



Preseason Notices 2024-25

1. New gender rules for CoP / selection

- Please note that as of this season, Bowls Victoria has included in the Conditions of Play that gender cannot be used as a criteria for selection and regions or playing areas cannot include any restrictions on selection based upon gender.

2. Uniform

- Over the last few seasons instances of pennant players wearing non-approved clothing (particularly headwear and footwear) has become more common. It is the responsibility of the club President to ensure that all of their club's pennant players are wearing approved uniforms and clothing.
- In short, the rules state that all visible items of clothing must have the Bowls Australia National Merchandise Program (NMP) logo on them.
- For information about approved footwear, refer to the following Bowls Australia information (see the following link)
<https://www.bowls.com.au/get-involved/attire-equipment/footwear/>
- For headwear, the NMP Logo must appear on the front or side of all headwear, except on hats with a club hat-band, where a logo is not required.

3. Behaviour

- Similar to the above item re clothing, it has also been noticeable that instances of poor sportsmanship and poor behaviour have also increased in recent seasons.
- Players are reminded that incidents involving player abuse, intimidation, bullying, audible swearing and other such behaviours are all dealt with under the Laws of Bowls and the umpire of the day has the power to award instantaneous penalties if they are warranted. (These penalties range from awarding a team the maximum number of shots on the end to excluding the player concerned from participating any further in the match).

4. Game times / trial ends

- Play is to commence at 1.00pm (Saturday pennant) and 10.00am (Tuesday pennant). Two trial ends are to be played and then match will commence after the completion of the trial ends.

5. Finals eligibility

- Player must have played 4 games with the club in that season
- A side must not include any player who, during the current season, has played more games in any higher graded side, unless they have also played in an equal number of games in that lower division.
- Two team club – if both teams are playing in same round of finals – can select anyone on ability
- Three or more team club – if three or more teams are playing in the same round of finals – higher team players can only play in the next ranked team at their club.
- If a club has only one team playing in finals – no player who has played in more games in a higher ranked side or sides can play.

6. Use of substitutes

- Substitutes must be affiliated with BV and be listed as a Competition Bowler
- If a substitute is required prior to the game – must be selected in the lowest ranked side
- Maximum of one substitute per rink
- If a substitute is required after the commencement of the game – substitute must play in the same position as the player being substituted, except Skip. If the Skip is being substituted, the other player must rearrange as necessary – the substitute cannot Skip.
- If a team is playing one short – play without a second and Skips take cards.

7. Code Red (as announced by BOM / CFA)

- All pennant play in the area abandoned

8. Total Fire Ban

- Clubs have the opportunity to register - prior to the season beginning – that they will not be playing if there is a Total Fire ban in their area and matches involving their club will be abandoned.
- On the day of a TFB, both clubs (who have not previously registered) can agree to abandon the game. However if only one club does not wish to play, then that club shall forfeit.

9. Afternoon tea

- As of this season, there will be a **mandated** break in all pennant matches.
- Saturday pennant: An afternoon tea break will be taken at 2.45pm and teams are required to be back on the green by 3.15pm. Home clubs are to provide afternoon tea. (The Board feels that this will provide opportunities for players to socialise and for clubs to run raffles should they wish and reclaim an income stream that has been lost due to COVID restrictions).
- Tuesday pennant: A lunch break will be taken at 11.45am and teams are required to be back on the green by 12.15pm.

10. Pre-game practice

- Pre-game practice for both home and visiting sides is subject to Greenkeeper / Greens Director declaring the greens available.
- Practice is allowed on the day of play, including on the rinks that the game is being played on, for both the home and visiting sides.
- If required, the visiting side must have access for 1 hour and on half of the rinks that the game is to be played on.
- Practice for both sides must conclude 30 minutes prior to the start of the match.

11. Temperature measuring

- Temperatures in our region will continue to be measured using the home club's calibrated thermometer. In response to inquiries re using the Bureau of Meteorology app instead of club weather stations, we have received information from the BOM as to the location of the weather measuring sites are located throughout Victoria. Whilst there are enough sites in the Metro area to allow Metro competitions to use the BOM app, we have two sites in Ballarat and then the nearest sites are Ararat, Mortlake, Ben Nevis, Castlemaine, Kilmore, etc – all too far away to allow for a consistent temperature reading throughout our region.
- Therefore, we will continue to use individual club weather stations to record our pennant temperatures.
- Please see attached BOM advice on where and how to set up weather stations.

12. Green speeds

- BV recommends the speed for greens for pennant range between 13 and 17 seconds.
- BHBR requires clubs to measure the speed of their greens and display the speed.

13. Bowslink entries

- Teams must be entered on. Bowslink prior to the commencement of the game.
- Results must be entered on Bowslink as soon as possible after the completion of a match, but no later than 7.00pm for Saturday pennant and 4.00pm for Tuesday pennant.

