

OVENS AND MURRAY BOWLS REGION INC PENNANT RULES OF COMPETITION (Season 2020-2021)

Rule 1. **Pennant Competition.** The Pennant Competition shall take place each season between the O&M Bowls Region Clubs:

- 1.1 The competition will be conducted in accordance with;
 - 1.1.1 Ovens and Murray (O&M) Bowls Region Inc Constitution and Regulations,
 - 1.1.2 Laws of the Sport of Bowls Crystal Mark 3rd edition Version 3.1
 - 1.1.3 Bowls Australia (BA) Domestic Regulations,
 - 1.1.4 Bowls Victoria (BV) Constitution and Regulations, and
 - 1.1.5** Bowls Victoria Region & Division Pennant Competitions Conditions of Play (excepting where Regions reserve the right to alter or amend the conditions of play as it considers necessary)
- 1.2 **Controlling body on day of play.** The Controlling Body for the purposes of a Region's Pennant Competition is the Host Club.
- 1.3 **Side Captain.** Clubs are to appoint a Sides Captain for each side entered who will be responsible to manage that side as follows:
 - 1.3.1 Wherever under a Law or Regulation gives a Side a right of decision or choice, it will be exercised by the Side Captain who will act on behalf of the Side. **The Side Captain should not be the Umpire for the day.**

Rule 2. **Day and time of play.** Pennant Matches may be played any time during a week but no later than Sunday of the week scheduled. Matches are to commence at an agreed day and time arranged between the Club Side Captains (appointed by participating clubs) to suit the competing teams. Should the Club Side Captains not reach agreement then play is to commence at the scheduled programmed time and date as detailed below.

- 2.1 Start Time.** All Pennant Matches are to commence at (other than agreed alternate date/time arranged in accordance with Rule 2).
- 2:2.1 **Weekend Pennant:** 1:00 pm on Saturday (2 trial ends prior) **or 10:00am if extreme heat is anticipated. The Pennant Committee will advise of any changes on Thursday prior to the round.**
- 2.1.2 **Midweek Pennant:** 10:00am on Tuesday (2 trial ends prior)
- 2.1.3 **Starting Time Allowance.** Thirty (30) minutes grace shall be allowed after the agreed/appointed time.

Should one club fail to appear within 30 minutes of the agreed/appointed time, the Club ready to play may claim the match, except in cases of an accident when travelling, whereby a reasonable extension of time (no greater than an additional

30 minutes) shall be granted. If a sectional match has not been completed by 6:15pm on Saturdays, 3.15pm on Tuesdays (or after 5hrs 15 minutes if play commences at an alternative agreed start time). Any ends in progress at the end of the designated time shall be completed.

Rule 3. **Divisions.** All Divisional Pennant Draws are to ensure that all clubs play each other the same number of times to ensure fairness in points allocation. The competition is to be structured as follows:

- 3.1 **Midweek.** There will be 2 Divisions:
 - 3.1.1 Division A – with 3 Sections (12 players); consisting of Divisions A1, A2 and A3.
 - 3.1.2 Division B – with Sections (12 players); consisting of Division B1, B2 (more Divisions may be added)
- 3.2 **Weekend.** There will be two Divisions as follows:
 - 3.2.1 Division A - with 4 Sections (16 players); consisting of Divisions A1, A2, A3 and A4.
 - 3.2.2 Division B – with 4 Sections (12 players); consisting of Divisions B1, B2, B3, B4 (more Divisions may be added)
 - 3.2.3 The number of Divisions/Sections for both Midweek and Weekend Pennant can be added or reduced dependent on teams available each season.

Rule 4. **Selection of sides.** As per Bowls Victoria Region & Division Pennant Competitions Conditions of Play. Sides are to be filled by available players (male or female) in descending order of ability.

Rule 5. **Number of ends.** Games to be of twenty-one (21) ends per rink, unless through adverse weather or time restrictions as per Rule 12, when not less than fifty (50) ends have been completed in a four teams match, or thirty six (36) ends in a three teams match, and twenty five (25) ends in a two teams match. The match shall thereupon be terminated and decided with the scores at that stage. If fifty percent (50%) of any particular round of Pennant in a Section are completed in accordance with this Rule, the points scored shall be taken. Clubs involved in un-played/incomplete games in any Section affected by adverse weather, shall receive one half of the maximum number of points which can be scored in their Section. ***If less than fifty percent (50%) of the matches in a Section are played the complete round shall be abandoned.***

Rule 6. **Points system.** Pennant games will be decided on the following points system:

