

# General Conditions for All Events

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## 1. Introduction

All matches will be played in accordance with the Laws and these Conditions of Play.

These Conditions of Play shall govern the conduct of Championship Events, unless otherwise stated in an event's specific Conditions of Play.

Situations may arise that are not specifically covered by these Conditions of Play. It is expected that in such circumstances any decision taken will reflect the spirit of these Conditions and embody the ideals of fair play and good sportsmanship supported by good common sense.

Amendments may occur to this document, as and when necessary. Refer Bowls NSW website ([www.bowlsnsw.com.au](http://www.bowlsnsw.com.au)) and Circulars. The current Conditions of Play will be published on the Bowls NSW website.

### 1.1. Interpretation

The following rules shall apply in the interpretation of these Conditions of Play:

- i. Headings are for convenience only and do not affect interpretation.
- ii. The singular includes the plural and vice versa.
- iii. Where a word or phrase is defined, its other grammatical forms have corresponding meanings.
- iv. A reference to a rule or sub-rule is to a rule or sub-rule, as the case may be, of these Conditions of Play unless stated to the contrary.
- v. A reference to a schedule, annexure or appendix is a reference to a schedule, annexure or appendix of these Conditions of Play unless stated to the contrary.
- vi. A mention of anything after "include", "includes" or "including" does not limit what else might be included.

## 2. Terms & Definitions

In these Conditions of Play the following capitalised terms and the following non-capitalised terms shall have the corresponding meanings unless otherwise stated. In addition, capitalised terms used in these Conditions of Play which are defined in the Constitution of Bowls NSW shall have the same meaning when used in these Conditions of Play unless otherwise stated.

### 2.1. Affiliated Member

Means a player who is registered with a State or Territory Association as a member of a club affiliated with that State or Territory Association.

### 2.2. Affiliated Sub-Club

Means an unincorporated bowling sub-club of an incorporated entity, such as a licensed club, with such rights as set out in the Regulations as amended from time to time.

### 2.3. Appeals Tribunal

Means the Appeals Tribunal of Bowls NSW as established by the Board of Bowls NSW.

### 2.4. Association

Means Bowls NSW Ltd.

## **2.5. Championship Events**

Means events which are under the control of these Conditions of Play, which are listed in Condition 11.

## **2.6. Championship Event Attire Policy / Uniform Policy**

Means the Championship Event Attire Policy / Uniform Policy available on the Bowls NSW website.

## **2.7. Attire**

Means articles of clothing as worn by players during Championship Events in accordance with the Championship Event Attire Policy.

## **2.8. BA**

Means Bowls Australia Incorporated, the Australian national governing body for the sport of lawn bowls.

## **2.9. Board**

Means the Board of Bowls NSW Ltd.

## **2.10. Bowling Member**

Means a natural person who has paid the appropriate membership fees, if any, to a Club for the current financial year and who is entitled to play bowls at that Club by virtue of their membership and is registered with Bowls NSW as a member of that club.

## **2.11. Bowling Season**

Means the period that commences July 1<sup>st</sup> and concludes the following June 30<sup>th</sup> in each year.

## **2.12. Bowls NSW**

Means Bowls NSW Ltd.

## **2.13. Clearance and Registration Transfer Application**

Means an application to Bowls NSW to transfer the registration of a player between Clubs.

## **2.14. Cleared**

Means that a player's Clearance and Registration Transfer Application form, including any required fee payment, has been lodged with and accepted by Bowls NSW.

## **2.15. Club and Sub-Club**

Means both Member Clubs and Affiliated Sub-Clubs.

## **2.16. Competition**

Means a specific bowls event under the control of these Conditions of Play, or under the control of Bowls NSW.

## **2.17. Completion Date**

Means the last date on which play in a specific competition is scheduled.

## **2.18. Conditions of Play**

Means the rules governing how a competition is played.

## **2.19. Constitution**

Means the Constitution of Bowls NSW.

## **2.20. Controlling Body**

Means the body with immediate control over the Conditions of Play for that competition.

Authority may be delegated under the Conditions of Play to the Controlling Body of the Zone, Region or District, which may in turn delegate to the District and/or host Club for the conduct of Championship Events.

**2.21. Controlling Body Representative**

Means the person(s) appointed to act as and represent the Controlling Body during play of a Championship Event.

