



Hi Everyone

Please see below an update of information following the recent BHBR Board meeting (080822):

### 1. Pennant fixtures

- Further work is being done on pennant fixtures and will continue as clubs confirm their team entries, especially with relation to starting dates and length of season for Divisions 8 7 9.
- Club team entries are required by 19<sup>th</sup> August. (If no entries are received from clubs it will be assumed that your club's entries will be as listed in the documents that have been sent to clubs).

### 2. Division change

- Following correspondence from clubs relating to likely reductions in member numbers, the Board has decided that Ballarat Saturday Division 8 will have 3 rinks (instead of 4) in a bid to help clubs who are struggling for numbers.
- Division 1 will remain with 4 rinks and Division 9 will have 2 rinks as previously advised.
- The above change may impact club team entries.

### 3. Forfeits / Walkovers / Withdrawals

- Fines for forfeits and walkovers will be reintroduced this year, (after being removed during the COVID effected seasons).
- Fines for forfeits / walkovers will be \$50 on the 1<sup>st</sup> occurrence, \$100 for 2<sup>nd</sup> occurrence and \$200 for each occurrence after that.
- If a club withdraws a team completely - after the fixtures have been published - they will be fined \$250.
- The Board would encourage clubs to please be sure of your ability to field teams **before** you submit your team entries.

### 4. COVID update

- There are currently no Victorian government guidelines or regulations requiring people to be vaccinated to play community sport or enter licensed premises. This means that all members (vaccinated and unvaccinated) are eligible to play pennant bowls.

### 5. Afternoon tea arrangements

- In response to some questions from clubs, it was confirmed that there is no requirement for clubs to supply afternoon tea during Saturday pennant. There will be a break of 20 minutes - to be monitored by the umpire of the day - and home clubs are free to make their own arrangements within this time.

### 6. BHBR 'Home Base'

- Following a meeting with representatives of the Sebastopol Bowling Club Board, BHBR has taken up the generous offer for Sebastopol to become the 'home club' for the region.
- This will include the provision of meeting rooms, the availability of a larger space for Presidents' / Secretaries' meetings, storage space if required and the availability of TVs for a digital honour board.

### 7. Conditions of Play / Calendar of Events

- These are currently being updated and will be distributed as soon as is possible.

### 8. Super Dome series

- The 2022 event starts this Wednesday night at Sebastopol BC with 16 teams competing in two sections.

## 9. BowlsLink

- Clubs are requested to forward the names of their BowlsLink coordinators to the BHBR Secretary by 19<sup>th</sup> August. BowlsLink is going to be the main information channel for entries, results, ladders, etc. It will also be used in the future for communication with individual club members through the program's email capability.
- Clubs are encouraged to have more than one 'BowlsLink literate' member to help those members who have difficulty.

## 10. Regional Playing Areas

- There has been some discussion in clubs around why both playing areas are not identical with regards to playing conditions, number of teams, length of season, etc.
- The reason for the Bowls Victoria restructure was not to have all playing areas looking exactly the same, but to reduce the levels of administration and the number of communication channels, due a drop in the numbers of volunteers required to fill these positions across the state.
- There are some regions who have three or four playing areas - all with different conditions and formats.
- In our region for instance, if we were to require the Highlands playing area to have the same numbers of teams and rinks in divisions that the Ballarat playing area has, there would not be a competition, as the highlands area clubs simply do not have the numbers.

## 11. Strategic Plan / Futures Paper

- As we have now completed our first year as a new region with a number of 'teething' issues having been identified and addressed, the Board has identified the need to start work on a plan for the next 3-5 years.
- This plan will outline for clubs and members, what bowls in our region will look like in the future. This plan will take shape over the next 6 months or so and will involve club and member consultation as we progress with its development.

## 12. Presidents' / Secretaries' Meeting

- The next regional Presidents' and Secretaries' meeting will be held on Sunday, 11<sup>th</sup> September at the BMS Bowling Club at 11.00am.
- BMS have informed the Board that there will be an opening ceremony for their new green following the meeting and that all visiting Presidents and Secretaries are welcome to stay on for the opening to see the new facilities and have a bowl if they feel so inclined. (BMS are playing a practice match against Learmonth, but there will be rinks available).

### CLUB REMINDERS:

- **Team entries - due in by 19<sup>th</sup> August**
- **Club BowlsLink coordinators required by 19<sup>th</sup> August**

Regards  
Wayne

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