WELLINGTON BOWLING CLUB OUTDOOR COMPETITION RULES

1. Competitions are open to fully paid-up outdoor members of Wellington Bowling Club only. There must be at least 8 competitors in a singles competition and 8 teams in a pairs' competition. Paid-up members can enter as many competitions that they are eligible for.

2. Entry into competitions is included in your annual outdoor membership fee which must be paid before 1st May in order to be allowed to enter club competitions.

3. The first named (top) player on the draw list, the challenger, is responsible for contacting the second named player, the opponent, as soon as possible, to arrange a mutually convenient date for their match. The challenger should offer **three** alternative dates. The challenger will also be responsible for providing a marker for singles matches. However, where the play-by date is imminent it is suggested the opponent contacts the challenger to try to arrange a convenient date to play the match.

4. **Club Night**- Club Competition matches are NOT to take place on a Club Night after 6.00pm.

5. Failure to complete a match by the play by date will result in the challenger (first named player) forfeiting the match; unless it can be proved that the fault lies with the opponent. Players can progress with future rounds as soon as both players are known. The competition committee will consider each un-played match on a case-by-case basis. See, also, rule 9.

6. In the interest of fair play any Member playing Club Competitions must neither practice on, nor play more than one Competition match on the same rink on the same day.

7. **Scoreboards/scorecard**- Scoreboards should always be used and a scorecard indicating the competition being played must be kept for all matches. For singles games, the marker will keep the scorecard and for all other matches, the SKIPS of each team will mark separate score cards, conferring with the other at regular intervals during the contest to verify accuracy. One of the scorecards should be signed by both skips upon completion of the match and left in the box for the Competitions Committee who will then annotate the draw.

8. **Trial Ends**- All matches will commence after 2 trial ends of 2 woods by each player, and the toss of a coin will decide who shall start.

9. If a player succeeds through to a point where they know they cannot play their next match (holidays, illness, whatever) they must then concede. The defeated player from the previous round will be offered the option to progress if they wish. If players have what they consider to be exceptional circumstances, they may appeal to the Competitions Committee via Janet Moore, but this must be done one week before the play by date. In the event of reaching the Semi-Final and not being available for Finals Weekend the losing Semi Finalist will play in the Final.

10. **Leaving the green** – a player may leave the green at any time during a match for a call of nature, to get refreshments or to retrieve equipment/clothing left in the Clubhouse.

11. **Abandoned Matches** – Where a game has commenced and has to be abandoned due to adverse weather, poor light, etc., the teams shall: 1) Continue from the point the match was abandoned subject to trial ends by agreement , or 2) agree that the result will stand provided: in a singles game, at least one player has twelve shots or more, except in the case of a Handicap Singles game, where at least one player has reached half their required score (rounded-up) plus one shot. In a pairs game (or two-wood singles), at least 11 ends should have been played.

12. **Dead Ends** – are where a jack is pushed off either side of the rink. The end shall not be counted or added to the scorecard but will be replayed from the same direction.

13. **Tied Ends** – are where it cannot be decided which bowl is shot, i.e. where they are identical distances away from the jack. In this case the end is counted and added to the scorecard, but no score is added for either side.

14. **Dress** – for all competitions for players will be greys/maroon, with white tops (or club shirts). Markers should dress in a similar fashion.

15. **Markers**- All entrants in the singles competitions are expected to act as "markers" for other matches. Though a common-sense approach is expected where new and inexperienced bowlers are involved. For quarter finals onwards markers will be chosen from the nominated markers list which will be displayed on the competition notice board

16. **Substitutes** – No substitutes are allowed. If one player in a pair's team becomes unavailable, that pair will forfeit the match.

17. Excepting all local conditions and amendments above, all games will be played in line with the Spirit and Laws of the Sport of Bowls (Crystal Mark 4th edition). Players must be considerate with respect shown to other bowlers.

18. **New Bowlers Competition**- This competition is open to both men and ladies new to bowling who have been coached by the club and became members on or after 1st May 2024. Previous Winners are excluded from entry.

19. **Draws –** Will be made on Bowlr

20. **Punctuality –** Any player arriving more than 15 minutes after the agreed start time is disqualified.

21. **Booking Matches** – All matches must be booked using the club BowlR system. When booking please select final player as 'club competition'

22. **Handicaps -** After the closing date handicaps will be given as per the published criteria. Any member can challenge their handicap with the Competition Committee for review - any decision made will be final.

The Outdoor Competitions Committee

Version updated April 2026