



## **Bowls Victoria Regional Pennant**

### **Conditions of Play (COP)**

**Inclusive of Rules Specific to Ovens  
and Murray Bowls Region Inc**

**2023/24**

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# SECTION 1 – CONDITIONS OF PLAY

APPLICABLE FOR REGIONAL PENNANT COMPETITIONS

## Introduction

These Conditions of Play apply to the conduct of the 2023-24 Midweek and Weekend Regional Pennant competitions.

The Conditions of Play are reviewed annually by Bowls Victoria, with input and feedback from the Officiating and Laws Committee.

Bowls Victoria reserves the right to amend the Conditions of Play from season to season, or as required.

Regional Pennant competitions are conducted in accordance with the:

- Laws of the Sport of Bowls, Crystal Mark 4th Edition, (including domestic regulations for Australia), April 2023.
- Bowls Australia (BA) Policies; and
- Bowls Victoria (BV) Constitution, BV Regulations, and BV Policies.
- **Ovens and Murray (O&M) Bowls Region Inc Constitution and Regulations**
- No laws governing a sport can cope with every situation, and the Laws governing the sport of bowls are no exception. The Laws of the Sport of Bowls have been drawn up in the spirit of true sportsmanship. So, if a situation arises that is not covered by the Laws or these Conditions of Play, players and officials must use their common sense and a spirit of fair play to decide the appropriate course of action.

A Region Pennant Committee reserves the right set conditions relevant to their local area as it considers necessary, providing these are not in conflict with the Laws of the Sport of Bowls, Domestic Regulations or these conditions of play.

## 1. Eligibility of Member Clubs

- 1.1. Clubs may enter any number of Sides, up to the maximum number which can be accommodated on the rinks available for use.
- 1.2. Sides of a club will be graded numerically (1, 2, 3, 4 etc.) in descending order of ability.

## 2. Insufficient Players to Enter a Side

- 2.1. A club may seek approval from their Region to combine with another club or clubs to enter a Side.
- 2.2. One of the combined clubs must be nominated as being responsible for submitting the side and recording results in BowlsLink, as provided for in Section 1, Clause 32.
- 2.3. If a combined side is approved, the players are permitted to wear their respective club uniform and cap. If bowls discs are used, all members of the combined side must use discs that are of the same colour/design.

## 3. Eligibility of Players

- 3.1. Clubs must ensure all their players competing in any Victorian pennant competition are registered BV Members with playing rights and recorded on the club's BowlsLink database prior to the commencement of the game.

A breach of this requirement will result in forfeiture of the game to the opponent and/or action being taken under Section 1, Clause 47.

*Note: Any participant in an organised event^ at club level and above must be a registered financial member\*\* of a BV Member club and recorded on the BowlsLink database as having playing rights.*

*^Organised club events include all regular competitions regardless of the value of the prize or prestige associated with the event. For the avoidance of doubt, this includes social competitions such as Thursday morning triples where the prize might be a frozen chook or a small amount of money, but does not include barefoot bowls or Christmas parties which are understood to serve as an important format to attract new members and a vital income stream for clubs.*

*\*\* A registered financial member is any club membership that includes playing rights of any kind.*

#### **4. Gender specific restrictions**

- 4.1 Regions, in making decisions on gender-specific competitions, and determining the positions each gender may play, must ensure that they are in line with equal opportunity requirements.

#### **5. Pennant Permit**

- 5.1. A player can be approved to play in a midweek or weekend pennant competition for a member club other than their nominated club by submitting a pennant permit request to BV via an online form prior to round 5 of the pennant competition they wish to play in. No application will be considered after round 5. This form must be endorsed by both clubs.

Link to form: <https://forms.office.com/r/ajzkqEdAeh>

- 5.2. If approved by BV, a permit remains in place until 30 June of the following year and the player is not eligible to play pennant for their nominated club in the competition for which the permit applies, unless all parties agree on the permit being voided.
- 5.3. A player may apply for a clearance from their nominated club while a permit is in place.
- 5.4. A player may only apply for one permit for a pennant competition.
- 5.5. A player with a pennant Permit may not play in the singles championships at their permit club. The ability to play in other club events is at the discretion of the club conducting the event.
- 5.6. A player with a pennant Permit may not play in the Singles, Pairs, Mixed Pairs, Triples or Fours Championships of a region, other than that of their nominated club and is not eligible to represent a region other than that of their nominated club.

