

Ballarat Highlands Bowls Region

Hi Everyone

The following is an update relating to the Ballarat playing area, following the Regional Board's meeting last night.

1. Fixture finalisation

Bowls Victoria has advised the cancellation of the Victorian Open and this now creates an opportunity for pennant bowls to be played during that week. Given that pennant bowls is the priority for the majority of our members, the current fixture will now be revisited (in line with the state event calendar) to allow for as many rounds of pennant bowls as possible to be played.

Clubs will be notified as soon as this is finalised, however for the moment, Saturday, 20th November and Tuesday, 23rd November will now be used for pennant competition.

2. Pennant start date

There has been no further update to the government's road-map, which outlines that community sport is not likely to return to play until the 80% double vaccination target is reached, on or about November 5th. Therefore, the earliest that pennant bowls will commence is still Saturday, November 6th, however the latest modelling appears to suggest that this may now be later than this. The Board will continue to monitor the requirements for community sport to be played and will update clubs when and as required.

3. Pennant playing conditions

The current conditions of play will also be revisited and altered to reflect the information and COVID protocols that will be current at the start of the season.

A feature of the road-map and the return of community sport is that premises may be allowed up to 150 people inside. However, there is still the uncertainty of when this may happen and we also need to prioritise the health and wellbeing of our members at all times, meaning that having large numbers within a closed space may not be the best way of doing this. There are also some clubs who have already made decisions and conditions regarding entry to their club houses.

Therefore, the Board has elected to return to 21 ends straight through in both Saturday and Tuesday competitions. We will however remain with our previously decided starting times.

Saturday – 21 ends. 1.00 roll-up for a 1.15 start.

Tuesday – 21 ends. 10.00 roll-up for a 10.15 start. (This decision was made in response to the number of clubs who expressed the desire to be finished well before 'school finish' times and to avoid the hottest part of the day.)

The availability of a 10 minute break if required, (to be agreed upon by both Team Managers **prior** to the start of the game), will be confirmed when the playing conditions are finalised.

4. Vaccinations

As yet there is no further information regarding a government decision or policy around COVID vaccinations and how or if they will affect community sport. We will get this information out to clubs as soon as it becomes known. The current climate of the community being required to be double vaccinated before many activities, including attending bars and dining facilities, means that admission to sporting club facilities will likely need to follow the same rules.

Regards

Wayne

Wayne Morgan

Secretary

Ballarat Highlands Region Board

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