



PORTSMOUTH AND DISTRICT BOWLING ASSOCIATION

Founded 1925

P&D COMPETITION RULES

(As Approved at the P&D 2026 AGM, held 29th January 2026

All Changes are in Red)

P&D Competition Rules

Revision Information

Approval Date	Amendments
07/01/2014	The Following Amendments were Approved at the 2014 AGM: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Ivan Robb Memorial Trophy to be run • Clarification that Sides for Rowland Cup Matches MUST Contain 16 Players
13/01/2015	The Following Amendments were Approved at the 2015 AGM: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clarification of what makes up an entry to a P&D Competition • Clarification of the Date & Time a Challenger Can Offer An Opponent • Clarification that an Electronic Copy of the Match Scorecard Can Be Sent to the P&D Competition Secretary • Clarification that Semi-Finals & Finals Need Not Be Played on a Neutral Green • Local P&D Ruling on Who Keeps The Scorecard in Fours Competition
10/01/2017	The Following Amendment was Approved at the 2017 AGM: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clarification of How To Report Match Result to the Competition Secretary
09/01/2018	The Following Amendments were Approved at the 2018 AGM: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clarification of the Maximum Amount a Club Can Charge An Opponent • Clarification that the Challenger CAN chose which Rink a Game Will Be Played on (<i>Local Ruling</i>) • Clarification that it is Only the Winner who sends in BOTH Scorecards to the Competition Secretary and the procedure to follow if a Walkover has been given • The <i>Dress Code</i> Rule (now Titled "<i>Bowls and Dress Code</i>") was Extended to Include the Definition of What is a Legal Bowl as well as Dress Code • Update to the Score Card Responsibilities in Fours (Rinks) Games
16/01/2020	The Following Amendments were Approved at the 2020 AGM: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clarification that there are Local P&D Amendments to Bowls Laws • Clarification of How a Substitute Can Be Used • Clarification on How to Offer Dates and Forfeiture of Challengers Rights • Clarification on the Running of the Rowland Cup • Addition of the Rules Governing the Champion Of Champions Tournament
13/01/2022	The Following Amendments were Approved at the 2022 AGM: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clarification of the Competitions Run by the P&D and Trophies Received • Expansion of Player Eligibility for ALL P&D Competitions • That Junior Bowlers will No Longer Be Charged an Entry Fee
26/01/2023	The Following Amendments were Approved at the 2023 AGM: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teams playing in Mixed Competitions CAN ONLY be Made Up From A Maximum of 2 Clubs • When Offering Dates, One MUST be a Weekday and One MUST be a Weekend
08/02/2024	The Following Amendment was Approved at the 2024 AGM: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Team Games and Rowland Cup are now to be played over 18 Ends

P&D Competition Rules

Approval Date	Amendments
30/01/2025	<p>The Following Amendments were Made for the 2025 Season</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The New Centenary Cup required amendments to these Rules: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 2.1; 2.3; 2.4; 3.1; 6.1; 16: • The Following were Approved at the 2025 AGM: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Rule 4: Dress Code – to bring into line with current BE Guidance ○ Rule 12: Disqualification/Forfeiture Reasons Updates ○ Rule 14: Clarification why 2 Days are Set Aside for Semi-Finals and Finals ○ Rule 15: Clarification on how Rowland Cup Semi Finals will be Run
29/01/2026	<p>The Following Amendments were Approved at the 2026 AGM:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rule 1 (Playing Conditions) – Updated to include Use of Groundsheets, Clarification on Mid Game Breaks and Inclement Weather • Rule 4 (Bowls and Dress Code) – Updated in Line with League Rule 13 (Player Regulations) • Rule 8 (Constitution of Teams and Player Substitution) – Use of a Substitute Clarified • Rule 10.4 (Score Card Responsibilities) - No Need to Record End Time • Rule 11 (Match Results) - Rewritten and includes New Match Outcome Appeal Process

P&D Competition Rules

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P&D Competition Rules

1 Playing Conditions

1.1 All Games Shall Be Played in Accordance with the Laws of the Sport of Bowls, adopted by World Bowls, the Bowls England (BE) Variations (Bowls Laws)

1.2 **NOTE:** There are Local P&D Amendments to these Bowls Laws which are shown in the Rules that follow

