

CHELTENHAM OPEN PAIRS COMPETITION RULES 2024

1. The format is 8 groups of 4 pairs played on a round robin basis. Each group game will be 45 minutes or max 14 ends: 2 points for a win, 1 point for a draw. Games in each round will start together on the bell. If fewer than 14 ends have been played on hearing the 45 min bell the end may be completed if the jack has been bowled. In the event of a tie after 3 matches, shot difference will determine the result. In the event of a tie in the KO stage an extra end will be played.

2. Group winners and Runners Up will qualify for last 16 of the Cup; 3rd place will qualify for the Plate; these matches and those thereafter will be straight KO. All Plate games to be 14 ends or 45 minutes.

The Semi-finals and the Final of the Cup will be played to 15 ends.

3. The team winning the toss shall have the choice of starting or giving away the jack. Players may not visit the head.

4. Two trial ends will be allowed prior to the start of the first match in each group. There will be no other trial ends.

5. The player to start will select where to place the mat along the centre line of the rink and deliver the jack. A full-length jack will be at the 2m T Mark from the 2m Mat Line.

6. There will be no dead ends. In the event of the jack being hit off the rink it will be replaced on the 2m mark. When the predefined point is occupied, the jack will be repositioned at the nearest available position along the centre line.

7. The jack, when hit into the ditch within the rink width, will remain in play and not be repositioned.

8. Any bowl leaving the confines of the rink (except on delivery) and not a live toucher in the ditch will be deemed to be dead and immediately removed.

9. A live rebounding jack within the confines of the rink but less than the minimum of 20m from the front edge of the mat will be repositioned at the appropriate predefined point as described at rule 5.

10. Measurements between the jack, including a repositioned jack, and the live bowls will be carried out in the normal manner, players may call an umpire at their own discretion; the umpire's decision is final.

11. Any 2 matching bowls from the same original set can be used and need not contain an in-date bowls stamp to be valid.

12. All players should report to the Tournament Organiser on arrival at the venue to book in.

13. There will be no grace period for late arrivals under any circumstances, if players arrive late and miss their start time they will be eliminated as a No Show.

14. Dress. Any bowls shirt will be allowed. Tailored white shorts or any BE/BW approved shorts may be worn. There will be NO restrictions on sponsors logo sizes and/or locations on player's shirts or trousers/skirts.

15. In all cases where a dispute arises, and an umpire cannot rule, the Tournament Organiser's decision shall be final.

16. All prizes will be presented after the Finals have been played.