ADVICE AND GUIDANCE ON RINK ALLOCATION for SURREY COMPETITIONS

Laws of the Sport of Bowls: Crystal Mark edition 3.1 (January 2019) states

3.1 The skips, their representatives or the Controlling Body must make the draw for the rinks on which games are to be played.

3.2 In games where competing skips have previously been decided, the visiting skips, their representatives or the Controlling Body must make the draw to decide the numbers of the rinks to be played on.

GLOSSARY to BE Rules and Regulations 50-70 (November 2018) states

Draw for Rinks

The draw for rink/s to be played on shall be made in accordance with the current Laws of the Sport (Law 3.1). For a match requiring one rink, a minimum of two rinks shall be offered to the opponent. For a match requiring more than one rink, the minimum number of rinks offered shall be at least equal to the number of rinks required.

COMMENTARY and GUIDANCE from the Secretaries of SCBA and SCWBA acting as the Controlling Authority for Surrey Competitions in response to questions from players.

- Law 3.1 will be enforced by both SCBA and SCWBA in all its competitions
    - Most competitions are single rink (from Singles through to Fours) and therefore offering alternatives applies to all competitions.
- If there are rinks available a minimum of 2 rinks shall be offered for any one competition.
    - The number of matches that can be played each time offering the opponent 2 rinks is the number of rinks on the Green minus 1 provided they are offered sequentially.
- If there is an umpire available to supervise matches and the capacity of the Green is reached, the Umpire will draw rinks.
- If there will be no umpire present and if the number of rinks required (from above) equals the capacity of the Green, taking into account the fact that some matches might overlap in time, then all challengers due to play during the period in question must inform their club of their requirements and a third person - Greenkeeper, Captain, Secretary (an official, not a player involved) - shall draw the rinks beforehand and document which rinks have been assigned with the time and date of the assignment, and, ideally, a signature to evidence the impartiality of the draw.
    - Clearly this imposes an administrative burden on someone especially when competition rounds have to be arranged at short notice. In Clubs where multi entries are likely then longer range planning and allocation might be required. The emphasis must be on the club being seen to have allocated rinks impartially and evidence the facts. Evidence will be sought in the event of a challenge under Law 36.
- Clubs are encouraged to appoint similar practice for their internal competitions a) to abide by the Laws of the Sport specifically Law 3.1 b) to get players used to the practice and to break bad habits.

What happens if rinks are not offered/ drawn? The Laws of the Sport 36 comes into play

Laws of the Sport of Bowls

36 Deliberate non-sporting action

36.1 If an opponent, the coach in a side game, the umpire or the Controlling Body decides that a player has deliberately committed an act designed to give them or their team an unfair advantage, they can appeal to the Controlling Body.

36.2 If an appeal is made, it must be made to the Controlling Body no later than 24 hours after the final end in the game affected is completed.

36.3 The person making the appeal must take immediate steps to send details to the Secretary of the Controlling Body who must arrange for it to be dealt with in line with their code of conduct and disciplinary procedures.

SANCTIONS

- If before the match starts the opponent has not been offered a choice of two rinks (or evidence why this could not happen because the Green is full but the rinks have been drawn fairly) then the opponent should object to the Area/Zone Competition Secretary in the first instance, or the County Secretary as the Controlling Body. The Controlling Body will then order a choice be offered or the match handed to the opponent as a walk over.
- If after the match, but within 24hours, the opponent raises objection because no alternative was offered per Law 36, then the controlling body will review the circumstances and either order a rematch or declare the match void and hand it to the opponent depending on whether the Challenger's action was viewed as deliberate or not.