

THE ROYAL COUNTY OF BERKSHIRE BOWLING ASSOCIATION

CONSTITUTION, RULES AND BYE-LAWS

FEBRUARY 2010

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CONSTITUTION AND RULES OF THE ASSOCIATION

1 - TITLE

The Association shall be called 'The Royal County of Berkshire Bowling Association'.

2 - OBJECTIVES

- (a) To promote, foster and safeguard the level green sport of bowls in Berkshire.
- (b) To adopt, and enforce the Laws of the Sport of Bowls as laid down by World Bowls.
- (c) To be a Member of Bowls England and conform to its Rules and Regulations.
- (d) To promote, organise and superintend various competitions among the members of affiliated clubs.
- (e) To hold Inter-County and other matches.
- (f) To interpret any questions of law and practice and arbitrate on all matters submitted to the Association by affiliated clubs or members thereof.
- (g) To promote a safe environment in which children and vulnerable adults can enjoy taking part in the sport of bowls. The Association will seek to underpin and ensure this commitment by following and promoting the Joint Child Protection Policy and Procedures of Bowls England.
- (h) To follow and promote the Equity Policy of Bowls England in respect of equal opportunities.

3 - MEMBERSHIP

- (a) Membership of the Association shall be open to all Clubs in the County of Berkshire, as defined prior to the 1974 Boundary changes, and who play the level green game, either on private greens, or on greens attached to licensed premises, or on Municipal or other public greens, provided that such Clubs possess level greens with a playing surface in addition to banks and ditches as defined in Laws of the Sport. (Clubs affiliated to one or both of the Association's predecessors The Royal County of Berkshire Bowling Association and the Berkshire County Women's Bowling Association prior to 1st May 1937 shall not be excluded from Membership if their greens do not comply with these Laws).

[Existing Clubs affiliated to the Royal County of Berkshire Bowling Association and/or the Berkshire County Women's Bowling Association at 31 December 2009 will be automatically transferred to the Association. New Clubs joining after that date must have a minimum membership of 16 playing members].

- (b) Clubs playing on greens connected with licensed premises must be managed by an Executive Committee and must have sole and exclusive use and control of the funds of the Club and greens on which they play.
- (c) Clubs playing on local authority, state managed or other public greens must have a permit from the local or other authority allowing them use of rinks for competitive purposes. No Club playing, or intending to play on a local authority or other public green upon which an Affiliated Club or Clubs is or are playing, shall become affiliated to the Association until the existing Club or Clubs using the said green has or have been consulted by the Association, and in the opinion of the Association, has or have offered no bona fide objection to its affiliation.

- (d) Applications for affiliation shall be made to the Honorary General Secretary of the Association and shall be accompanied by the name and addresses of the Honorary Secretary and of the green, the names of office bearers of the club, together with a copy of the rules of the club, entrance fee, the first annual subscription to the Association and the first annual subscription to Bowls England.

All applications for membership shall be considered by the Management Committee of the Association. Clubs admitted to membership shall be notified by the Honorary General Secretary.

- (e) Subject to the Management Committee having given full consideration of an Association making application for Affiliation, and being fully satisfied as to its credentials, an Association in the confines of the County may become an Affiliated Member provided that all its members are members of a Club affiliated to a County Association. Affiliated Members shall pay a joining fee and an annual sum as fixed at the Annual General Meeting of the Association.
- (f) To comply with the provisions of the Data Protection Act 1984 for exemption of registration, the Association is permitted to maintain records on Computer File to include names, addresses, telephone numbers, Email addresses and for the under 25 years of age members, their dates of birth and such details it may disclose in the following circumstances:-
 - 1) Publication of a list of the Association and its affiliated clubs, officers with individual members and together with their names, addresses, telephone numbers and Email addresses.
 - 2) Disclosure to other affiliations or associations.
 - 3) Any other disclosure for the purpose of the Association which the Management Committee decides is necessary.

