

OVENS AND MURRAY BOWLS REGION

Pennant Committee Meeting Wangaratta BC – 14 Sep 23

MEETING NOTES

Attendance: Noel Murrell, Dave Crothers, Gareth Williams, George Peterson, Fran Don, Ian Bilney
Apology:

Open Meeting: 10:30am

BUSINESS:

Chairman Bryan welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the season

- **Appointment of Committee Chair** Bryan Smith was voted in as the Chairman
- **Review Duties and Responsibilities of the Pennant Committee**
 - The Duties were reviewed and updated. Copy attached
- **Divisions 2023-24** The Divisions and Fixture dates as released to clubs were formally accepted.
- **Correspondence from clubs**
 - Letter from Bright – request change of Division
 - The argument by Bright BC to be placed in Weekend Division B3 was not accepted by the committee. The model for B Division was accepted as the model that best met the requirement of Sides in the Division being geographically aligned.
 - Letter from Swanpool – concerns over no promotion to A3 vs Lavington inserted
 - Whilst the committee understands Swanpool's argument and frustration the non promotion was based on the rules set for the inclusion of Howlong in season 2022-23. All clubs were advised, prior to the commencement of season 2022-23, of the promotion/relegation model to be applied by the Pennant Committee for that season. At the time the decision was made the committee could not foresee Lavington joining our Region let alone at what level they would be inserted into our competition. The committee has now amended the Ovens and Murray Bowls Region Inc Pennant Conditions of Play (COP) to cover this situation in the future.
 - Email from Myrtleford – Weekend Div A3 and B3 points system due to unequal no of Byes. How is the Pennant Committee going to address this inequality?
 - **Resolution** *After much discussion on options it was decided that Sides with a Bye in A3/B3 would be awarded full points. Post the meeting Noel M (BowlsLink administrator) identified that there is an ability within BowlsLink to address this as follows:*
 - *As the two Sides that miss out on the second Bye play one another in the last round it was agreed that they will not play one another, effectively creating the second Bye for them and ensuring they play the same number of games.*
- **Promotion and Relegation** Discussion took place on the best option for promotion and relegation where an incoming Side is deemed to be inserted into Division A, creating a 9 Side Division, to ensure that promotion/relegation continues to occur through all Divisions.

Proposal: In the advent of new clubs/Sides being added to our Regions and the Side is deemed to be inserted in Division A the following is to occur;

- Insert the side into the appropriate Division and drop the last and 2nd last Side in that Division from the end of the previous season and this cascades down through all lower Divisions. This will ensure that the relevant Division reverts back to 8 Sides;

eg. Insert new Side into Division A3, drop last 2 Sides from previous season, drop last two Sides in Division A4 also. This will allow promotion from A4 and B Division.

- **Review Pennant Divisional Structure** The committee reviewed the current structure to ensure that it is still appropriate. The committee agreed that when and if it is appropriate we look at creating an additional Division A eg. Weekend Pennant create Division A5.
- **Conditions of Play Regional Pennant** The committee expressed its concern in the the apparent direction Bowls Victoria is heading in regards to controlling Regional Pennant through Bowls Vic Regional Pennant COP. The consensus from all committee members is that limited consultation is occurring and Bowls Victoria, specifically Events & Competitions Manager, are now becoming very inflexible. Until last season Regions could make changes the Bowls Vic Pennant COP provided we did not breach any Laws of Bowls. Attitude of Bowls Vic – Pennant Permit. The committee discussed options available to the committee to address the inflexibility of Bowls Vic and their persistent interference in Regional Pennant.
 - The current impacts on our Pennant competition are:
 - the enforced application of the **Promotional Pennant Permit**,
 - the inclusion of the Bowls Vic **Regions Sides Championship as a Protected Event** where restrictions have been applied to all levels of Pennant,
 - Inclusion of a new condition, this season, where ***we must comply with the Bowls Vic Regional Pennant COP*** except where the COP's allow the Region's to make their own rule.
 - Option discussed and available to the Pennant Committee are as follow:
 - Fight the restrictions imposed by Bowls Vic
 - Pull out of State Pennant but still play an interclub competition between clubs. This would allow us to set our own rules and possibly expand our competition to include Sides/clubs from over the river without the need for these clubs to seek transfer to Bowls Vic (Ovens and Murray). The committee resolved to:
 - Canvas club interest,
 - Debate at the next General Meeting (Delegates) – 8th October.
 - If we continue to remain in the State Pennant competition, request clubs to not approve any Promotional Permit Applications as the Region has no input in to the approval process (Bowls Vic the approving body).
- **Pennant Rules** The Pennant Committee reviewed the updated New Region Pennant Rules in the new layout in line with the Bowls Vic Regional COP. The new layout uses the Bowls Vic Regional Pennant Conditions of Play with the allowed Region Pennant Rules embedded in brown text. Other than graphical amendments the only two amendments to last seasons rules are:
 - 33.1 **Promotion and Relegation, Division A – New Clubs.** This new rule has been included to ensure that promotion and relegation does not disadvantage clubs when a new club side is inserted in Division A.
 - 36.1 **Updated Inclement Weather Rule** – Heat to allow play beyond 6.15pm
- **Review Side Captains Toolkit** The Side Captains Toolkit for season 2023-24 was reviewed and will be sent to all clubs with a copy posted on the website.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

- **Twilight Games** In line with the decision made by the committee at the last meeting the only twilight game programmed is the requested Weekend Division A1 games between Wangaratta and Benalla in Round 7.
- **Kiewa** An enquiry received from Kiewa on the possibility of dropping to Weekend Division A1 to A2 due to bowler transfers. No formal request received.

Meeting closed: 11.55am

B Smith

Chairman

Ovens and Murray Bowls region Inc

ANNEXURE B

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PENNANT COMMITTEE

1. This committee shall consist of a maximum of **ten (10)** members who will be responsible for the conduct of Pennant in the region. The committee's responsibilities are:
 - 1.1. Call for entries for both Midweek and Weekend Division B
 - 1.2. To conduct the draw for the competition immediately entries have closed;
 - 1.3. To prepare a Fixture and Pennant draw for the coming season;
 - 1.4. To advise clubs in writing of the various procedures applicable to the competition for that season;
 - 1.5. To arrange the efficient conduct of the Pennant competition;
 - 1.6. To ensure all results are entered into BowlsLink after each game and ensure ladders for each Division and Section of the competition are available within BowlsLink;
 - 1.7. To arbitrate on any matter regarding the eligibility of players for Pennant competition and any other matter pertaining to Pennant brought to its attention;
 - 1.8. To allocate Greens for the final series; and
 - 1.9. To consider and make appropriate changes to the Rules of the Pennant Competition.
2. Within seven (7) days of any meeting of the Committee, the committee shall send a copy of the Meeting Notes and any supporting documentation to the Region Secretary.
3. A copy of all Pennant Committee Notes are to be posted to the Regions website