- 6.1 **Sides of 16** (4 rinks): 2 points for a rink win and 10 points for aggregate.
- 6.2 **Sides of 12** (3 rinks): 2 points for a rink win and 8 points for aggregate.
- 6.3 **Tied rink or tied games** - the points are to be divided.
- 6.4 **A Bye** – no points allocated.
- 6.5 **Cancelled or Abandoned Round.** Points shared (until Bowlslink caters for this option and Heat out/washouts). **However, the Pennant Committee reserves the right to make up a cancelled or abandoned round later in any season.**

- 6.6 **Forfeit** Unless permission has been granted by the Pennant Committee a side which has defaulted in any match shall incur a match point penalty with the total match points available for the game and 10 shots being awarded to the opponent of the offending side and 10 shots removed from the defaulting side.
- 6.7 At the conclusion of sectional play points shall decide the position of the clubs. If points are equal, shots up shall decide the position and, if these are equal then percentage shall decide the position.

Rule 7. **Promotion and Relegation.** Promotion and Relegation will form the basis of the Pennant competition. However, the Pennant Committee reserves the right to make changes to the Divisions in order to balance the competition.

- 7.1 **Divisions/Sections.** Both Weekend and Midweek Pennant will consist of Divisions and Sections with Divisions being alphabetical and Sections being numerical. Promotion and relegation will occur as follows:

7.1.1 **Division A.**

- 7.1.1.1 the bottom team in Division A1 will drop back to Division A2;
- 7.1.1.2 the winner in Division A2 will be promoted to Division A1 and the bottom team in Division A2 will drop back to Division A3;
- 7.1.1.3 the winner of Division A3 will be promoted to Division A2 and the bottom team in Division A3 will drop back to Division A4 (Weekend Pennant) or Division B (Midweek Pennant);
- 7.1.1.4 the winner of Section A4 (Weekend Pennant) will be promoted to Division A3 and the bottom team in Division A4 will drop back to Division B; and
- 7.1.1.5 the winner of Division B will be promoted to Division A4 (Weekend Pennant) or Division A3 (Midweek Pennant), subject to the provisions of Rule 7.1.3.

- 7.1.2 Promotion is not compulsory. Should the winner of a Division decline promotion, the offer will be made only to the runner-up in their respective sections. Should no team wish to accept promotion the team to be relegated will remain in that Division/Section.

- 7.1.3 **Division B.** This Division is generally based on geographic boundaries within the Region and not on seniority. If a Club has more than one side in Division B the only side that will be considered for promotion is the Clubs senior side in Division B (refer Rule 7.4.2). Promotion to Division A is offered to clubs winning Division B in the order of points at the end of sectional play and if points are equal then by shots-up and finally by percentage.

- 7.1.3.2 If no club winning Division B desire promotion, the offer of promotion will be made to the **runners-up only** in Division B, in the order of points at the end of sectional play and if points are equal then by shots-up and finally by percentage.

7.1.3.3 If no club winning or runner-up in Division B desire promotion, there will be no relegation from Division A.

7.2 Nothing in these Rules will prevent a club from having more than one team in any one Division and/or Section.

7.3 If more than one side is fielded by a club in a Division/Section, the following conditions shall apply:

7.3.1 The second and subsequent sides shall be graded in numerical sequences as 2, 3, 4 etc (eg. Benalla 1 and Benalla 2) in the descending order of their seniority; and

7.3.2 If a Club has more than one side in B Division they are to formally advise the Pennant Committee, prior to the 1st round, the seniority of each team (eg. B2 is senior to B1). If formal advice is not received, the Pennant Co-ordinator is to assume that the seniority for the Club is in numerical sequence (eg. B1 then B2).

Rule 8. **Finals.** The conditions for the Pennant Finals are as follows:

8.1 All Finals are to commence at 1:00pm (Weekend Pennant) or 10:00am (Midweek Pennant) on the day programmed. - Afternoon tea or lunch is to be taken as programmed by the Regions Pennant Committee.

8.2 Allocated Venues will be made by the Pennant Committee at the end of the last home and away game. The two finalist sides are to agree on the venue allocated. Any objections to the allocated venue must be received by the Ovens and Murray Bowls Region Inc Chairman of the Pennant Committee no later than Friday (Midweek Pennant) and Wednesday (Weekend Pennant) prior to the relevant Final being played. If agreement cannot be reached by the two competing Clubs on an alternate venue, or the proposed Greens are not available then the game will be played at the venue allocated by the Regions Pennant Committee.

8.3 The Finals are to be played under the 'Page' System for all Divisions. The conditions for the Finals are as follows:

8.3.1 **Qualifying Final:** 1st versus 2nd

8.3.2 **Elimination Final:** 3rd versus 4th.

