

WELSH INDOOR BOWLS COMPETITION RULES

AMENDED SEPTEMBER 2025

1. WIB will organise and administer the following competitions:
 - a) Men: Singles (U16, U18, U25, Open, O60), Pairs (U18, Open, O60), Triples (U18, Open, O55), Fours (U18, Open, O60)
 - b) Ladies: Singles (U25, Open), Pairs (Open), Triples (Open), Fours (Open)
 - c) National Club Championship
 - d) Knock Out Cup
 - e) Merit Table
 - f) O60 National Club Championship
 - g) DJ Trophy
 - h) Champion of Champions
2. Qualifying date for age related competitions:
U16 – players must be U16 on 1 October of playing season
U18 – players must be U18 on 1 October of playing season
U25 – players must be U25 on 1 October of playing season
O55 – players must be O55 on 1 October of playing season
O60 – players must be O60 on 1 October of playing season
3. The competitions will be played under current World Bowls Laws.
4. The Competitions Committee will adjudicate all questions and disputes which may arise and their decision will be final.
5. All competitions except U16 and U18 are as follows:
 - a) Singles 21 shots or sets format, as determined by WIB (4 bowls)
All Ladies' Singles will be drawn on the day of the competition. Losers will be expected to mark.
Pairs 21 ends (4 bowls), Triples 18 ends (3 bowls), Fours 21 ends (2 bowls)
 - b) In all pairs, triples and fours matches players must be affiliated to the same club.
 - c) Pairs, triples and fours matches must be concluded within the time limit of 4 hours, this time to include trial ends, and the match terminates on completion of the end when time elapses. An end commences when the mat is correctly placed and the jack is delivered from a proper stance.
In the event of a tie an extra end will be played.
 - d) If a position is reached where the losing team cannot make up the deficit, the match will end.
 - e) Where two or more matches are played on one day players must be given a minimum of 15 minutes between the matches.
The duration of all U16 and U18 matches are as follows:
Singles (up to final) – 18 Shots or 2 hours, whichever is shorter. Final 18 shots with no time limit.
Pairs (3 bowls), triples (3 bowls) and fours (2 bowls). Qualifying matches and semi finals will be 12 ends or 2 hours, whichever is shorter and the match terminates on completion of the end when time elapses. Finals will be 18 ends with a 4 hour time limit (including trial ends). In the event of a tie an extra end will be played. Where possible players must be affiliated to the same club in order to play together. When this is not possible they can play with members of other clubs.
6.
 - a) Players playing in the first match constitute the team
 - b) The position of players in the first match is not binding throughout the competition
 - c) If a substitute is required it must be a player affiliated to the same club who has not played in a previous round or been a member of a team which has conceded a match
 - d) The substitute can play in any position
 - e) Each team can only use one substitute

7.
 - a) Entries must be accompanied by the fee set by WIB. This fee is non-refundable. All entry fees must be paid to the Treasurer by the date shown on the entry form and the Competition Secretary must receive entry numbers by the given date.
 - b) For each match played, green fees, as set by WIB, are payable on the day of the competition
 - c) Players failing to give notification of non attendance at a competition will not be allowed to enter that competition the following year. In addition they must pay the outstanding green fees for the game for themselves and their opponents.
8. Bowls
All bowls must have a legible stamp, and must be checked prior to each game.
9. Dress Code
White, black or club coloured bottoms with white or club tops. All players must wear the same uniform. Players failing to meet this dress code will not be permitted to play
10. Results
These should be submitted as per the instruction for the event
11. Bowlers with Disabilities
Bowlers with disabilities may use aids approved by World Bowls
12. Running on the Green
This is not permitted must be dealt with by the club hosting the event

GENERAL RULES

NATIONAL CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP

NATIONAL MERIT TABLE

OVER 60 NATIONAL CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP

NATIONAL KNOCK OUT CUP

DJ TROPHY

1. Each side must pay a registration fee as determined by WIB.
2. No player can represent more than one side in any one season. (All players must be affiliated to the club they represent.) Any side playing an ineligible player will forfeit the points available for the match plus 4 shots per rink
3. Where a match is not started at the appointed time due to the late arrival or unpreparedness of a side, the non offending side will be awarded one shot for each unplayed end at the termination of the game.
4. Matches will be 21 ends or 4 hours from the appointed start time, whichever is the shorter, inclusive of trial ends, and the match terminates at the completion of the end when the time elapses.
5. Results of the match must be communicated by both sides to the appropriate officer as soon as possible after the completion of the match and within 48 hours. Match result cards must be retained by both sides until the end of the season.
6. The dress code is white, black or club coloured bottoms with white or club tops. All players must wear the same uniform. Clubs not adhering to this rule will be warned in the first instance but may be sanctioned by the Management Committee if they persist.

SPECIFIC RULES

NATIONAL CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP

- 1.. The club championship will consist of a Premier Division and a First Division. At the end of the season the bottom two sides from the Premier Division will be relegated and the top two sides from the First Division will be promoted.

