NORTHAMPTONSHIRE INDOOR BOWLING ASSOCIATION

COUNTY COMPETITION RULES

(Amended 2026)

All competitions will be played according to the normal format.
Singles, Under 25 Singles, Under 30 Pairs, Pairs, Triples, Fours & Tipler Rose Bowl.

The Association will run the above competitions during each season
(subject to there being sufficient entries)

1. Rules specific to Singles Competitions.

1.1. All matches will be 4 wood competitions with the winner being the first to obtain 21 shots.
1.2. Under 25 singles entrants must not have attained the age of 25 years on 30th April in the year of the Final.

2. Rules specific to Pairs, Triples, Fours, and the Tipler Rose Bowl Competitions.

2.1. Under 30 Pairs entrants must not have attained the age of 30 years on 30th April in the year of the Final.
2.2. The Tipler Rose Bowl will be a Rinks competition for Association members who have attained the age of 60 years on the 1st October in the year the competition commences.
2.3. All matches will consist of 18 ends.
2.4. Tipler Trophy matches up to and including the Quarter Final can commence no later than 4:30pm if mutually agreed.

3. Rules pertaining to all Competitions.

3.1. All members of a Pairs, Triples, Fours or Tipler Rose Bowl team must belong to the same affiliated club.
3.2. Players may not enter County League Matches & County Competitions from more than one affiliated club in the same season.
3.3. All games will be played under the indoor laws of the game with the following exceptions
  3.3.1. Two trial ends may be played if mutually agreed.
  3.3.2. No Dead Ends. Re-spots to be used
  3.3.3. Re-spotting the jack. Participating clubs will place spots at both ends of each rink level with and 1.5 metres each side of the "T".
  3.3.4. Should during play, the jack be driven outside the confines of the rink (i.e. A Dead End) the jack will be replaced on the spot at the side of the rink that the jack left the rink.
  3.3.5. Should the spot be obscured by a bowl or bowls the jack will be replaced as close to the spot as possible without touching the bowl(s), and in line with the "T".
3.4. Play-by dates will be set by the Competition Committee and will be strictly adhered to. 'Play By' date extensions will only be considered if pre-booked match dates clash with National Competition Selection or there is a family emergency.
3.5. Offering Dates.
  3.5.1. The first named player will be the challenger who must provide the opponent with the minimum of two 'eligible dates', one of which may be a weekend date.
  3.5.2. For the first round the Challenger must provide 'eligible dates' at least 14 days prior to the first 'play by' date. The Opponent must accept an 'eligible date' within 72 hours.
  3.5.3. For all subsequent rounds the Challenger must provide 'eligible dates' within 72 hours of the end of the previous round. The Opponent must accept an eligible date within 72 hours.

3.5.4. The Opponent can elect to become the Challenger if no dates are received within 14 days of the round 1 'play by' date or 72 hours after the previous round. They then must offer 'eligible dates' within an additional 72 hours and can elect to play at their home club. The original 'Challenger' must accept an eligible date within 72 hours.

3.5.5. If both Challenger and Opponent fail to offer dates or accept eligible dates as per 3.5.2 & 3.5.3 both players/teams will be disqualified.

3.6. Any player in Singles or teams in Pairs, Triples or Fours or the Tipler Rose Bowl failing to turn up on the agreed date or within 30 minutes of the agreed start time will forfeit the game and be liable for all the green fees, these will be collected by the NIBA Competition Committee.

3.7. Substitutes In Pairs, Triples, Fours or Tipler Rose Bowl,

3.7.1. Players taking part in the first game will constitute the original entry, one additional player of the same club may be used as a substitute at any time provided, they have not already played in the competition. Substitutes can play in any position.

3.8. Each player will pay their own green fees.

4. County Finals.

4.1. All finals shall be played on a single weekend and at a venue set by the NIBA Executive.

4.2. This date will be published on the competition entry form and NIBA Website.

4.3. Players who know in advance that they are unavailable on the published dates should consider whether to enter.

4.4. Requests for additional substitutes for the final will be considered, but may not be granted, by the Competition Committee for players who subsequently become unavailable provided that at least one member of the original team remains.

4.5. Singles players who are subsequently unavailable will cede their final place to their semifinal opponent.

4.6. Any dispute will be settled by the Competition Committee. Their decision will be final.