

RULES OF THE COUNTY TOP 4 (Revised Feb 2017)

XX. COUNTY TOP 4 COMPETITION

The competition is open to all clubs and will be played under the Laws of the Sport of Bowls and Bowls England Domestic Regulations. Entries are restricted to 'Men Only' rinks

RULES

1. The competition will be self-financing. Administration and organisation of all rounds up to and including the Area Final will be the responsibility of each of the County Areas. Area semi-finals and final will be played on neutral greens and will be concluded in sufficient time for the County Top Four Finals Day which will be the responsibility of the County Assistant Secretary.
2. **Rink Entry Fees** will be determined by each Area which will make such cash or other prize award to the Area Winners and Finalists as they see fit.
3. The *Area Top Four Competition* is a **CLUB ENTRY** – but the **Club may enter as many Rinks as it wishes**.
4. **RINK PERSONNEL** may be changed throughout the 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. The Area Top Four Competition Secretary will send a copy of these **RULES** together with the **DRAW** to each Rink Correspondent at least **ONE** month before the 1st Round.
7. **THE HOME DRAWN CLUB IS THE CHALLENGER** who must offer **THREE DATES**, at least **ONE** of which will be a weekend date.
 - (i) for **1ST ROUND TIES**, dates must be offered **at least 14 days before the closing date of the 1st round**.

Thereafter,

 - (ii) if dates are **NOT** offered within 3 days following the closing date of the previous round, **on the 4th day** - and no later - **the OPPONENT** must notify the Competition Secretary who
 - a. **will give the rights of CHALLENGER to OPPONENT**, including the right to play the tie on the Opponent's own Green
 - b. **tell the new CHALLENGER to offer dates** as above **within 48 hours**.
IF THIS PROCEDURE IS NOT FOLLOWED, BOTH RINKS WILL BE ELIMINATED.
8. **NO EXTENSIONS** will be given to the Round closing dates - or, in the case of the semi-final and final, the fixed dates.
9. **BOTH SCORE CARDS** must be signed by each Skip and sent by post or email to the Area Top Four Competition Secretary. *To help the Competition Secretary, Correspondents should telephone the result, **and** send or email the score cards.*
10. In any dispute, the AREA COMPETITION SECRETARY'S DECISION IS FINAL.
11. Each Area's Top Four winning Club will represent the Area at the County Top Four Finals Day, the date for which will be decided by the Combined Areas at their Autumn meeting. The semi-finals and final will be played on the same day.
12. The County Top Four winning Rink will have their Club name engraved on the *Tom Nicholds Cup* and their Club will receive a bannerette and cash prize, the sum being determined by Council each year. The losing finalists' Club will receive a plaque. Players in the winning Rink and losing finalists will receive a cash prize determined by Council each year.
13. The choice of venue for County Finals Day will be on an Area rotational basis commencing in 2017 with Area Three, followed by Area Four in 2018, Area One in 2019 and Area Two in 2020
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