**2.22. Declared Club (Primary Club)**

Means the Club with which a player shall play their Championship Events in a Bowling Season in accordance with these Conditions of Play. If the player is registered as a member of more than one club, this club shall be designated as their primary club on their registration record.

**2.23. District**

A division of a Region as recognised under the Constitution and Regulations of Bowls NSW, Geographic Draws

Means a draw is established with consideration to geographical location of participants.

**2.24. Host Venue**

Means the Club on whose green matches within a competition are to be played.

**2.25. International / Interstate Event**

Means an event played between National representatives or State (or Territory) representatives, respectively.

**2.26. Junior Bowler**

Means a bowler who is under the age of 18 years as at the completion date of the competition.

**2.27. Justifiable Cause**

Means unforeseen or urgent circumstances which would cause serious detriment and disadvantage to participants in the absence of the postponement of the playing of a Championship Event under those circumstances.

**2.28. Laws**

Means the Laws of the Sport of Bowls **Crystal Mark 4<sup>th</sup> Edition, April 2023** and including Domestic Regulations for play in Australia and as amended, modified or replaced from time to time.

**2.29. Match Committee**

Means the Controlling Body of Bowls NSW or of a Zone, Region, District or Club as the case may be.

**2.30. Match and matches**

Means a game or games of bowls played within a competition.

**2.31. Member Club**

Means a club who is recognised as a member of Bowls NSW in accordance with the Constitution and Regulations.

**2.32. National Umpire**

Means a person who holds a current accreditation as a Lawn Bowls umpire.

**2.33. Order of Precedence**

Means the priority for matches to be played in accordance with these Conditions of Play as set out herein.

**2.34. Over 40s Eligibility**

Means a bowler who is aged 40 years or over AND 59 years or under (see separate Over 40s Conditions of Play).

**2.35. Previous Season Grading**

Means the established grade of a player during their previous Bowling Season.

**2.36. Player and players**

Means any Bowling Member and any Junior Bowling Member participating in a Championship Event.

**2.37. Policy**

Means any policy of Bowls NSW.

**2.38. Region**

Means a Region Association as established under the Bowls NSW Constitution and Regulations, as previously recognised under WBNSW Constitution and Regulations.

**2.39. Regulations**

Means any regulations of Bowls NSW.

**2.40. Replacement Player**

Means a player approved to take the place of a constituted player in a competition in accordance with these Conditions of Play.

**2.41. Substitute**

Means a player approved to play in place of an unavailable player in accordance with these Conditions of Play.

**2.42. Senior Bowler**

Means a bowler who is aged 60 years or over as at the date specified in the Conditions of Play for that Senior Event.

**2.43. State**

Means New South Wales, Bowls NSW or other State or Territory Bowling Association.

**2.44. State Match Committee**

Means the State Match Committee of Bowls NSW, which is the Controlling Body for all Championship Events.

**2.45. Reserve Bowler**

Means a player who:

- has a Previous Season Grading of Grade 5, Grade 6 or Grade 7 or who has no Previous Season Grading and did not play 50% or more matches in the current or previous season in Division 1 or Division 2 Single Gender Pennants **and**
- is not graded in the current season higher than Grade 5 at the close of entries for that Championship Event.

**2.46. State Pennant Finals Series**

Means the series of matches played between qualifiers to determine the winner of each State Pennant.

**2.47. Umpires Committee or Panel**

Means the Committee or Panel that organises and/or controls the umpires within Bowls NSW, a Zone, District or Club.

**2.48. Unregistered Player**

Means a player who enters or plays in a Championship Event and who is not registered with Bowls NSW as a member of that club.

**2.49. WWCC**

Means a Working with Children Check registered with Service NSW

### **2.50. Zone**

Means a Zone Association as established under the Bowls NSW Constitution and Regulations. Zone Competition

Means a competition where control of that competition is delegated under these Conditions of Play to the Zone.

## **3. Club, District, Region, Zone and State Match Committee Responsibility**

Zones, Regions, Districts, and Clubs are delegated the responsibility of ensuring that Championship Events are conducted in accordance with the Conditions of Play.

The relevant Match Committee is responsible for the conduct of all Championship Events under its control.

The relevant Match Committee, in the case of special or exceptional circumstances, may change the number of ends to be played, change the days and times of play, change greens or venues for play or make other changes as are deemed necessary to conduct and complete an event.

