

CLUB COMPETITIONS: Rules and Scoring

Players should complete ties by the designated date for that particular round. If a match cannot be played by that date, then one week's grace will be allowed, provided that the date agreed by both teams is entered in ink on the board.

Adjudications, appeals and decisions regarding fixtures will be made by Alan Charran.

All competitions are drawn – that is, there is no seeding.

Scoring: In all matches (excluding the fixed jack singles and in deciding sets – see below), scoring is based on 1 point for the bowl nearest the jack, with additional point(s) if also in second (/subsequent) positions.

Duration: Some matches are played to a fixed number of **ends**, some are won by the first team to reach a defined number of **points**, and some are played in **sets** – see below for each competition.

Sets: A set is formed of a fixed number of ends with the usual scoring, as described above. A match consists of 2 sets. Scores from one set are not carried over into the following set.

If teams win one set each, a **deciding set of 3 ends** is played. **In this deciding set, the scoring system is different from normal** – the winner of each end scores just 1 point, irrespective of how many woods they have nearest the jack.

Handicap: A handicap competition is played to the same rules as the equivalent non-handicap competition; the handicap applied to a team is based on their previous experience or results – better teams attract higher positive handicaps, less experienced teams may have negative handicaps.

SINGLES: 4 woods each. The first-named player is responsible for arranging a **marker**.

- **Men's & Ladies' Championships.** First to **21 shots**.
 - **Handicap singles:** The winner is the first player to reach **their own target in shots** – the handicap is added to 21 to give the winning score for each player. Thus if player A has a handicap of +2, they must reach 23 to win, and if player B has a handicap of -3, they must reach 18 to win.
 - **Senior Trophy:** A singles tournament for players of age 75 years+ before 1 April 2026. First to **21 shots**.
 - **Burston/Wheelhouse** is for bowlers who have not won a singles competition in **any** club. **21 shots**.
 - **Fixed Jack:** The jack is placed at the minimum length (23m) on the first end, at the maximum length on second end, and so on. The best four bowls at an end score 4,3,2,1, respectively, so there are 10 points per end. The first player to reach **90 points** wins (use the special wooden easel scoreboard).
 - **2-wood singles:** Played over **21 ends**. The match finishes early if the losing player can no longer win within the remaining ends.
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PAIRS: 4 woods each. Pairs are selected by the organising committee (apart from in the Mixed Pairs).

- **Handicap pairs:** Played over **18 ends**. The handicaps are moderated so that the stronger team (i.e., the one with the highest number as handicap) starts at 0. Thus, if team A has handicap +2 and B has handicap -1, the scores start with A at 0 and B at 3. The match ends early if one team can no longer win.
 - **2-wood pairs:** 2 **sets** of 7 **ends**. If necessary, there is a deciding set of 3 ends, as described above.
 - **Mixed pairs:** Pairs are self-selected (see Noticeboard), with games played over **18 ends**.
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AUSTRALIAN PAIRS: The members of each pair alternate playing lead or skip throughout. Assume that A & B play as a pair. In the first end, A delivers 2 woods, then B comes to the mat to deliver the next 4. To complete the end, they change places again for A to deliver the final 2 bowls. In the second end, B delivers the initial 2 bowls, A the next 4, and B the final 2. This pattern of end-swapping is repeated throughout the match.

The early rounds take place on a single day (normally a Saturday in August – see Noticeboard) on which each pair plays 3 other pairs. These matches are played as **2 sets only** – no deciding third set. Results are aggregated into a league table, with 2 points scored for each set won and 1 for each set drawn.

The 4 top-placed teams in the league go forward to the knockout phase, which is played later, with matches taking place over **2 sets of 7 games**, with a deciding set as described above, if necessary.