

Suffolk Carpet Bowls Association Closed Competition Rules

A: General Rules

1. Suffolk Carpet Bowls Association (SCBA) will organise four closed competitions during every winter season, singles, pairs, triples and fours.
2. Any individual who is a member of a carpet bowls club affiliated to the SCBA (Member club) is eligible to enter the closed competitions.
3. An individual can only take part in each of the closed competitions once during any winter season.
4. An individual cannot play in closed competitions in two counties in any one season.
5. All games played in the closed competitions are subject to the English Carpet Bowls Association (ECBA) rules, with the exception that no practice ends will be played.
6. In any game played in the closed competitions, individuals competing are expected to do their own measuring. In the event that an agreement cannot be reached during any game, an SCBA official can be called on to make a final decision.
7. In the event of any incident or dispute at a closed competition event, all decisions made by the SCBA will be final.

B: Qualification Days

1. Within a reasonable time prior to a closed competition Qualification Day, the SCBA will send out written invitations to all SCBA Member Clubs. That invite will confirm the date of the event, the likely venue(s), entry fee and the closing date for entries. All entries must be received in writing by the SCBA on or before the specified closing date.
2. Within a reasonable time of a closed competition Qualification Day the SCBA will provide written confirmation to all entrants (via their club) of the venue, playing format and any specific rules for the day, i.e. number of ends and time allowed for each game.
3. SCBA clubs who have members entered may be asked to provide a carpet and equipment for the day, as a condition of entry.
4. The SCBA reserve the right to change the intended venue, date or format of a Qualification Day event, given any circumstances beyond their control.

C: Qualification Day Playing Format

1. For all closed competition Qualifying events, prior to the day the entrants will be randomly drawn into groups.
2. Those in each group will play each other once, with two points awarded for a win, one for a draw and none for a loss. After all of the group games are played, finishing places in each group will be decided firstly by points scored, then shots scored, then shots conceded and then ends won. If a group winner or runner-up (if required) cannot be decided by the aforementioned, then one end will be played between the equal single/ teams to decide the final group places, on a carpet decided by the SCBA. A toss of a coin will decide who has the choice of bowling first or second on that extra end.

3. All of the group winners and a number of group runners-up (stipulated in the playing format for the day) will qualify for the knock-out stages.
4. For the purposes of the SCBA closed competitions a group runner-up qualifying for the knock-out stages will be taken from only the second places in the groups.
5. The group winners and the qualifying group runners-up will then play in knock-out games to reach the required number of winners that will qualify for the Finals Day. The draw for the knock-out games will be randomly drawn prior to the Qualification Day. If a knock-out game finishes in a draw, an extra end will be played to decide the winner. A toss of a coin will decide who has the choice of bowling first or second on that extra end.
6. At the start of a Qualification Day, if a single, pair, triple or four is a player/ players short, they can be replaced before a game is played. If a replacement is not possible, games will be awarded to all of their opposition, with two points and an 8-0 win.
7. During the group stages of a Qualification Day, if an individual has played a game(s) or part of a game(s) but are unable to play all of the games, then they can be replaced by any eligible individual who has not already played a game. If that is not possible then all games (played and not played) are awarded to their opposition, with two points and an 8-0 win. **(Refer C10 regarding “replacement bowler”)**
8. If a qualifier (i.e.: single or complete pair, triple or four) for the knock-out games is unable to play in those games, then they will be replaced by the next best runner-up.
9. During the knock-out stages of a Qualification Day, if an individual has played a game(s) or part of a game(s) but are unable to play all of the games, then they can be replaced by any eligible individual who has not already played a game. Should that not be possible then that game is awarded to their opposition. **(Refer C10 regarding “replacement bowler”)**
10. **Replacement bowler:** Any individual playing as a replacement cannot play in the skip position. Once a replacement has bowled, they cannot be replaced. There cannot be more than one replacement in any pair or triple or more than two replacements in a four. If further replacements are required during the group stages, then all games (played and not played) are awarded to their opposition with two points and an 8-0 win. If further replacements are required during the knock-out stages, then that game will be awarded to their opposition.
11. SCBA reserve the right to change the playing format. (NB: The Suffolk Triples is currently played through to a winner on one day).
12. All decisions made by the SCBA will be final.

D: Finals Day

1. The eight finalists in each of the SCBA closed competitions will take part on Finals Day.
2. **Suffolk Singles only:** If a qualifying individual(s) is unable to take part in Finals Day, then the group games they would have played are void.
3. **Suffolk Pairs and Triples:** If just one individual in any pair or triple is unable to take part in Finals Day, then that individual can be replaced by an individual from the same club(s), providing that they have not already played in that event's Qualification Day.
4. **Suffolk Fours:** If one or two individuals in any four are unable to take part in Finals Day, then they can be replaced by an individual(s) from the same club(s), providing that they have not already played in that event's Qualification Day.

