

# O & M BOWLS REGION

## **Suggested Club and Pennant Structure for Season 2024-25 and beyond.**

With continual changes to lawn bowls across Australia and especially in regional areas the need for change is necessary to continue to grow and develop our great sport.

The current structure of pennant bowls in the O & M region needs to be changed from its current format and bring it in to line with other Victorian Regions. To my knowledge the O & M is the only Victorian region that has weekend pennant divisions of A1, A2, A3 and A4 that have promotion and relegation and then divisions of B1, B2, B3 and B4, that are geographically arranged (to suit just a few clubs that do not wish to travel or be promoted) and not arranged according to club pennant results or player ability. Midweek pennant is also similar in structure.

Our O & M Region, like many other regions in Victoria, covers a large geographical area and needs to be divided into two playing areas to help reduce the distance and travel times for competing clubs. (For example the distance between Mansfield and Corryong is 294 kms and involves more than three hours of travel time by car.)

It is not necessary for the two playing areas to be similar or equal in the number of clubs in each area.

Over the last couple of years new clubs have joined our O & M region and more are expected to and will continue to join our region in the future. Unfortunately we will also possibly lose some clubs in the future due to lack of club members or other reasons.

The O & M therefore needs to be flexible in its Pennant Structure to be fair to all clubs and players and provide opportunity for all clubs and players.

**The following is my thoughts for consideration only and not necessarily the perfect solution.**

1. Divide our region into two Playing Areas - O & M East and O & M West.
2. Establish an O & M Premier Division consisting of eight teams for both weekend and midweek pennant.
3. The West Playing Area to have five (5) divisions for weekend pennant and three (3) divisions for midweek pennant.
4. The East Playing Area to have three (3) divisions for weekend pennant two (2) divisions for midweek pennant.

5. Weekend pennant Divisions 1 and 2 to consist of 8 clubs in each with 4 teams (16 players) and Division 3 and 4 to consist of 8 clubs with 3 teams (12 players) and Division 5 to consist of remaining clubs with 3 teams (12 players) if possible.
6. Midweek pennant Divisions 1 and 2 to consist of 8 clubs in each with 3 teams (12 players) and Division 3 to consist of remaining clubs with 3 teams (12 players) if possible.
7. The Final Series for both weekend and midweek pennant to remain in the current format for all Divisions.
8. The grand final winners in Premier Division for both weekend and midweek pennant proceed to represent the O & M at the Victorian Champions of State Pennant.
9. Promotion and relegation for all divisions in weekend and midweek pennant at the completion of the pennant season as follows:
  - (a) The bottom 2 sides in Premier Division are relegated to Division 1 in their respective playing areas.
  - (b) The grand final winners in Division 1 for each Playing Area promoted to Premier Division.
  - (c) The grand final winners in all other divisions promoted to their higher division.
  - (d) The bottom sides in all other divisions, except the bottom divisions, to be relegated to the lower division.
9. If a club winning a grand final already has a team in the relevant higher division then the runner up is promoted. No club to have more than one team in any division.
10. It may be necessary for clubs such as Wodonga to have more than one team in the lowest relevant division.

(See below for a more detailed and suggested club and pennant structure)

### **Advantages of Restructure:**

- The concept of a Pennant Competition is to determine who the best team or Champion is in that competition and as such should be rewarded for their success.
- The dividing of our O & M Region into 2 Playing Areas with Divisions allows for all clubs and players to be rewarded for winning a Grand Final.
- Promotion to the next highest division is that reward for both the respective club and the players.
- The structure of having 2 Playing Areas eliminates the possibility of clubs having to travel long distances for pennant games.

## **Suggested O & M Club and Pennant Structure**

### **West Playing Area Clubs**

Benalla, Chiltern, Club Mulwala, Corowa Civic, Corowa RSL, Howlong, Mansfield, Milawa, Moira, Moyhu, Rutherglen, St James, Swanpool, Tungamah, Wangaratta, Warrena Park, Yarrawonga, YMGCR.