2. A side will consist of six fours and the Championship will be played between affiliated clubs with suitable facilities to play matches in not more than two sessions.
3. The number of points allocated for a game is 22. The points system will be 10 points for a side win, in the event of an overall draw each side will be awarded 5 points. In addition each winning four will be awarded 2 points, 1 point each for a draw. At the conclusion of the competition shots difference will be calculated to decide the winner should two or more sides end with the same number of points.
4. If a match is called off and not re-arranged within 14 days of the scheduled date, the non offending side will be awarded the 22 points plus 4 shots per rink. The offending side will forfeit 10 points, which will be deducted from their total. The match will not be played. If a side cancels a game at short notice (i.e within 5 days of the scheduled date) they will be liable for the full amount of the green fees. (These sanctions could be waived in exceptional circumstances)
5. The home club is responsible for appointing an umpire, paying the match fee and travelling expenses.
6. Home clubs are responsible for the payment of all green fees as part of the reciprocal agreement.
7. North clubs will only play 4 rinks

NATIONAL MERIT TABLE

This competition is intended to give non Championship club players the opportunity to play in an inter-club competitive match on Saturdays. Clubs must pay due regard to this principle when selecting their sides.

1. Matches will be arranged on a friendly basis, in accordance with the above principle. Where possible, matches should be played back to back with Club Championship matches. Matches may be of four to six rinks as agreed by the clubs concerned. The Merit Table will be played as one league.
2. The number of points allocated for a match is 22. The points system will be 10 points for a side win, in the event of an overall draw each side will be awarded 5 points. In addition each winning four will be awarded 2 points, 1 point each for a draw. If a match is played with less than 6 fours per side the balance of points will be divided between the two sides. At the conclusion of the competition shot difference will be used to decide the winner should two or more sides end on the same number of points.
3. If a match is called off and not re-arranged within 14 days of the scheduled date, the non offending side will be awarded the 22 points plus 4 shots per rink. The offending side will forfeit 10 points, which will be deducted from their total. If a side cancels a match at short notice (i.e within 5 days of the scheduled date) they will be liable for the full amount of the green fees. The match will not be played.
4. Green Fees to be paid by both sides.

OVER 60 NATIONAL CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP

1. Players will be permitted to play once they have reached the age of 60.
2. There will be six sections and the winner of each section will play in the latter stages, with two quarter final matches, two semi final matches and the final all being played at neutral venues. The draw for the quarter finals and semi finals will take place at the Management Meeting.
3. A side will consist of four fours.
4. Matches to be played Monday to Friday during daytime (as arranged by the home club). The start time to be determined by the home club. Any matches requested to be played at weekends must have prior approval from the Competitions Committee
5. The number of points allocated for a match is 14. The points system will be 6 points for a side win, in the event of an overall draw each side will be awarded 3 points. In addition each winning four will be awarded 2 points, 1 point each for a draw. At the conclusion of the competition shots difference will be calculated to decide the section winner should two or more sides end with the same number of points.

6. If a match is called off and not re-arranged within 14 days of the scheduled date, the non offending side will be awarded 14 points plus 4 shots per rink. The offending side will forfeit 6 points, which will be deducted from their total. If a side cancels a match at short notice (i.e within 5 days of the scheduled date) they will be liable for the full amount of the green fees. The match will not be played.
7. Green Fees are to be paid by both sides
8. The home club is responsible for appointing an umpire, paying the match fee and travelling expenses.

NATIONAL KNOCK OUT CUP

1. A side will consist of 4 fours.
2. Any side playing an ineligible player will forfeit the match.
3. A draw will be conducted for the competition, and after each round. Matches will be arranged at a time convenient to both clubs but must be played by the date shown on the draw.
4. In the event of a draw an extra end must be played.
Results of the match must be communicated by both sides to the appropriate officer as soon as possible after the completion of the match and within 48 hours. Match result cards must be retained by both sides until the end of the season.
5. If a match is called off at short notice (i.e. within 5 days of the scheduled date) the offending side will be charged the full amount of green fees. If a match is called off and not rearranged immediately, and by the date specified, the match will be awarded to the non offending side.
6. Both sides to pay green fees up to and including the semi finals. WIB will pay the green fees for the final.
7. The home club must appoint an umpire for each match and are responsible for paying the match fee and travelling expenses.

DJ TROPHY

1. Each side will play every other side once and fixtures will be reversed the following year.
All matches must be played on the dates arranged, unless there are extenuating circumstances (this does not include the inability to field a side).
2. A side will consist of two fours.
3. The number of points allocated for a match is 8. The points system will be 4 points for a side win, in the event of an overall draw each side will be awarded 2 points. In addition each winning four will be awarded 2 points, 1 point each for a draw. At the conclusion of the competition shots difference will be calculated to decide the winner should two or more sides end with the same number of points.
4. The result of the match must be sent by both sides to the appropriate officer, immediately following the match but within 48 hours. The preferred option is a picture of the signed scorecards. The scorecards must be retained until the end of the season.
5. Green Fees to be paid by both sides to the home club
6. If, exceptionally, a match is called off and not re-arranged within 14 days of the scheduled date, the non offending side will be awarded the 8 points plus 4 shots per rink. The offending side will forfeit 8 points, which will be deducted from their total. If a side cancels a game at short notice (i.e within 5 days of the scheduled date) they will be liable for the full amount of the green fees. The match will not be played.

Exceptional Circumstances

Inclement Weather

Power Cut

This is not an exhaustive list