the same distance on both sides of the centre line, on the side that it left the rink of play. This rule ONLY applies to an end in play and not in relation to a jack being cast to start an end where the Laws of Sport rules 9 & 10 will apply.
- b. 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.

12. DRESS. Plain white shirt with tailored collar, club necktie/registered coloured shirt, grey, black or white trousers, registered coloured trousers or EIBA / Bowls Manufacturer shorts of any colour and any coloured flat soled regulation bowling shoes for matches up to and including the Finals

13. Club Representatives

- a. The Hon Competition Secretary will before the start of the season confirm to all clubs a schedule of deadlines and match dates.

COUNTY COMPETITION CHAMPIONSHIP RULES – Amended 25th July 2026

- b. Club secretaries must notify the Hon Competition Secretary & Hon Treasurer the number of entries, and the name under which the entry has been made, from their club in each of the County Championship not later than 30th September.
 - c. The entry fee to each County Competition, determined by the Executive Council, is payable at the time of entry and to be sent to the Hon Treasurer by 20th November.
 - d. First round club competition results with names of the players to be sent to the Hon Competition Secretary immediately after the first round has been completed which defines who constitutes the team.
 - e. Club secretaries must notify the Hon Competition Secretary who the entries are from their club in each of the County Championship play-offs not later than 31st January.
 - f. Any competition entrant qualifying for the 'County' Championships who does not wish to participate in the 'County' Championships must notify the Competition Secretary by 31st January that they are withdrawing.
 - g. Any competitor who has not notified the Competition Secretary by 31st January that they do not wish to participate in the 'County' Championships and later concedes the Preliminary Round or any subsequent Round, unless due to illness or extenuating circumstances, shall be banned from participation in the 'County' Championships for up to three years. Competitors will also be liable for any rink fees should they concede at any time during any of the Competitions they have qualified for.
14. Competition play-off games must be played on the date(s) specified by the Hon. Competition Secretary unless prior agreement to play on a different date has been given.
15. The finals will be played on a green at the choice of the County President or the County Executive Council. With the exception of National events under the auspices of the EIBA Ltd, no event staged by any other organisation shall take precedence over the dates determined for the Norfolk County I.B.A. Championships.
16. Singles Champion will receive the R G Moore Cup and pennant Under 25 Singles Champion will receive the Frank Edge Cup and pennant Under 25 Singles Runner Up will receive the George Lingwood Plate Pairs Champions will receive the Bob Savage Cup and pennant Triples Champions will receive the John Bakewell Cup and pennant Fours Champions will receive the Ken Gooch Bowl and pennant. All trophies to be returned to the Competition Secretary by 1st March. Engraving will be the responsibility of the Association.

Appendix A - Under-25 Singles & Matchplay Singles

1. The Under 25 Singles Championships and Matchplay 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.
2. If the game is tied after 2 sets, by either player having won 1 set or both sets being drawn, a 3 end "tie breaker" will be played to determine the winner.
3. In the "tie breaker" the winner will be determined by the player being the first to win 2 ends as during the "tie breaker" the number of shots are not taken into account, only who wins the end.
4. 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 the 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.
5. In a match tie breaker, the player winning the toss shall have the choice of starting or giving away the jack.
6. After the first end of any set or during the "tie breaker", the player who wins an end will start the next end.
7. If a jack in motion passes completely outside the boundaries of the rink of play or rebounds to 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 a minimum of 1 metre and maximum of 1.5 metres to the left or right of the centre line, being positioned the same distance on both sides of the centre line, on the side that it left the rink of play. This rule ONLY applies to an end in play and not in relation to a jack being cast to start an end where the Laws of Sport rules 9 & 10 will apply.
8. 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.