

ESSEX COUNTY CLUB COMPETITIONS, RULES AND GUIDANCE 2025

	Entrants	No. of woods per player	No. ends /shots/sets	Handicap used yes/no	Marker required yes/no	Trial ends	Visit head yes/no	Alternative scoring /rules
Ladies 2 Wood Singles	Female	2	21 ends	No	Yes	Yes	No	
Ladies 4-3-2-1	Female	4	First to 106 pts, or by greater margin. Total of 10 points per end, subject to 4 woods remaining on the green	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Nearest 4 woods to the jack score 4,3,2,1 respectively. If opposing scoring woods are equi-distant, the points are split, e.g. first and second woods = 3.5 pts to each player. The player with the nearest bowl to the jack, scoring the 4 points, has control of the jack and first bowl on the next end, NOT player the with the highest score. SCOREBOARD PERSON FOR FINAL?
Ladies Championship	Female	4	First to 21 shots	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Ladies Club Pairs	Female, not cadets. Pairs are drawn, from low and high handicaps	4	21 ends	Yes. Half of handicap different, (excluding fractions) added to the score of the lower handicapped pair, prior to first end. E.g. if total difference in handicap is 5, 2 shots given at start.	No	Yes	Yes	If tied after 21st end, toss for choice of first or last bowl, direction of play to continue as normal.
Ladies Fixed Jack	Female - rounds on 1 specified day. Final on finals weekend.	4	18 ends in semi finals and final	No	Yes	No	Yes	Alternate min and max. Length jacks played, with mat 2 metres from the ditch. Toss at start of match, for choice of first mat distance. Separate toss for choice of mat first end. If bowl covers the tee on which the jack should be placed, the jack will be placed directly behind the tee, on the centre line of the rink, touching the bowl. If the bowl is subsequently moved from covering the tee, the jack will be replaced as normal. If the tee is still covering the tee once the end is completed, the jack will NOT be replaced on the tee, once the bowl is removed from the count. It must remain where it was placed, and shots to be decided as the head lays. If tied after 18th end, toss for choice of first or last bowl, direction of play to continue as normal.
Ladies Imperial Pairs	Female - pick own partner	4	21 ends	Yes. Half of handicap different, (excluding fractions) added to the score of the lower handicapped pair, prior to first end. E.g. if total difference in handicap is 5, 2 shots given at start.	No	Yes	Yes	If tied after 21st end, toss for choice of first or last bowl, direction of play to continue as normal.
Ladies Intermediate Singles	Female Handicap 1-7	4	First to 21 shots	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Late Summer 2 Wood Pairs	Open - pick own partner	2	Best of 3 sets of 7 ends. Jack alternates each set.	No	No	Yes	No	If match is tied, toss for choice of first or last bowl, direction of play to continue as normal, best of 3 ends. Best of 5 sets in the final. Have an additional scoreboard during final, to record the ongoing score for those watching the match. A set won = 10, a drawn set = 5 for each team.
Mabbs	Mixed Handicap 1-6, singles	4	First to 21 shots	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Mixed Pairs	Mixed - pick own partner 1 female and 1 male	4	21 ends	Yes. Half of handicap different, (excluding fractions) added to the score of the lower handicapped pair, prior to first end. E.g. if total difference in handicap is 5, 2 shots given at start.	No	Yes	Yes	If tied after 21st end, toss for choice of first or last bowl, direction of play to continue as normal.

