

BHBR Pennant Committee Report 2023-24

The weather was much kinder to us this year with no wash outs in the Highlands playing area and only one Saturday, in December, in Ballarat. This was a pleasant change compared to the last couple of seasons.

Following a successful home & away season we again had a very competitive finals season with some great games being played in both the Saturday and Tuesday competitions. Congratulations go to all clubs who made finals and especially to the eventual winners in each Division.

A very big thank you to all clubs whose greens were used throughout the finals. We received positive feedback about the greens, facilities and hospitality provided. We do understand that it is not easy on clubs and your members who are asked to host finals games when you have teams playing at other venues.

Unfortunately, we did receive a small, but growing, number of complaints regarding questionable behaviour directed at other players this season. This was disappointing and the pennant committee would ask all clubs to remind players that this is not acceptable and we all need to show respect to each other both on and off the green. All players should be aware of the Instantaneous Penalties Policy on p121 of the current Laws of the Sport of Bowls Crystal Mark 4th Edition.

The issue of green speed has also been raised by a number of clubs and may need to be addressed prior to the commencement of next season. Greens are expected to be running between 13 and 17 for pennant. The pennant committee understand that weather conditions etc can have an impact from time to time but greens should not be consistently running outside of these speeds.

Club Presidents are also reminded that it is your responsibility to ensure that for pennant & regional events, players and markers are to dress in accordance with the Bowls Australia National Merchandise Program Logo Policy (dress regulations). This includes hats, caps, jackets and shoes. The issue has been raised with both the pennant and umpires' committees on a number of occasions.

Thank you to all clubs for your cooperation throughout the season. The finals again required decisions to be made regarding player eligibility. While the Conditions of Play allow for us to provide an exemption for clubs who find they are unable to field a side due to players being unavailable, it does not allow for the Pennant Committee to make allowances for oversights at the selection table, player unavailability through the season that might impact on games played etc. The committee have been consistent in our approach to this in fairness to all players and clubs in our sport.

Thank you to all members of the Pennant Committee for your diligence and input throughout 2023/24 and wish everyone a very enjoyable 2024/25 season.

Yvonne Clark
Chairperson
BHBR Pennant Committee