### **East Playing Area Clubs**

Albury Commercial Club, Beechworth, Bright, Corryong, Dederang, Kiewa, Lavington, Myrtleford, Tallangatta, Wodonga, Yackandandah,

#### **Note:**

- (a) If North Albury and/or any other Albury and District clubs decide to join the O and M Region they would be included in the East Playing Area.
- (b) The structure of divisions and teams are a guide only as it will depend on the number of teams that each club decides to enter for weekend and midweek pennant.

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### **Weekend Premier Division Clubs**

Corowa RSL 1, Kiewa 1, Myrtleford 1, Rutherglen 1, Wangaratta 1, Wodonga 1, Yarrawonga 1, YMGCR 1.

### **Playing Area West - Weekend**

#### **Division 1**

Benalla 1, Chiltern 1, Corowa Civic 1, Corowa RSL 2, Howlong 1, Mansfield 1, Moira 1, YMGCR 2,

#### **Division 2**

Benalla 2, Mansfield 2, Milawa 1, Moyhu 1, Rutherglen 2, Tungamah 1, Wangaratta 2, Yarrawonga 2,

#### **Division 3**

Benalla 3, Chiltern 2, Club Mulwala 1, Corowa Civic 2, Milawa 1, Swanpool 1, St James 1, YMGCR 3,

#### **Division 4**

Mansfield 2, Rutherglen 3, Yarrawonga 3, Wangaratta 3, Moira 2, Tungamah 2, Club Mulwala 2, Corowa RSL 3,

#### **Division 5**

St James 2, Wangaratta 4, Moyhu 2, Howlong 2, Corowa RSL 4, Corowa Civic 3, Benalla 4, YMGCR 4, Benalla 3,

## **Playing Area East - Weekend**

### **Division 1**

Albury Commercial Club 1, Beechworth 1, Corryong 1, Dederang 1, Lavington 1, Myrtleford 2, Wodonga 2, Bright 1,

### **Division 2**

Albury Commercial Club 2, Beechworth 2, Dederang 2, Lavington 2, Myrtleford 3, Tallangatta 1, Wodonga 3, Yackandandah 1,

### **Division 3**

Bright 2, Albury Commercial Club 3, Kiewa 2, Lavington 3, , Wodonga 4, Wodonga 5, Yackandandah 2,

**Note:** North Albury teams will need to be included if joining the O & M.

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## **Midweek Premier Division Clubs**

Benalla 1, Corowa Civic 1, Corowa RSL 1, Kiewa 1, Wangaratta 1, Wodonga 1, Yarrawonga 1, YMGCR 1.

## **Playing Area West - Midweek**

### **Division 1**

Benalla 2, Club Mulwala 1, Corowa RSL 2, Moira 1, Rutherglen 1, St James 1, Wangaratta 2, YMGCR 2,

### **Division 2**

Benalla 3, Chiltern 1, Corowa Civic 2, Corowa RSL 3, Howlong 1, Mansfield 1, Tungamah 1, Yarrawonga 2,

### **Division 3**

Benalla 3, Benalla 4, Club Mulwala 2, Corowa Civic 3, Corowa RSL 4, Milawa 1, Moyhu 1, Swanpool 1, Warrena Park 1, YMGCR 3,

## **Playing Area East - Midweek**

### **Division 1**

Albury Commercial Club 1, Beechworth 1, Dederang 1, Kiewa 2, Lavington 1, Myrtleford 1, Wodonga 2, Corryong 1,

### **Division 2**

Albury Commercial Club 2, Myrtleford 2, Wodonga 3, Wodonga 4, Yackandandah 1,

**Note:** North Albury teams will need to be included if joining the O & M.

**Please note the above is only a suggestion and for discussion and consideration by all clubs in our region and the O & M Board.**

Bernie Jones  
Wodonga Bowling Club O & M Delegate  
March 2024