

## CONDITIONS OF PLAY - PENNANT / STATE EVENTS 2023/24



(These rules apply for Midweek and Saturday Pennant and should be read in conjunction with Bowls Victoria Rules for Competition 2023-24 and Laws of Bowls - 4<sup>th</sup> Edition. (April, 2023))

### General

1. The Ballarat Highlands bowling program shall consist of Competitions approved by the Region Board of Directors and the conduct of such Competitions shall be in the hands of the BHBR Pennant Committee.
2. Correct Bowls Australia approved bowling attire must be worn by players selected for all Division fixtures. The Chairman or President of each club is responsible for ensuring all their players are correctly attired.
3. The BHBR Pennant Committee shall have the power at any time to requisition the use of any green/greens of any affiliated club, but in so doing, due consideration shall be given to any representations made by any member club.
4. A new team entering Pennant shall be placed in the applicable Pennant Division at the discretion of the Pennant Committee. In admitting sides into a competition, the number of greens available for competition will be taken into account.
5. The Pennant Committee shall be the body to resolve disputes on any matters in connection with the Ballarat Highlands bowls program.
6. On the days or nights that the BHBR is conducting fixtures, **no clubs** shall conduct any Open Tournaments without first obtaining the permission of the Pennant Committee.
7. Pennant will be conducted in accordance with the World Bowls "Laws of the Sport of Bowls" Crystal Mark 4<sup>th</sup> Edition (April, 2023) and amendments including Bowls Australia Domestic Regulations and Region Pennant Conditions may also apply.
8. The following will apply:
  - (a) The Ballarat Highlands Region Board controls the bowling program
  - (b) The Ballarat Highlands Region Pennant Committee controls the competitions authorised by the Board
  - (c) For the conduct of Pennant games on match days the controlling body will be the home club
9. The BHBR Board and the Pennant Committee will determine days and dates on which Pennant will be held. The BHBR Board / State Events committee shall determine days and dates for State Events to be played.
10. Only registered players that are on the Bowlink system are eligible to play pennant or compete in state events and where their home club is in the Ballarat Highlands Bowls Region
11. Players must be selected on ability in accordance with Bowls Victoria Conditions of Play and any Equal Opportunity rulings
12. For the Ballarat Highlands Bowls Region, all Pennant competitions are to be conducted as open competitions available to all eligible bowlers.
13. The Pennant Committee, in consultation with the BHBR Board, will determine the number of rounds to be played and the number of sides for each section/division prior to the commencement of the season. If a club withdraws a team after the draws have been published, that club will be fined an amount of \$250.00 per team.  
During the season, teams that forfeit matches will be fined \$50.00 for a first offence, \$100.00 for a second offence and \$200.00 for a third and any subsequent offences.

14. The consumption of alcohol on the green when a game is in progress is not permitted. (Alcohol is defined as beer, spirit, wine or mixed drink in a can, bottle or glass). As a general rule, bowlers are requested to comply with the relevant liquor licensing conditions of home and away clubs. Smoking is also prohibited unless it is conducted in the club's designated area. Instantaneous penalties can be applied by the Umpire if these instructions are not followed.
15. The use of mobile phones or other communication devices is prohibited on the green unless there is valid reason (medical or emergency services), or the player is the designated scorer and is using a mobile device for inputting scores on the Bowslink scoring app. Mobile devices (other than for the use of the Bowslink app) are not to be operated on the rink, but may be answered off the green and only if it does not interfere with play. The Umpire should be advised prior to the commencement of the game if a bowler is likely to have a device in their possession.
16. A club may have more than one side entered at any level of competition with the approval of the region Board / Pennant Committee. Pennant divisions will be in numerical order starting with one. Division 1 for any playing area shall only have one team per club playing in that division.
17. Saturday Pennant and Tuesday Pennant are **separate competitions**, and as such separate finals eligibility criteria must be adhered to.
18. Pennant results are to be completed on Bowslink by 7.00pm for Saturday pennant and 5.00pm for Tuesday pennant. Each club is encouraged to have at least two members proficient in the use of the Bowslink results portal. Each club in the region is to advise the BHBR Secretary (prior to the season) of the names of members who will have that responsibility for entering results for that season.