4 - HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS

- (a) Honorary Life Membership of the Association shall be bestowed by right on all Past Presidents of the Association and on all Honorary Life Members of either of the Association's predecessors, The Royal County of Berkshire Bowling Association and the Berkshire County Women's Bowling Association, as a mark of distinction, and in recognition of valuable services rendered to the Association and/or to either of its said predecessors.
- (b) It shall be within the powers of the Annual General Meeting to bestow Honorary Life Membership upon a further maximum of four members, as a mark of distinction, and in recognition of valuable services rendered over a long period.
- (c) All Honorary Life Members shall have the right to attend, speak and vote at the Annual General Meeting.
- (d) The right to vote of an Honorary Life Member is conditional upon continued membership of an affiliated club of the Association.

5 - SEVERANCE OF MEMBERSHIP

- (a) It shall be competent to the respective Council, after due investigation of the facts, and, if need be, the examination of witnesses and relevant evidence, to suspend or terminate the membership of any Club or member thereof, but such Club or member shall have a right of appeal to the Council against any decision, provided the appeal, if made on behalf of the Club, be signed by its Secretary and lodged with the respective Honorary General Secretary of the Association within 21 days of the Council's decision. Such appeal shall state the ground or

grounds on which it is made.

- (b) No member of an Affiliated Club shall be eligible for election to another affiliated Club unless he/she is in a position to produce his/her clearance for the past year from his/her former Club.

6 - FINANCIAL YEAR

The financial year of the Association shall end on the 30th September of each year.

7 – FEES AND SUBSCRIPTIONS

Every club joining the Association shall pay an Entrance Fee and an Annual Subscription to the Association, the amounts of which to be decided annually by the AGM. Each club will also pay to the Association its Annual Subscription to Bowls England.

A Capitation fee per member as levied annually plus all other fees as laid down in a manner approved by the Annual General Meeting, to be paid to the Treasurer(s) of the Association by the 31st October of each year. Clubs failing to pay these fees and subscriptions within the time stated, shall forfeit all rights and privileges of membership for as long as the fees and/or subscriptions remain unpaid.

Each club will be required to purchase annually a Bowls England Year Book.

8 - DISSOLUTION

In the event of the Association being wound up or dissolved, the funds and assets of the Association remaining after all its debts and liabilities have been satisfied, including the costs and expenses of dissolution, shall be distributed by the Association in General Meeting to an appropriate body or appropriate bodies.

9 - OFFICERS

- (a) The following officers of the Association shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting in each year:

<u>Men</u>	<u>Women</u>
President	President
Senior Deputy President	Senior Deputy President
Junior Deputy President	Junior Deputy President
Honorary General Secretary,	Honorary General Secretary
Honorary Treasurer	Honorary Treasurer
Honorary Assistant Secretary	Honorary Assistant Secretary
Honorary Match Secretary	Honorary Match Secretary
Honorary Competition Secretary	Honorary Competition Secretary
Honorary Secretary and Treasurer of the Benevolent Fund.	

Newly elected officers shall assume office on the day following the day of their election.

- (b) No nominations shall be required for the offices of Presidents and Senior Deputy Presidents as those positions shall be filled by the promotion at the Annual General Meeting of the previous Senior Deputy Presidents and Junior Deputy Presidents respectively.

- (c) Any affiliated club or relevant section of an affiliated club desirous of nominating a candidate for any office other than President and Senior Deputy President shall make such nomination in writing signed by the club or section Secretary and countersigned by the candidate and send it to the relevant Honorary General Secretary no later than 31st August.
- (d) All nominations for office shall be reported by the Council (who may submit recommendations for the offices of Junior Deputy President) to the Annual General Meeting. If no nomination of a candidate for any office is received by the relevant Honorary General Secretary on or before the second working day after 31st August nominations for that office may be made up to and including the Annual General Meeting.
- (e) If more than one candidate is nominated for any electable office election shall be by ballot. Subject to the remaining provisions of this sub-rule successive ballots (omitting the candidate receiving the smallest number of votes at the previous ballot) shall be taken until a candidate receives more votes than the aggregate of the votes cast for all the remaining candidates. If there are more than two candidates for any electable office some (but not all) of whom receive an equal smallest number of votes the chairperson of the meeting shall determine by lot which of the candidates who received the equal smallest number of votes shall be omitted from the next stage of the ballot. If (whether originally or by elimination at an earlier stage of the ballot) there are two or more candidates for any electable office both or all of whom receive an equal number of votes the chairperson of the meeting shall determine by lot the candidate who shall be deemed elected.
- (f) In the event of an officer ceasing to hold office during the period of their appointment, the respective Council shall have the power to fill the vacancy until the next Annual General Meeting. This sub-rule shall not apply to the office of Junior Deputy President.

