



Top Four Competition Rules

1. The competition is open to all clubs and will be played under the Laws of the Sport of Bowls and Bowls England Domestic Regulations.
2. There is a Men's competition for 'Men Only' rinks and a Women's competition for 'Women Only' rinks.
3. Clubs may enter as many teams as they wish in both the Men's competition and the Women's competition.
4. Rink personnel may be changed throughout a competition. However, a player may play in only one of the Club's rink entries.
5. Neither Club entry nor playing rink requires a Badged player. However, a playing rink must NOT comprise more than ONE player who is County Badged or Badge-qualified at the time of entry.
6. Each game shall consist of 18 ends – two bowls each player.
7. If a match is not completed due to exceptional circumstances/adverse traffic or weather conditions, refer to Section 7 of the Bowls Surrey Competition Rules.
8. The Challenger is the first-named team in the draw.
9. The Challenger shall be responsible for all match arrangements including the choice of green. Games shall be played with a start time no earlier than 6 pm on weekdays or 10 am at weekends. A game may be started earlier by mutual agreement. Matches must start within 30 minutes of the arranged time unless otherwise agreed.
10. In the first round the Challenger shall contact their opponent at least 2 weeks prior to the closing date of that round.
11. In subsequent rounds up to and including the **Area Semi-final**, the Challenger must contact the opponent within 48 hours of the closing date of the previous round. The opponent must respond within 48 hours.
12. In all rounds the Challenger must offer 3 dates on different days of the week. At least one must be a weekend date and another must be a weekday date.
13. If the opponent has not been challenged within the 48-hour period, the opponent shall become the Challenger. The new Challenger must offer 3 dates as per Rule 9 within 48 hours of becoming the new Challenger. The match shall be played on the green of the new Challenger's choice.
14. The Quarter finals will be arranged by the Challenger and played on a neutral green by the play-by date.
15. No extensions will be given to the round closing dates or, in the case of the County Semi-finals and Final, the fixed dates.

16. Should there be any problems in contacting an opponent or adhering to these rules a Competition Co-ordinator/Secretary must be advised and their ruling shall be final.
17. Both scorecards must be signed by each Skip and retained by the winning club.
18. The winner of each round shall either enter their result online or telephone the result to a Competition Co-ordinator/Secretary no later than 10 pm on the day the game is played.
19. In any dispute a Competition Co-ordinator/Secretary must be contacted and their ruling shall be final.
20. The choice of venue for the County Top Four Finals Day will be on an area rotational basis – Area Three in 2026, Area Four in 2027, Area One in 2028, Area Two in 2029 and so on.
21. The County Men’s Top Four winning rink will have their Club name engraved on the Tom Nicholds Cup.

The County Women’s Top Four winning rink will have their Club name engraved on the Top Four Challenge Trophy.

Each of the Men’s four clubs and the Women’s four clubs represented at the County Finals will receive a bannerette and cash prize.

22. The four representative teams in the semi-finals for both Men and Women will become a Combined Areas team to play against either the Men's or Women’s President the following year. The matches will be played on the Winners’ green. **There are no badge restrictions for the Combined Areas matches.**

The combined scores of both matches will determine whether the Presidents or the Combined Areas win the Ted Medhurst Trophy.

23. The entry fee for each team will be the same as the entry fee for the County Fours competitions.
24. The entry fees for the Men’s competition will be distributed on the following basis:

Winner’s club	40%
Runner Up’s club	25%
Third placed team’s club	15%
Fourth placed team’s club	10%
Bowls Surrey	10%

25. The entry fees for the Women’s competition will be distributed on the same basis as the Men’s competition.