8.3.3 **Preliminary Final:** winner of Elimination Final versus loser of Qualifying Finals.

8.3.4 **Final:** Winner of Qualifying Final versus winner of Preliminary Final.

8.3.5 Semi-Finals and Finals shall be played right out unless it is impossible for one side to win in the number of ends remaining to be completed.

8.3.6 In Semi-Final and Finals games, should sides obtain equal number of shots at the completion of the game, an extra end or ends shall be played by all rinks to decide the winners.

8.3.7 During the Finals of the Pennant competition, the club highest on the ladder will be deemed to be the home side.

Rule 9. **Player Eligibility** - A player must be a registered financial member of a Club as determined by the Board from time to time and in accordance with Rule 6 of the BV Constitution.

9.1 Interchanging of a player between sides prior to finals:

9.1.1 Prior to the last four rounds of sectional play there shall be no restrictions on the interchange of players between the sides of a Club.

9.1.2 For the last four rounds of sectional play, no side will include more than three players who have played the majority of their games, prior to the fourth last game, in a higher graded side.

9.2 Interchanging of a player between sides in finals.

9.2.1 A Side may not include any Player who, during the current season, has played less than four games for the Club (whether completed or not) in that actual competition (the Weekend Pennant Competition and the Midweek Pennant competition are separate competitions and games played in one competition do not count towards Player eligibility in the other competition).

9.2.2 In any Post-sectional match a Side will not include any Player who, during the current season, has played more than four games (whether completed or not) in the Clubs higher graded Sides unless the Player has also played in four or more games in the Side concerned and/or lower graded Sides.

9.2.3 A Club who has insufficient eligible players for any finals of a may apply to the Pennant Committee for approval to play other players from the Club. If this approval is granted then such players may play in any position other than Skip.

9.3 Where a Club has two sides in a Division the following qualification will apply to sides in that respective Division (eg. Two sides in Division A2):

9.3.1 at the conclusion of round 10 the Regions Pennant Committee will name 12 players in each side 'belonging' to that particular side, and as such, ineligible for interchange between the two sides in the same Division.

9.4 If any club has insufficient members available (under Rule 9.2) it can apply to the Pennant Committee for permission to play another nominated member or members and if permission is granted such member or members can play in any position other than Skip.

Rule 10. **Substitutes & Replacement Players.**

10.1 If a player becomes unable to play in the match for reasons arising after the commencement of the match, a substitute is permitted in accordance with Law 33,2 & DR 2.3. Only one substitute is permitted in each Team.

10.2 Incomplete Side:

10.3.1 **at commencement of a game.**

10.3.1.1 If at the time a match is due to commence (both fours and triples) a player is absent DR 2.6 will apply;

- 10.3.1.2 A team with an absent player plays as though the second is the missing player The opponents with a complete team will have their second play consecutive bowls (DR 2.6.1.1, 2.6.1.2 & 2.6.1.3).
- 10.3.1.3 the Skips of both teams carry the scorecard and update the score at completion of each end.
- 10.3.1.4 If the absent player arrives late, they must take their original place and enter the game at the completion of the end in progress.
- 10.4.2 **After a game has commenced:**
 - 10.4.2.1 If a player who has commenced the match cannot continue and there is no eligible substitute available, a team may play with an absent player. The absent player is deemed to be the second.
 - 10.4.2.2 The Skips of both teams carry the scorecard and update the score at completion of each end.
 - 10.4.2.3 The opponents with a complete team will have their second play consecutive bowls (DR 2.6.1.1, 2.6.1.2 & 2.6.1.3).
 - 10.4.2.4 If a player who leaves the match subsequently becomes available they must re-join the team in their original place in the team at the completion of the end in progress.
 - 10.4.2.5 If a substitute player is available, the Controlling Body may allow them to enter the game at the completion of the end in progress.

Rule 11. Tea Break.

- 11.1 **Midweek Pennant.** No tea break will be taken during the game.
- 11.2 **Weekend Pennant.** For season 2020-2021 No tea break will be taken during the game.

Rule 12. Inclement Weather. To ensure player safety and protection of Club assets the following conditions will be applied during inclement weather:

12.1 **Heat**

- 12.1.1 The Pennant Executive may cancel or move the start time for the round prior to the programmed start time, should **extreme** temperatures be anticipated.
- 12.1.2 **Weekend Pennant**
 - 12.1.2.1 **After the commencement of play.** if the temperature reaches 38 degrees Celsius, play will be postponed until the temperature drops below 38 degrees Celsius. If the game is brought forward to a 10:00am start, by the Pennant Committee, play will be cancelled once the temperature reaches 38 degrees Celsius.

