At the last Board meeting the O&M Board was very disappointed and concerned about a series of reports of unacceptable behavior by a number of players during pennant matches.

Prior to the final series, the Board would like to bring to all player’s attention the expectations of behavior that are clearly outlined in the BV Conditions of Play for region pennant.

**Rule 41 Player conduct & behaviour**

41.1 All players are required to conduct themselves in a polite and sportsmanlike manner when participating in a Region Pennant Competition and not in any of the following behaviours:

* act in an abusive, threatening or intimidating manner;
* use obscene, offensive, threatening or intimidating language;
* act in an unsportsmanlike manner;
* threaten any person with physical violence or assault;
* assault any person
* act in a manner likely to bring the sport of bowls into disrepute or
* act in a manner likely to bring Bowls Victoria into disrepute.

41.2 A failure to comply can result in the Umpire applying an Instantaneous Penalty.

This rule allows the application of an Instantaneous Penalty without the formal process of a warning first, then the application of the penalty as per many of the Laws of the Game. This is correct, the umpire does not have to warn the player before applying the penalty if they deem their behaviour warrants the penalty.

**Rule 45 Instantaneous Penalties**

45.1 If an Umpire, by observation or on appeal by the Controlling Body, a side Manager, a Skip or an opponent decides that a player is noncompliant then the end shall be immediately regarded as completed and the opponent of the offender shall be awarded as many shots as there are bowls in use by the opponents.

45.2 If the Umpire forms the opinion on a second occasion that the same player is non-compliant, the player will be excluded from taking any further part in the game. A substitute will not be permitted (DR 2.5.1.1 -2.5.1.3) and the defaulting team will forfeit the game.

45.3 An instantaneous penalty applied to one player in a team shall be considered as an instantaneous penalty to all players in that team.

45.4 Any of the above Umpire imposed sanctions are final and cannot be contested, disregarded or appealed.

45.5 The Umpire shall also forward a written report about the incident to the Controlling Body within seven (7) days of the incident.

Just to be absolutely clear, if one player in a team behaves in a manner that incurs an Instantaneous Penalty then all members of that team are deemed to have incurred that penalty. If any member of that team then behaves in a manner that triggers a second penalty, the team is deemed to be in default and is removed from the game. In a side game, one team out all teams out and the match is awarded to opposition.

Please ensure all of your pennant players are aware of the possible consequences of irresponsible behaviour as the O&M Board expects umpires to respond to unacceptable behaviour in accordance with the Conditions of play.