Before filling the vacancy the Council shall give clubs the opportunity of making a nomination.

10 - HONORARY GENERAL SECRETARY & HONORARY TREASURER

- (a) The Honorary General Secretaries shall agree between themselves who will convene, and prepare Minutes of all General Meetings of the Association.
- (b) The respective Honorary General Secretaries will submit to the Annual General Meeting a report of the proceedings of their part of the Association since the previous Annual Meeting.
- (c) The Honorary Treasurers shall render to the Annual General Meeting a precise account of the income and expenditure of the past year, for their part of the Association, examined and signed by two competent persons, who shall not be members of their Council, and who shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting. They shall keep the funds of the Association in a Bank approved by the Council.
- (d) Copies of the Honorary General Secretaries' Reports and the Honorary Treasurers' Annual Statements shall be sent to all members of the Councils and the Nominated Delegate of all affiliated Clubs at least seven days before the Annual General Meeting.

11 - ADMINISTRATION

The affairs of the Association shall be conducted by the Management Committee, the Men's Executive Committee, the Women's Executive Committee and both Councils in the following manner.

(a) Management Committee

(i) The Management Committee shall comprise:

the President (Men)

the President (Women)

the Honorary General Secretary (Men)

the Honorary General Secretary (Women)

the Honorary Treasurer (Men)

the Honorary Treasurer (Women)

One representative from the Executive Committee (Men)

One representative from the Executive Committee (Women)

Who shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting together with the two Immediate Past Presidents surviving (provided they remain members of a club affiliated to the Association).

The chairing of the Management Committee will alternate annually by gender unless otherwise agreed.

(ii) Meetings of the Management Committee to be held twice in any one year. Dates to be determined annually by the Management Committee, with provision to call additional meetings as and when required.

(iii) The responsibilities of the Management Committee are outlined in Appendix 1

(b) **Men's Executive Committee**

(i) The Men's Executive Committee shall comprise:-

(a) The President

(b) The Senior Deputy President

(c) The Junior Deputy President

(d) Immediate Past President (provided he remains a member of a club affiliated to the Association)

(e) The Honorary General Secretary

(f) The Honorary Treasurer

(g) The Honorary Assistant Secretary

(h) The Honorary Match Secretary

(i) The Honorary Competition Secretary

(j) Three Past Presidents

(k) An Officer of the Berkshire County Kennet League

(l) Any Bowls England Delegate appointed at the Annual General Meeting to attend general meetings of Bowls England and to vote, sign on behalf of the Association and undertake any other action required of a full member of Bowls England.

All shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting.

The Executive Committee shall have the power to co-opt person(s) as appropriate.

- (ii) Meetings of the Executive Committee to be held four times a year with provision to call additional meetings as and when required and subject to review.
- (iii) The responsibilities of the Men's Executive Committee are as outlined in the Appendix 2.

(c) **Men's Council**

- (i) The Men's Council shall consist of the Members of the Executive Committee, Honorary Life Members, County Coach, Greens Maintenance Representative, Secretary of the Benevolent Fund, an Officer of the Berkshire County Kennet League and one representative of each affiliated club (whose name and address shall be notified by the club to the Honorary General Secretary).
- (ii) The President shall be the Chairman of the Council and shall have a casting vote, in addition to his own vote.
- (iii) The Council shall meet in the month of October of each year and at any other time if necessary. Fifteen members shall form a quorum.
- (iv) Members of the Selection Committee who are not members of the Council shall be entitled to attend and speak at the meetings of the Council and to vote.
- (v) The Council shall in addition to any other Committee it may decide upon, elect an Executive Committee consisting of the Officers of the Association and three Past Presidents, an Officer of the Berkshire County Kennet League and the Executive Committee shall be empowered to co-opt additional non voting members as and when deemed necessary.