#### **6. Interstate, international (Marquee Players) Pennant and Promotional Permit**

- 6.1. Up to three 'invited' interstate and/or international, to be known as 'marquee players', may be used by a club for both midweek and weekend pennant, in any division.
- 6.2. A club is entitled to have three marquee players for midweek pennant, and three marquee players for weekend pennant.
- 6.3. A 'marquee player' must be a registered member of the club and registered on the BowlsLink database prior to the first round of the applicable pennant competition.
- 6.4. The names of an interstate player or players must be submitted to BV via e-mail prior to the first round of the pennant competition. No additional or replacement interstate players can be added to a club's list after round 1.

- 6.5. Interstate players must submit a BA Interstate Pennant Permit Declaration Form through their state body. An Interstate clearance is not required.
- 6.6. An international player is defined as a player, that prior to playing in a metropolitan pennant competition, has held no prior affiliation with a State Body within Australia, but has held affiliation with an overseas body and represented that body in an open national side in the last 2 years (from round 1 of Pennant season).
- 6.7. International players may be nominated at any stage during the season but remain part of the 3-marquee player limit. Names of an international player or players must be submitted to BV via e-mail prior to the player playing.
- 6.8. Any player that falls into the international player definition, but has had an affiliation prior to the 22/23 season, is not counted as an international player.

#### **Promotional Permit**

- 6.8. A Promotional permit can only be used once per club, per season.
- 6.9. A Promotional permit must be used before the Christmas break, or prior to the last 4 rounds of pennant if the pennant competition is scheduled to finish prior to Christmas.
- 6.10. The Promotional permit player must fit within the 3-player marquee cap.
- 6.11. A Promotional permit player must not already be playing on a pennant permit for that season in that competition (e.g., a Player on a Weekend permit to their non-primary club for weekend pennant **is not** eligible for a promotional permit for weekend pennant).
- 6.12. An eligible player can play on multiple promotional permits throughout the season.
- 6.13. The application must be completed, and approved by BV, 14 days prior to promotional permit player representing the club.
- 6.14. Promotional Permits to be applied for via the following link – <https://forms.office.com/r/KxbBVcazZU>
- 6.15. Complaints about the eligibility of marquee players must be lodged via the following form.  
Complaint Form: <https://bit.ly/BV-ComplaintForm>
- 6.16. Failure to comply will result in forfeiture of the game, under Law 39.2.1.

## **7. Protected Events**

### **7.1. BV Victorian Open.**

- 7.1.1. The BV Victorian Open is a protected event. Regional pennant is not scheduled during the running of the event, and the scheduling/playing of rounds of region state championships and club championship events during the Victorian Open is prohibited.
- 7.1.2. No exemptions will be given for the conduct of region/club championships during this time.

### **7.2. The Nationals (Bowls Australia event).**

- 7.2.1. The Nationals are a protected event for pennant under the following conditions:
- 7.2.2. Where one player from a pennant side is unavailable due to playing in The Nationals, then that side will play without any recourse
- 7.2.3. Where 2 or more players are playing in The Nationals, the following shall occur:

- 7.2.3.1. By mutual agreement, teams can agree to play without players that are playing in The Nationals:
- 7.2.3.2. Clubs are encouraged to find a suitable alternate date to avoid any clash;
- 7.2.3.3. Where a suitable alternative date cannot be agreed to, Bowls Victoria or the region pennant committee will nominate the suitable date.
- 7.2.4. If Clause 7.2.2.3 is invoked, the controlling body cannot choose a date during The Nationals.
- 7.2.5. State and club championships can be conducted on the proviso that any player at The Nationals must have an equal opportunity to participate with no exception.

**7.3. Regional Pennant Competition.**

- 7.3.1. The scheduling/playing of rounds of region championships and club championship events on a day when Regional Pennant rounds are scheduled is prohibited.
- 7.3.2. No exemptions will be given for the conduct of region or club championships during this time.

**Region Sides Championships**

7.4.1 The scheduling of Regional Pennant during the Region Sides Championship is prohibited

**8. Competition Format**

- 8.1. The number of divisions and Sections will depend on the number of entries received.
- 8.2. Regions are responsible for the formatting in regard to number of teams, rounds and fixtures with a competition.
  - 8.2.1 **Divisions.** Whenever possible, 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:
    - **Midweek.** There will be two Divisions:
      - **Division A** – with 3 Sections (12 players/Side); consisting of Divisions A1, A2 and A3.
      - **Division B** – with 3 Sections (12 players/Side); consisting of Division B1, B2, B3.
    - **Weekend.** There will be two Divisions as follows:
      - **Division A** - with 4 Sections (16 players/Side); consisting of Divisions A1, A2, A3 and A4.
      - **Division B** – with 4 Sections (12 players/Side); consisting of Divisions B1, B2, B3, B4.
  - Note** The number of Divisions/Sections for both Midweek and Weekend Pennant can be added or reduced, by the Pennant Committee, dependent on teams available each season.