### **Pennant Conditions of Play**

19. All Saturday Pennant matches shall commence no later than **1.15pm after a 1:00pm roll up (10.15am after a 10.00am roll up** for Tuesday pennant) unless otherwise specified by the Pennant Committee.  
A 15 minutes grace period shall be allowed from the start of the advertised start time (1.15 pm and 10.15am). Should any club fail to appear within the appointed time, the club ready to play may claim such match. (Law 39.1.2, Laws of Bowls - 4<sup>th</sup> Edition).
20. Practice by the away team on the green they are allocated to play on match day is permitted. Both the Home and Away sides may practise up until 12.30 Saturdays and 9.30am Tuesdays. Players are not to practise on the rinks they are likely to be drawn to be playing on.  
Practice for the opposing club may also be conducted prior to a round, only upon approval of the Greens Director of the club they are playing against.  
In the case of practice for finals matches this may be undertaken on the approval of the host club's Greens Director.
21. All matches are to be of 21 ends with a break of 20 minutes if required. If it is decided to have a break, the break shall be taken at 2.45pm (Saturday pennant) and 11.45am (Tuesday pennant). A roll up of two ends shall be permitted before the commencement of play on the rink as drawn. Teams may elect to play straight through without a break, but this must be agreed by both Team Managers prior to the commencement of the match. If one team wishes to have a break, then the 20 minute break must be taken.

<b>SATURDAY</b>	Roll-up commences	Game starts	Break	Length of Time
Ballarat	1.00pm	1.15pm	2.45 - 3.05pm	20 minutes
Highlands	1.00pm	1.15pm	2.45 - 3.05pm	20 minutes

<b>TUESDAY</b>	Roll-up commences	Game starts	Break	Length of Time
Ballarat	10.00am	10.15am	11.45am - 12.05pm	20 minutes
Highlands	10.00am	10.15am	11.45am - 12.05pm	20 minutes

22. The home club will determine the surface to be played on, (where a club may have two or more teams playing at the club venue which has two types of surfaces - synthetic and grass).
23. The Pennant Committee shall be the authority for determining at any time prior to two hours before the appointed time of commencing the round whether or not play shall be abandoned for the day.
24. If the Pennant Committee has determined that play will not be abandoned on the day, then the authority on whether the game proceeds will then lie with the Home Club Greens Director or their representative.
25. The Home side Team Manager shall be responsible for entering the results of a Pennant match onto the Bowlslink system as soon as possible after the completion of that game. Any position or player changes are to be entered at this time. The Away team should also inform the Home Team Manager if a position or player change has been made from the original side named. The Home team is responsible for lining up the relevant rinks that played on that day.
26. Before the commencement of any Pennant Sectional match, an umpire or competent person shall be appointed by the competing clubs. The umpire/competent person **shall not** be a Team Manager from either club. In the event of any dispute as to any matter arising in any match, the umpire's/competent person's decision shall be final. Where possible the use of a registered umpire is desirable and where there is more than one umpire/competent person a chief umpire must be named.  
For post sectional games the Regional Umpires Committee shall appoint umpires for each game or venue in consultation with the playing area Pennant representatives.
27. No member shall play in any Pennant Sectional match during the season for more than one club until advice has been received by the Secretary of the Region that such a clearance / permit has been granted by Bowls Victoria. In the event of a member doing so, the club with which they played secondly shall forfeit such match or matches that they participate in.
28. If more than one side is fielded by a club in pennant competitions, the following conditions shall apply where such sides are entered:
- (i) In the competitions if different Divisions; or
  - (ii) In both Region & Division competitions.
    - (a) The second and subsequent sides of the club shall be graded in numerical sequence as Two, Three or Four so as to distinguish the descending order of their seniority.
    - (b) For Ballarat and Highlands areas, a club is not permitted to have two teams in Division 1. A club is permitted to have two teams in any other division on the approval of the Match Committee.
    - (c) Prior to **the last four rounds** of Sectional play there shall be no restriction on the interchange of players between the sides of the club. **For the last four rounds** of Sectional play, **no side** shall include more than three players who have played the majority of their games during the season in a higher numbered side.
29. In the interests of a timely game, player movement is encouraged only when skips require a player to visit the head. Leads and seconds should remain at the delivery end unless requested by the skip.