This Committee shall be empowered to deal with all matters arising in the interval between Council Meetings, except for matters relating to Selection and matters which would involve alteration to, or suspension of, the Constitution and Rules which shall be only in the power of the A.G.M. Five members of the Committee shall form a quorum.

(d) **Women's Executive Committee**

- (i) The Women's Executive Committee shall comprise:–
 - (a) The President
 - (b) The Senior Deputy President
 - (c) The Junior Deputy President
 - (d) Immediate Past President (provided she remains a member of a club affiliated to the Association)
 - (e) The Honorary General Secretary
 - (f) The Honorary Treasurer
 - (g) The Honorary Assistant Secretary
 - (h) The Honorary Match Secretary
 - (i) The Honorary Competition Secretary
 - (j) And one member from each zone
 - (k) Any Bowls England Delegate appointed at the Annual General Meeting to attend general meetings of Bowls England and to vote, sign on behalf of the Association and undertake any other

action required of a full member of Bowls England.

All shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting.

The Executive Committee shall have the power to co-opt person(s) as appropriate.

- (ii) Meetings of the Executive Committee to be held in January, April, May, June, July and September with provision to call additional meetings as and when required and subject to review.
- (iii) The responsibilities of the Women's Executive Committee are as outlined in Appendix 2.

(e) **Women's Council**

- (i) The Women's Council shall consist of the Members of the Executive Committee, Honorary Life Members, and one representative of each affiliated club (whose name and address shall be notified by the club to the Honorary General Secretary). The three Zone Selectors shall be entitled to attend and speak at Council Meetings and are entitled to a vote.
- (ii) The President shall be the Chairman of the Council and shall have a casting vote, in addition to her own vote.
- (iii) The Council shall meet as often as the business at hand demands. Fifteen members shall form a quorum.

12 - GENERAL MEETINGS

- (a) The Annual General Meeting of the Association shall be held in November of each year. Twenty five members shall form a quorum.
- (b) A Special General Meeting may be convened by the respective Council at any time, and shall be on a requisition signed by representatives of not less than three affiliated Clubs specifying the proposition or propositions to be submitted. Twenty five members shall form a quorum.
- (c) Fourteen days notice shall be given to all concerned of all Annual and Special Meetings.
- (d) Each affiliated Club shall be entitled to send two representatives to the Annual and Special General Meetings of the Association who shall be entitled to vote on all matters.

13 - COMPETITIONS

The Council(s) shall be responsible for all Competitions under their jurisdiction.

Each Competitor entering for a County Competition, whichever it may be, will purchase a County Year Book.

14 – SELECTION

(a) **Men's Selection Committee**

A Selection Committee shall be elected at every Annual General Meeting. The duties of the committee shall be:-

- (i) To appoint a Team Manager for a period of two years, who will be responsible for managing the Middleton Cup and Home Counties League Squads.

Note The Middleton Cup and Home Counties League Squads will comprise of players who are playing members of Clubs affiliated to the Association provided that such players:-

Have not played for another County, or entered or played in County Competitions for another County during the current season.

Are not the Team Manager, or one of the Group Selectors.

- (ii) To select the players who will form the Middleton Cup and Home Counties League Squads, from which the Middleton Cup and Home Counties League sides will be chosen.

Notes

The choosing of the sides for each match will be the responsibility of the Team Manager, with the assistance of the Group Selectors. They will be empowered to adjust the composition of the squads to cover non-availability of players, or to recommend the inclusion of additional, or replacement players to the Squads.

The Team Manager and Group Selectors will not be eligible to play in Middleton Cup, or Home Counties League matches, except in exceptional circumstances.

Officers and Past Presidents of the County, affiliated Club Secretaries, or existing County Badged players, are invited to submit the names of any unbadged player, or players, who are thought by them to possess both the ability and temperament to play in the Home Counties League matches. These names should be submitted to either the Team Manager or the appropriate Group Selector, so that their suitability can be assessed.