**9. Controlling Body on Day of Play**

The Controlling Body for matters arising on the day of play is the Host club. The Club must nominate a person for this position. This person must not be the Umpire or Side Manager of the day.

## **10. Side Manager on Day of Play**

- 10.1. Wherever under a law, regulation, policy or the BV Conditions of Play, a side is given a right of decision or choice, it will be exercised by the Side Manager who will act on behalf of the Side.
- 10.2. The Side Manager must not be the umpire of the day for the game they are managing.

## **11. Umpires**

- 11.1. The club that is designated as the home club must appoint an accredited umpire to officiate.
- 11.2. 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 must be appointed umpire.
- 11.3. If no accredited umpire or measurer is available, then a competent player from the home club must be appointed to act as umpire for that day.
- 11.4. An umpire's decision is final and cannot be contested, disregarded, or appealed except for matters relating to the meaning or interpretation of a Law.
- 11.5. The umpire of the day must resolve any matter where the side managers cannot agree.
- 11.6. The umpire of the day must not be the side manager or coach for the game they are umpiring.

## **12. Selection of Sides & the use of Substitutes**

- 12.1. Gender cannot be used as criteria for selection.
- 12.2. Subject to Section 1, Clause 13, sides will be filled by available players in descending order of ability.
- 12.3. If there are insufficient players available on a day of play to fill all sides entered by the club, the lowest graded side must be the side which concedes a walkover.
- 12.4. The club's lowest graded side can play with one or more teams playing ONE player short in accordance with DR 2.6.
- 12.5. If a club has insufficient players to fill all sides entered by the club, an affiliated player may act as a substitute in the club's lowest graded side.
- 12.6. Only one substitute is permitted in each team (rink) and the substitute cannot skip.
- 12.7. A player will not play or substitute in more than one game in the same round of the same Pennant competition.
- 12.8. A club conceding a walkover must notify their opponent via phone as soon as possible, but no later than two hours before the scheduled starting time.
- 12.9. Failure to comply will result in forfeiture of the game, under Law 39.2.1

## **13. Incomplete Team at Commencement of a Game**

- 13.1. If, 30 minutes after the scheduled start time for a game, one player is absent from one or more teams in a side and no eligible or affiliated substitute is available or allowed, the game must continue in accordance with the provisions of DR 2.6.



- 13.2. 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 in accordance with DR 2.6.
- 13.3. The skips of both teams will carry the scorecard and update the score at the completion of each end
- 13.4. If the absent player arrives late, all players must take their original place in the team, at the completion of the end in progress.

#### **14. Substitute After a Game has Commenced**

- 14.1. If a player who has commenced the game cannot continue and there is no eligible or affiliated substitute available, the game must continue in accordance with the provisions of D.R. 2.6.
- 14.2. If a substitute is available, they must play in the same position as the player being substituted (excluding the skip). If the skip is required to be substituted, then the other members of the team must rearrange their positions as necessary. A substitute cannot skip.
- 14.3. If a substitute is not available, the skips of both teams will carry the scorecard and update the score at completion of each end.
- 14.4. 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 in accordance with DR 2.6.
- 14.5. If a player who leaves the game subsequently becomes available, they must re-join the team in their original place in the team at the completion of the end in progress.
- 14.6. If a substitute player becomes available, the controlling body may allow them to enter the game at the completion of the end in progress.

#### **15. Interchanging of Players Between Sides Prior to Finals**

- 15.1. Prior to the last four rounds of a region pennant competition, there will be no restrictions on the interchange of players between the sides of a club.
- 15.2. For the last four rounds of a region pennant competition, no side will include more than three (3) players who have played a majority of their games, prior to the fourth last game, in any combination of higher graded sides.
- 15.3. The BowlsLink competition Management System shall be used as the official record of the number of games played by a player.
- 15.4. Failure to comply will result in forfeiture of the game, under Law 39.2.1.

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

- All Finals are to commence at 1:00pm (Weekend Pennant) or 10:00am (Midweek Pennant) on the day programmed.
- 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.