The relevant Match Committee shall inquire into and settle disputes concerning Championship Events in accordance with agreed procedures set out in these Conditions of Play or otherwise.

Appeals and disputes arising from the application of these Conditions of Play shall be determined according to the protocol through Club, then District then Zone, and then State Match Committee. The only right of appeal from a decision of the State Match Committee is to the Appeals Tribunal in accordance with the Bowls NSW Appeals Tribunal Rules.

Any Match Committee member who is a party to a dispute must not take part in any discussion/resolution of the dispute.

## **4. Compliance with Bowls NSW Constitution, Regulations & Policies**

All Players and officials in Championship Events shall be required to comply with the provisions of the Constitution, Regulations and Policies.

## **5. Attire**

Players are at all times required to be attired in accordance with the Championship Event Attire / Uniform Policy.

## **6. Calendars and Schedules**

Zones, Regions & Districts shall include details of the dates of play in their Bowling Program, including all details of dates (including provision for deferred matches) for ALL Championship Events being conducted by them. Details of dates of play should be included on entry forms for events.

Zones and Regions must complete Championship Events by the dates shown in the Bowls NSW calendar.

Where a State Pennant Finals Series is being hosted within Zones, Regions & Districts, the Zones, Regions & Districts shall not schedule any Competitions on the scheduled dates for that Finals Series.

A Championship Event shall not commence before 1 July in a Bowling Season unless prior written permission is obtained from the State Match Committee.

Championship Events commenced before 1 July with permission of State Match Committee shall, for the purpose of Condition 14, be deemed to have been played in the nominated year of the

event. Any event commenced before 1 July must be completed in the nominated Bowling Season for the event. (Club **Triples & Fours** Championships may be played prior to 1 July refer Condition 37.3)

Zones & Districts are required to forward to State Match Committee, their season program no later than 1 May of the preceding year for approval (including Regional play-off dates).

## **7. Results**

District, Region or Zone winners (as the case may be) must be found and names of winners, runners-up and total number of entries shall be forwarded on the prescribed form and in prescribed format to reach the Association before the date shown in the State Program.

## **8. Deferment of Matches**

A Championship Event shall not be postponed except for inclement weather or other justifiable cause. If two events fall on the same date the one with the higher precedence will be played.

A postponed match shall be played on the next available playing date (on days/dates when matches in that competition would normally have been scheduled).

Deferred Pennant Matches shall be played in line with the Conditions of Play specified by the Controlling Body.

## **9. Play or Forfeit**

At least six (6) days' notice of play will be given to all players prior to each match. If a player or team drawn to play cannot do so, a forfeit will apply unless:

- i. A Substitute or Replacement Player is permitted under the Bowls Australia Domestic Regulations or Condition 34; or
- ii. The opponents, by mutual arrangement, and with the consent of the Controlling Body, agree to and do play the match prior to the commencement of the next scheduled round.
- iii. If the Controlling Body gives its consent and the match is then not able to be completed before the next scheduled round, the player(s)/team(s) that were originally unable to play on the scheduled date shall be deemed to forfeit that match.

## **10. Geographic Draws**

Geographic Draws may be conducted.

## 11. Championship Events

Championship Events are as stated below:

- i. State Pennants
- ii. Club Major Singles, Pairs, Triples & Fours
- iii. State Championships
- iv. State Senior Championships
- v. State Junior Championships
- vi. Reserve Championships
- vii. Inter-Zone Sides Championships
- viii. Senior Inter-Zone Sides Championship
- ix. Junior Inter-Zone Sides Championship
- x. Champion of Club Champions Singles & Pairs
- xi. State Mixed Pairs
- xii. Rookies Singles and Pairs
- xiii. Australian Indoor Singles Championship (NSW Qualifying)
- xiv. State Over 40s Pairs
- xv. State Carnival
- xvi. Such other events as may be declared as Championship Events by Bowls NSW.

All other events are NOT Championship Events and are not governed by Bowls NSW Conditions of Play. It is the responsibility of the Controlling Body for that event to determine the Conditions of Play.

## 12. Disqualification

If a player or team is disqualified for any reason (through application of the Laws or of these Conditions of Play) the following actions shall be taken:

### 12.1. Sectional / Round Robin Play

The non-offending player or team shall receive maximum points & shall be credited with the margin by which they won or +5 shots (whichever is the higher).

