



CLUB COMPETITION RULES

All competitions to be played under EBF Laws of the Game except where modified below.

Entries

1. All players must be fully paid-up members of the club at the time of entering the competition.
2. The entry fee and green fees for each competition is detailed on the competition entry form.
3. All team players' names must be provided when a competition entry form is completed in order that the correct entry fee will be added to the individual's monthly invoice.
4. In the case of multi player teams only the 'Team Captain' should enter a form.
5. Sole entrants and 'Team Captains' must sign the entry form confirming they and their team members will comply with the competition rules and be available to play on either or both days of Finals Weekend if successful.
6. For handicap competitions:-
 - a. Handicaps will be broadly based on the following criteria:
 - i. The league team you have played for in past seasons
 - ii. Previous success in all past internal competitions
 - iii. For new members past bowling experience and the level bowled at will be taken into account.
 - b. A handicap committee consisting of the competition secretary plus 2 other senior club members will decide the handicaps, based on the above criteria. These can be challenged and will be re-considered by the handicap committee for a final decision prior to the draw being made.

Arranging Matches

7. The first named player/team in each competition shall be the challenger. They are responsible for contacting their opponents, offering dates and booking a rink. New bowlers, see Appendix 1 for guidance.
8. The date for contacting offering dates shall be no less than two weeks prior to the play-by date for the first round and for subsequent rounds, no later than a week after the closing date for the previous round. All matches must be played on or before the play-by date.
9. In singles matches, during the knockout stages the first named player will need to arrange a marker. Markers will be provided for Finals Weekend.

Substitutes

10. A substitute must not have entered the competition or have played for another team in that competition.
 - a. A substitute may not be used for singles matches.

11. A player in a team who is replaced by a substitute for a match may be reinstated in a later round.

Unavailability

12. In the first round of the competition only if neither player / team is available to play by the 'play by' date the result will be decided on the toss of a coin in a club officer's presence.

13. Singles matches

- a. In the rounds leading up to the final, if an individual is unable to play their match by the due date (i.e. bereavement or sudden serious illness), either:-
 - i. permission must be sought from the competition secretary prior to the due date to delay the fixture, the decision given by the competition secretary will be final.
 - ii. they must withdraw.
- b. After the first round, in the case that the player withdraws, they will notify their losing opponents in the previous round of their reinstatement in the competition. There will be no 'walkovers' after the first round.

14. Team Matches

- a. If substitute(s) are used, at least one member of the originally entered team must play in a match.
- b. In the rounds leading up to the final, if a team is unable to play their match by the due date (i.e. bereavement or sudden serious illness), either:-
 - i. permission must be sought from the competition secretary prior to the due date to delay the fixture, the decision given by the competition secretary will be final.
 - ii. they must arrange for a substitute(s) to take their place, whilst observing b) above.
- c. After the first round, in the case that the team withdraws, they will notify their losing opponents in the previous round of their reinstatement in the competition. There will be no 'walkovers' after the first round.

15. Failure to fulfil an agreement to play an arranged match without a valid reason will result in the offending player/team being disqualified and the game being awarded to their opponents.

16. Should a player/team reach the Finals, if their team is unable to play on either or both days of Finals Weekend then their opponent in the previous round played will be reinstated. The only exceptions are bereavement or sudden serious illness.

Match Duration

17. Singles matches are unless otherwise specified first to 21 shots.

18. Handicap singles matches are to be played over 18 ends. ^(Rev2)

19. Pairs, triples and fours matches are to be played over 21 ends. ^(Rev2)

Visits to the Head

20. Only in singles matches may a player visit the head with the permission of the marker.

21. In team matches, no player may visit the head.

Playing Format

22. Any player may play or practise on the green prior to a match so long as they do not knowingly play on the rink on which they are scheduled to play a match within the 24 hours preceding the match.
23. Two trial ends each of 2 bowls per player are allowed in all rounds including the Finals Weekend.
24. The front edge of the mat may be positioned at least 2m from the rear ditch and at least 25m from the far ditch. (Jack minimum distance is therefore 23m)
25. In a tie break, the player winning the toss can take the jack or give it away.
26. If the jack is hit out of play the end will be counted with no shots scored.
27. Tied ends will count as a played end, the first to play in the tied end shall deliver the jack.
28. Drawn matches, an extra end will be played. The player winning the toss can take the jack or give it away.
29. Any match stopped due to adverse weather conditions including darkness, the current score and as applicable number of ends will be recorded. If the match is stopped prior to the completion of an end, the bowls should be left in place in case the match may be restarted. If the game cannot be restarted and if at least seventy-five per cent of the total number of ends has been completed or seventy five per cent of the total number of shots required in singles competitions has been obtained, in which case the score at the state of cessation shall be taken as the final score. If not, the game will then be rescheduled ASAP to continue from the point it was stopped i.e. score / number of ends played, whilst respecting the competition schedule.
 - a. Any end in progress, i.e. not all bowls have been delivered, at the point the game is stopped will be declared dead.
 - b. If any one of the original players in a team is not available, substitutes will be allowed in accordance with substitution rules.
 - c. When restarting, a 2 end roll up will be allowed with each player allowed a maximum of 2 bowls per end.
30. Club dress code must be adhered to by all players / markers, however in addition, black may be worn below the waist.^(Rev1)
31. Any disputes arising between players or teams must be referred to the Competition Secretary who will adjudicate.
32. The winners of the 2 Bowl Singles competitions will be invited to represent the club in the following season's County Champion of Champions Competitions.