- (iii) To select teams to play in all non Middleton Cup and non Home Counties League matches. These teams to be selected from either Berkshire County badged players, or from those who have qualified, and been approved by the Selection Committee, to receive a County Badge.
- (iv) For the criteria for awarding County Badges, see Bye-Laws
- (v) Appoint an Under 30 Team Manager and Assistant Manager who together with the Junior Deputy President will form the Under 30 Selection Committee.
- (vi) The Committee shall consist of the following members: The President, and the Group Selectors (representing Groups as set out in 15 below), with the Honorary General Secretary and the Honorary Match Secretary attending ex officio.
- (vii) The representatives of the groups shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting in accordance with the following arrangements:

A new nomination for membership of the committee must be made on behalf of a Club in the Groups (as outlined in 15 below), signed by the Club Secretary and counter-signed by the Candidate.

The Council requires a candidate to have five years bowling experience at RCBBA County Level as a minimum entry condition for this position. The nomination must be sent to the Honorary General Secretary not later than the 28 days prior to the Annual General Meeting. The Honorary General Secretary shall send with the notice of the Annual General Meeting particulars of the Candidates nominated for membership of the Committee.

If more than one Candidate is nominated for a Group (as set out in 15 below), voting papers shall be given to the following representatives of each Club in the Group present at the meeting, namely the Club's Representative on the Council and the two Representatives appointed by the Club to attend the meeting.

The completed voting papers shall be handed to the Chairman and counted by the Scrutineers appointed at the meeting. Successive ballots (omitting the Candidate receiving the smallest number of votes at the previous ballot) shall be taken until a Candidate has a majority over all remaining Candidates.

If there are more than two candidates for any electable office some (but not all) of whom receive an equal smallest number of votes the chairperson of the meeting shall determine by lot which of the candidates who received the equal smallest number of votes shall be omitted from the next stage of the ballot. If (whether originally or by elimination at an earlier stage of the ballot) there are two or more candidates for any electable office both or all of whom receive an equal number of votes the chairperson of the meeting shall determine by lot the candidate who shall be deemed elected.

(viii) The venues for Home County Matches will be chosen by the Selection Committee.

(b) Women's Match Selection Committee

The Women's Match Selection Committee shall consist of the President, S.D.P., J.D.P., I.P.P., Honorary Competition Secretary, Honorary General Secretary and one Member from each Zone who shall be elected at the AGM. Its duties shall be to select teams for County and Representative matches. J.D.P. and Honorary Secretary to be ex-officio.

15 - COUNTY GROUPS, SECTIONS AND ZONES

For the purpose of County Competitions and the election of members to the Selection Committees the Clubs shall be divided into Groups, Sections or Zones The composition of the Groups/Sections/Zones shall be settled by the respective Council from time to time as may be necessary and the details of the Clubs in the respective Groups/Sections/Zones shall be set out in the Annual Year Book.

For the men each Selector shall be elected to represent 2 Groups which shall comprise:-

Groups 1 & 2	Section A
Groups 3 & 4	Section B
Groups 5 & 6	Section C
Groups 7 & 8	Section D

For the women each Zone (East, West, and Central) will nominate their own representative.

The appointment of members to the Selection Committees to be confirmed at the Annual General Meeting.

16 - MISCONDUCT/DISCIPLINARY APPEALS

(a) The respective Council shall be empowered to adjudicate upon any disputes referred to it, arising between or among affiliated Clubs and members thereof, as to the meaning or interpretation of the Laws of the Sport, or any of the Rules,

Regulations and Competitions, or any matter of practice policy or complaint which it shall hold to be within its jurisdiction.

- (b) Affiliated clubs or members of affiliated clubs may appeal, in writing, to the respective Honorary General Secretary of the Association, having exhausted all procedures at club level as determined by the Rules of the club. Any appeal to the Association must be lodged within 14 days of the decision of the club having been notified to the appellant in writing.
- (c) The respective Honorary General Secretary of the Association will convene an Appeals Panel to include a President or a Senior Deputy President together with 3 members of the respective Executive Committee within **28 days** of the date of receipt of the appeal.
- (d) The appeal will take the form of written evidence or in person by the appellant who is permitted to call evidence in support of the appeal. The club involved is required to provide the respective Honorary General Secretary with copies of the relevant letters and minutes relating to the appeal.
- (e) The decision of the Appeals Panel will be conveyed, in writing, to the appellant and others within 7 days of the hearing together with a copy of the relevant minutes.
- (f) In the event of the appeal being dismissed by the Association, the opportunity to appeal to Bowls England in accordance with Bowls England Rules, remains.

