



HARROGATE BOWLING CLUB

CLUB COMPETITION RULES

(REVIEWED 2026)

The Club competitions and their associated trophies are competed for annually. All games are to be played in accordance with the Laws of the Sport of Bowls, as laid down by World Bowls, and subject to any relevant rules and bye-laws, as stipulated by the Club. In the event of an exceptional situation arising, which is not covered by the Laws of the Sport of Bowls, it is expected that common sense and sportsmanship will prevail.

1. Entering Competitions

All playing members are encouraged to enter Club Competitions and internal leagues.

All entry forms with the exception of one day competitions will be provided by email to all members and will also be available in the club-house and specifically at Club Competition Information and Enrolment sessions. Entry forms / sheets should be completed as directed on the sheet, by the relevant stipulated closing date.

Entry sheets for all one-day competitions will be posted during the season on either the Competitions notice board, or the Ladies / Gentlemen's notice board, as appropriate.

Social members may not enter any of the Club competitions.

2. Competitor Availability

All entrants to the Club competitions must be available to play during the Finals weekend on either/both dates and on the Monday reserve day, the dates of which are indicated on the entry form and within the fixture book. Entrants will not be allowed to choose the day of their final. Should bad weather cause any final to be postponed, every effort will be made to accommodate players.

In the event of a finalist in a singles competition becoming unavailable to play their scheduled match, the matter will be considered by the Competitions Secretary. When there is an acceptable reason for the non-availability, e.g. illness or injury, the Competitions Secretary may postpone the final to another suitable date. If there is no reason acceptable to the Competitions Secretary, the match will be awarded to the other finalist. In the event of a finalist in a pairs/triples competition becoming unavailable the Competitions Secretary may give consent for a substitute in accordance with Section 11 below.



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3. The Draw

The Competitions Secretary and Club Captain(s) makes the main draw for the Club Competitions, and establishes closing dates for each round. One-day competitions will be drawn on or near the day by the organiser.

Any member may attend the main draw, the date and time of which will be displayed on the Competitions notice board and advertised to members via email.

Known as a Managed Draw, the draws for the Gilly Pairs, the Gentlemen's Pairs, the Horobin Trophy, the Ebor 2-4-2 Pairs and the Verity Frearson Mixed Triples competitions shall consist of a mixture of 'high' handicap and 'low' handicap players, the 'high' and 'low' levels being determined by the number of entrants in each competition.

Some of the one-day competitions will also use Managed Draws.

4. Arranging a Game

The Challengers - the top names on the competition draw sheet for each game - are responsible for making the rink booking and, for a singles match, arranging a marker. They are also responsible for making contact with the opposition initially offering 2 dates to arrange the match but this does not preclude the opposition from making the initial contact.

All competitors are responsible for notifying opponents, at the earliest opportunity, of any dates on which they are unable to play. If no suitable date can be agreed, the Challenger must inform the Competitions Secretary of the position and seek a ruling.

5. Reserving a Rink for a Competition Game

A rink for a Club Competition match should be booked on the Club's rink diary, identifying the name of the challenger and the competition involved.

6. Dress Code

Competitors and markers involved in Club Competition rounds, up to and including the semi-finals, should wear 'greys or blacks' in accordance with the Club dress code, as detailed on the Club website. Finals are played in 'whites and club shirts.'

7. Handicaps and Handicap/Managed Draw Competitions

Prior to the commencement of each season, members' handicaps will be allocated by the respective Captains, posted on the members' area of the website, and notified to the Competitions Secretary who will post the list on the noticeboard.



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Handicap games (The Schofield Trophy and The Joy Liddell Rose Bowl) start with the 'net' handicap being displayed on the scoreboard.

Managed Draw games must not use handicaps for scoring the game, as the handicaps will have already been applied for the draw.

8. Competition Scorecards

Scorecards must indicate the competitors' names, the date, the competition title, handicaps where appropriate and, on completion, be signed by both opponents. The name(s) of the player(s) progressing to the next round should be immediately recorded on the competition sheet on the Competitions noticeboard, and the scorecard deposited in the appropriate box.

9. 'Play By' Dates

Any player failing to meet the closing date of a round without reasonable cause or permission may be disqualified. An extension of the closing date will only be allowed for bad weather or ill health/injury and if permission is given by the Competitions Secretary. Please note that holiday absence or other bowling commitments is not considered 'reasonable cause.'

10. Withdrawal from a Competition

Any player who withdraws from a competition must notify the Competitions Secretary of the withdrawal. Players must take care not to over-commit when entering competitions, as withdrawal for this reason is unfair and disruptive for other players.

11. Substitutes in a Pairs/triples Competitions

Substitutes are allowed in the pairs/triples competitions with the consent of the Competition Secretary.

If a player withdraws from a self-selected pairs/triples competition, any player who satisfies the requirements of the competition may be chosen as a replacement.

If a player withdraws from a drawn pairs/triples competition, the Competitions Secretary is responsible for allocating a replacement, giving priority, subject to the requirements of the competition (i.e. high/low handicap, lady/gentleman), to reserves from the original draw, in the order drawn. If a game has been played by the original team, every effort will be made to find a replacement with the same or lower handicap as the withdrawn player, within the same handicap group.



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A substitution may be for one game only or as a permanent replacement for the withdrawn player, in which latter case the substitute must be available for the Finals Weekend.

Substitutes must not have already played in the competition.

12. Finals Weekend and Results

The Competitions Secretary is responsible for appointing umpires, markers and assistant markers for the Finals Weekend, following which the Competitions Secretary will notify the Website Co-ordinator of all competition results and post a copy on the notice board.

13. Cups and Trophies

All cups and trophies are the property of the Club, and must be returned to the Club on request, and in any case, no later than the week prior to the Finals Weekend of the following season.

Changes to Competitions and their governing Rules must be approved by the Management Committee and subsequently notified to the members. A copy of 'Club Competitions' and 'Club Competition Rules' are to be displayed on the website and on the Competitions notice board at all times.