- 30.** The use of substitute players is available where clubs are not able to fill sides with their club's registered players. Substitute players must be registered on Bowlslink as having Playing Rights with a club (another BV club or even a club from another state) and can play in any position except Skip.

It is permissible to use players who are registered with another bowling club (eg. visitors to the area who are members of another bowling club, fill-in members from another Ballarat club, etc). If you need to do this, they are just listed in the team as Substitute, as you will not have access to their Bowlslink information.

If, as a last resort, you need to use a fill-in who is not a bowler and therefore not a member of Bowls Victoria or any other bowling club, please register them as a member of your club with playing rights and then you enter them as a team member from Bowlslink.

Lower sides of clubs are to be filled with substitutes first, (unless permission has been sought and given from the Pennant Committee), with a maximum of one substitute per rink. *For Ballarat Division 9 Pennant only, a team may use up to 2 substitutes per rink (maximum of 4 per team).*

- 31.** Should a club field a team that is not fully completed with all players and they are unable to obtain substitutes then they are permitted to play one short in one or more teams but only in their lowest team entered. Where a team is short of a player the skips will hold the scorecards and the absent player will be treated as the second player, the remaining players of that team will only have two bowls to participate in the match.
- 32.** Pennant eligibility: Any players who are not registered with Bowls Victoria on Bowlslink, who have not been cleared to play from their previously registered club, who are unfinancial or who have been suspended from their club are not permitted to partake in Pennant or State Events. Clubs should advise the Pennant Committee if a player has been suspended or is unfinancial.
- 33.** Bowlers are not permitted to play in two matches programmed for any one round of competition even when those games may be scheduled on different days. The exception to this rule will be where a club is drawn to play double-header games over a weekend and insufficient players are available. Clubs are to seek Pennant Committee approval where a player is required under such circumstances.
- 34.** For all Pennant in the Ballarat Highlands Bowls Region, competitions are open to all genders and all players and teams are to be selected on ability.
- 35.** Where there is similarity of color in bowls discs between two teams or competitors (State Events), the away team may be asked to remove their discs.
- 36.** Wasting time / delaying tactics: Where the umpire, by their own observation or after an approach by a Team Manager, decides a player or players are delaying the delivery of their bowl or a skip is acting or issuing instructions in a manner that is delaying play, then that umpire should issue a warning to the Team Manager of the offending club. Furthermore, if this behavior continues and an offence is committed on a second occasion, then the umpire will award the opposition team as many shots as there are bowls played on that rink.
- 37.** Allocation of rinks: Rinks must be consecutively numbered and played on the one green wherever possible. If a match must have rinks split across two greens, they are to be numbered consecutively and not have rinks from another match in between them. The Pennant Committee should be advised prior to the start of the game if two greens are to be used to play the one game. (Instantaneous penalties may be implemented in accordance with BV Conditions of Play).

38. Green speed is requested to be between a minimum of 13 seconds up to a maximum of 17 seconds. The Greens Committee will review greens periodically, prior to the start of the season, after the Christmas break and prior to the commencement of finals. If and when a complaint is received from another club in respect to the conditions of a club's greens, that club's greens will be reviewed and where required, the Greens Committee will advise the club of its findings, as well as the Region Board and the Pennant Committee.