1.3 Use of Groundsheets

The Use of Groundsheets is Covered in Bowls Laws C12 (Definition of a Groundsheet) and 6.1.5 (Use of Groundsheets)

At the 2026 P&D AGM it was Unanimously Agreed that Groundsheets Could be Used for ALL P&D League & Competition Matches, as follows

1.3.1 A Club May make Use of Ground Sheets if they Wish to Protect their Green

1.3.1.1 Only Recognised Bowls Ground Sheets Can Be Used

1.3.1.2 One or More Ground Sheets May be Used

1.3.1.3 Can be Used Either from Start of Play Or At Any Time During Play

1.3.1.4 They are to Stay in the Same Position Until the End of Game

1.3.2 If None Available, Match Can Be Abandoned if Wear on Green is Getting Worse

1.3.3 Positioning of Ground Sheet

Please refer to the "Positioning of Ground Sheet" PDF that can be Downloaded from the P&D Website.

- It is recommended that Club Secretary's Download and Print Off a Copy and Pin it to their Club's Notice Board for Easy Reference and Use**

1.4 Mid Game Break

Bowls Law 32 is Quite Specific in this Area, as follows:

- "No Player must Delay Play by Leaving the Rink of Play Or Their Team Unless Their Opponent Agrees, and then Only for No More Than 10 Minutes"**

At the 2026 P&D AGM it was Agreed that this Rule was to be Applied to ALL P&D League & Competition Matches, as follows

1.4.1 Mid Game Breaks are NOT Permitted in P&D Competition Matches

P&D Competition Rules

2 P&D Competitions

The P&D runs the following Competitions

2.1 Men Only Competitions

- **Individual & Team**
 - Singles and Over 60's Singles
 - Pairs
 - Triples
 - Fours
- **Champion of Champions** (Singles)
- **Side Competitions**
 - Rowland Hospital Cup
 - Centenary Cup
- **Junior Competitions** (When Number Of Entries Permits)
 - Under 25 Singles
 - Under 18 Singles

2.2 Mixed Competitions

- Pairs
- Triples
- Fours
- Ivan Robb Memorial Singles

2.2.1 Entries in the Mixed Fours MUST consist of 2 Men and 2 Ladies

2.2.2 The Ivan Robb Memorial is for a Club's Secretary, Treasurer or Both

2.3 Game Formats

2.3.1 All Team & Side Competitions are played over a **Maximum of 18Ends**

2.3.1.1 Extra End(s) To Be Played IF Score Is Level After the Final End of the Match Has Been Completed

2.3.2 All Singles Competitions is the First to 21Shots

2.4 Trophies

2.4.1 Annual Trophies

2.4.1.1 The Winners of all the above Competitions will receive a Trophy, which MUST Be Returned at the End of the Following Season

- The Winner of the Rowland Cup will receive the Rowland Hospital Cup
- The Winner of the Centenary Cup will receive the P&D Centenary Cup

2.4.1.2 In Addition, the Runners-Up in the Men's Singles and Rowland Cup will also receive a Trophy, which MUST Be returned at the end of the following season

2.4.2 Commemorative Plaque

In All Side Competitions, the Winners AND Runners-Up will each Receive a Commemorative Plaque

2.4.3 Individual Trophies

2.4.3.1 Every Winner and Runner Up will Also Receive a Trophy to keep

P&D Competition Rules

3 Player Eligibility

3.1 Champion of Champions and ALL Side Competitions

- 3.1.1 Players taking part in these Competitions MUST be Members of the Club for whom they are Registered with the Association
- 3.1.2 Failure to Comply with this Rule will Disqualify Clubs and Players from the Competition(s)
- 3.1.3 Players who Transfer Clubs during the Season ARE Eligible to Play for Their New Club in a Side Competition, PROVIDED they Have NOT Played in Earlier Rounds for their Previous Club that Season