17 – INDEMNITY

Each member (**and employees from time to time**) of the Association shall (to the extent that such person is not entitled to recover from any policy of insurance) be entitled to be indemnified out of any or all funds available to the Association, which may lawfully be so applied, against all costs, expenses and liabilities whatsoever incurred by such person in the proper execution and discharge of duties undertaken on behalf of the Association, or arising therefrom, or incurred in good faith in the purported discharge of such duties.

18 - PROTECTION OF CHILDREN AND VULNERABLE ADULTS

The Association fully accepts its legal and moral obligations to exercise its duty of care and to protect all children (and vulnerable adults) participating in its activities, and to safeguard their welfare.

The Association is committed to do this by acknowledging that:

- (a) The welfare of the child is paramount
- (b) Each child irrespective of age, gender, religion, race or disability has the right to protection from abuse
- (c) Each child has a right to be safe, and to be treated with respect and dignity

The Association shall use its best endeavours to ensure that:

- (a) All allegations of abuse are taken seriously
- (b) The response to them is swift and appropriate
- (c) The effectiveness of the policy is reviewed annually

(d) Coaches, and other adults, have recourse to any allegation made against them.

(e) A responsible person(s) shall be appointed annually as a Child Welfare Officer, to whom members can address any concerns

19 – EQUITY

The Association shall ensure that no member, volunteer, employee or job applicant receives less favourable treatment on grounds of age, gender, disability, race, ethnic origin, nationality, colour, parental or marital status, pregnancy, religious belief, social status, sexual orientation or political belief. The Association shall ensure that everyone who wishes has an equal opportunity to participate in the sport of bowls at all levels and in all roles.

20 - ALTERATION TO CONSTITUTION AND RULES

A copy of the Constitution and Rules of the Association shall be sent to the Nominated Delegate of every affiliated Club.

Alteration of or addition to any or all of the Constitution and Rules shall be made only at the Annual General Meeting or at a Special General Meeting convened for the purpose. Written notice of the terms of the proposed alteration(s) or addition(s) (which shall also be stated in the Notice of Business for such meeting) shall be given to the Honorary General Secretary of the Association in the case of:

- (a) Annual General Meeting not later than 30th September.
- (b) Special General Meeting not less than 28 days before the meeting. The proposed alteration(s) and addition(s) shall be specifically stated by the Honorary General Secretary when sending out notice of such meeting.

No such proposal for alteration(s) or addition(s) to the foregoing Constitution and Rules shall be deemed to have been passed unless a majority of the votes cast are in favour.

21 – MATTERS NOT PROVIDED FOR

If any matter shall arise which in the opinion of the Management Committee is not provided for in this Constitution then the same may be determined by the Management Committee in such manner as it deems fit, and every such determination shall be binding upon Clubs and members of Clubs unless and until set aside by a resolution of a General Meeting.

22 – APPENDIX 1

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE RESPONSIBILITIES

Finance

1. Financial Performance
2. Annual Budgets
3. Sponsorship
4. Match Fees
5. Affiliation And Capitation Fees
6. Bowls England Fees

Policy and Management

1. Policy and Constitution
2. Logo / Colours
3. Annual General Meeting
4. Child Protection
5. Grievance and Discipline

Development

1. EBYDS
2. Bowls Coaching
3. Public Relations
4. National Representative

Competition and Matches

1. National Championships
2. National Competitions
3. Match Programme
4. Competition Programme

Member Services

1. Associate Members
2. Joint Handbook
3. Greens Maintenance
4. Civil Liability Insurance

23 - APPENDIX 2

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEES RESPONSIBILITIES

1. National Championships
2. County Competition Rules
3. County Competition Draw
4. Team Selection
5. Management of Budgets
6. Bowls England matters
7. Nominations for Honorary Life Membership
8. Liaison with other Counties for Touring Sides
9. Liaison with EBUA
10. Liaison with Kennet League et al
11. Liaison with Thames Valley League et al

THE ROYAL COUNTY OF BERKSHIRE BOWLING ASSOCIATION

BYE-LAWS

1 - HOW TO BECOME A COUNTY PLAYER

General

The Association will consider, and where appropriate, approve the awarding of a County Badge to a player who is a member of an affiliated club, and who:-

- (a) Has been awarded a County Badge by another County, providing that the County in question has awarded the Badge on the basis of bowling achievements, similar to that operating within Berkshire.
- (b) Or has been an International player in another Country which is a full member of World Bowls.

