PCCC AC competition guidelines 2025

The competitions are listed below. They consist of a number of season long competitions and two tournaments. The season long competitions are mostly handicap, the exceptions being the Section and Boucher which are played under level play advanced rules. The season long competitions are also mostly block competitions except Adlam and Greenbury which are knock out and Poulton frequently includes a knock out stage between the winners and runners up of each block.

Game duration and length

Boucher and Section are full 26 point games with 3 hour time limit if single banked, 3 hour 15 minutes if double banked.

Handicap games are 18 points with 2 hour 15 minute time limit. In the 18 point singles game the partner clip is moved to 3-back after the first ball makes hoop 1. In the 18 point doubles games the start is with both clips on hoop 5. It is important to have the same game duration for block stages of tournaments in case of the need to use net points as a tie breaker. For knock out phases, longer games can be agreed by the participating players.

Doubles play

Each side can independently choose whether to pay own a ball or alternate strokes

Entry qualifications

All competitions are open to all players (except Rothwell – see below) but players should take advice if planning to enter advanced competitions for the first time. The Rothwell competition is restricted to players with a handicap of 18 or more at the allocation date. Players may not enter both Rothwell and Poulton.

Tie breaks (order of precedence)

Tie breaks in block competitions will be as usual in tournaments
- Who beat whom
- Net games (typically only applicable to competitions which include best of 3 matches)
- Net hoops

Net hoops = total points scored - total points scored by opponents in all matches played in that competition

Competitor Withdraws from a Block

All matches played are declared void and their results are removed from the score sheet

Incomplete Blocks

1. Any player whose final placing under the regulations above, had the block been completed, could be predicted to be the same whatever the outcome of the uncompleted matches shall be given that placing.
2. Any player for whom results are available for fewer than [half] of the largest number of matches completed by any player in the block, or who has failed to win a match in the block, shall be treated as having withdrawn from the block and the results of any matches he has played in it shall be ignored for the purpose of deciding the remaining placings.
3. If a player who is reasonably placed fails to complete a match in their block for a reason totally outside their control, e.g. weather, the AC Manager may award the match to the player whom they feel, on the basis of other matches played, would most probably have won.
4. For doubles, in the above the term "player" should be read to mean "side or team".

Pace of play in the season

The pace of play for the season long competitions is planned to be monthly or faster with the last match of all competition being played in September (or of course earlier). The deadline for playing the first game in a block is determined by the number of matches needed to win the competition and working back from September to determine the play by date of the first match in the block.

Table for play by dates of blocks

Number of rounds in competition	Play first match by end of
1 (example only)	Sept
2 (example only)	August
3	July
4	June
5	May
6	April

Subsequent rounds should be played no less than monthly so that the last game is played in September.

As an example the 2024 Poulton Cup was 6 rounds (4 block games, 1 semi, 1 final). The intention will be to call for entries in March and make the draw at the latest at the beginning of April 2025 as was done in 2024.

Unless there was a good reason if a match is not played in line with the timetable, then the player risks being withdrawn from the competition and in the case of knock out competitions to progress your opponent at the discretion of the AC Manager

Knockout competitions will thus also have "play by" dates for each round based on a similar pace of play as the block competitions.

Additionally should partners or playing partners be in the same block then it is good practice for their games to be the first they play in the relevant competition.