3.2 Men's Competitions

- 3.2.1 Any Player wishing to enter a P&D Men's Competition MUST do so via the Club who has Registered him with to the P&D (i.e. IF they are a member of more than one Club, then it is only from the Club who has Registered them that they can enter from)
- 3.2.2 In Team Competitions (i.e. Pairs, Triples & Fours), ALL the Members of the Team MUST be from the SAME Club and ALL be Registered with the P&D
- 3.2.3 If a Player Transfers from one P&D Club to another during the Season and is Registered with his new Club, then:
 - If He Has Entered any P&D Competition from his Old Club then He Is No Longer Eligible to Play in any Single or Team Competition in which He WAS a Named Player
 - If He Didn't Enter any P&D Competition from His Old Club or Play In Any P&D Competition Prior to His Transfer, then He Can Be Used as a Substitute in a Team from His New Club

3.3 Mixed Competitions

- 3.3.1 Teams playing in these Competitions CAN ONLY be Made Up From a Maximum of Two (2) Clubs, Provided that the Male Players are Registered with the P&D
- 3.3.2 Please Refer to Rule 3.3.1 above re Registration and also Rule 3.2.3 should a Male Player Transfer Clubs during the Season

4 Bowls and Dress Code

4.1 Bowls

- 4.1.1 **Bowls Used Must Adhere with "P&D League Rule 13 - Player Regulations"**

4.2 Dress Code

- 4.2.1 **In Mixed Competitions Only:**
 - 4.2.1.1 **If Team Members are from Different Clubs they MUST Wear White Above the Waist, Grey Below the Waist**
 - 4.2.1.2 **Otherwise, ALL Players MUST Wear their Club's Dress Code Registered with the P&D**
- 4.2.2 **For All Other Competitions:**
 - 4.2.2.1 **ALL Players MUST Wear their Club's Dress Code Registered with the P&D**

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5 Fees

5.1 Competition Entrance Fee

- 5.1.1 Entry for the Ivan Robb Memorial is Free
- 5.1.2 Entry for Junior Players (i.e. those Under 18 Years of as at 1st May of Season in Question) is Free
- 5.1.3 For ALL Other P&D Competitions, the Entry Fee is Determined by the Executive Committee of the Association

5.2 Match Fees

- 5.2.1 In the Rowland Cup, the **Home** Club pays the Green Fees
- 5.2.2 In all other P&D Competitions, it is the **Loser** of the Game who is responsible for paying the Green Fees
 - 5.2.2.1 **NOTE:** The Maximum that a Club can charge a Loser is £3.00 per Player
- 5.2.3 The Green Fees of the Semi-Finals and Finals of ALL P&D Competitions and also the Champion of Champions are covered by the P&D

6 Competition Draw

- 6.1 Apart from ALL Side Competitions (see Rules 15.3 & 16.2), the Draws will be made on the Saturday following the Closing Day for Entries
- 6.2 Dates on which Rounds are To Be Played, or When They Are To Be Completed By, will be set by the Competitions Committee

7 Men's Fours and Triples

- 7.1 The Men's Fours and Triples matches will be played on Fixed Days, as set by the Competitions Committee
- 7.2 These matches MAY be played prior to the Fixed Date, but ONLY by Mutual agreement between the Teams involved

8 Constitution of Teams and Player Substitution

8.1 Constitution Of A Team

- 8.1.1 In all Competitions, the Entry Need Only Contain One Name – The Team Contact
 - 8.1.1.1 That Named Entry Shall NOT Play in Any Other Entry in That Particular Competition
 - 8.1.1.2 Nor CAN He/She be a Member or a Substitute of Any Other Team in the Same Competition
- 8.1.2 The Players Taking Part in the First Game of the Respective Competition Constitutes 'The Team' for the Remainder of That Competition
- 8.1.3 One Additional and the Same Player May Be Used as a Substitute at Any Time Provided He/She Has NOT Already Played in that Competition
- 8.1.4 **Unless Covered in the Player Substitution Rule below, a Substitute MAY Play in Any Position**