Note Nominations for Badge transfers should be made by the affiliated club of which the player is a member, and should identify the County/Country, which has awarded the Badge, plus the player's appropriate competition record in that County or Country. The Honorary General Secretary will verify the competition record of such a player with the appropriate County/Country Association.

Men

A County badge will be awarded to:-

- (a) Finalists of the County Singles, Pairs, Triples, or Fours. (The badge to be awarded on the day of the Finals, providing that in the team games, the player has played in at least four rounds of the competition, **including the Final**).
- (b) Winners of the County Unbadged Singles, Champion of Champions or Under 25 Singles competitions. (The badge to be awarded on the day of the Finals).
- (c) After playing their first Middleton Cup match. (A Middleton Cup flash will be awarded after a player has played his third Middleton Cup match for the County).
- (d) On playing in their third year as a Home Counties League player. (The badge will be awarded after the first match played in that third year). (A Home Counties League flash will be awarded after a player has played his third Home Counties League match for the County).
- (e) Quarter-finalists of the County Singles, or the County Pairs. (providing the Pairs players have played in at least four rounds of the competition, **including the last 16**).
- (f) Semi-finalists of the County Triples or the County Fours. (providing that the player has played in at least four rounds of the competition, **including the quarter-final**).
- (g) Semi-finalists of the County Champion of Champions, County 2 Wood Champion of Champions or County Unbadged Singles.
- (h) Losing Finalist of the County Under 25 Singles.
- (i) Winners of the County Double Fours, Club Championship, Mixed Double Fours Championship or Benevolent Triples. (providing that the player has played in at least four rounds of the competition, **including the final**).

- (j) Winner of the County Honorary Secretaries Singles.
- (k) National Quarter-finalists of the following Bowls England competitions:-
 - Inter Club Two Fours
 - Over 55 Singles
 - Over 55 Pairs
 - Mixed Pairs
 - Mixed Fours
 and Last 16 of the National Champion of Champions Singles

Providing that in the competitions, players have played in at **least six rounds** of the competition, **including the last sixteen**.

- (l) On playing in their first County match after being accepted as qualifying for a County Badge. The qualifications for acceptance are defined above.

Notes Consideration should also be given to any player who has won his Men's Championship Singles at least twice in the previous three years, provided, that such a player is nominated by his club.

Unbadged players possessing any one of the above qualifications should have their names submitted to the County Honorary General Secretary, by their Club Secretary, or by their Group Selector, or by the County Honorary Competition Secretary **no later than the 15th October**.

Nothing in these rules shall prevent the Selection Committee awarding a County Badge, if considered appropriate, to an officer of the Association.

Women

The way to become a County Player is to play in both Club and County competitions to try and gain a minimum of 10 points. These points to be earned within 8 bowling seasons. The County Badge will be presented on the first County game played. Should a Non-County player win the **County** Championship she will be awarded her County Badge on Finals Day.

At least one point from a County Competition must be included in the minimum of 10 points. Points to be reviewed by the Selection Committee following submission by your Club Secretary.

Points will only count from the Club in which the competitor enters her County Competitions. A player can only enter Champion of Champions from the Club where she enters County Competitions. Any Competition played as Mixed or Handicap will not count for points.

Allocation of Points:

- (a) A minimum of eight players to enter the competition for points to count towards County status.
- (b) A minimum of four rounds, including the final, must be played to obtain the maximum four points.
- (c) One point to be awarded to the winner for each round played and won up to a maximum of four points.
- (d) In the event of a walkover, the player will not receive any points in that round.
- (e) Should a Non-County player be beaten by a County player in the FINAL of the Club or County Championship or Two-Wood Singles Competition she will be awarded the same as the winner.
- (f) The Runner-up to receive one point less than the winner, unless the winner is a County player.

