



Hi Everyone

Please see below an update of information following Monday's BHRB Board meeting (111224).

1. Green inspections

- The BHRB Greens committee will be contacting some Ballarat clubs to conduct a mid-season inspection of their greens, particularly those greens that received a lower rating in the pre-season assessment.
- Therefore a number of clubs can expect to be contacted in the near future to organise a time for their green to be inspected.

2. Pre-game Practice

- There still appears to be confusion around the new rules for pre-game practice at the match venue, as some home clubs are still trying to stop opposition clubs from practising on the greens.
- For clarity, if the greens are open, clubs are allowed to practise on the green up until 30 minutes prior to the match commencement time. This practice is for both the Home team and the visiting opposition and practice can be on the rinks that are being used for the match.

3. Pre-game Green preparation

- Once the rinks have been allocated and published (on a welcome board, etc) they are not to be changed, especially after pre-game practice has been completed.
- Likewise, any rolling and other preparations of the green should be completed prior to the greenkeeper opening the greens for practice. No rolling / preparation / watering is to be done between practice finishing and the game commencing.

4. Home Venue responsibilities

- A reminder that the Home venue is the Controlling Body for the day's pennant competition and is responsible for managing the Conditions of Play, etc. They are also responsible for appointing an Umpire for the day (see Rule 10 of the BV Conditions of Play).
- If inclement weather requires a match to be switched to the opposition venue, then that club becomes the Home club and assumes all responsibilities that this entails. (Whether or not a return switch is organised for the second round is a matter to be decided by the two clubs.)
- It is essential that an Umpire is appointed. Under the Conditions of Play, if a Home club cannot supply an Umpire, the visiting club can supply one and if they can't either, then a measurer or 'competent person' is appointed.

5. Live scoring

- In line with Bowls Victoria's request that all country regions resume using live scoring, the BHRB Board would like to see clubs in Division 1 of both Saturday and Tuesday pennant at least trial it and 'give it a go', (with the understanding that there will be some areas on some occasions where network coverage will impact its usage).
- Bowls Victoria have listed the immediate benefits of digital scoring as:
 - The removal of paper scorecards; saving time for Selectors and Side Managers who don't have to fill in names on cards and the cost to Clubs (*a possibility only at this stage*)
 - Simplifies the Side Manager's job
 - Captures and corrects any score errors at entry and before being finalised; removing the key point of dispute
 - The use of the shuffle button and live scoring ensures rinks are correctly matched when scores are entered
 - An accurate and complete record of players per side and per game
 - An accurate and complete archive of scores and results to which Clubs can refer

- Satisfying bowler interest in checking and following real-time scores within rinks. This includes not only participants, but the many bowlers and interested parties who aren't playing Pennant who can keep up to date with scores.
- As a coaching and revision tool to look at trends within matches without needing the physical scorecards
- Ideally the Second will be the scorer (but it could be the Lead or Third if the Second is not able or comfortable in using the app).
- The 'live scorers' for each team need to be at the same end. (ie. not the Second of one team and the Skip of the other team).
- *For this year, a manual scorecard needs to be maintained as a back-up, and **it is recommended that the Skip handles this task.***

6. Representative news

- The Region Sides event will be played in Ballarat on Friday, 10th - Sunday, 12th January at Victoria, Sebastopol, BMS and City Oval Bowling Clubs.
- The BHBR teams have been selected and will be published on our website shortly.

7. Autumn Pennant

- As there was very limited response to this suggestion and even less interest, this initiative will be put on the back-burner for the immediate future.

Regards
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