- The Finals are to be played under the 'Page-McIntyre' System for all Divisions. The conditions for the Finals are as follows:
  - **Qualifying Final:** 1<sup>st</sup> versus 2<sup>nd</sup>
  - **Elimination Final:** 3<sup>rd</sup> versus 4<sup>th</sup>.
  - **Preliminary Final:** winner of Elimination Final versus loser of Qualifying Finals.
  - **Final:** Winner of Qualifying Final versus winner of Preliminary Final.
- All Finals shall be played right out unless it is impossible for one side to win in the number of ends remaining in the game.
- In 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.
- During the Finals of the Pennant competition, the club highest on the ladder will be deemed to be the home side.

#### **Interchanging of a player between sides in finals.**

- 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 and the Midweek Pennant competitions are separate competitions and games played in one competition do not count towards Player eligibility in the other competition).
- 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.
- A Club who has insufficient eligible players for any finals may apply to the Pennant Committee for approval to play other players from the Club. If approval is granted, then such players may play in any position other than Skip.
- 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):
  - at the conclusion of the 4<sup>th</sup> last Round the Region's Pennant Committee will name 12 players in each Side as 'belonging' to that particular Side, and as such, ineligible for interchange between the two Sides in the same Division.
- 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.

## **16. Use of Alternative Venue for Home Games**

- 16.1. When a club enters more Sides than can be catered for at home, the club must nominate the Side(s) to use the alternative venue prior to the commencement of the pennant season.
- 16.2. If during the pennant season it is necessary to transfer a home game to an alternative venue, the club must get agreement from the opposing side. If agreement cannot be reached between the clubs, it will be referred to the chair of the region pennant committee for resolution.
- 16.3. Where the home green is available, Sides will be allocated to play at the home green in order of seniority of the Sides drawn to play at home.

## 17. Bowls Identification Discs

- 17.1. Sides are not required to use bowls discs (adhesive labels). If they are used, then all players in the Side must use a disc of the same colour/design.
- 17.2. Where opponents use the same-coloured discs, the visiting Side shall remove theirs or use another colour if available.
- 17.3. Bowls discs cannot cover the WB Stamp/Date, or the Serial Number of the bowl, and they should be cut or trimmed to comply.
- 17.4. Only a single layer of disc is permitted on a bowl. All bowls must have discs on both sides of the bowl.
- 17.5. 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.

## 18. Rules for Attire

- 18.1. It is the responsibility of the president of the player's club to ensure a player is attired in accordance with the BV Rules for Attire when playing in a region pennant competition.
- 18.2. All attire must comply with Bowls Australia National Merchandise Program (NMP) Logo Policy as it relates to upper and lower body attire.
- 18.3. Players must be attired in the same BV registered shirts/tops, and lower body wear (colour/image), except for a combined side as provided for in Section 1, Clause 2.3.
- 18.4. All lower body attire and outer wear must include the NMP logo, with placement of logo conforming to the Bowls Australia NMP guidelines.
- 18.5. For information about approved footwear, refer to the following Bowls Australia information and all footwear must comply with the Laws of the Sport of Bowls, Appendix A.2.  
<https://www.bowls.com.au/get-involved/attire-equipment/footwear/>
- 18.6. The NMP Logo must appear on the front or side of all headwear, except on hats with a club hat-band, where a logo is not required.
- 18.7. An affiliated member approved as a substitute must comply with the BA National Merchandise Program (NMP) Logo Policy and is permitted to wear their respective club uniform and cap.
- 18.8. Complaints must be lodged via the following form: <https://bit.ly/BV-ComplaintForm>
- 18.9. Failure to comply will result in a warning on the first occasion. A subsequent breach(s) may result in a fine of \$100 and/or action being taken under Section 1, Clause 47.
- 18.10. To register all uniform garments, the following Uniform Registration Form must be used:  
**Uniform Registration Form:** [https://bit.ly/BV\\_Uniform\\_Registration](https://bit.ly/BV_Uniform_Registration)

## 19. Playing of Music

- 19.1. If music is played during a pennant game, it should be appropriate in content, not impact on the conduct of the game and be at a level acceptable to side managers. If side managers cannot agree, the umpire of the day will make the final decision.
- 19.2. Any breach of this Clause may result in action being taken under Section 1, Clause 47.

## 20. Photography, Video and Live Streaming

- 20.1. Bowls Victoria reserves the right to use any photographs, video, or live streaming footage taken during pennant for promotional purposes.

- 20.2. Bowls Victoria encourages third-party live streaming for all matches.
- 20.3. Third party live streaming requires prior approval from the region.