### **Inclement Weather**

39. The Greens Director of a club shall be the person holding that office or otherwise the person appointed to carry out the duties of the Green Director.
40. For the club whose green the match is scheduled to be played upon, an appropriate person to act as their Greens Director is to be arranged to be the contact person for the purpose of this rule.
41. If due to inclement weather, a match has not commenced by 3.00 pm for Saturday Pennant or by 12.00 noon for Tuesday Pennant then the match will be deemed abandoned.
42. Where play for the day has commenced and then stopped owing to inclement weather, it shall not be resumed until both Team Managers agree (with a minimum of thirty minutes waiting time). The rinks should be free of surface water with the rain having stopped completely. Firstly, the Greens Director or their representative shall have the first right to discontinue a match or abandon the match for the day. Secondly, (if there is no Greens person available), and an agreement is not reached between the two Team Managers to abandon the match, then the decision shall sit with the Umpire of the day.
43. If a Sectional match has commenced and has been delayed by inclement weather and has not been completed or abandoned before 6:30pm it shall be abandoned at 6:30 pm after the completion of any end/ends commenced prior to 6:30pm. For Tuesday Pennant, the time for the match to be completed shall be 4:00pm.

<b>SATURDAY</b>	Start	Latest Start Time	Game to be completed by
Ballarat	1.00pm	3.00pm	6.30pm
Highlands	1.00pm	3.00pm	6.30pm

<b>TUESDAY</b>	Start	Latest Start Time	Game to be completed by
Ballarat	10.00am	12.30pm	4.00pm
Highlands	10.00am	12.30pm	4.00pm

44. Where 75% of the total ends of a match are completed, then the match shall be treated as constituted, and if for any reason of weather (either heat or inclement) causes the match to be abandoned, then the team leading after 75% of the total ends shall be declared the winner of the match and shall have the relevant points allocated to them. Any other matches that are abandoned prior to 75% of the total ends being played will be declared a draw and points will be shared between the two clubs. Where 75% of ends are not completed but one team is so far in front that it could not be beaten even if the 75% of ends were to be completed, then that team will be declared the winner.

<b>Playing Area</b>	4 Rinks / 84 ends	3 Rinks / 63 Ends	2 Rinks / 42 Ends
Ballarat	63 ends minimum	48 ends minimum	32 ends minimum
Highlands	Not applicable	48 ends minimum	32 ends minimum

45. Where play is abandoned on the morning of the game or prior (due to inclement or hot weather), the Home club is to contact the Away club as soon as is possible **by phone only and speak directly with a representative of the Away club**. Every opportunity should be undertaken to transfer the game to another venue if both clubs agree. (A swap of venues may not always be possible however, as some clubs may not have space on their greens for the return visit.) The Home club is to contact the relevant Pennant Committee representative to advise them of the abandonment and / or the change of venue. If a suitable venue cannot be found, then the points shall be shared between the two clubs.
46. For general advice, there is longer the 50% rule regarding washout or heat-out conditions across all divisions, meaning that all games are played for points. For the avoidance of doubt, games that are washed out or abandoned will have the points shared between the two clubs, whilst games not washed out will play for the points applicable in that division.

### **Extreme Heat Rule**

47. Should the actual temperature reach 38°C at any Saturday Pennant/State event or 36°C for any Tuesday Pennant and any Over 60s event after the commencement of the game, then play shall be suspended for thirty minutes. Should the temperature not fall below the specified temperature after that time then play will be abandoned at that venue the points shall be shared between the two clubs, unless 75% of the total ends have been completed and in that case the team that is leading will be declared the winner. The relevant Pennant Committee contact needs to be notified as soon as is possible of any abandonment.
48. All clubs are to ensure that a responsible person is available at 11:00am on pennant days of extreme heat (8:30am for Tuesday Pennant) to check their thermometer and notify the Region Match Committee Representative and close the venue if necessary. Prior to a new season all clubs are to register one responsible person (for each competition Saturday and Tuesday) with the Region Secretary. One of these registered persons must be available on match days to communicate with the region Pennant Committee representative. Clubs must notify the opposition club if the game is to be abandoned and must investigate if the game can be transferred to another venue.
49. Immediately prior to the commencement of play and during play, Team Managers must as a "Duty of Care" to the players, regularly and jointly check the Home club's suitably calibrated digital thermometer. This thermometer must be of a type and in a location approved by the Regional Greens Committee. Clubs are to install and maintain this item. **No exceptions are permitted in the application of this Rule.**
- 50. Notification of cancellation of pennant play (prior to commencement of game)**  
In the event of a scheduled round of pennant being cancelled due to heat or inclement weather, the Home club shall notify the relevant Pennant Committee contact and advise them of the cancellation of play. The Greens Director or other authorised person from the Home club who is cancelling the game should also notify the opposition club immediately the decision has been made. **Notification is to be by phone only.**
- 51. Code Red Rule (Catastrophic Fire Danger Rating 2022).** Where a Code Red / Catastrophic rating has been declared for the Ballarat or Highlands playing areas, all play is abandoned for the day or for the duration of the declaration. On such days, clubs are not required to adhere to advising Match Committee representatives or opposing clubs. Clubs will still be required to complete Bowlslink team information for finals qualifications.