The Offending player or team shall be credited with 0 points & shall be credited with the margin by which they lost or -5 shots (whichever is the lower).

If required, the score shall be recalculated as the offending player/team retaining their score and the non-offending player or team being credited with the (offending player/team score + 5 shots).

For Penalties in Pennant Play see Conditions of Play for that Pennant competition.

### 12.2. Knockout Play

The player, team or side LAST DEFEATED by the disqualified player, team or side, shall take the place of the player, team or side disqualified.

## 13. Entries

Nominations for an event showing the player(s) names and National Identity Number (NIN) and Club must be made to Bowls NSW, the Club, District, Region or Zone as per the method specified by the relevant Controlling Body.

The Controlling Body may accept late entries to be placed on a 'wait' or stand-by list to fill a vacant position in the draw caused by a bye or forfeit. A late entry may be included prior to commencement of the first round of the competition.

Entry fees must accompany the entry unless alternative arrangements are made with the relevant Controlling Body.

## 14. Eligibility

### 14.1. Players Eligibility to Enter Championship Events

To enter and play a Championship Event with a Club, a player shall:

- i. Be registered with Bowls NSW as an Individual Member of that Club;
- ii. Have that club as their declared club and have that club registered as their primary club.
- iii. Be registered with their respective District or Zone Association
- iv. Be Cleared to play at that club (if required);
- v. Satisfy any eligibility requirements for that event
- vi. If applicable, have a membership category at that Club that entitles them to play Championship Events.

### 14.2. Player Changing Club

- i. A player changing Club with which they are registered with Bowls NSW requires a Clearance & Registration Transfer Application (with the appropriate fee) to be submitted to Bowls NSW.
- ii. A player changing club with which they are registered with Bowls NSW becomes ineligible to enter and continue in any event with the previous club effective from the date that the Clearance and Registration Transfer application is lodged with Bowls NSW.
- iii. Once a Clearance and Registration Transfer Application is lodged with Bowls NSW the player shall cease to be eligible to enter or play in ANY Championship Event in the current Bowling Season with their former club (except as provided for below) and shall become eligible to enter or play in any Championship Event with their new club in which they have not already become constituted during the current Bowling Season. A player changing club who has already played in a Pennant Match with their former club is ineligible to play **in that Pennant Competition (Men/Women/Open)** with their new club except with the written permission of the State Match Committee. Such application will be considered only if:
  - A player changes their place of residence, the change making travel to their declared Club impractical, or
  - The player is required to change their declared Club as a condition of their employment with their prospective new Club. Employment must be full-time or a primary source of income, or
  - There are other special or exceptional circumstances which apply.

### 14.3. Penalty:

- i. Player or team disqualified from the competition.
- ii. Penalties for Pennants matches applies only to the Round(s) in which an ineligible player played.



#### **14.4. Winners / Qualifiers**

Notwithstanding the foregoing, any Club, District, Region, Zone or Association Champion always remains eligible to continue to compete in that specific event during the season, irrespective of any change of declared Club membership, provided they are registered with Bowls NSW.

This does not apply to State Pennants, where a player is required to be registered as an Individual Member with that club at the time the match is played.

#### **14.5. Host Clubs of Events**

All players are eligible to play in Championship Events unless suspended for a bowls related matter. A Player's ability to enter a host club may be limited by any disciplinary action in place by that host club.

Should a club hosting a District, **Region**, Zone or State Championship Event decline to allow a player entry to their club & greens:

- i. The Controlling Body shall allow a substitute or replacement player in a team game.
- ii. A Singles player shall forfeit that match.
- iii. That player shall not be eligible to play in a sides match, the player's club shall select another player to play in that match.

All players suspended or de-registered under Bowls NSW regulations are ineligible to participate in Championship Events.

### **15. Withdrawals or Forfeits - Players / Teams / Sides Obligations**

#### **15.1. Withdrawal**

An intended team may withdraw before becoming constituted in that Associated Event.

The team withdrawing is regarded as having not entered the Championship Event and the members of that withdrawing team are eligible to act as a substitute or replacement player in that Championship Event. A team withdrawing shall give notification to the Controlling Body and Host Venue a minimum of twenty-four (24) hours before the scheduled commencement of their first scheduled match. Notification after this time shall constitute a forfeit.