## 21. Commencement Time

- 21.1. Games will commence at a time determined by the region pennant committee. Two trial ends will be completed before the scheduled commencement time.
  - **Day and time of play.** Pennant Matches may be played any time during the 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.
    - **Start Time.** All Pennant Matches are to commence at (other than agreed alternate date/time arranged in accordance with Rule 2):
      - **Weekend Pennant:** 1:00 pm on Saturday (2 x trial ends prior) or **10:00am if extreme heat is anticipated**. The Pennant Committee will advise of any changes to start time no later than Thursday prior to the round.
      - **Midweek Pennant:** 10:00am on Tuesday (2 x trial ends prior)
      - **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.

## 22. Pre-Game Pennant Practice

- 22.1. The provision for pre-pennant practice will be as determined by the region pennant committee.
  - Home Sides:** Prior to one hour before the commencement time, the home team may practice on any rink other than the rinks or part of the rinks allocated to them for the game, including east west or on the pegs, if the game is to be played north south and vice versa if the game is played east west.
  - Visiting Sides:** Visiting sides are not permitted to practice at the competition venues on the day of competition. A breach in the first instance may result in a warning. A subsequent breach may result in a deduction of four (4) competition points and/or additional action being taken by the O&M Bowls Region's Board. Any applicable financial penalty is at the discretion of the O&M Bowls Region's Board.

## 23. Timing of Green

- 23.1. The region pennant committee will determine the requirements and procedures for timing of the green.
  - A Green must be suitable for play. If a Green is found to be unsuitable, a Club may be directed to make alternative arrangements for their home game.
  - If a satisfactory alternative Green cannot be found, the Club may be directed by the Regions Pennant Committee, to forfeit the game/games.
  - The ideal speed of Greens for Pennant is between 13 and 17 seconds.

**Timing the Green.** Clubs are to time the Green(s) prior to the commencement of each Pennant game and ensure visiting Club Side Captains are advised of the speed.

**Greens Complaints.** The following procedures are to be followed where teams have a complaint regarding the condition of Greens:

- Any complaint must be made in writing to the Secretary of the Ovens and Murray Bowls Region Inc;
- The President or the Secretary of the Club concerned is to be informed and provided with a written copy of the complaint;
- 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;
- 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
- The Ovens and Murray Bowls Region Inc. Pennant Committee is to consider the Greens Chairman's report and take any action as deemed necessary.

## 24. Draw for Rinks

- 24.1. The rink draw will be conducted, by side managers, prior to the commencement of the game. Rink draws are not to be conducted until pregame pennant practice is complete.
- 24.2. The cards must be shuffled and exchanged with the cards of one side being placed name face down by one manager then the other manager will place a card face down on each card.
- 24.3. Rink draws may be conducted, from time to time, by BV and will be communicated to all clubs involved. This can be done in the days prior to the game being played. This includes the draws for rinks for livestreamed games.

## 25. Allocation of Rinks

- 25.1. Rinks must be consecutively numbered. A side will play on consecutively numbered rinks, preferably on the same green.
- 25.2. The separation of teams that are part of a side is not permitted on the same green.
- 25.3. Where more than one green is required, a side will play on those rinks which have been consecutively numbered for both greens.

## 26. Duration of Game

- 26.1. The region pennant committee will determine the duration of a game.

**Number of ends.** Games to be of twenty-one (21) ends per rink, unless through adverse weather or due to time restrictions, as per Rule 12, when not less than fifty (50) ends have been completed in a four Sides match, or thirty six (36) ends in a three Sides match, and twenty five (25) ends in a two Sides match. The match shall thereupon be terminated and decided with the scores at that stage. If the required number of ends, to constitute a game, are not reached both teams will share the points, in accordance with Rule 6.5. For clubs involved in unplayed/incomplete games in any Section affected by adverse weather, Rule 6 will apply

## 27. Scheduled Breaks

- 27.1. The region pennant committee will determine arrangements for scheduled breaks.

**Tea Break.** No tea break will be taken during a game. However, Side Captains can agree on a short break midway through a round of Pennant (to allow bowlers to rehydrate or take medication etc)

## 28. Points Allocated for a Game

28.1. The region pennant committee will determine the allocation of points for a:

- Side win
- Side receiving a forfeit or walkover
- Side giving a forfeit or walkover
- Side tie
- Team win or forfeit
- Team tie
- Bye
- Walkovers resulting from a Side withdrawal (including the withdrawal of a Side after the season has commenced).
- Game abandoned

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

- **Sides of 16** (4 rinks): 2 points for a rink win and 10 points for aggregate.
- **Sides of 12** (3 rinks): 2 points for a rink win and 8 points for aggregate.
- **Tied rink or tied games** - the points are to be divided equally.
- **A Bye** points will not be allocated
- **Cancelled, Abandoned Round/Game.** the points will be shared between competing Sides.
- **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.