## Points Allocation / Ladder Position

52. The order of the sides in each Section/Pennant division for Saturday and Tuesday Pennant shall be determined by the total points gained by each side. Points shall be allotted as follows:
- 2 points for each winning rink plus 10 points overall win in all sections/divisions.
  - 5 Points for a tie in a game in each section/division. Points for a tie on a rink will be 1 point each.
  - Points for a walkover or forfeit will be allocated as follows:
    - ~ 8 players per side – 14 points (plus 10 shots if there is a bye in the division)
    - ~ 12 players per side – 16 points (plus 10 shots if there is a bye in the division)
    - ~ 16 players per side – 18 points (plus 15 shots if there is a bye in the division)
  - Points awarded on days of abandonment or rounds not played due to specific reasons (eg. COVID lockdowns) will be allocated as follows:
    - ~ 8 players per side – 7 points each
    - ~ 12 players per side – 8 points each
    - ~ 16 players per side – 9 points each
  - If there is a bye in a Division, and all teams receive the same number of byes, then 0 points will be allocated for the bye.
  - If there is an uneven number of byes in a division, points will be awarded as follows for the bye:
    - ~ 8 players per side – 14 points (plus 10 shots if there is a bye in the division)
    - ~ 12 players per side – 16 points (plus 10 shots if there is a bye in the division)
    - ~ 16 players per side – 18 points (plus 15 shots if there is a bye in the division)
  - If all play on the day of the walkover, forfeit or bye is abandoned, no points shall be awarded in respect of that day.
53. Penalties for Clubs giving a walkover will be in line with Bowls Victoria penalties.
54. **Ladder Positions:** The ladders for each section or division will be based on points and games won. Where teams are equal on points and games won, then aggregate shots up, then shots against, will be used to determine positions.  
For the avoidance of doubt, a winning team in sectional pennant games will be that team that has been awarded the highest number of points, that is points for overall win plus points per rink.

## Finals

55. All Pennant finals are to be played on the best available neutral greens.
56. In finals of all pennant events, clearly marked bowls identification discs / stickers must be used by all members of teams, all members using identical discs / stickers.
57. To qualify for finals in either Saturday or Tuesday Pennant, a side shall not include any player who during the current season has played in **less than four games** in either Saturday Pennant or Tuesday Pennant Competitions for the club.  
In any post sectional match (in either Saturday or Tuesday pennant), a side **shall not** include any player who, during the current season, has played **more** games in any higher numbered side, unless they have also played in an equal number of (or more) games in that lower division side, (games being considered as such whether completed or not and including byes).
- For clarity, if you have played in 50% plus one of the scheduled games in a higher division, then you cannot play in a lower division team unless permission is sought by the club from the BHBR Pennant Committee and granted on the basis that extraordinary circumstances exist and apply to that player.

Should a club have only one team playing finals, then no players who have played more games in a higher division will be permitted to play, unless an exemption is granted by the BHBR Pennant Committee.

