



RLBC

TOURNAMENT HANDBOOK

2026

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RLBC TOURNAMENT HANDBOOK

INTRA-CLUB TOURNAMENT RULES

The following Rules apply to all intra-club tournaments at Rossmoor. Tournaments will take precedence over all other activities. A draw may be held only if there is an available green on tournament days.

1. **Eligibility:**

Intra-club tournaments are open only to Rossmoor Lawn Bowling Club Active members.

- a. Former Active RLBC bowlers are permitted to play in Fun Socials, holiday tournaments and draws and, if on a winning team, will share in the monetary award

2. **Rules:**

RLBC and Bowls USA rules will apply. In case of a conflict, Rossmoor rules will take precedence.

3. **Apparel:**

Matching team colors of the team's choice or the RLBC club shirt are encouraged for club tournaments. Collared shirts and flat-soled shoes are required for tournaments.

4. **Burnt Ends:**

Actions to be taken for burnt ends are specified in the Conditions of Play.

5. **Length of Tournaments:**

Tournaments are planned for one (1), two (2), or three (3) days at the discretion of the Tournament Committee not to exceed three (3) games per day.

6. **Length of Games:**

Length of games will be defined in the Conditions of Play.

7. Start Time:

First day sign-in time for tournaments is 8:15 AM, announcements and draw at 8:30 AM, trial ends, if any, at 8:45 AM, and games start at 9:00 AM. Subsequent day(s), check-in and announcements are at 8:30 AM, trial ends, if any, at 8:45 AM, and games start at 9:00 AM. Exceptions may be made by the Tournament Committee.

8. Trial Ends:

Rules for trial ends are specified in the Conditions of Play.

9. Time Limits:

If Time Limits are specified in the Conditions of Play, they will be enforced. Time limits will not be imposed on Singles tournaments. If time limits have been imposed and the time has expired, teams may finish an end that has started. The start of an end is defined as the completion of a legally delivered jack.

10. Late Arrival:

At the start of a tournament, any qualified individual may replace a late arrival. Late arrivals will be penalized by two (2) score points for each ten (10) minutes or fraction thereof, with a maximum of six (6) penalty points. Each ten minutes of delay will be counted as one end played. Thirty minutes of delay will constitute a forfeit. The announced time on the sign-up sheet, or as revised and announced by the **Tournament Director** due to special circumstances (such as weather), will be used to determine the degree of tardiness.

11. Withdrawal:

Withdrawal from a tournament prior to its registration closing date is permitted. Withdrawal prior to starting time is also permitted, but a member of the Tournament Committee must be informed immediately. Once play has started in the tournament, members must play all games for which they are scheduled. They may be excused only due to circumstances beyond their control, i.e., illness, injury, or legal obligations. If, after further investigation, the Tournament Committee concludes that the proffered reason is not acceptable, the matter will be referred to the Discipline Committee.

12. Substitutes:

The **Tournament Director/Committee** must approve all substitutes. In all tournaments, teams are restricted to only one player classified as a Skip. Exceptions may be made by the Tournament Committee.

- a. Once the tournament has started, no team shall forfeit unless Rule Eleven (11) is met and a qualified and approved substitute is not available.
- b. Position of players in a team can be re-arranged prior to the start of a game. However, once play has started no switching is allowed.

13. Duration of Substitution:

- a. Physical Disability — a substitute shall continue for the duration of the tournament.
- b. Any other reason — a substitute will be allowed for that day's play only.

14. Conceded Games:

RLBC bowlers are encouraged to bowl all games to completion regardless of score. In all rounds of tournaments, the Tournament Director must be consulted before a game is conceded because of the potential impact on Score Points.

- a. A team wishing to concede a game must ensure that all team members are advised of and support the decision.
- b. The opposing team must be properly notified.
- c. The Skip must allow the Tournament Director to review the decision prior to abandoning the game.
- d. The game score at the point the game is conceded shall be the officially recorded score.

15. Tournament Formats:

Tournament formats shall be determined by the number of qualified entries that have signed up within the prescribed time period. The minimum number of teams for any tournament, including Singles, shall be four (4). The Tournament Committee will determine the final format.

16. Novice Tournaments:

All new bowlers are urged to participate in novice tournaments. To be eligible for these tournaments, a player must have been a certified bowler for less than two years from the date of their certification. A player who wins the tournament in their first year is not eligible for that same tournament in the following year except to play as a veteran in the Veteran-Novice Tournament.

17. Leagues:

Winter and Summer League events will be held each year. The format consists of games played across several weeks. The Tournament Committee will specify the length and format of each league.

18. Tournament Scoring:

Win	=	+3	Game Points
Tie	=	+1	Game Point
Loss	=	0	Game Points
Forfeit	=	-3	Game Points & -5 Score Points
Bye	=	+3	Game Points & +5 Score Points

- a. **Score (Plus) Points** — A maximum of +10 or -10 Score Points can be earned in a game unless otherwise noted in the Conditions of Play.
- b. **Round Robin Format** — Game Points, Score Points, and Win/Loss Ratios will be used to determine final standing. For ties see Rule 19 - Ties.
- c. **Open Draw Format** — Game Points, Score Points, and Win/Loss Ratios will be used to determine final standings. For ties see Rule 19 - Ties

19. Ties:

If, at the end of the qualifying games, Game Points, Score Points, and Win/Loss Ratios are tied:

- a. A 5-end game will be played with a maximum of one point awarded to the winning player/team on each end.
- b. A coin toss will determine which player/team shall have the right to choose who shall play first.

- c. Following the first end, possession of the rink at the beginning of each end will alternate between players/teams.

20. Bowler of the Year:

Winners of intra-club tournaments, except the Novice, Veteran-Novice, Four Score and ...(80+), Granite (90+) and Holiday tournaments, receive points based on their placement according to the schedule below. The awards go to the male and female bowler with the highest cumulative points for the year. If there is a tie for Bowler of the Year, all tied bowlers will receive the award.

First place	= 3 points
Second place	= 2 points
Third/Fourth place	= 1 point

21. Awards:

A male Bowler of the Year and a female Bowler of the Year will be recognized at the Past Presidents' and Awards Dinner. Prize money for all tournaments will be cash, no trophies. Cash awards for intra-club tournaments are presented on the last day of each tournament.

22. Spectators:

- a. Only bowlers participating in a game, markers, score flippers, and umpires in the process of making a measurement or a ruling, are allowed on the greens or aprons.
- b. All others are to remain on the upper sidewalk and observe an attitude of strict neutrality. An exception may be made in RLBC tournaments where the Tournament Director and the players agree that spectators may sit elsewhere.
- c. All spectators must keep conversations to a minimum and talk in a whisper. Violators may be asked to leave the premises.

23. Observation of Rules:

Participants in any RLBC Intra-club Tournament agree to abide by the above rules. Any questions regarding any of these rules must be resolved well before play begins by contacting a member of the

Tournament Committee. Once play has begun, the decision of the **Tournament Director/Committee** shall be final.

24. Posting of the Tournament Handbook::

An up-to-date copy of the Tournament Handbook shall be posted on the RLBC Tournament Bulletin Board at all times.

Note: **Inter-Club** **Tournaments** are governed by the rules of Bowls USA and PIMD, which may differ from the rules published in this Handbook, which govern intra-club Tournaments at Rossmoor. Bowlers who desire to play in an inter-club tournament should familiarize themselves with the Laws of the Sport of Bowls and the Conditions of Play for that tournament.

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