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.

## 29. Division Results by Round

- 29.1. The order of sides in each playing area will be determined by the total points gained.
- 29.2. If two or more sides have the same number of points their order will be determined by net margin of shots 'for' minus shots 'against' each side.
- 29.3. If net margins be equal the order will be determined by the higher proportion of 'total shots for' divided by 'total shots against'.
- 29.4. If there is still a tie for a position to qualify for finals play, the sides concerned will play a deciding game.

## 30. Results submitted to Region

30.1. The procedure for submitting results will be determined by the region pennant Committee.

**Entering Teams and Posting Results.** The BowlsLink Competition Module, is to be used for administering the Pennant competition. All teams and results are to be entered, by participating clubs, within BowlsLink. The following procedures are to be followed:

- **Entering of Teams.** Clubs are to enter all teams on BowlsLink (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.

- **Posting Results.** Results of each round of Pennant are to be posted to BowlsLink 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:
  - **Home Side Captains:**
    - Align Sides and enter the results to BowlsLink.
  - **Away Side:**
    - Confirm that the sides have been aligned and the correct results have been input to BowlsLink, by the Home Side

### 31. Results for a Side Forfeit or Walkover

- 31.1. The procedure for submitting details of a forfeit or walkover will be determined by the region pennant committee.
- 31.2. If a side receives a walkover/forfeit or a bye, they must submit the names of the selected players for finals eligibility purposes.

### 32. Alterations to a Recorded Result

- 32.1. Clubs may seek a correction to the result entered in BowlsLink. The request must be submitted to the region pennant committee within 48 hours of the game being completed.

### 33. Promotion & Relegation

- 33.1. Promotion and relegation arrangements will be determined by the region pennant committee.

**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.

- **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:
  - **Division A.**
    - the bottom team in Division A1 will drop back to Division A2;
    - the winner in Division A2 will be promoted to Division A1 and the bottom team in Division A2 will drop back to Division A3;
    - 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);
    - the winner of Division A4 (Weekend Pennant) will be promoted to Division A3 and the bottom Side in Division A4 will drop back to Division B; and
    - the winner of Division B will be promoted to the lowest A Division, subject to the provisions of **Division B** below.
  - **New Clubs:** In the advent of new club being added to our Region and a Side is deemed to be inserted in Division A the following will apply;



- The side will be Inserted in the appropriate Division and the last and 2nd last Side from the end of the previous season will be relegated and this will cascade down in all lower Divisions;

*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.*

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.

- **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. 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.
  - If no club winning Division B desire promotion, the offer of promotion will be made to the **runners-up** 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. Should neither the winners or runner-up's accept promotion the Pennant Committee deserves the right to promote any other club desiring promotion to Division A.
  - If no club winning or runner-up in Division B desire promotion, there will be no relegation from Division A.

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

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

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

### 34. Awarding of Points for Abandoned Games

- 34.1. Points will be shared by sides when all games scheduled for that day are abandoned.
- 34.2. A forfeit or walkover will count as a completed game.
- 34.3. For a game abandoned by agreement before or during play, before a result is obtained, each side will share equally the maximum points available.
- 34.4. For a game abandoned by agreement during play and a result is possible, points will be allocated as if the game had been completed, using the scores at the time the game was abandoned.
- 34.5. In the event of government imposed constraints impacting on the competition, the Region Pennant Committee will take the necessary action, which may include abandonment of games.
- 34.6. If games are abandoned by Region Pennant Committee due to Government COVID restrictions, points will be shared equally as for an abandoned game (Clause 34).



### 35. Post-Sectional (knock-out) Game Abandoned due to Inclement Weather

- 35.1. Every effort must be made to complete a post-sectional (knockout) game on the scheduled day. If a post sectional game is abandoned, it will be rescheduled and completed under such conditions as the region pennant committee decides.
- 35.2. If a post sectional match game is abandoned, it will be rescheduled and completed under such conditions as the region pennant committee decides unless the scores are such that one side must win the game if all remaining ends were played.

### 36. Inclement Weather, Play Commencement, and Interruption to Play

- 36.1. An inclement weather arrangement suitable for local conditions will be developed by the region pennant committee.

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

- **Heat**

- The Pennant Committee may postpone or move the start time for the round, prior to the programmed start time, should **extreme** temperatures be anticipated.