Games played in lower divisions cannot be added together to demonstrate that a player has played in a higher number of games than in the highest division they played. For example, Player A played 6 games in Division Two, 3 games in Division Three and 4 games in Division Four. Games played in Divisions Three and Four cannot be added together (total 7) to support the argument that they played more games in the lower division.

58. If a club has insufficient eligible members available for a final, it may apply to the Pennant Committee for permission to play other nominated members if necessary, and if permission is granted, then such members may play in any position other than Skip. Any exemptions or permissions granted by the regional Pennant Committee are to be supplied to the opposition team to avoid any misunderstanding on their behalf.
59. Where a club has two teams playing in finals on the same day/round, then they can select their teams by ability criteria, regardless of the number of games played by any player in any division. Where a club has three or more teams playing in finals on the same day, the higher team players are only permitted to play in the next lowest division team. They are not permitted to play in the third or fourth ranked division team.
60. Where a club has two teams playing in the finals in the same division or section, the lower team members may play in the higher team but players in the higher team may not drop back to the lower team, unless the qualification rules are met or the Pennant Committee has made a decision.
61. Clubs may practise at the final's venue up to 7.30pm on the Friday night prior to the final, subject to the host club making the green available.
62. In a final, if the total number of shots scored by each team is equal at the conclusion of the match, a further end or ends by each rink shall be played until a majority total score is reached by one of the opponents, who shall then become the winner.
63. If a further end or ends by played, the first such end shall be regarded as the start of a new match (Law 28, Laws of Bowls - 4<sup>th</sup> Edition), and the teams shall toss for the mat.
64. Finals will be conducted over three weeks, with games being:  
**Week 1:** Game 1: Team 1 (on the ladder) versus Team 2 and Game 2: Team 3 versus Team 4.  
**Week 2:** Game 3: Winner of Game 2 versus Loser of Game 1.  
**Week 3:** Winner of Game 1 versus Winner of Game 3
65. The Match Committee will have the authority to cancel or abandon play prior to the commencement of the game and the two clubs involved will be advised accordingly.

### **Promotion and Relegation – Saturday and Tuesday Pennant**

66. After the end of each season, the Premier team in all Saturday and Tuesday Pennant Divisions/Sections shall be promoted to the next higher Pennant Division. The lowest finishing side in all Pennant Divisions shall be relegated to the next lowest Pennant Division.
67. In the interest of bowls, the BHBR Board reserves the right to vary the promotion and relegation of sides should it consider such action be warranted.



## **Duties of a Team Manager**

The Team Manager is the captain of the side for the day. The Team Manager shall see that all members of their side for the day are available, particularly when playing away from home.

The Home Team Manager will meet with the Away Team Manager prior to the commencement of the game and allocate cards and rink numbers to each scorecard and toss for choice of the mat. Team Managers should also decide at this time (prior to the commencement of play) whether a break is to be taken or whether the match will be played straight through the 21 ends. If one team wishes to have a break, then the break must be taken.

Once cards have been swapped and players names entered on the cards, then there can be no alterations made unless a substitute player is called upon during the course of the match. Players may not change scorecards at any time.

The Team Manager shall make sure that all players' names, including opponents, names of clubs, the section the side are playing in and the 'rink' number on which each team is drawn are entered on the team sheet or scorecards as applicable. At the completion of the day the Team Manager will check with the Seconds of each of the teams and make sure the scorecard is completed in all details and signed by the Second of each rink at the end of play. It is important that the finish time of the game is recorded.

Both Team Managers are also responsible for monitoring the thermometer on days of extreme heat. Team Managers have a '**duty of care**' to ensure the health and safety of all bowlers at all times.

Please ensure that all players' names are correct as they have been registered on your club listing, including complete christian names where there are two members of the one family registered. Senior or Junior should be noted where applicable. No nicknames are to be entered.

Team Managers are to ensure that the results sheets are entered onto Bowlslink or forwarded to their club's Bowlslink administrator for processing.

Forfeits by teams should be advised to the opposing club as soon as possible. Teams must be entered on Bowlslink regardless of forfeiture of any team.