

National Championships

The Competition

Each member county/metropolitan district/unitary authority member (hereafter referred to as counties) of the English Carpet Bowls Association will be invited to enter a team in the National Championships.

No county is under any obligation to enter a team.

Venue

The venue will be decided by the committee. Where the venue includes accommodation, and the venue owner stipulates, all competitors must be resident at the venue for the duration of the event.

Teams

Each team will consist of 6 rinks of 4 players with a minimum of 24 players and a maximum of 32 players.

Before the start of play on Saturday the county captains must submit the names of the players that constitute their team.

If a county is unable to bring a full team it is acceptable for them to use players from other member counties, provided they have not already been selected for their home county's team.

If two counties are unable to make up full teams they may band together to form a joint team. The make-up of this team, i.e. the numbers of players which each county provides and how those players are distributed amongst the team's blocks will be decided by the two counties.

Players may be substituted at any time but no player may play in more than one rink.

The Format

Each team's Rinks will be designated A, B, C, D, E & F.

Each Rink A will play all the other Rinks A from each of the other competing counties, each Rink B will play all the other Rinks B, etc.

As far as possible each Rink will play half their games on Saturday and the other half on Sunday. Where there are an odd number of counties competing this will not be possible for every Rink but the games will be scheduled as evenly as possible.

Two points will be awarded for a win and one point for a draw.

The total points accumulated by each county's six Rinks will be used to determine the eventual winners. In the event of points being equal positions will be decided by shots for and finally by shots against.

The Games

Each game will consist of 9 ends. However if the number of competing counties drops such that there is extra time available in the schedule the length of the games may be increased to 11 ends.

The games will not be timed, however teams should be near the mat and ready to play a few minutes before the scheduled start time.

Where the mats are laid out in blocks all games in each block should commence at the same time.

The team named first on each scorecard will bowl with the black woods.

The skips at each mat will toss to decide which team will bowl first.

There will be no trial ends.

ECBA Rules

This competition's rules will take precedent over ECBA Rules, which will apply in all other circumstances.

Measuring

Skips will be expected to do their own measuring or defer the responsibility to another player in the Rink.

There will be a designated referee available during each session to measure in the event of difficulty or dispute.

Wherever possible an independent Referee will be on duty, however this may not always be possible. If a Referee is called for that person's authority over the matter in hand must be respected regardless of their county affiliation. Any lack of respect displayed towards Referees will be regarded as a breach of the Code of Conduct.

Having called a Referee the players must stand clear of the mat while the measuring is taking place and must accept the decision without question or comment. The Referee's decision is final.

Code of Conduct

It is the policy of the Association that all carpet bowlers and spectators show respect and understanding for each other and conduct themselves in a way that reflects the principles of the Association.

All players and supporters of teams are expected to act in a manner which does not prejudice the good name of the English Carpet Bowls Association or their County, and to conduct themselves in a manner that will not have any reproach on the Association or the sport of Carpet Bowls.

The ECBA will not tolerate or condone any of the following from players or spectators either during the event or whilst socialising:

- Drunken or loutish behaviour which causes annoyance to other people (eg causing an unnecessary disturbance such as running and shouting through confined areas such as corridors).
- The use of foul or abusive language in such a manner as to cause offence to the person being spoken to or people in the vicinity.
- Under no circumstances will any form of threatening or derogatory remarks directed at individuals, players or spectators be accepted.
- Causing damage to other people's property (wilful or accidental).
- The theft of other people's property.
- Causing an affray.

This is not an exhaustive list but it does give an outline of actions that may result in a complaint being made against an individual or group attending a venue which is being used to hold an ECBA event.

Dress Code

The Officers of the ECBA reserve the right to exclude any player wearing clothing that is considered as being outside the prescribed dress code, which is smart casual trousers with a shirt/polo shirt for men and either skirt or trousers with blouse/polo shirt for ladies.

Sweatshirts will be allowed if they conform to county regulation.

What will not be allowed are:

Jeans or skirt/trousers made of similar material or style; shorts; track or jogging suits of any type; polo shirts not

conforming to county regulations.

This Dress Code will be strictly enforced and a one point deduction will be made for each infringement.

Equipment

Players must treat all the equipment with respect and must not stand or walk on the mats.

Smoking, eating or drinking near to the mats is not allowed.

Players must also respect any guidelines on acceptable footwear as proscribed by the venue owners.

Fund Raiser

One of the competing counties, as determined by the ongoing rota will be expected to run the fund raiser or raffle over the course of the weekend.

Each county will provide draw prizes for the raffle of a value to be determined by the ECBA Committee and reviewed annually.

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