



LEATHERHEAD BOWLS CLUB

Short Mat Competitions – Rules 2023/24 season

General

1. Each match will start with a toss to determine possession of the rink. The winner of the toss may elect to take the mat or give it away to their opponent.
2. Once the mat is placed by the player in possession of the rink, it is deemed that possession of the rink is decided and it may not then be given away.
3. In subsequent ends, the winner of the previous end has possession of the rink. It may not be given away at this point.
4. Two trial ends may be played at the start of the match, if the players wish it. Players to agree the number of bowls to be used.
5. In all cases of singles matches, players may only visit the head with the permission of the marker.
6. In the event of a tie, an extra end will be played. Toss for jack on extra end. As with the start of the match toss, possession of the rink may be given away.
7. The Challenger will be the first named bowler for each match on the sheet. At least two weeks before the due date, the Challenger should offer 3 dates of different days and times to the opponent. If a mutually satisfactory date cannot be agreed, before the play by date, the Challenger may claim a walk over. Failure by the challenger to offer dates will result in match forfeiture to the opponent.
8. Challenger arranges for someone to mark.
9. If the jack goes off the rink, the end to be replayed, from the same end.
10. It is the responsibility of the players to check the number of ends to be played in a competition. If the players shake hands at the end of a match, the result at that point shall stand, even if an incorrect number of ends has been played (either less than or more than the required number).
11. All matches shall finish 15 minutes before a club session is due to start. If the match is not completed by this time, the end shall be completed and the result at that point shall be taken as the final score. If this results in a tie or the result cannot be determined, the winner shall be decided by the toss of a coin. Club sessions are due to start at 2.30 pm on Mondays and Wednesdays, 6.30 pm on Friday and 10.00 am on Saturdays.
12. If a player finds that they are unable to take part on finals day (Saturday 5th April 2025) they MUST immediately withdraw from all competitions. The opponent they are due to play will progress to the next round. If the semi-final has been played before a player withdraws, the losing semi-finalist shall qualify for the final.
13. Entrants for the Houston Cup competition may not have won any other Short Mat competition, at any time, before the start of the current season.
14. Any complaint regarding the organisation or running of the competitions shall be made directly to the Short Mat Co-ordinator who will convene a committee to discuss and evaluate any complaint. The committee ruling is final and will be communicated to the complainant. Complaints will not be accepted when made via 3rd parties.

Short Mat Competitions – Rules

4 Bowls Singles Championship and the Houston Cup

1. Each player shall have 4 bowls
2. First player to 21 shots is winner
3. Marker required.

3 Bowl Pairs

1. Teams are drawn to include 1 experienced player and 1 less experience where-ever possible
2. Each player shall have 3 bowls
3. The match shall be played over **18 ends**.
4. Teams may change positions between ends at any time during the match.
5. In the event of one member of a team not being able to play, a substitution is permitted at all stages, provided the substitute has not previously played in the current competition. Where possible the substitute should be of equivalent competence. Substitution should be agreed with the opposition with arbitration by the organisers if necessary.
6. No marker required but bowlers may wish to ask an experienced short mat player to be on hand to arbitrate where there are close decisions or difficult measures to be determined.

Sets Competition

1. Each player shall have 4 bowls
2. Best of **2 sets**, each of **9 ends**.
3. Winner of a set gets 1 point
4. If the set is drawn each player gets ½ point.
5. If after 2 sets there is a tie, the match shall be decided by the best of 3 ends. On these ends the score does not count. The winner of an extra end will be awarded 1 point.
6. There will be a toss at the start of the first extra end and, if necessary, before the 3rd extra end. As at the start of the match possession of the rink may be given away.
7. For the 2nd extra end, possession of the rink shall be by the winner of the first extra end. It may NOT be given away.
8. If a player cannot win or tie a set the rest of the ends shall not be played.
9. The winner of the last played end in the first set shall have possession of the rink for the first end of the second set irrespective of who won the set. It may NOT be given away.
10. Marker required.