

TOM FRANCIS GENERAL RULES

Issued May 2024

1. The Competition shall be between 2 Mixed Teams from each club: i.e. full playing members, male and female, of clubs associated to the leagues. One team to play at Home the other away.
2. All Games will be played according to current edition of the Laws of the Sport of Bowls except where affected by these rules.
3. All matches will consist of 2 Rinks with each team including at least one player of the opposite sex on each rink. In the event of default, the defaulting rink or rinks forfeit 25% of their score (rounded up to the nearest whole shot) .
4. Dress shall be greys below the waist, until the final which will be in whites. Registered coloured shirts/blouses may be worn providing every member of the team wears an identical shirt/blouse otherwise white shirts/blouses must be worn. Correct bowls footwear must be worn, as specified in the current edition of the Laws of the Sport of Bowls.
5. All games will be played on Sunday mornings commencing week 23 of the Standardised Week schedule published by Bowls England. Play each 2 weeks until you are knocked out of the competition. The Competition Secretary will circulate a fixture programme which may only be rearranged if a) the home club's green is unavailable or b) a club is unable to play a match due to a pre-arranged event. In either case the Competition Secretary must be consulted. The game must be played within six days, before or after the scheduled date and the rearranged dates must be notified, in writing, to the Competition Secretary at least two weeks before the commencement of the programme. Matches shall be played over 18 ends plus two trial ends starting by 10.00am. **AT BOTH venues.** If weather conditions or light are likely to restrict play the captains may agree to play only fifteen ends with one trial end. The Captains to toss for the Jack for all rinks. Toss for extra end
6. Scoring of games is to be as follows:

The scores from both teams are totalled and the highest wins.

In the event of a draw an extra end is played (previously decided by the clubs before the start)
7. In the event of a team being in default by fielding a triple against a rink the game may be played. The triple will play as a lead, three and skip each playing with two woods. The leads will play their two woods alternately, the number two of the complete rink will then bowl his/her two woods consecutively, the number threes and skips will then bowl their woods alternately. (There will be no deduction of shots). The triple must include one player of the opposite sex if not rule 3 will apply.

In the event of a player being forced to retire from a game for any reason a substitute is not allowed and the team will continue as a triple as defined above but if the remaining players are all the same sex rule 3 will not be applied.

Under no circumstances may a player join a rink after the lead has cast the jack for the first end.
8. In the event of a team failing to turn up for, or complete, a match within the rules the opposing team will be awarded the match.
9. If any match, prior to the last game, is rained off or postponed for any acceptable reason, the Captains are to arrange, within 3 days of the original date, a re-play within two weeks of the original date and before the next scheduled game. The home team must give three dates and times for the game to be played within the next seven days.

Note postponed games may be played on any day and at any time with the approval of both participating Clubs.
9. If a match is abandoned after a minimum of 12 ends has been played by each rink, whoever is in the lead will receive the points. If the match is abandoned before 12 ends have been played, the Captains will re-arrange the match (see Rule 8). It must be agreed by both Captains when to stop play.
10. The Captain shall be responsible for:
 - (i) communicating the result of the match to the Competition Secretary before 10.00 am the morning after the match
 - (ii) ensuring that both sets of cards are correctly completed and signed by both skips involved.
 - (iii) keep both sets of cards in case of disputes (If not sent electronically).

11. The team members can be changed. i.e. It doesn't have to be the same 8 players for all games.
12. Any dispute will be dealt with by the Competition Secretary in consultation with the Management Committee and their decision will be final. Any dispute must be notified, in writing, to the Secretary, which he must receive within five day of the match. The Secretary may refer any dispute to the Management Committee to be dealt with under Association Rules
13. Each Club must display, or have available for reference, a set of the current MS Rules at every league match.