#### **15.2. Forfeit**

A player or team unable to meet their commitment to play on a drawn playing date and to whom dispensation is not applicable shall forfeit the match to their opponents. (See also Conditions 8 (Deferment of Matches), 9 (Play or Forfeit) and 36 (Concurrent Events & Order of Precedence))

#### **15.3. Notification**

A player, team or side forfeiting or withdrawing shall notify:

- i. The Controlling Body - Club/District/Zone/Bowls NSW; and
- ii. The Venue Club

at least twenty-four (24) hours prior to the scheduled commencement time of the match to be forfeited unless there is a satisfactory explanation for not doing so.

A team withdrawing shall give notification a minimum of twenty-four (24) hours before their first scheduled match. Notification after this time shall constitute a forfeit.

Notification of a forfeit is binding and may not be revoked. Should play not commence on the date of the forfeited match, the forfeit shall remain in force.

#### **15.4. Penalty**

Not exceeding \$110 per player for any one offence and/or have their entry declined for any Championship Event for a period of up to twelve (12) months.

Any determination to deny a player's entry for Championship Events must be endorsed by the State Match Committee.

#### **15.5. Obligation for Payment of a Fine**

Rests with the individual to pay the relevant Controlling Body.

#### **15.6. Non-Payment of a Fine**

A player is liable to have their entry declined for Championship Events until payment is made.

### **16. Championship Draws**

The draw for each Championship Event should include the names of all intended players. The draw should include the scheduled dates for all matches and advise dates on which provision is made for deferred matches.

A draw sheet for a Championship Event shall not be added to, amended, altered, or in any way interfered with by any player.

**Penalty:** Disqualification from the Championship Event.

Any permitted changes shall be made by the appropriate Controlling Body - Club / District / Zone / Bowls NSW.

### **17. Starting Times**

Starting times shall be determined by the relevant Controlling Body, considering local conditions.

### **18. Meal Break**

Thirty (30) minutes to be allowed between matches for meals (where applicable).

### **19. Late Arrivals**

If, 15 minutes after the scheduled start time for a match, one or more players is absent from a team, that team will forfeit the match to their opponents. (See also Law 39.1.2 - See also Absentee players in a side)

The Controlling Body shall, in the spirit of good sportsmanship, allow additional time for late arrivals in a singles or team event, where players are delayed by extenuating circumstances beyond their control (for example, traffic delays caused by an accident).

### **20. Trial Ends**

A singles player, team or side shall be allowed two (2) trial ends for each match, playing the number of bowls to be used in the event on each end. Trial ends shall be completed prior to the scheduled starting time.

The rink on which a player or team is to play shall be announced and made available for trial ends not later than twenty (20) minutes prior to the scheduled starting time.

### **21. Practice**

Players may practice up to thirty (30) minutes prior to the scheduled start time of the match, providing that rink space is available, and the Controlling Body approves.

Players shall not practice on the rink on which their match is drawn to be played.

## 22. Controlling Body / Umpires

The Controlling Body Representative for a Championship Event shall not, unless unavoidable, be a contestant in the said Championship Event in that playing session.

The Controlling Body, through the Umpires Committee / Panel shall appoint a person currently accredited as a National Umpire to attend all Championship Events. The Umpire so appointed shall not, unless unavoidable, be a contestant in the said Championship Event in that playing session. If there is no currently accredited National Umpire available, a person currently accredited as a Measurer should be appointed to officiate.

If no accredited official is available, the Controlling Body of the day shall appoint a suitable person to officiate.

See also: Duties of Controlling Body.

## 23. Bowls

Bowls NSW does not require bowls to be re-tested and re-stamped every 10 years for Bowls NSW Championship Events. The World Bowls stamp on bowls used in Championship Events is not required to be of a current or future year.

If a player qualifies for an event under the control of Bowls Australia, Bowls Australia **may require** bowls to carry a stamp of a specified date or later and shall specify the required date.

## 24. Bowls Stickers / Adhesive Markings

A Club, District, Zone or Association Controlling Body may supply and require identifying bowls stickers (adhesive markings) to be used on bowls and stipulate the occasions on which they may or must be used.

Worn or faded stickers shall be removed or replaced. Bowls shall have only one layer of stickers used at any time (that is, each bowl shall have one LAYER of sticker on each side only).

Bowls stickers may cover the distinctive engraving on the bias side of the bowl (small engraving).

