



Ashtead Bowls Club

Priority and Selection of Rinks

ABC – Priority and Selection of Rinks for Competitions.

Background:

Bowls Surrey have emphasised and brought in for the 2020 and subsequent seasons the need to apply the Laws of the Sport of Bowls, (Law 3), such that rinks should be allocated on fair and hierarchical selection basis. This change was brought about due to the occasional abuse shown by certain players where they were found to be choosing favourite or preferred rinks wishing to gain a home advantage or more. This Club guidance will be reviewed from time to time but for 2024 will be as follows:-

In practical terms if you can begin your matches to coincide with the bookable sessions available in the Club Rink Booking System, the (your) task will become simpler. If that option is not available to you eg a Surrey competition has an agreed start time which does not align with club rink booking system, then you will have to book two rinks to enable you to offer your opponents a choice or coin toss as to which rink is finally selected. The non-used rink can then be put back into the pool for others to use.

There is an incentive therefore to begin matches at the times available through the system so that when multiple rinks are needed all parties can draw their rinks in the order as set out below.

Rink numbers forming the basis of the draw shall have their numbers placed into the selection bag.

Hierarchy (order of allocation of rinks as determined by the draw) at Ashtead BC in 2021 will be:-

1. Bowls England, Bowls Surrey competitions, external inter club or invitation matches
2. Invitation matches under the auspices of one of the Club Captains
3. Ashtead Bowls Club internal competitions
4. Ashtead Bowls Club league matches ie Triples
5. Ballots, Rollups or practice by members

Once the hierarchy has been established for the commencement of a session of play then rink numbers will be placed into the draw (selected on known wellbeing of those rinks on the day) and the blind draw made. That rink number then becomes unavailable to the next steps in the process. Rinks may subsequently be added to the draw to enable working down the 'priority and draw' steps until the green is full. (That is for example, maybe a Surrey match believes that 3 rinks are suitable and only those go into the first stage of the draw).

These rules apply regardless of which rink is booked online. Players in competitions have the right to draw for a rink before commencing play and shall also have precedence to exchanging a rink (not the time) with casual or roll-up players when required.

Also to note is that where matches are taking place as defined in the Club fixture card, then they will take precedence. The home Captain of the day is asked to look at the rink booking system and take up the rinks (probably adjoining) for that match in a sympathetic manner