Rules Specific to Competitions

LANGTOFT 19

- Setup - The 'jack' is placed over a golf tee in the centre of the rink at the start of each end, mats remain on the 2-metre mark for the whole game.

- The winner of a coin toss shall choose EITHER to pick which direction to play OR to play first. If choosing to play first their opponent will choose direction to play or if choosing direction their opponent may choose to play first or second.
- 4 Bowls, 19 ends, 2 practice bowls for each player from the starting direction ONLY. One player at each end of the rink, bowling in turn toward the centre. Shots scored decide the winner.
- Players alternate playing direction AFTER EACH END.
- If the 'jack' is moved during the end it is NOT repositioned. If played off the rink or more than 2 metres away from the starting point, the end is to be replayed. (To deter firing, any player moving the jack by more than two metres from its starting position on the tee more than 3 times during the game will be disqualified and will forfeit the match)
- In a tie break, the player winning the toss can play first or choose their direction of play.

FIXED JACK

- Setup - Three tees are required, the first one is positioned on the 2m mark from the odd number end. The second one is positioned at the 2m mark from the even number end. The third tee is placed at the minimum 23m mark from the odd number end in line with the yellow markers on the sides of the green. This is to ensure that if the 'jack' is moved and therefore repositioned, it is repositioned to its exact starting point and tees provide a reference point for the front of the mat at each end.
- Played with 4 bowls over 11 ends with 'jack' set at shortest length (23m) on odd ends and at full length on even number ends using the two tees set as above, therefore 6 'short ends' are played and 5 'long ends' are played. The mat is always set at 2m.
- There are no practice ends, it is straight in. ^(Rev3)
- If the 'jack' is moved during play, it must be reset before the next player bowls, using the golf tees already positioned. If a bowl prevents reset on the golf tee, the 'jack' must be placed as near as possible on the rink centre line and towards the appropriate ditch.
- Scoring at each end is based on the nearest four bowls with 'shot' receiving 4 points, 2nd bowl 3 points, 3rd bowl 2 points & 4th bowl 1 point.
- Player with 'shot' plays first at the next end regardless of points scored.
- Winner is the player with the most points scored after 11 ends.
- If scores are level then extra end(s) played on alternating short / long until tie broken. As with the main game, all four bowls count towards the score (not just the closest bowl) in extra ends.
- ^(Rev3)

HANDICAP SINGLES

- Open 3 bowl singles played over 18 ends. ^(Rev4)
- Handicaps will be broadly based on the following criteria:
 - The league team you have played for in past seasons
 - Previous success in all past internal competitions
 - For new members past bowling experience and the level bowled at will be taken into account.

A committee of 3 consisting of the competition secretary plus 2 other members from the committee will decide the handicaps, based on the above criteria. These can be challenged and will be re-considered by the committee for a final decision.

NOVICE SINGLES

- Open 4 bowl singles, winner first to score 21 with no limit on the number of ends played.^(Rev6)
- The competition is for all members who fulfil the following conditions:
 - Have not won a National or County competition in any format of the game
 - Have not won a singles competition of any type at Langtoft or any other club.

MENS AND LADIES 4 BOWLS

The format of these competitions has changed to reflect the 'modern format' of many televised games and the Open Singles Circuit.

