**BOWLS ENGLAND**

**2023 National Finals**

The National Finals will run from Thursday 10th to Sunday 27th August inclusive.

We have listened to feedback from this summer in relation to the Regional Finals and number of qualifiers from each county. With this in mind, our schedule has been developed consistent with a number of key principles, including but not limited to:

1. Priority given to National Championships
2. Increasing the number of qualifiers to 62 in all National Championships (with the exception of the Senior Fours and Junior Pairs, which remain at one per county). This means an additional 14 qualification places and, with 30 rinks available, enables the green space at Victoria Park to be used maximally. In all those events with 62 places, those 27 counties with the highest entries per event will receive two qualification places, with the remaining 8 receiving one place
3. No regional finals in National Competitions ? all area winners proceeding to Leamington will provide a significant increase in qualifying places available
4. Inclusion of Top Club Finals within the National Finals
5. Minimising duplications wherever possible

**Policy on duplications and match time limits**

The 2023 schedule has been devised to minimise clashes. Historically we have sought to accommodate players in more than one event scheduled to run at the same time. Due to the volume of events and the multiple qualification of some competitors, it is inevitable that a small number of players will have matches that clash. For the best interest of the event, we have developed a clear policy on duplications to allow players, clubs and counties to make informed decisions.

In 2023, in all rounds of National Championships all players with a scheduling duplication will be accommodated.

We shall also seek to accommodate players with scheduling duplications in the following National Competition events, where time and green availability permits:

1. Champion of Champions
2. Family Pairs

However, in order to ensure the smooth running of the National Finals and for the wider benefit of the vast majority of players, spectators, volunteers and umpires, should scheduling clashes occur involving any of the following events, teams will be required to provide substitutes. **This will be a condition of entry.**

We would encourage players/teams to review the schedule prior to entry and be mindful of the implications of entering the following competitions if successful in the National Championships or National Competitions:

1. All inter-county events
2. All inter-club events
3. National Mixed Pairs
4. National Mixed Fours
5. Senior Pairs

To support the increased number of qualifiers and removal of Regional Finals, we are also introducing time limits for the completion of matches in order to assist the smooth running of the National Finals. We feel these are reasonable, will assist umpires in managing slow play and will help avoid scheduling clashes due to matches over-running.

**The limits (to include trial ends) are as follows:**

**National Championships**

1. **Two bowl singles: one hour and 15 minutes**
2. **Four bowl singles: two hours and 30 minutes**
3. **Pairs, Triples and Fours: three hours and 30 minutes**

**National Competitions**

1. **Singles: two hours and 30 minutes**
2. **Pairs: two hours and 30 minutes**
3. **Inter-Club: three hours and 30 minutes**
4. **Inter-County: TBC**