



Hi Everyone

Just a quick summary of items discussed at Sunday's Presidents' and Secretaries meeting:

1. COVID updates – Ian Guymer

- ~ Clubs are reminded to only select players for pennant who have been doubly vaccinated or who have an authorised medical exemption (which after 6.00pm on Friday, 12th November must be downloaded from the Australian Immunisation Register).
- ~ Clubs are requested to email opposition clubs before their game informing them that all of your selected players have approved vaccination status.
- ~ As all players selected and named in teams on BowlsLink must be doubly vaccinated, there should be no need for the home club to have to sight players' certificates. However, visiting players will still need to 'QR code in' upon entry to the 'away' club. Clubs will have to sight the vaccination status of any non players or spectators.

2. Playing conditions – Ian Guymer

- ~ All pennant this season will be played over 21 ends.
- ~ In the Highlands area – as decided at their AGM – there can be a break of 30 minutes on Saturdays (3.00 – 3.30pm) and on Tuesdays (12.15 – 12.45) if required.
- ~ The Ballarat playing area may take a 10 minute break if required. The timing of the break (if a break is to be taken) is to be decided by the two Team Managers before the start of the match and is to be taken at the completion of an agreed number of ends. To allow the break to be taken under COVID safe conditions, Team Managers are requested to vary the break times across rinks if possible. eg. two rinks could break after 10 ends and two rinks after 11 ends).

3. State Events – Helene Stenning

- ~ State events begin this week. Men's Over 60s Pairs on Thursday at Sebastopol and Men's Pairs at Webconna on Sunday.
- ~ In the Ballarat area, clubs who are hosting a state event are to supply an umpire / marker. If you don't have an umpire available, please contact Yvonne Clark and the region will organise one for the event.
- ~ Clubs were requested to please make their greens available to host state events as we need a number of venues to get the events completed in a shortened season.

4. Umpiring – Yvonne Clark

- ~ An email went out to clubs this week informing that reaccreditation and accreditation courses are being organised for umpires, measurers and markers. Individual club letters will be sent out in the next week or so informing the club which of their members need to be reaccredited.
- ~ Yvonne expressed the goal of having as many accredited umpires as possible but that clubs should at least aim to have an accredited umpire who plays Saturday pennant and one who plays Tuesday pennant.
- ~ It is not required to do all three courses. If you do the umpire's course, you are also an accredited marker and measurer.

5. Coaching – Vic Dunne

- ~ Vic asked for any qualified coaches in the region to let him know if they would be interested in helping out on the coaching committee.

6. Representative teams – Wayne Lynch

- ~ The first representative game is on 1st December – Ballarat v Bendigo for the Boromeo/Lucas Shield.
- ~ The committee has selected 30 of our top female bowlers and have notified them in regard to their availability for representative sides.
- ~ The same thing will be done with the men and expressions of interest will be forwarded.

7. Junior Development – Gerry Flapper

- ~ Gerry reported that the Ballarat Gold-diggers would get under way on Sunday, 14th November. There will be a coaching session for any juniors who would like to attend – whether they play pennant or not. The session will be at Webconna Bowling club and will run from 10.00 – 12.00. Gerry also extended the offer to any Highlands juniors who would like to attend.

8. General Business

- ~ Kevin McLean (BMS) informed clubs that due to the building program at their club, entry to the club will be by turning left upon entry and driving around the oval to a temporary parking area. Unfortunately this area may require a fairly long walk to the greens. Portable toilets will also be used on site.
- ~ Gerry Flapper (Creswick) also informed clubs of temporary parking arrangements at Creswick whilst a new car park was being installed. Visitors may also have to travel around the oval to access the bowling club.
- ~ Ian Guymer requested Ballarat clubs to hold 1 minute's silence prior to the first game in order to recognise the contributions of those members who have passed away since last season.
- ~ The possibility of having a 'pool' of excess players was raised. This has not been discussed at Board level, but the best option is if a club is in trouble re a lack of players, send an email through to the BHBR Secretary and a general email will be sent out to all clubs requesting 'spare' players.
- ~ There was discussion over the fact that BowlsLink does not recognise a player's details if they are a substitute. Ian explained that Bowls Australia was aware of this anomaly but that providing a list of 42000 players to pick from was in the 'too hard' basket.
- ~ A question was raised, regarding why some Highlands State events were being played on weekdays, as this makes it difficult for some of the ladies who work. Ian explained that due to the late start of the season with the COVID 19 lockdowns, etc, there were just not enough Sundays to play all events. Hopefully this will be just for this year and a normal length season will provide more flexibility in 2022/23.
- ~ The disparity of entry numbers in State events between the Ballarat playing area and the Highlands area was questioned. (eg. there might be 25 pairs entries in Ballarat and only 4 pairs in Highlands. Therefore the number of games required to get to finals, etc is unfair). Ian agreed that there was a disparity but called for understanding. Given that this is the first year of the new region, there were always going to be some teething problems. Going forward (2022-23 onwards) state events will be regional events – not divided into the two playing areas.
- ~ Ian confirmed that a survey of all clubs would be conducted towards the end of this season. The survey will review the 2021-22 season and request thoughts on the competition format and conditions for next season. The Board will be looking for views from clubs and their members – not just the person who fills in the survey.
- ~ The heat rule was confirmed as being 36 degrees for Tuesday pennant and 38 degrees for Saturday pennant.

Ian thanked the Bungaree Bowling Club for their hospitality and in particular Anne Wade for her work in setting up the venue.

Regards
Wayne

Wayne Morgan
Secretary
Ballarat Highlands Region Board
0419 595 610