

2026 CHANGES TO COMPETITION SEMI-FINALS & FINALS RULES

To enable all 4 players in a team to have equal participation in Semi-Finals & Finals matches the Committee aims to have as many matches as possible played on a 4 v 4 Player basis. To assist with this the following Competition Rule Changes will be introduced with effect from Comp 1 2026:-

- a) Substitutes will be allowed in Finals Series Matches subject to the following conditions;
 - (i) All Substitutes will be arranged by the Committee.
 - (ii) If it is known in advance that a team will be unable to field 4 players its Representative must advise the Committee the name(s) of the missing player(s) and that Substitutes are required.
 - (iii) Any Substitute will be of equal or lesser ability than the player replaced as determined by Division/Line averages ranking, Ratings Central ranking, recent playing and other information available.
 - (iv) When opposing teams have only 3 players each available with the same combination of Line Numbers the Committee may allow the match to be played under a 3 v 3 Player, 10 Match format. Each player will be involved in 4 matches.
- b) If, in exceptional circumstances, a Substitute is unavailable and the 3 v 3 Player format is not applicable, matches will be played on a 4 v 3 Player basis subject to the following conditions;
 - (i) A 4 Player team will always be designated as the Home Team.
 - (ii) A 3 Player team without either a Line 1 or 2 player will not receive a further penalty as at least 2 more matches will be played by its lower-line players. A Team Match finishing at 5-5 will be decided by countback.
 - (iii) A 3 Player team without a Line 3 player will be penalised 1 Match + 3 Games against 2 Games for + 43 Points against 37 Points for, as its Lines 2 & 4 players will each play an additional match. 9 individual matches will be played. A Team Match finishing at 5-5 will be decided by countback.
 - (iv) A 3 Player team without a Line 4 player will be penalised 2 Matches + 6 Games against 0 Games for + 66 Points against 30 Points for, as its Lines 2 & 3 players will each play an additional match. 9 individual matches will be played. A Team Match cannot finish level so countback will not apply.