14. Bowslink membership records

- With the new update of Bowslink, pennant players are now registered as Competition Bowlers with a green dot designating this.
- Players will only be able to be selected for pennant if they are registered on Bowslink as Competition bowlers and are Financial members.
- Note: BV will only change affiliation fees for those members who are registered as Competition Bowlers.

15. Permit regulations

- In response to some queries regarding permit players:
- Permit players **are** able to play for their primary club and their permit club in the same round. For example, if their primary club in Ballarat has arranged a Friday night game they can play in that and then play for their permit club in Melbourne on the Saturday – or vice versa - **but both clubs have to agree.**
- Permit players can only play pathway club / state events at their primary club and are eligible to represent their primary club's region in representative teams. eg. Player X whose primary club is Sebastopol but plays metro bowls for Deer Park, can represent BHBR if selected.

16. Bowls Victoria protected events

- No club championship events or region / state events are to be played when Bowls Victoria protected events (eg. region Sides, Vic Open) are being conducted.

17. Controlling body

- The Controlling Body for pennant bowls is the Home club and the Home club must appoint a person who is responsible for making decisions relating to the Conditions of Play that are different to the Laws of Bowls (which the Umpire has responsibility for).

18. Umpire of the day

- The Home club is responsible for appointing an accredited Umpire to officiate on the day of play.
- If the Home club does not have an accredited Umpire available, then the visiting club may supply an accredited Umpire.
- If no accredited Umpire is available, then an accredited Measurer must be appointed.
- If no accredited Umpire or Measurer is available then the Home club must appoint a competent player to act as Umpire (and will have the full powers of an accredited Umpire).
- The Umpire of the day must not be the Side Manager or Coach for the match they are umpiring.

19. Heat rules

- If the temperature shown by the Home club's designated weather station reaches 38 degrees prior to the match commencing, play shall be suspended for up to 1 hour.
- If the temperature falls below 38 degrees, play must commence.
- If the temperature fails to fall below 38 degrees within 1 hour of play being suspended, play is abandoned.
- If play has commenced and the temperature reaches 38 degrees, play shall be suspended for up to 1 hour.
- If the temperature falls below 38 degrees, play shall resume immediately.
- If the temperature fails to fall back below 38 degrees within 1 hour of the suspension, play is abandoned.

20. Inclement weather rules

- If a match cannot commence at the scheduled time due to inclement weather, play may be suspended for up to 1 hour.
- If after 1 hour of play being suspended the game can still not commence, the match will be abandoned.
- If a match has commenced but is suspended due to inclement weather and cannot continue after 1 hour, the match will be abandoned.

New rule:

- If all games in a division where a game is being played under a dome are cancelled, washed out or abandoned, then the points for the game played under a dome will be shared between the two competing clubs and no club will gain an advantage by receiving full points for a win.

21. Bowls discs

- All players in a side must use the same identification stickers / discs.
- Bowls identification stickers must not cover the WB stamps / date or serial number.
- Only one set of stickers can be used on a bowl (can't put new stickers on top of old stickers). All bowls must have stickers on both sides (either the large / small discs or the large disc / dot).

22. Rink allocation

- All rinks allocated to teams in the same side / division must be consecutively numbered and not have rinks from another division in the middle of them.
- Whilst it is not preferable, if a division must be situated over two greens, then the rinks must be consecutive (ie. the last two rinks of Green A and the first two rinks of Green B).

23. Dump mats

- If the Umpire decides that a player is causing damage to the green when delivering their bowls, a warning should be issued to the player and their Skip and/or Side manager.
- If the umpire believes that the player is continuing to damage the green, they may be directed to use a 'dump mat' if available.
- If the offending player refuses to use a 'dump mat' they will be a defaulting player and removed from the game.
- If a dump mat is not available and the offending player refuses to leave the game, the match will be forfeited to the opposing side.
- If a dump mat is not available and the offending player agrees to leave the game, they can be replaced by a substitute.
- The 'dump mat' is only used when the offending player is bowling.

24. Welcome Boards

- Home clubs are requested to display some form of 'Welcome board/notice', showing which clubs/divisions are on which rinks, the Umpire(s) for the day and the speed of the green(s).

25. State Events

- State events will be held as follows this season (alternating policy):
 - Singles / Triples – Ballarat playing area hosting
 - Pairs / Fours / Mixed Pairs – Highlands playing area hosting
 - Champion of Champions – TBC

26. Super Veterans Days

- This year's Super Veterans' days will be held as follows:
 - Highlands – Wednesday, 25th September at Gisborne BC
 - Ballarat – Thursday, 26th September at Sebastopol BC

27. Representative Selection

- Information has been forwarded to clubs – to be passed on to club Selection committees
- Names of nominated players to be forwarded to me by Friday, 27th September.
- Player's name, NID, Mobile no., and email to be included with nomination.

Regards
Wayne

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