- 12.1.2.2 If, owing to inclement weather, a match has not commenced by 2.30pm it shall be abandoned
- 12.1.2.3 If a home and away match has been delayed or interrupted by inclement weather, and a result cannot be achieved before 6:00pm play shall cease.
- 12.1.2.4 In a delayed or interrupted game **any ends in progress at 6:00pm shall be completed.**
- 12.1.3 **Midweek Pennant.** Play will be cancelled once the temperature reaches 38 degrees Celsius.
- 12.1.4 **Monitoring of Temperature.** The monitoring of the temperature shall be conducted independently on grass and synthetic/carpet Greens. (where two Greens at a Club, one synthetic/carpet and the other grass, are being used for Pennant on the same day then the temperature must be monitored independently for each Green).
- 12.1.4.1 The monitoring of the temperature will be by the '**Umpire of the day**' whose decision shall be final. ***The umpire is to allow both Club Side Managers to view the thermometer if requested.***
- 12.1.4.2 Any team, side or individual who continues to play after a decision to abandon play, shall be liable to loss of points, disqualification and or fine.
- 12.1.4.3 The measuring of the temperature to be made using a dry bulb thermometer housed in a Small Instrument Shelter specified by the Bureau of Meteorology, drawing MI-12-01 (copy available from the Region Secretary).
- 12.1.4.4 **Placement on non-shade covered Greens.** The Instrument Shelter is to be placed with its door facing south and in an open position, **preferably on the Green** but clear of any buildings, shelters (, vegetation or any other item which may impede its operation.
- 12.1.4.5 **Placement on shade covered Greens.**The Small Instrument Shelter should be placed with its door facing the south and under the shade cover but clear of any shadows cast by buildings, vegetation or any other item which may impede its operation.
- 12.1.5 If a game is cancelled the following actions are to be completed;
- 12.1.5.1 **Home side Captain** is to notify their opponents
- 12.1.5.2 **Home Club** – complete results entry on the website
- 12.1.5.3 **Away Club** – confirm results on the website.

12.2 Rain

12.2.1 In cases of adverse weather conditions due to rain, the Home Club Sides Captain, after consultation with the Greens committee or Club representative, shall make the decision as to the fitness of the Green for play, whether prior to commencement of play or due to interruption during play.

12.2.2 If, owing to inclement weather, a match has not commenced within 1.5 hours from the planned start time it shall be abandoned.

12.2.3 If a sectional match has been delayed or interrupted by inclement weather and has not been completed after 5 hours of the planned start time play shall cease, but any ends in progress at that time shall be completed.

12.2.4 In the event of the Home Green being unavailable due to wet weather the following actions are to be completed;

12.2.4.1 Home Club

12.2.4.1.1 notify their opponents before 7.00am for Midweek Pennant and 11:00am for Weekend Pennant.

12.2.4.1.2 For an alternative agreed start time, 2.5 hours before the agreed time

12.2.4.1.3 enter the results on the website.

12.2.4.2 Away Club – confirm results on the website.

12.3 **Cancelling or adjusting the start time of Pennant.** The Regions Pennant Committee may cancel the round prior to the programmed start time or adjust the programmed start time should extreme weather conditions be anticipated.

Rule 13. **Umpire.** The Club that is designated as the Home Club is to appoint an accredited Umpire to officiate.

25.2 If the Home Club does not have an accredited Umpire available then a visiting accredited Umpire may be appointed to officiate. Alternatively, if no accredited Umpire is available then an accredited Measurer may be appointed Umpire.

25.3 If no accredited Umpire or Measurer is available then a competent player from the Home Club should be appointed to **act in this capacity**.

25.4 An Umpires/**Measurers** decision is final and cannot be contested, disregarded or appealed except for matters relating to the meaning and interpretation of a Law.

Rule 14. **Bowls Identification Discs** Approved coloured discs are to be used by Club's.

14.1 All players in the Side must use a disc of the same colour/design (including in the advent of a composite side).

14.2 Where opponents use the same coloured discs, the visiting Side shall remove theirs or use another colour if available.

- 14.3 Only a single layer of disc is permitted on a bowl.
- 14.4 Bowls discs may not cover the WB Stamp/Date or the Serial Number of the Bowl and they should be cut or trimmed to comply.
- 14.5 Bowls must have discs on both sides of the bowl. Alternatively, the dot from the set of discs may be placed over the insignia on the bias side of the Bowl in lieu of the small ring provided it is from the same set of discs used by the Side.

