

OVENS AND MURRAY BOWLS REGION

Pennant Committee Meeting

Wodonga BC 12.00pm – 14 Jan 22

MEETING NOTES

Attendance: Noel Murrell, Bryan Smith, Ian Bilney, Fran Don, Dave Crothers, Kerry Kinanne, Laureen Smith

Apology: Gareth Williams,

Welcome: Chairman Noel welcomed President Laureen to our meeting.

BUSINESS:

- **Vaccine requirements** – Confirmation and clarification on President Laureen's letter re unvaccinated players was discussed. Committee was advised that the issue came about due to changes in Covid rules regarding sport in NSW. An unvaccinated Victorian women bowler, from our region, had requested clarification on whether she could play in a State event to be conducted at YMGCR. Under the NSW changes, easing of restrictions on vaccination requirements at YMGCR and guidance provided by Bowls Vic there was a level of confusion. However, as our Region's Board had decreed that all bowlers competing in Region events and Pennant had to be double vaccinated this policy stood. However, if NSW clubs allowed unvaccinated bowlers then they can participate in any bowls, excepting Pennant and O&M run events, at their clubs. Fortunately President Laureen was able to explain what was the intent of her letter to clubs, which was not to cause confusion or angst but to endeavour to clarify guidance from Bowls Victoria.
- **Covid-19** - Concern over growing case numbers in our region gave cause for the committee to consider the following:
 - Notification of close contacts – does region need to set a policy?
 - Should we abandon season?
 - Options if situation worsens.

Resolution – That clubs be requested to advise weekly of numbers and impact on their clubs and that Pennant continue up until at least Christmas. If too many rounds are impacted prior to Christmas then the season would be abandoned.

- **Pennant Medallions/Plaques** – These have been ordered
- **New Washout/Heat-out Rule** – Discussion took place on feedback received on the requirement for clubs to catch-up on games impacted. Only three games had been impacted and catch-up games had not occurred. The catch-up games to date were:
 - **Midweek** – Round 6
 - A2 – Wodonga v Benalla
 - A3 – Wodonga v Corowa RSL
 - B1 – Swanpool v YMGCR
 - **Weekend** – heat-out (Yarrowonga BC under shade cloth). Other games at YMGCR and Mulwala not impacted.
- **Pennant Rule Re Inclement Weather** – It was agreed that Rule 12.2.2 needed to be amended as it was overlooked when introducing the new Washout/Heat-out rule. This discrepancy was highlighted by Wodonga during Midweek Pennant Round 6. The rule is to be amended to:

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 Greens 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, for the day. the Side Captains will agree on whether to wait to play later in the day or postpone to a date to be agreed. The Home Side Captain, after consultation with the Greens Committee or Club Greens Representative, can postpone the start time until later in the day (prior to the visiting club travelling to the venue) if the visiting Club Side Captain agrees.

~~12.2.3 If a sectional match has been delayed or interrupted by inclement weather and a result cannot be achieved after 5 hours 15 minutes, of the planned start time, play shall cease, any ends in progress at that time shall be completed~~

- **Twilight Games** – Some games have been mandated as twilight games this season. There appears to be a mix of views mostly around night vision of players and poor lighting. However, it appears the upside for clubs is increased income and a party atmosphere when clubs set up background music and BBQ/sausage sizzle etc.
- **Greens update:** Corryong BC has installed a new synthetic Green. President Laureen and Pennant Chairman Noel attended the opening.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

NSW Clubs Joining O&M – President Laureen was asked for an update on the interest for Albury and District Clubs affiliating with Bowls Vic (O&M Region). The committee was advised that nothing official has occurred and that we can only wait until something formal is received.

Meeting closed: 2.30pm

N. Murrell

Chairman

Ovens and Murray Bowls region Inc