- **Weekend Pennant**

**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 abandoned once the temperature reaches 38 degrees Celsius.

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

If a home and away match has been delayed or interrupted by extreme heat, and the game is underway, play can continue beyond 6:15pm (or 5hrs 15min for an alternate agreed start time) until the minimum ends are reached (50 or 36 ends) at which time play will cease and Match points given to the leading Side at that time. If a game has been interrupted and has not recommenced by 6:15pm (or 5hrs 15min for an alternate agreed start time) the game will be abandoned and the Sides will share the points for the game.

- **Midweek Pennant.** Play will be abandoned, for the day, once the temperature reaches 38 degrees Celsius.
- **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 on the same day then the temperature must be monitored independently for each Green).
- 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.***
  - Any Side, rink or individual who continues to play after a decision to abandon play, the Side shall be liable to loss of points, disqualification and/or fine.
  - 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).

- **Placement on non-shade covered Greens.** The Small Instrument Shelter is to be placed with its door facing south and the shelter placed in an open position, *preferably on the Green* but clear of any buildings, shelters, vegetation or any other item which may impede its operation.
- **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.

If a game is abandoned, for the day, and a result is achieved (Rule 5), the following actions are to occur;

- **Home Club** – complete results entry on the website
- **Away Club** – confirm results are correct.
- **Rain**
  - 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 interruption during play.
  - If, owing to inclement weather, a match has not commenced within 1.5 hours from the planned start time it shall be abandoned.
  - If a match has been delayed or interrupted by inclement weather and the match cannot be completed after 5 hours 15 minutes, of the planned start time, play shall cease, any ends in progress at that time shall be completed.
  - ***In the event of the Home Green being unavailable due to wet weather the following actions are to be completed;***
    - **Home Club** - notify their opponents before 8.00am for Midweek Pennant and 11:00am for Weekend Pennant.
    - After commencement of play, if a game is abandoned for the day, and a result is achieved (Rule 5), the following actions are to occur;
      - **Home Club** – complete results entry in BowsLink
      - **Away Club** – confirm results are correct.
  - **Canceling or adjusting the start time of Pennant.** The Regions Pennant Committee may cancel/abandon the round prior to the programmed start time or adjust the programmed start time or set a new date for the round should extreme weather conditions be anticipated.

### 37. Instantaneous Penalties

- 37.1. During a game, if an umpire, by observation or on an appeal by the controlling body, a side manager, a skip, or an opponent decides that a player, coach or official is non-compliant 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.
- 37.2. If the umpire forms the opinion on a second occasion that the same player, coach, or official is non-compliant, the player will be excluded from taking any further part in the game. A substitute will not be permitted.
- 37.3. An instantaneous penalty applied to one player in a team shall be considered as an instantaneous penalty to all players in that team.

- 37.4. Any of the above umpire-imposed penalties are final and cannot be appealed.
- 37.5. The umpire shall also complete a BA Instantaneous Penalty Report and forward it to both BA & BV within five (5) days of the incident.

**BA Instantaneous Penalty Report:** <https://bit.ly/BA-Penalty-Form>

### **38. Smoking**

- 38.1. Smoking on the green (defined as having a lit cigarette, pipe, cigar, electronic nicotine delivery system (ENDS/vaping) including e-cigs, e-cigarettes and any other form of smoking device) by a player on the green is not permitted.
- 38.2. A failure to comply can result in the umpire applying an Instantaneous Penalty (Section 1, Clause 37) and/or referring the matter to the BV Disciplinary Committee.
- 38.3. Smoking is only permitted in the designated area as determined by the host club.

### **39. Personal Electronic/Communication Devices**

- 39.1. The use of mobile phones/MP3 players/iPods/iPads/pagers/communication devices and/or other similar sound/communication devices on the green by a player is not permitted.
- 39.2. Should a player have a legitimate reason (personal emergency or medical or emergency services personnel) to answer a mobile phone, they must have permission from the controlling body and notify the umpire of the day prior to play. If approved, the device can be carried on the player but must be on silent/vibrating (only) and responded to on the bank away from play.
- 39.3. A failure to comply can result in the umpire applying an Instantaneous Penalty (Section 1, Clause 38) and/or referring the matter to the BV Disciplinary Committee.
- 39.4. Exemptions will be provided for scoreboard control devices/applications and/or approved BV electronic scorecard devices/applications, requiring the use of an electronic device/application.

### **40. Consumption of Alcohol**

- 40.1. The consumption of alcohol on the green by a player whilst a game is in progress is not permitted.
- 40.2. A failure to comply can result in the umpire applying an Instantaneous Penalty (Section 1, Clause 37) and/or referring the matter to the Region Disciplinary Committee.