Rule 15. Condition of Green

- 15.1 A Green must be suitable for play. If a green is found to be unsuitable, a Club may be directed to make alternative arrangements.
- 15.2 If a satisfactory alternative green cannot be found, the Club may be directed by the Regions Pennant Committee to forfeit games.
- 15.3 The ideal speed of Greens for Pennant is between 13 and 17 seconds.
- 15.4 **Timing the Green.** Clubs are to time the Green(s) prior to the commencement of each Pennant game and ensure visiting Club Sides Captains are advised of the speed.
- 15.5 **Greens Complaints.** The following procedures are to be followed where teams have a complaint regarding the condition of Greens:
 - 15.5.1 Any complaint must be made in writing to the Ovens and Murray Bowls Region Inc Secretary;
 - 15.5.2 The President or the Secretary of the Club concerned is to be informed and provided with a written copy of the complaint;
 - 15.5.3 The Ovens and Murray Bowls Region Inc Greens Chairman is to make arrangements for an inspection of the Subject Green with a Club representative present;
 - 15.5.4 The Ovens and Murray Bowls Region Inc Greens Chairman is to provide a report with recommendations to the Ovens and Murray Bowls Region Inc Pennant Committee; and
 - 15.5.5 The Ovens and Murray Bowls Region Inc Pennant Committee is to consider the Greens Chairman's report and take any action as deemed necessary.

Rule 16. Entering Teams and Posting Results. Bowlslink Competition Module on the website is to be used for administering the Pennant competition. All teams and results are to be entered, by participating clubs, through the Region's website. The following procedures are to be followed:

- 16.1 **Entering of Teams.** Clubs are to enter all teams on the website (including sides with a Bye) **prior to commencement of each round** of Pennant. The procedure for entering teams will be provided by the Pennant Committee.
- 16.2 **Posting Results.** Results of each round of Pennant are to be posted to the website by the Home Club and confirmed by the Away Club by **NLT the day of play**. The procedure for entering the results will be provided by the Pennant Committee. The responsibilities of each club are as follows:
 - 16.2.1 **Home Side Captains:**
 - 16.1.1.1 Enter the results to the website.

16.2.2 **Away Side.** Confirm that the correct results have been input to the website, by the Home Side and align teams.

16.3 **Penalties** Penalties will apply for Clubs not complying with the Pennant Administrative requirements. **A Club will be penalised a loss of 2 points** for breaches listed as follows:

16.3.1 Failure to comply with Rule 12.2.4;

16.3.2 Failure to comply with Rule 16.1 or 16.2

16.4 **Pennant Committee.** is responsible for:

16.4.1 maintaining and publishing the official O&M Bowls Region Pennant Ladder; and

16.4.2 confirming the eligibility of a player.

Rule 17 Use of a Bowlers Arm. The bowlers arm once used in a game must be used for the remainder of the game. This does not apply to the rolling of the jack, which can be rolled either by hand or by a bowlers arm. (DR 2.5.1.1, 2.5.1.2 & 2.5.1.3).

Rule 18 Death of a player on the Green. If, after commencement of any sectional Pennant match, the death of a player occurs at the Club, all matches in progress at the Club will be abandoned out of respect. If this occurs the points will be awarded in accordance with a tied game. If death occurs during Post Sectional play, the match will be completed in accord with the rules for postponement and at a time to be determined by the Pennant Committee.

Rule 19 Protected Events

28.1 The BV Victorian Open is a protected event. Region/Division Pennant cannot be scheduled during the running of the event and the scheduling/playing of rounds of Region State Championships and Club Championship events during Victorian Open is prohibited.

28.2 No exemptions will be given for the conduct of Region/Club Championships during this time

Rule 20 Pennant Rule Amendments. Clubs can submit proposed amendments to the Pennant Rules, through the Regions Secretary (for formal recording), at anytime throughout a bowls season. However, as a general rule, no Pennant Rule shall be amended by the Regions Pennant Committee, once the Pennant Season has commenced, unless it impacts on player wellbeing or is a logical requirement that it should occur as it impacts on the current season.

Summary of O&M Pennant Rules of Competition that differ to Bowls Victoria Region & Division Pennant Competitions Conditions of Play:

Bowls Vic Conditions of Play Guidance No.	O&M Pennant Rules of Competition Refer
1, 4	Rule 7
9, 21, 22, 23,	Rule 4
16	Rule 6
17, 18, 19,	Rule 16
24	Rule 12
27	Rule 2.1
32	Rule 15
34	Rule 2
35	Rule 11