5. Suffolk Pairs and Triples: If more than one individual in any pair or triple is unable to take part in Finals Day, then that pair or triple will not be permitted to compete. The group games they would have played are void.
6. Suffolk Fours: If more than two individuals in any four are unable to take part in Finals Day, then that four will not be permitted to compete. The group games they would have played are void.
7. Within a reasonable time of Finals Day the SCBA will provide written confirmation to all competitors of the venue, playing format and any specific rules for the day, i.e. number of ends and time allowed for each game.

E: Finals Day Playing Format

1. For each of the closed competitions the eight finalists will be randomly drawn into two groups of four before Finals Day.
2. In each group the four finalists will play each other once, with two points awarded for a win, one for a draw and none for a loss. After all of the games are played, finishing places in each group will be decided firstly by points scored, then shots scored, then shots conceded and if required to decide first place, the result of the game between the two equal singles/ teams. If a group winner cannot be decided by the aforementioned, then one end will be played to decide the group winner, on a carpet decided by the SCBA. A toss of a coin will decide who has the choice of bowling first or second on that extra end.
3. The SCBA will do their best to avoid a bowler(s) playing on the same carpet twice. This may not be possible if a bowler(s) have qualified in more than one event.
4. In each of the closed competitions the two group winners will then play one final game to decide the Suffolk champion. If a final finishes in a draw, an extra end will be played to decide the winner. A toss of a coin will decide who has the choice of bowling first or second on that extra end.
5. During the group stages of Finals Day, if an individual has played a game(s) or part of a game(s) but are unable to play all of the games, then they can be replaced by any eligible individual from the same club(s) who has not already played in the Qualification Day. Should that not be possible then all games (played and not played) are awarded to their opposition, with two points and an 8-0 win. **(Refer C10 regarding “replacement bowler”)**.
6. **Suffolk Singles only:** If an individual reaches the final but is unable to take part, then they will be replaced by the runner-up in their group.
7. All decisions made by the SCBA will be final.

F: ECBA and ECCBA Champion of Champions

1. The winner of each of the SCBA closed competitions will be the Suffolk representatives in the ECBA and ECCBA Champion of Champion events.
2. If an individual(s) wins more than one Suffolk closed competition in a season, they cannot play in more than one ECBA or ECCBA event. The individual(s) will make the decision as to which event they wish to compete in. If they so wish, the ECBA and ECCBA events they choose can be different.

3. **Suffolk Singles only:** If the Suffolk Singles winner is unable to take part in either the ECBA or ECCBA Champion of Champions event, the losing finalist will be given first option on replacing them. If the losing finalist is unable to take part, the SCBA will invite the third place, through to eighth place as a replacement. Placings shall be decided by points scored, then shots scored and then shots against. If the aforementioned are all level and if required, the SCBA will do a random draw to decide a placing. If none of the eight singles finalists are able to take part in either or both the ECBA or ECCBA events, then the SCBA will decide on the Suffolk representative.
4. **Suffolk Pairs and Triples: If just one individual from the winning pair or triple is unable to take part in one or both of the ECBA or ECCBA events, then they can be replaced by any bowler from an SCBA member club. The replacement individual can play in any position.**
5. **Suffolk Fours: If one or two individuals from the winning four are unable to take part in one or both of the ECBA or ECCBA events, then they can be replaced by any bowler from an SCBA member club. The replacement individual can play in any position.**
6. Suffolk Pairs and Triples: If more than one bowler from the winning pair or triple is unable to take part on one or both of the ECBA or ECCBA events, then the winning pair or triple will not be permitted to take part in that event(s). The losing finalist for that closed competition will be given first option on replacing them. If the losing finalist is unable to take part, the SCBA will invite the third place, through to eighth place as a replacement. Placings shall be decided by points scored, then shots scored and then shots against. If the aforementioned are all level and if required, the SCBA will do a random draw to decide a placing. If none of the eight finalists are able to take part in either or both of the ECBA or ECCBA events, then the SCBA will decide on the Suffolk representative.
7. Suffolk Fours: If more than two bowlers from the winning four are unable to take part on one or both of the ECBA or ECCBA events, then the winning four will not be permitted to take part in that event(s). The losing finalist for that closed competition will be given first option on replacing them. If the losing finalist is unable to take part, the SCBA will invite the third place, through to eighth place as a replacement. Placings shall be decided by points scored, then shots scored and then shots against. If the aforementioned are all level and if required, the SCBA will do a random draw to decide a placing. If none of the eight finalists are able to take part in either or both of the ECBA or ECCBA events, then the SCBA will decide on the Suffolk representative.
8. Rules F4 and F5 also apply to any replacement pair, triple or four, should the winner not be able to take part in one or both of the ECBA or ECCBA events.
9. If a SCBA Closed Competition is played through to a final on one day (like the Suffolk Triples currently is), then the third to eighth places shall be decided as follows:
 - 3rd place: Beaten by the winner in the semi-final;
 - 4th place: Beaten by the runner-up in the semi-final;
 - 5th place: Beaten by the winner in the quarter final;
 - 6th place: Beaten by the runner-up in the quarter final;
 - 7th place: Beaten by the third place in the quarter final;
 - 8th place: Beaten by the fourth place in the quarter final.
10. All decisions made by the SCBA will be final.