

**THE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS**  
**Regulations Pertaining to the Playdowns and Championships**

**REQUIREMENTS and OBLIGATIONS for EACH ENTRY**

- 106.1** Lawn bowlers wishing to compete in a Divisional Playdown which will determine that Division's representatives to the National Championships must be:
- 106.1.1** A citizen of the United States;
  - 106.1.2** A Bowls USA member prior to entering the Playdowns;
  - 106.1.3** In good financial standing for all bowls-related obligations;
- 106.2** Lawn bowlers **who win** their Division Playdown must:
- 106.2.1** Certify that they will compete at the National Championships for their Division;
- 106.3** Lawn bowlers **who are the runner(s)-up** in their Division Playdown must:
- 106.3.1** Certify that they will compete at the National Championships for their Division if the winner(s) default.
- 106.4** All entrants are prohibited from entering and competing for more than one Division in that year's Playdown.
- 106.4.1** Aware that any Playdowns winner(s) who do not fulfill the above requirements may face possible sanctions from their Division.
- 106.5** Failure to meet any of the above requirements **and/or obligations** may result in disqualification from that year's Playdown and/or National Championship (or in the future).

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**107.1** Each Division shall run a Playdown to determine the Division's singles and pairs representatives. Each Division may use any method of play consistent within these Rules and Regulations.

**107.2** Each Division shall certify their official singles and pairs entries, including the runner(s)-up, to the National Championships Tournament Director no later than 30 days prior to the opening day of the Championships.

**108** **SUBSTITUTIONS**

**108.1** **During Playdowns**, no substitutions shall be permitted once play has commenced.

**108.2** **Before the Championships**, if illness or other acceptable reason prevents a singles entry or one or both members of a pairs team from continuing in the competition, substitution will be permitted as follows:

**108.2.1** **Singles:** The first runner-up in that Division's Playdowns. If the first runner-up cannot compete, then the Division shall follow the succession of runners-up recorded.

**108.2.2** **Pairs:** The first runners-up in that Division's Playdowns. If the first runners-up cannot compete, then the Division shall follow the succession of runners-up recorded and/or find another substitute from their Division.

**108.2.3** **■** remain, then that Division will not participate in that discipline and a bye will be recorded.

**108.3** **During the National Championships**, ~~■~~ will be allowed if the Division that requires the substitute is able to find another divisional bowler available or willing to play. If that divisional bowler is not available or willing to play, then the alternative option of utilizing the Host Division's pool of substitute players will be considered.

**108.4 Scoring during the National Championships:**

**108.4.1** If a singles player or a team must withdraw from play for any reason, determination of scores will be as follows:

**108.4.1.1** All of the games of the singles player and/or team's games played shall be expunged and results will be calculated as a bye for their opponents.

**108.5** During the National Championships, if a singles player or a team has to leave the green during the course of a game due to illness or some other reasonable cause, and they cannot return within 10 minutes, the defaulting player or team will forfeit the game to their opponent. If the defaulting player or team is able to return to the event for the next scheduled game, they may do so. Otherwise, the player or team must withdraw from the event and 102.4 shall apply.

**108.6 Best Winning Division of the National Championships**

An award will be presented to the Division who has the most wins during the National Championships.

**108.6.1** A Division will be awarded 3 points for a game won. If a Division's winning team includes a substitute, the 3 points accrue to the Division for whom the substitute is playing; i.e., when a Northeast Division team with a Northwest Division substitute wins a game, the 3 points accrue to the Northeast Division.

**108.6.2** A perpetual plaque will be provided by Bowls USA. The winning Division will have the Division's name engraved onto the plaque for the year that it is won, paid for by Bowls USA.

**108.6.3** The winning Division will retain the plaque for the year and must arrange for it to be delivered to the host club to the Opening Ceremonies of the next year's National Championships.

**109 GENERAL RULES**

**109.1** The Bowls USA Council shall appoint a specific Councilor from the host Division to be the Tournament Director for the National Championships. The Councilor appointed may delegate this authority.

**109.2** No member may play in both the singles and pairs in the National Championships in the same year.

**109.3** All bowls used in the National Championships must carry the official ALBA, IBB, WBB or WB stamp or must have a certification from an official bowls tester. Date and serial number must be legible.

**109.4** All matters concerning the National Championships, except financial matters, shall be referred to the Tournament Director.

**109.5** The *Conditions of Play*, as described in Appendix A.1 of the Laws of the Sport of Bowls, shall be provided in writing to each Division no less than thirty (30) days prior to the first day of the Championships.

**109.6** When any Division that now or in the future qualifies to send two Pairs teams or two Singles players to the National Championships, the two teams from the same Division shall compete against each other in the first game.

**109.7** All play at the National Championships shall be round robin. All singles games shall be 21 shots. All pairs games shall be 18 ends. All pairs games that are tied after 18 ends must play a one-end roll-off.

**109.8** No more than two games may be scheduled or played on any given day at the Championships unless playoffs are required. More than two games per day may be scheduled at the Division level for the Playdowns.

- 109.9** There shall be no practice bowls prior to trial bowls on each day of the National Championships.
- 109.10** The winner of each game at the Championships shall be awarded 3 (three) points. No game points are awarded for any game lost.
- 109.11** At the end of round-robin play, if two players or teams are tied for first place, they will play off for the championship.

**110 DRESS CODE**

**110.1 At Opening Ceremonies:**

**110.1.1** All participants must wear white- or cream-colored slacks.

**110.1.2** Players shall wear their Divisional or coordinated team shirts for the procession.

**110.2 During competition:**

**110.2.1** Players shall wear their coordinated team shirts with color coordinated below-the-waist attire. Note: Pairs players may wear long pants or shorts so long as the colors are the same.

**110.2.2** Footwear must be flat-soled and heel-less. The Tournament Director and/or Controlling Body reserves the right to disallow any specific shoe. Umpires must use their best judgment and not unduly eliminate members from play.

**110.2.3** Medical footwear may be worn with the approval of the Tournament Director.

**110.2.4** Advertising is permitted in accordance with Bowls USA Rules and Regulations.

**110.3** Penalties: If the Controlling Body finds that a player is in **violation of the Dress Code**, the player shall receive a warning. A second offense may result in the loss of a game.

**NOTE:** No player shall be approached before the day's first match, during a game, or between games about their attire. Rather, the offending player will be notified by the Tournament Director and/or the Controlling Body at the end of play for that day, advised of the specific issue, and a request shall be made to the player to wear appropriate attire for the rest of the tournament.