

S.D.S. LAWN BOWLS CHAMPIONSHIPS

R U L E S (updated April 2014)

The event will be run under the rules of Bowls Scotland with the following amendments:

1. INTRODUCTION

The championships are organised on a multi-disability basis. There is a unique section (Section 1) for totally blind bowlers but all other visually impaired bowlers will compete against ambulant physically disabled bowlers.

2. ELIGIBILITY

There will be nine Sections – refer to enclosed classification sheet.

3. AIDS AND ADAPTATIONS

3.1. All wheelchair users must play from the protective covering on the green. No wheelchairs will be allowed on the grass. Bradshaw Buggies are permitted at the championships and users of these chairs must restrict themselves to the protective covering. Wheelchair users will bowl from one end only and in one direction. Wheelchair users are no longer restricted to bowling ramps because the green at the Westburn Park is fully accessible following the removal of part of the banking and the installation of a ramp.

3.2. An individual may use an ordinary chair to rest upon, or bowl from, if they bring a hardboard covering to position below legs of the chair. Please note that the protective covering for a small individual chair is a team responsibility.

3.3. Visually impaired bowlers (Sections 4-7) may use a thin green string and/or callers and the clock face system. Callers must be careful not to disturb other bowlers. An individual who helps a visually impaired bowler must stand to the side while a sighted opponent takes his/her shot. In Sections 4-7 Directors/Buddies are not permitted to verbally instruct bowlers during play.

Totally blind bowlers in Group 1 may receive assistance from Directors or “Buddies”. Directors may stand in front or to the side of the bowler to set him/her up. Markers or volunteers may also communicate the state of the head to the bowler.

3.4. Players who use aids and adaptations (eg. sticks) should restrict their movements to protected areas. Bowlers using sticks and crutches may not follow bowls towards the jack and risk damage to playing surface. An exception applies when sticks are covered with wide protective rubber stoppers.

4. COMPETITION FORMAT

4.1 Each Section of the competition will be organised on a knock-out basis. Each tie will be played for the lesser of 25 shots or a time limit to be

determined by the championship organiser (time limit approximately 35-40 minutes).

4.2 At the end of the allocated time e.g. 40 minutes each player has to deliver the same number of shots. It is not necessary to complete the end. An exception will apply in all finals where the end will be completed.

4.3 In the event of a tie at the end of 40 minutes a full extra end will be played from the opposite end. A coin toss will determine who leads.

5. **OFFICIALS**

a) **Jury of Appeal**

Three senior officials of S.D.S. shall be appointed a jury of appeal to deal with any disputes concerning eligibility to compete, use of aids and adaptations, and all other matters related to the disability aspect of the championships.

b) **Umpires**

An umpire, who shall be a senior official of a bowling club affiliated to Bowls Scotland, shall be appointed to perform the duties of that office as laid down in the rules of Bowls Scotland.

c) **Markers**

Markers shall be competent playing members of clubs affiliated to Bowls Scotland but in the event of an insufficiency of such markers, other persons experienced in bowling competitions may be appointed to act.

6. **ENTRY QUALIFICATION**

The championships are open to:

- a) defending champions, and
- b) the leading player(s) from qualifying Branch championships.

Each year the exact number of places will be notified well in advance.

7. **EQUIPMENT**

Competitors must use outdoor bowls. It is the responsibility of escorts to ensure that competitors have the correct equipment in time for the start of a tie. Players are asked to turn out in grey flannels/skirt and white tops or all whites. Correct footwear (without heel) is essential

8. **LATE ARRIVAL**

Any unnecessary delay will be penalised by awarding shots to the non-offending player - one shot for every three minutes delay.

9. **FITNESS OF PLAYERS**

Team leaders are reminded that the Scottish Championships are for the best bowlers in the country. Players must be fit to bowl, if requested, with the minimum amount of rest, over a period of several hours. Play will not be held up for individuals who cannot meet the demands of continuous play. (Unexpected medical problems on the day will of course receive the appropriate attention).