The table below shows how many points are awarded to the Winners and Runners-up of these ties.

CLUB COMPETITIONS			
Championship Singles	Winner	4 points	Runner-up 3 points
Two-Wood Singles	Winner	4 points	Runner-up 3 points

COUNTY COMPETITIONS			
Singles	Winner	4 points	Runner-up 3 points
Pairs	Winner	4 points	Runners-up 3 points
Triples	Winner	3 points	Runners-up 2 points
Fours	Winner	3 points	Runners-up 2 points
Two-Wood Singles	Winner	4 points	Runner-up 3 points
Unbadged Singles	Winner	3 points	Runners-up 2 points
	Losing Semi-Finalists	1 point	
U25 Singles	Winner	1 point (minimum of 4 players)	
Champion of Champions	Winner	2 points	Runner-up 1 point

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

An Unbadged player will receive a point for each round won at the Championships

- Notes**
- (a) Club Championship and Two-wood Singles must be played as a knockout competition.
 - (b) A photocopy of the completed draw sheets (with scores) for the above Club Competitions to be sent to the Zone Selector every year.

Any matter arising and not covered by the Rules will be referred to the Executive Committee whose decision shall be final.

2 - DRESS

Men

The dress to be worn at Inter-County and other representative games shall be as follows:- Navy Blue County Blazer, White Trousers, White Shirt, White Shoes and White Hat with County Hat Band or White Cap. Coloured shirts if worn must be specifically of a design approved by the Bowls England, and must be worn by each and every member of a team selected. County Badge must be worn on the left breast pocket unless superseded by International or Bowls England honours. White Shoes shall be worn for all Middleton Cup and Home Counties League Matches.

Women

(a) Association Matches

The dress to be worn at all Association matches and other representative games shall be as follows:-

Regulation cream skirt/trousers/cropped trousers and green blazer. Skirt to be two inches below the knee and have two pleats front and back. The County coloured top with badge. Cream jumpers, waistcoats and cardigans – all knitwear to be plain knit. Green fleece reversible jackets may be worn.

The wearing of hats is optional. When worn, hats to be approved cream/white with County hat band, with bow on the left side. White baseball caps may be worn on the green and they may display a discreet County logo.

Eye-shields, sunglasses, hinged or otherwise, may be worn.

White regulation bowling shoes. Brown walking shoes or sandals to be worn off the green with uniform. Handbags should be brown.

Tights/stockings are optional at all times but if worn must be in shades of brown.

(b) Funerals and Memorial Services

Dress for county representation at funerals and memorial services will be county blazer, grey skirt and brown walking shoes.

3 – COUNTY PLAYERS CODE OF CONDUCT

A bowler shall, at all times, conduct himself/herself in a manner that reflects favourably upon fellow bowlers, county and national authorities and Bowls England, both on and off the bowling green.

A County Player is defined as any person chosen as a Player or Reserve for County duty or in any Trial Team or Squad selected by the County. He/she shall have the following obligations for the duration of any event.

- (a) With respect to bowling - after Bowls England, give priority to any Squad get-together, practice match or event appertaining to his/her selection to represent the County.
 - (b) Observe at all times the relevant Rules and Regulations of the County, National, British Isles and World governing bodies of the sport.
 - (c) Accept control by the appropriate Team Manager in all matters as follows:
 - (i) Dress – both on and off the green
 - (ii) Squad get together and practice
 - (iii) Report at prescribed times punctually
 - (d) Make the appropriate Team Manager/Officer aware of any medication being taken prior to or when participating in Trials or County matches. Inform the Team Manager/Officer of any personal circumstances which may affect his/her performance in the team.
 - (e) To adhere to the currently applicable Drug Testing Policy of Bowls England.
 - (f) Not to render himself/herself unfit through alcohol or drugs either on or away from the green.
 - (g) To show respect to colleagues, opponents and officials and not to subject them to any physical or verbal abuse at any time.
 - (h) Not to give an interview to the press or media without the permission of the Team Manager/Officer whilst on County duty and, if given permission, to conduct himself/herself in a manner befitting a person representing their County.
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