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8.2 Player Substitution

- 8.2.1 **If a Player has to leave a Game Due to a Serious Medical Emergency Requiring Professional Assistance, then:**
- 8.2.1.1 **The Match is to be Abandoned Immediately and when Replayed Treated as a New Match (i.e. Starts from Beginning)**
 - 8.2.1.2 **The Competition Secretary is to be Informed**
 - 8.2.1.3 **When the Match is Replayed, if a Substitute has to be used, He/She CANNOT Skip (as per Law 33.4 of the Bowls Laws)**
- 8.2.2 **If a Player has to leave a Game for any Other Reasonable Cause and Cannot Return Within 10 Minutes, then if BOTH Skips (in Team Games) or BOTH Captains (in Side Matches) Agree, a Player Substitution Can Be Made**
- 8.2.2.1 **The Substitute Can Play in Any Position OTHER than Skip, with the Other Members of the Team Rearranging their Positions as Necessary (as per Bowls Law 33.4)**
 - 8.2.2.2 **If No Eligible Substitute is Available, then the Defaulting Team/Side will Forfeit the Game to their Opponents (as per Bowls Law 33.6)**
- 8.2.3 **If the Substitute Player plays in a Game which Has Had to be Recommenced Due to Bad Weather, then He/She CANNOT Skip (as per Law 33.4 of the Bowls Laws)**
- 8.2.4 **The Name of the Substitute MUST be shown on BOTH Scorecards**
- 8.2.5 **If it Comes to the Attention of the Competition Secretary that the Use of a Substitute Player Laid Out Above Has NOT Been Followed, then he will call a Council In Appeals Meeting to Adjudicate on the Matter**

9 Match Arrangements

9.1 The Challenger

- 9.1.1 The First Named in the Draw shall be the Challenger and has choice of the Green and Rink the Game Will be Played
- 9.1.2 If Either the Challenger or the Opponent belong to Two or More Clubs, the Green shall be That Of the Club for Whom they play League Bowls (See Rules 3.2 & 3.3)

9.2 Offering Of Dates

- 9.2.1 Except where a Specific Date Has Been Fixed For Playing Each Round, The Challenger Shall:
- When It Is Their 1st Game in the Competition, Fourteen Days Prior to the Completion Date for that Round
 - Otherwise, Within Three Days of Having Being Informed Of Their New Opponent
- 9.2.2 Contact Their Opponent and Offer Three Dates, One of Which MUST be a Weekday (Monday to Thursday) and One MUST be a Weekend (Sundays included), Within The Period Allowed, NEITHER of which shall be a Fixed County or P&D Competition Date, Although Ties May be played on these occasions by Mutual Agreement

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9.2.3 The Time for the Commencement of a Tie shall be Mutually Agreed, but No Competitor shall be Compelled to Accept a Starting Time Earlier Than:

- 6.00pm Monday-Friday;
- 2.00pm on Saturdays or Sundays;
- AND No later than 6.30pm On Any Day

9.3 Challenger's Rights

9.3.1 If the Challenger Fails to Comply with Rule 9.2, it Will Result in them Forfeiting all Privileges, as such

9.3.2 If, Four Days after of the Draw being Published or Notification of Who They Will Be Playing, the Opponent Has NOT Been Contacted by the Challenger, He/She Can Apply to the Competitions Secretary to become the Challenger

9.3.3 If Permission is Granted, they Become the New Challenger and MUST Comply with the Conditions Laid Out in Rule 9.2

9.4 Any Opponent MUST Accept One of the Dates Offered, or Communicate with the Challenger Within Three Days of the Receipt of the Challenge

9.5 Failure to Comply or come to a Mutual Agreement will Result in the Tie being Awarded to the Then Challenger, provided the facts are reported to the Competitions Secretary

9.6 No Extensions will be allowed without Prior Approval of the Competitions Secretary

10 Score Card Responsibilities in Fours (Rink) Games

10.1 The Skip of Each Rink is Responsible for Ensuring that the Names of ALL Players of BOTH teams are Correctly Entered on BOTH sets of Cards - As per Bowls Law 40.1.7.2

10.2 After each end has been completed, the Skip is also responsible for recording on the scorecard the number of shots scored by both teams and ensuring that the Opponent's scorecard agrees - As per Bowls Laws 40.1.7.3/4

10.3 As per the Bowls England variation, ONLY if BOTH Skips agree can the maintaining of the scorecard be transferred to another player in BOTH rinks

- i.e. On the same Rink, a Skip CANNOT maintain the scorecard whilst another player in the Opposing Rink maintains theirs

10.4 At the End of their Match, BOTH Skips MUST Ensure that Both Scorecards Show the Same Result AND Sign Both Cards, thereby showing they have performed this check