Stickers used by a team or side must be of the same colour scheme and design but may be of different sizes to accommodate larger engravings on bowls. (Stickers may be in more than one part, but only one layer of stickers shall be used on each side of a bowl.)

If opposing sides, teams or players have the same design or colour of markings and an alternative is not available, players in the side listed second in the draw must remove their markings.

Refer Law 52.1.8 and DR 4.7.

## 25. Markers

A marker shall be appointed for each singles match.

- i. A marker shall be a registered Bowling Member of a Club affiliated with a State, Territory and/or National Lawn Bowls Association of a nation other than Australia.
- ii. A player defeated must mark in the next round scheduled on that day, if required by the Controlling Body. If more markers are available than required names shall be drawn by lot, before the first match. A substitute marker may mark.
- iii. A player drawn in singles sectional play must mark in any round of that sectional play if required by the Controlling Body.
- iv. A player who has drawn a bye in knockout play must mark that round played on the same day they are drawn to play if required by the Controlling Body.

- v. A player defeated in Clubs Singles match must mark a match in the subsequent round, if required by the Club Controlling Body. If more markers are available than required names shall be drawn by lot, before the first match. A substitute marker may mark.

### **25.1. Penalty**

**Failure to mark if required** – Penalty shall not exceed one hundred and ten dollars (\$110) and/or have their entry declined for all Championship Events for a period of up to twelve (12) months.

Any determination to deny a player's entry for Championship Events must be endorsed by the State Match Committee.

## **26. Greens for Play**

Clubs shall provide the best available / most suitable playing surface for Championship Events.

## **27. Inclement Weather**

Bowls NSW has an Extreme Weather Policy, any decision on suspension or cessation of play should be made in line with the Bowls NSW Extreme Weather Policy.

The Club, as the Controlling Body, may decide to cancel a match prior to its commencement, or during play, if they believe that the weather is not likely to be suitable for play to commence or continue.

A Club may have in place a policy under which all play is suspended if certain criteria are reached or met under the Bowls NSW Extreme Weather Policy or any local extreme weather policy that applies in relation to the play concerned (e.g. a threshold temperature at which all play is suspended while conditions remain at or above or below that temperature).

Players may appeal to the Controlling Body / Umpire for play to be suspended or abandoned. In a team match, such appeal must be made by the Skip (players may request their Skip to make the appeal). In a side match, such appeal must be made by the Side Manager (players may request their Side Manager to make the appeal).

Appeals may apply only to the team(s) or side(s) who make that appeal.

In all cases, the health and safety of players should be the prime consideration in determining whether play should be suspended and/or abandoned.

## **28. Appeals and Disputes**

Disputes or appeals arising out of the application of these Conditions of Play should be resolved by the relevant Controlling Body.

A decision taken by a Controlling Body shall be binding in all respects if any immediate result is required.

An appeal may be made to the next highest authority:

- Player to Club
- Club to District (if applicable)
- District to Zone/Region (as the case may be)
- Zone/Region to the State Match Committee
- State Match Committee to Bowls NSW Board/Appeals Tribunal. Any appeals to Bowls NSW Board must be in accordance with the Bowls NSW Appeals Policy.

Appeals must be accompanied by all relevant information.

If an immediate result is not required, an appeal may be made on the grounds:

- i. That there was an error of application of the Conditions of Play, an error of application of the Laws or a denial of natural justice;
- ii. That the decision was unreasonable or insupportable having regard to the evidence presented at the time that the decision being appealed against was made;
- iii. If new evidence is available which was not available to the Appellant at the time the decision being appealed against was made; or
- iv. If the decision being appealed against was manifestly excessive or manifestly unfair to the Appellant.

## **29. Personal Electronic Devices**

Personal Electronic Devices / Communication Devices shall not be taken onto the green or surrounds during the playing of any Association Match, except with the explicit approval of the Controlling Body.

Personal electronic devices may be used where the Controlling Body determines that scoring will be done using electronic devices in place of a score card (refer also Bowls Australia Personal Electronic Device Policy)

Personal Electronic Devices / Communication Devices shall not be used on the green during the playing of any Championship Event, except with the explicit approval of the Controlling Body.

If approved by the Controlling Body, any communication device used shall be in 'silent mode'.

Players with a hearing disability may use a communication device if they provide medical evidence (a certificate from a treating doctor) that the device is required in order to aid the player's hearing. Hearing aids are permitted and are exempted from the requirement for medical evidence.

