



Hi Everyone

Just a few updates regarding some COVID questions that have been raised throughout the region:

**1. Match forfeits due to a COVID 19 Positive case**

If a player contracts COVID 19 and only becomes aware after they have participated in a pennant game, health regulations may necessitate all participants in the game or at the venue to have a COVID test and isolate / quarantine for a period of time. In this situation, any future games that are effected for either club (ie.the clubs are unable to field sides), will result in the points for those games being shared.

**2. Red-line area**

There is some current confusion around government guidelines and how they effect the 'redline' (licensed) areas of your club. Some clubs have their greens inside the redline area while some clubs' greens are outside the redline area. Irrespective of whichever is the case, government regulations clearly state that no person who is not fully vaccinated may enter a licensed premises. Clubs who have greens outside the redline area will need to develop their own policies with regard to social bowls, etc on their greens.

**3. Selection**

As previously advised, clubs should be well on the way to collecting the vaccination data from their members and recording whether members have or have not been vaccinated. As this information is sighted, their COVID-19 status (Victoria) needs to be updated in the certification section of BowlsLink under that member's name.

As per the BHBR Vaccination policy, it will be individual club's responsibility to only select those members for pennant who are either fully vaccinated or who have an authorized medical exemption. (Given that some members had already made appointments for their second vaccination when our policy was produced, the requirements are that in order to play Round 1, a player must have had their first vaccination and be able to show evidence of a booking for their second. If a player is not fully vaccinated by November 23rd, they will not be eligible for pennant, state events, representative sides or club singles events).

Obviously once a club has all of their members' information, this will make the Check-in Marshall's job easier as they will only have to sight the opposition and non-club members' vaccination certificates.

**4. Players Under the age of 16**

This policy will also apply to any bowlers who are under the age of 16 (but over 12), as there is the availability for members in this category to be vaccinated.

**5. Immunisation Certificates**

In line with the government's coronavirus regulations, as of 6.00pm on 12<sup>th</sup> November, a regular medical certificate can no longer be used as evidence of a COVID 19 vaccination exemption. After this date, an authorised medical exemption from a qualified medical practitioner as listed in the guidelines will need to have been entered onto the player's Australian Immunisation Register, which can then be downloaded onto the player's COVID 19 digital certificate.

**6. COVID 19 safety**

A reminder that the usual COVID 19 safety precautions remain in place – regular hand sanitising, social distancing, minimum players handling the cats and mats, etc. Masks no longer need to be worn outdoors but must be worn indoors unless you are eating or drinking (or have a mask exemption).

**7. COVID Check-in Marshalls**

All clubs should have a COVID Check-in Marshall on duty whenever people are entering the club or premises. It is the Check-in Marshall's responsibility to ask that everyone uses the QR code to 'check in' upon entry to the club and sight their Vaccination Certificate.

(This is different to a COVID Marshall which is required in businesses, etc and which requires special training).

## **8. Other news**

- ~ Inclement weather procedures and contacts for the Ballarat playing area will be distributed shortly.
- ~ The draw, venue, times, etc for the state / regional Over 60s Pairs and Pairs events will be distributed shortly also.
- ~ We are waiting on the Ballarat Courier to get back to us with required formats for teams and results, etc for the Ballarat playing area.
- ~ The Greens Committee has conducted their annual inspections of club greens in the Ballarat playing area and in general are very happy with the standard of the greens.

**Presidents' and Secretaries' Meeting:      This Sunday, 7<sup>th</sup> November.  
Bungaree Bowling Club.  
11.00am.**

See you all then.

Regards  
Wayne

**Wayne Morgan**  
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**Ballarat Highlands Region Board**  
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