11 Match Results

11.1 The Winner of a Tie MUST, Preferably as Soon as Possible After the Game Has Been Completed, Otherwise by 10am the Next Day At The Latest:

11.1.1 Inform the Competition Secretary of the Match Result

11.1.2 Ensure the Competition Secretary Receives an Electronic Copy of Both Sets of Signed Score Cards

11.2 In the Event of the Winner Being Given a Walkover by his Opponent, then a Scorecard MUST Still Be Sent In, Containing the

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Names of the Winning Team that Would Have Played in the Conceded Game

11.3 All Scorecards MUST Show:

- **The Name of the Competition to which they refer**
- **The Date the Game was played**
- **The Names of ALL of the Players who took part**
- **Be Duly Signed by BOTH Players or Skips (as the case may be)**

11.4 Failure to Comply With Any of the Above Will Lead to the Elimination Of Both Sets of Competitors from the Relevant Competition

11.5 Appeal Against Match Outcome

11.5.1 If an Appeal is to be Made about the Outcome of a Match, then:

11.5.1.1 Their Opponent Must Be Informed that an Appeal Will Be Made

11.5.1.2 Appeal MUST be Made to the Competition Secretary by 6pm the Day After the Match Was Completed

12 Disqualification/Forfeiture

12.1 Failure to Comply with the Dates Fixed for the Competition in Any Round will Lead To Disqualification, UNLESS Decided Otherwise by the Competitions Committee

12.2 If a Player or Team Will NOT be Available for ALL of the Round Dates in the Competition They Have Entered, He/They Must Withdraw at the Outset

12.2.1 Players/Members of Teams Who Have Advanced in a Competition and then Concede, Without An Acceptable Reason Agreed By The Competition Secretary will NOT be Allowed to Enter the Following Year's Competition

12.3 If, after Thirty Minutes of the Agreed Time for the Commencement of the Game, a Singles Opponent OR 1 or More players from A Team Is/Are Absent, then the Defaulting Player/Team Forfeits the Game to their Opponent, UNLESS there are Adequate Reasons for their Absence

12.3.1 These Reasons MUST be Emailed to the P&D's Competition Secretary WITHIN 24 Hours of the Agreed Date the Match Should have been Played, so that he can make a decision [As per Bowls Law Section 2.4]

12.4 In Team Competitions, a Team CANNOT play 1 Short, so Forfeits the Game to their Opponents [As per Bowls Law Section 1.2]

13 Right of Appeal

Any Competitor Disqualified by the Competition Secretary has a right of Appeal to the Council in Appeals, provided such Appeal is lodged, in writing (or Email), within **Three Days** of the Notice Of Disqualification

14 Semi-Finals and Finals

14.1 The Semi-Finals and Final Rounds of All P&D Competitions will be Played on Greens Selected by the Competitions Committee, who will also Make ALL the Necessary Arrangements

14.2 The Dates and Venues will be Announced by the Competition Secretary at the April P&D Exec Meeting and be Shown on ALL Draw Sheets

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14.2.1 A Weekend Will Be Set Aside for These Games, BUT, Where Possible, ALL Games Will Be Played on the Saturday of that Weekend

14.2.2 The Sunday will ONLY be Used in the Event of Bad Weather OR A Player(s) Being in Multiple Finals

14.3 Should a Competitor NOT Be Available for the Finals Date, then Their Opponent(s) will be Awarded the Match and Title

15 Rowland Cup

15.1 This is a Four Rink Competition with Matches Being Played on the Same Venue and Over the Maximum Number of Ends shown in Rule 2.3 (Game Formats)

15.1.1 A Match CANNOT Start until Both Clubs have Sixteen Bowlers Ready to Play

15.1.2 If, after 30 minutes of the Official Match Start Time, a Club DOES NOT have ALL 16 Players, then their Opponent will Receive a Walk-over

15.2 Prior to Commencement of the Match, the Captains Shall Decide which Rink Will Play the Extra End or Ends, until a Result is Achieved in the Event of a Tied Match after ALL Rinks have played the Maximum Number Of Ends