### **41. Player, Coach and Officials Conduct & Behaviour**

- 41.1. All players, coaches, and officials are required to conduct themselves in a polite and sportsmanlike manner. The following behaviours are not acceptable when participating or officiating in a metropolitan or region pennant competition:
  - 41.1.1. Act in an abusive, threatening, or intimidating manner;
  - 41.1.2. Use of obscene, offensive, abusive, threatening, or intimidating language including racial and gender-diverse discriminatory language;
  - 41.1.3. Act in an unsportsmanlike manner;
  - 41.1.4. Threaten any person with physical violence or assault;
  - 41.1.5. Assault any person;
  - 41.1.6. Act in a manner likely to bring the sport of bowls into disrepute; or
  - 41.1.7. 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 (Section 1, Clause 37) and/or the matter being referred to the Region Disciplinary Committee.

## **42. Delaying Play**

- 42.1. If an umpire by their own observation or on appeal by a side manager decides a player is deliberately delaying the delivery of their bowl, or a skip is acting or issuing instructions designed to delay play, a warning will be issued to the skip, and the side manager must be advised.
- 42.2. If an umpire forms the opinion that the player or skip has repeated the same offence a second time, the end will be regarded as completed, and their opponent will be awarded as many shots as there are bowls in use by their opponent.

## **43. Damage to Green - Delivery of a Jack or Bowl**

- 43.1. If the umpire by observation or on appeal by a greens director or their deputy decides a player is causing damage to the green when delivering the jack or a bowl, a warning will be issued to the player and their skip and/or side manager advised.
- 43.2. If the umpire forms the opinion that the player has repeated the same offence a second time, the umpire will direct that the player must use a "dump mat" if available.
- 43.3. If the offending player refuses to use a "dump mat", they will be a defaulting player and be removed from the game as per DR 1.2.
- 43.4. If a "dump mat" is not available and the offending player refuses to leave the game, the game will be forfeited to the opposing side.
- 43.5. If a "dump mat" is not available and the offending player agrees to leave the game as directed by the umpire, a substitute is then permitted in accordance with DR 2.4.
- 43.6. A "dump mat" may only be used for an individual player(s) to address an identified issue as defined above.

## **44. Damage to Green - Use of a Wheelchair, Walking Frame or other Approved Artificial Device**

- 44.1. If an umpire by observation or on appeal by the greens director or their deputy decides a player using a wheelchair, walking frame or other approved artificial device is causing damage to the green, a warning will be issued to the player and their skip and/or side manager advised.
- 44.2. If the umpire forms the opinion on a second occasion that the player has caused further damage to the green, the umpire will direct that the player retires from the game.
- 44.3. If a player retires from the game a substitute player is permitted.
- 44.4. If a player refuses to leave the green, they will be a defaulting player, and the game forfeited to the opponent.

## **45. Bowler's Arm**

- 45.1. When a player commences using a bowler's arm in a game, then the arm 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 bowler's arm.
- 45.2. If an umpire, by observation or on appeal by a side manager or a skip, decides that a player is non-compliant then they will warn the player and advise the skip and side manager.

- 45.3. 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 and a substitute will not be permitted.
- 45.4. Failure to comply may also result in the matter being referred to the BV Disciplinary Committee and action taken under Section 1, Clause 47.
- 45.5. If a bowling arm is rendered unplayable, then the player may change to another approved brand or style, on approval of the umpire or controlling body.

#### 46. Death of a Player

- 46.1. If a game has commenced and a participating player passes away all games in progress at the club will be abandoned.
- 46.2. Points for game other than a Final abandoned because of the death of a player will be awarded as per Section 1, Clauses 34.3.
- 46.3. Final games abandoned for this reason will be resumed under such conditions as the Region decides, with the scores carried forward as they were when play was abandoned, unless the scores are such that one Side must win the game if all the remaining ends were played.

#### 47. Infringements

The infringement of any of the Laws, BA Domestic Regulations, BA Policies, BV Constitution, BV Regulations, BV Policies or BV Condition of Play, shall involve a monetary fine (not exceeding \$1,000) and/or disqualification, and/or game points penalty, and/or a replay or such other penalty as determined by the Region Disciplinary Committee, in respect of an affiliated player or club.

- Penalties' will apply for Clubs not complying with the Pennant Administrative requirements. **A Club will be penalised a loss of 2 points** for each breach.

**48. Pennant Rule Amendments.** Clubs can submit proposed amendments to the Region's Pennant COP, 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.