Mixed Super Veterans	Mixed min age 80, by May of comp year.	4	First to 21 shots	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Veterans	Mixed min age 70, by May of comp year	4	First to 21 shots	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	
	Entrants	No. of woods per player	No. ends /shots/sets	Handicap used yes/no	Marker required yes/no	Trial ends	Visit head yes/no	Alternative scoring /rules
Mens 2 Woods	Male	2	21 ends	No	Yes	Yes	No	
MENS 4-3-2-1	Male	4	First to 106 pts, or by greater margin. Total of 10 points per end, subject to 4 woods remaining on the green.	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Nearest 4 woods to the jack score 4,3,2,1 respectively. If opposing scoring woods are equi-distant, the points are split, e.g. first and second woods = 3.5 pts to each player. The player with the nearest bowl to the jack, scoring the 4 points, has control of the jack and the first bowl on the next end, NOT the player with the highest score. SCOREBOARD PERSON FOR FINAL?
Mens Championship	Male	4	First to 21 shots	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Mens Club Pairs	Male, not cadets. Pairs are drawn, from low and high handicaps	4	21 ends	Yes. Half of handicap different, (excluding fractions) added to the score of the lower handicapped pair, prior to first end. E.g. if total difference in handicap is 5, 2 shots given at start.	No	Yes	Yes	If tied after 21st end, toss for choice of first or last bowl, direction of play to continue as normal.
Mens Fixed Jack	Male	4	18 ends	No	Yes	No	Yes	Alternate min and max. Length jacks played, with mat 2 metres from the ditch. Toss at start of match, for choice of first mat distance. Separate toss for choice of mat first end. If bowl covers the tee on which the jack should be placed, the jack will be placed directly behind the tee, on the centre line of the rink, touching the bowl. If the bowl is subsequently moved from covering the tee, the jack will be replaced as normal. If the tee is still covering the tee once the end is completed, the jack will NOT be replaced on the tee, once the bowl is removed from the count. It must remain where it was placed, and shots to be decided as the head lays. If tied after 18th end, toss for choice of first or last bowl, direction of play to continue as normal.
Mens Handicap	Male	4	21 shots	Yes. Difference in handicap to be added to the lower handicapped players score, at the start.	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Mens Intermediate	Male Handicap 7-10	4	First to 21 shots	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Mens Smidmore Pairs	Male - pick own partner	4	21 ends	Yes. Half of handicap different, (excluding fractions) added to the score of the lower handicapped pair, prior to first end. E.g. if total difference in handicap is 5, 2 shots given at start.	No	Yes	Yes	If tied after 21st end, toss for choice of first or last bowl, direction of play to continue as normal.
Ashby Cup	Southend & District, Club Championships + Runners Up	4	First to 21 shots	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	

Outdoor Competition Details and Rules 2025	The following information is provided for your guidance and to encourage you to join in and enjoy the competitive side of the game. Bowls England Laws apply except as provided by these rules.
Arranging outdoor club competitions	The challenger (top of draw) is responsible for arranging a convenient date and time of play, with the opponent/s, for booking a rink in the rink reservation book, provided in the corridor (avoiding times that clash with regular or special competitions, and for arranging a marker for singles games. Rink allocations are made in the morning of each day, and are noted on the board in the corridor. The challenger should offer without delay 2 dates (3 if one is a Sunday), by direct contact to the opponent. The opposing competitor to reply without delay, accepting one of the dates offered. Outdoor competitions may not be played on an indoor green under any circumstances. In the event of no contact from the challenger, his opponent is expected to give a timely reminder, we are all friends after all. Don't leave it until the play by date, as this will result in not meeting the schedule.
Identification of bowls	The challenger must use yellow club stickers. Non-challenger must use plain woods or stickers of a different colour. Skips or markers are to ensure that this is done, for the benefit of players, markers and onlookers who are taking an interest in the game.
Markers	Singles competitions require a marker. If a last minute problem arises and no marker is available, then only by mutual agreement the game may be played without a marker. This is undesirable and should rarely happen, certainly it will not be allowed in the final rounds of the competition. Happily most members are very pleased to mark for others, given advance warning. There is a list of markers on the club notice board.
Scorecards	All cards must be clearly completed with the printed names and full initials of competitors, Competition name, date, players, rink number and scores. Both Competitors in Singles and both Skips in Pairs, Triples and Fours, must sign the card and are responsible for POSTING THE COMPLETED SCORECARDS THROUGH THE LETTERBOX IN THE CAPTAIN'S OFFICE.
Dress	Correct dress, as per the Club Rules, must be worn on the greens for each match. White trousers/shorts, white /club polo shirts - in agreement with opposition.
Extensions	Except when an overall extension is given, due to exceptional circumstances (weather etc.) extensions to final date of any round will not be given, unless the individual circumstances are discussed and agreed with the Competitions Secretary, bearing in mind such agreements are a burden on other competitors waiting to play their next round. WHEN ENTERING CLUB COMPETITIONS, PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU ARE AVAILABLE FOR THE FINALS, AS SPECIFIED AT THE START OF THE SEASON.
Substitutes	In Pairs, Triples and Fours Competitions, a substitute may be allowed, subject to them not having been included in the draw. In the Club Pairs, the handicap of the substitute must not exceed that of the player being replaced.
Disputes During play	An Umpire should be nominated if not already in attendance to resolve any disputes. At other times, disputed matters should be referred to the Competition Secretary, but should normally be resolved amicably by those concerned.
Walkovers	If a competitor withdraws from a competition, a signed scorecard must be submitted, indicating the reason why the game has been conceded. The Competition Secretary may impose a Walkover, if the game is not played by the due date, without an acceptable reason.
Competition Record sheets	These are displayed in the main corridor for information and MUST NOT BE MARKED BY PLAYERS IN ANY WAY. The website will also display the state of play for each competition.