

IWIBA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS RULES

1. The National Championships are open to playing members of Clubs in membership of the Association. Players must be fully paid up and be registered members of the club they represent.
2. A competitor may only enter or play in all National Championships through one Member Club, even though she may be an eligible member of more than one club.
3. Players under suspension or expulsion from a Member Club shall not participate in National Championships through that club.
4. U25 competitors must be U25 before September 30th to play in the same season.
5. Club/Competition Secretaries administer the Championships within designated clubs under the guidance of the IWIBA Secretary.
6. The names of all team members in Pairs, Triples and Fours must be included on the entry form.
7. Entries in all National Championships are accepted on the understanding that competitors may be subject to random drug testing at any time.
8. A competitor entering in a Team Championship the Pairs, Triples and Fours, is not permitted to be a member of any other team in the same individual Championship. Competitors who have entered an individual Championship and are a named entrant cannot afterwards play in another team in the same individual Championship, irrespective of whether or not they have actually played in their original entry.
9. One additional (and the same) player of the same Club may however, be used as a substitute at any time provided they have not already played in the individual Championship or been named on another team within the individual Championship. A substitute may play in any position.
 - a. Once a substitute has been used, only she may be used as a substitute in future ties. The “Original Team” shall consist of those players who are named on the entry form.
10. Players who have entered a National Singles and/or Under 25 Singles Championships and subsequently change membership to another Club within the IWIBA may transfer their entry with them. Subject to the draw for National Singles and/or Under 25 Singles Championships not having taken place in the Club to which they have transferred.
11. In the case of National Singles, Pairs, Triples, Fours and Under 25 Singles Championships, an entry will be declared invalid if a competitor has entered into another Country’s Championships or has represented that Country in the same season.
12. Initial rounds of Championships will be played on competitors home greens.
13. Rink Fees will be at discretion of home club.

14. Any competitors failing to be ready at the agreed time will be allowed 15 minutes to be on the green ready to play. The failure of a player or players to appear after a maximum waiting period of 15 minutes (except in exceptional circumstances) from the time fixed for the start of the game, shall cause the player(s) to forfeit the game to their opponent. Exceptional circumstances to be determined by the Club/Competition Secretary in respect of initial games played on home greens and by the IWIBA Secretary in respect of games played at the National Finals event.

15. The length of time of individual qualifying rounds, up to and including semi-final matches, played on home greens will be subject to the arrangements at each individual club. The final matches should be played as set out below:

a. U25 SINGLES and SENIOR SINGLES, 4 bowls each, 21 Shots or 4 Hours

PAIRS, 4 bowls each, 21 Ends or 4 Hours

TRIPLES, 3 bowls each, 18 Ends or 4 Hours

FOURS, 2 bowls each, 21 Ends or 4 Hours

b. The 4hrs does not include trial ends or extra ends. BIIBC Rule 10.3 which states ‘At the end of the appropriate time limit a bell will be rung and umpire will declare **NO JACK** but the end in progress must be played to a finish,’ will apply for club final matches. Start time must be agreed by both players from the same timepiece and marked on the scorecard. If a game is unable to continue due to unforeseen circumstances, the competitors must return as soon as possible to complete the game.

c. In the qualifying rounds played on home greens the re-spot rule will be used in accordance with BIIBC Rules.

National Finals Event

16. At the major finals of the IWIBA (classified as the National Finals Event) all competitors will be allowed a practice session on the green being used for the National Finals Event, prior to the competition starting only if the Club has available rinks. It will be the responsibility of individual competitors to arrange this with the host club.

17. Teams and players who are playing opponents who have played a previous qualifying round may have a 1hr practice on the green being used for the National Finals but not on the rink/s they will be playing on.

18. The length of time of individual final matches will be played as set out below:

a. U25 SINGLES and SENIOR SINGLES, 4 bowls each, 21 Shots or 4 Hours

PAIRS, 4 bowls each, 21 Ends or 4 Hours

TRIPLES, 3 bowls each, 18 Ends or 4 Hours

FOURS, 2 bowls each, 21 Ends or 4 Hours

- b. At the National Finals Event the re-spot will be used in accordance with the BIIBC rules.
- c. The Umpires are in control of timings and will indicate the start and finish of games by the ringing of a bell and advise what time should be entered on the scorecard. BIIBC Rule 10.3 which states 'At the end of the appropriate time limit a bell will be rung and umpire will declare **NO JACK** but the end in progress must be played to a finish,' will be applied.

Playing Arrangements:

19 The draw for qualifying championship games at home greens must be posted on club noticeboards with dates stating when the qualifying rounds are to be played on or by, using specified dates for each round.

- a. If a game is to be brought forward the defaulting skip/singles Opponent is to be offered two alternative dates by their opposing skip/Challenger. If the Opponent is a named player in a Competition ie International Indoor Bowling Council (IIBC) Championships or Inter-Stadium match and is offered that same date to play a National Championship the Challenger must offer an alternative date.
- b. If the opponent has previously arranged to play another National Indoor Championship on one or both of the two dates offered or is on Indoor/Outdoor International duty or on IWIBA business, the Challenger is required to offer alternative dates (if the time-frame allows.)
- c. When challenged, being on holiday is not sufficient reason for demanding alternative dates. If an agreement cannot be reached on a date and time, then the tie will be played on date as indicated on the draw sheet.
- d. A competitor who is challenging the result of a game should contact the Club/Competition Secretary within 24hrs of the conclusion of that game with the nature of the grievance. If the Club/Competition Secretary cannot resolve the issue to the satisfaction of both competitors, then the issue will be escalated to the IWIBA Secretary for consideration of the IWIBA Council whose decision will be final.
- e. The winning team are to advise the Club/Competition Secretary of the result within 24 hours of the game being completed. The final results of the qualifying rounds should be forwarded to the IWIBA Secretary by the date specified by the IWIBA Council.

20. Winners of the qualifying rounds and eligible qualifiers from the Vice-President's Club will compete in the National Finals Event.

21. The order of play at the National Finals Event will be in accordance with the draw made at the previous Annual General Meeting.

Dress Code

22. Dress for the initial rounds of the individual National Championships played on competitors' home greens is subject to rules at the Club where the tie is being played.
23. Dress for the National Finals shall be white above and below the waist. The only exception to this is if recognised club shirts are to be worn in an individual championship, where all players in the team must wear the same type of shirt. All shirts must be the same.

Stamping of Bowls

24. The approved working reference bowl shall have a bias approved by the World Bowls Ltd, and the International Indoor Bowls Council. All bowls shall have a bias not less than that of the approved working reference bowl, and shall bear the imprint of the stamp of World Bowls Ltd. All composition bowls (ie not lignum Vitea) must have a legible stamp dated 1987 or later on them for playing in Championships on home greens and at National Finals level. The players proceeding to the British Isles or International level must have a World Bowls stamp with a date which has not expired. Stamps are valid until 31 December of the current playing year.
25. The Laws of the Sport of Indoor Bowls shall apply in all circumstances not covered by these National Championship Rules.