- Each game should be played over the better of two sets, with each set consisting of nine ends.
- The winner of a coin toss shall choose either to play first or second in the first set. The opponent will have the option to play first or second in the second set.
- The winner of a set will be the player with the highest number of shots when the ninth end is completed. The winner will score 1 point.
- If the shot scores are tied after the ninth end of the set, the set will be a draw. Each player will score ½ a point.
- There should be no further play in a set if, at any point, it becomes impossible for one player to win or draw that set given the number of ends left.
- If the match is tied at two drawn sets or one set each, a best of three ends tie-break will be played to determine the winner. This will be the winner of each end and NOT the total number of shots won in the three ends.
- In the tie breaker:-
 - The player winning the toss shall choose whether to take the jack or give it away in both the first & third ends (assuming a third end is required) or to take or give away the jack in the second end.
 - If an end is drawn or killed, the end will count.
 - There should be no further play in the tie-breaker if, at any point, it becomes impossible for one player to win the tie-breaker, given the number of ends left.
 - If the shot scores are tied after the third end of the tie-breaker, by virtue of a drawn or killed end(s), the players should play a fourth tie-breaker end for which the player winning a "new" toss shall have the choice of starting or giving the jack away.
 - The fourth end will be played with each player delivering a single bowl to determine the winner. If opposing bowls are equal distance from the jack, they will be removed, and further single bowls will be played to determine the winner. In any such fourth end, the jack, if hit off the rink will not be respotted and the end will be restarted.

MENS AND LADIES 2 BOWLS^(Rev5)

First to score 21, no limit on the number of ends played.

MIXED PAIRS, OPEN PAIRS AND OPEN TRIPLES^(Rev5)

Two bowls, 21 ends, extra end if scores are level.

For the avoidance of doubt, consult the EBF rules

<https://www.fedbowls.co.uk/laws-of-the-game-2023> for issues arising not covered above.

Appendix 1 - Help for new bowlers on arranging matches

Arranging matches can seem quite daunting to many players, but needn't be so and any of the more experienced bowlers will be available to help, if in doubt, ASK. In essence the process is as follows:-

- Once the next round of fixtures are available, be it the first round or subsequent round, take a look at the draw.
- If you are first named in the draw, often known as the 'Home Player/Team', the onus is on you to arrange the match.
- Have a quick check on the rink booking system to be aware of for example green closures for maintenance or league matches etc.
- So, speak to your team members, if you are playing singles, then this is easy 😊 Ideally you want to be in a position to 'offer' your opposition, three date / time combinations. So check with your teammates and agree when you could play. Of course you need to have a think about your opposition circumstances and whether they for example work, so you don't want to waste everyone's time, organising and offering them date / time combinations during the working day.
- Ok, so you know when your team could play, now check rink availability, the three date / time combinations you've agreed with your teammates, are rinks available to play?
- So, now you know your team is available and rinks are available, speak to your opposition, tell them the three date / time combinations and ask them to check with their team mates.
- The onus is now on the opposition to get back to you within 2 days.
- Once the opposition confirms their preferred date / time, then you can book the rink, confirm to your teammates and if you are playing singles, then you can ask someone to come and mark your match, again, don't feel shy to approach a more experienced member to mark for you.
- At this point, let your opposition know that everything is now booked and you'll see them on the date agreed.

Internal Knockout Competitions 2025 schedule (example)

	Start	Complete By	Days to complete
Entries Close		Sunday 18/05/2025	
Draws to be made		Wednesday 21/05/2025	
Round 1	Saturday 24/05/2025	Friday 13/06/2025	21
Round 2	Saturday 14/06/2025	Friday 04/07/2025	21
Quarter Final	Saturday 05/07/2025	Friday 25/07/2025	21
Semi Final	Saturday 26/07/2025	Friday 15/08/2025	21
Contingency	Saturday 16/08/2025	Saturday 23/08/2025	8
Finals Weekend Planning	Sunday 24/08/2025	Friday 29/08/2025	6
Finals Weekend	Saturday 30/08/2025	Sunday 31/08/2025	

Revision Table

Rev.	Date of change	Section	Details
1	23/05/2025	30	Change to allow players/markers to wear black below the waist for internal competitions.
2	30/06/2025	18 & 19	All team competitions i.e. Open pairs, mixed pairs, open triples, to be played to 21 ends as per information on website and per previous years. Rules erroneously stated 18 ends which conflicted with the website.
3	04/07/2025	Fixed Jack	Comment "EBF Laws apply for establishing 'counting' bowls." removed as not required as first comment in the rules states <u>"All competitions to be played under EBF Laws of the Game except where modified below."</u> Point added - There are no practice ends, it is straight in.
4	04/07/2025	Handicap Singles	Comment "Open 3 bowl singles played under EBF Laws of the game. (18 ends)" amended for clarity to "Open 3 bowl singles played over 18 ends" as first comment in the rules states <u>"All competitions to be played under EBF Laws of the Game except where modified below."</u>
5	04/07/2025	Rules Specific to Competitions	For completeness, added sections for Mens and Ladies 2 bowls Mixed Pairs, Open Pairs and Open Triples
6	04/07/2025	Novice Singles	Comment "4 bowl singles played to E.B.F. Laws of the game (21 shots)." amended to "Open 4 bowl singles, winner first to score 21 with no limit on the number of ends played."