15.2.1 This will be Rink Number and NOT a Nominated Skip - e.g. Rink 3 will Play The Extra End(s)

15.2.2 THIS MUST BE AGREED BEFORE THE CARDS ARE MATCHED

15.3 Rowland Cup Draw

15.3.1 The Draw for the Prelim & 1st Rounds of this Competition shall be made at the April P&D Executive Meeting

15.3.2 The Draw for all Subsequent Rounds will be made after the Previous Round has been Completed

15.3.3 Should the Draw have Clubs who Share Greens at Home in the Same Round, then the 1st Club out of the "Hat" will play on the Official Date for that Round, the other Clubs will need to play on the Weekend Before that date

15.4 Semi Final Venue

15.4.1 Held at Neutral Club

- The Rinks Will Be Set on the Best Settings the Host believe will provide a Fair Test

15.4.2 Held at Milton Park

15.4.2.1 Four Sides From Visiting Clubs

- The Rinks Will Be Set on the Best Settings the Host believe will provide a Fair Test
- The Match Umpire will Draw which Green Will Be Used by Each of the Semi-Finals

15.4.2.2 Milton Park Club(s) has Qualified

- Club will NOT play their Semi on their Home Green
- The Rinks on each Green will be set up on the "Colour of the Day" as per the Milton Park Diary

15.4.2.3 Both Milton Park Clubs Playing Each Other

- The Rinks on Both Greens will be set up on the "Colour of the Day" as per the Milton Park Diary

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- The Match Umpire will Draw which Green Will Be Used by Each of the Semi-Finals

15.5 Pre Match Processes

- 15.5.1 Once the Side Captains have supplied their Match Score Cards, the Match Umpire will pair Opposing Cards and then Draw which Rinks the matches will be played on
- 15.5.2 Before exposing the Rinks, the Match Umpire will then oversee the process of deciding: Which rink will play the Extra End; Which Side has choice of Jack for Start of Match and Extra End
- 15.5.3 The Cards will then be turned over so that the Side Captains can enter the players' names and then return to Umpire to ensure ALL Rink Members have been entered correctly
- 15.5.4 At That Point, NO Alterations can be made with Regards to Player Names Or Positions

16 Centenary Cup

The Centenary Cup was Introduced to Celebrate the P&D's Centenary in 2025 and is played Annually between ALL Clubs Affiliated to the P&D.

Clubs Can Enter Multiple Sides

16.1 Match Format

- 16.1.1 A Men Only Two Rink Competition
- 16.1.2 ALL Matches Will Be Played On A Weekend
- 16.1.3 Up to Semi-Finals, Matches are Played with 1 Rink at Home, the Other Away
- 16.1.4 Both Rinks Play Over the Maximum Number of Ends shown in Rule 2.3 (Game Formats)
- 16.1.5 Both Games Start at the Same Time
 - 16.1.5.1 A Match CANNOT Start until ALL Sixteen Bowlers are Ready to Play
 - 16.1.5.2 If, after 30 minutes of the Official Match Start Time, a Team DOES NOT have all 4 Players present at a Venue, then their Opponent will receive a Match Walk-Over
- 16.1.6 The Team with the Highest Overall Shot Difference will be the Winner of the Match

16.2 Definition of Home Team

- 16.2.1 When the Draw is Made, the 1st Out Of The Hat for Each Match is Designated the "Home Team"
 - 16.2.2 In Each Round, the "Home Team" Choses Which Rink will play the Extra End(s) if the Scores are level after both Rinks Have Completed the Maximum Number of Ends
- 16.3 The Draw for the Earliest Round will be made at the April Exec Meeting
- 16.4 Both the Semi-Finals and Final will be played on the 1 Day, as part of one of the P&D Finals Days

P&D Competition Rules

17 P&D Champion Of Champions Tournament

- 17.1 The P&D Champion Of Champions Tournament is Open to the Winners of all the Affiliated P&D Club's Men's 4-Wood Singles Competition
- 17.2 The Tournament Takes Place Over A Weekend in Early September
- 17.3 The Tournament Draw is Made on the Saturday Morning Once all Club Champions Have Registered
- 17.4 Saturday's Matches will Cover Games Up To the Semi-Finals, with the Semis and Final being played on the Sunday
- 17.5 Club Champions Should Make Every Effort to Bring A Marker With Him

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