The device may only be used when the player's team is in possession of the rink and must not disturb players on neighbouring rinks.

### **29.1. Penalty**

- i. On the first occasion the umpire will warn the player.
- ii. If the player commits the same offence a second time the end will be regarded as completed and the opponents of the offender will be awarded as many shots as there are bowls in use by the opponent.
- iii. In a team game, if the player offends a third time the match will be forfeited to the opponent.
- iv. In a side game, if the player offends a third time the player shall be suspended from the remainder of the match. No Replacement Player or Substitute shall be permitted.

## **30. Player Damaging Green**

The Controlling Body shall be at liberty to warn a player if in their opinion they are causing damage to the green. Following the warning, if the player continues to cause damage to the green, the Controlling Body may request the player to retire from the green and take no further part in the match. Refer Bowls Australia Greens Protection Policy.

### **30.1. Wheelchairs & Walking Frames**

Wheelchairs or walking frames should be used in accordance with the Bowls Australia Artificial Devices Policy.

## 31. Coaching

The coach of a player, team or side must be an accredited coach and can give advice to a player during play provided that:

- i. The Controlling Body is given the name of the coach before the game starts; (The Controlling Body shall advise the umpire(s) of the nominated coach.)
- ii. Only one person is present at the rink to give advice at any one time;
- iii. The person giving the advice does so when their player or team is in possession of the rink; and
- iv. The person giving the advice does so from outside the boundaries of the green.

If, in the umpire's opinion, this law has been broken, the umpire must ask the coach concerned to stay within the law. If they do not stay within the law, the umpire must ask the Controlling Body to take immediate action to make sure that the offender stops breaking the law.

The Coach shall be considered as a member of the team or side and shall be attired in a manner that identifies them as a member of that club.

### 31.1. Working with Children / Junior Events

A coach for any Junior event must have a valid WWCC record filed with Bowls NSW

## 32. Delaying Play

If the Umpire, either by their own observation or on appeal from one of the Skips (or the opponent in singles), decides that a player is deliberately or unnecessarily delaying play:

- i. The umpire will warn the player on the first occasion;
- ii. If the player delays play a second time the end will be regarded as completed and the opponents of the offender will be awarded as many shots as there are bowls in use by the opponent.
- iii. If the player delays play a third time the match will be forfeited to the opponent.

## 33. Restricting Movement of Players

At the commencement of each end, Singles Players, Leads and Seconds shall be at the mat end of the green and skips at the head end. In fours, a Third may move to the head end of the green before the commencement of the end (before delivery of the jack to commence that end).

A skip may appoint a team member to direct the head should they need to leave the green until they return to the green.

### 33.1. Moving to the Head

After delivering their first bowl, players will only be allowed to move from the mat end to head end of the green under the following circumstances.

**Note:** A skip may move to the head end of the green before playing their final bowl of an end (as this is after delivery of their 2<sup>nd</sup>-last bowls as provided below).

#### 33.1.1. Singles Game

After delivery of their third and fourth bowls.

#### 33.1.2. Pairs game (Four Bowls per player)

Leads: after delivery of their second and fourth bowls.

Skips: after delivery of their second, third and fourth bowls.

### **33.1.3. Pairs Game (3 Bowls per player)**

Leads: after delivery of their third bowl.

Skips: after delivery of their second bowl.

### **33.1.4. Triples Game (2 bowls)**

Leads: after delivery of their second bowl.

Seconds: after delivery of their second bowl.

Skips: after delivery of each of their bowls.

### **33.1.5. Fours Game**

Leads: after delivery of their second bowl.

Seconds: after delivery of their second bowl.

Thirds: after delivery of their second bowl

Skips: after delivery of each of their bowls.

## **33.2. Players Remaining at Head End**

### **33.2.1. Pairs**

- i. Both leads must cross to the mat end at the same time (when it is the turn of the Leads to play their third bowls)
- ii. Both Skips must cross to the mat end at the same time (when it is the turn of the Skips to play)
- iii. If a skip has followed their third bowl to the head they must remain at the head until it is their turn to play their next bowl.

### **33.2.2. Triples**

- i. If both Seconds have been appointed to direct the head in the absence of the skip, they must both cross to the mat end at the same time (when it is the Seconds turn to play).
- ii. If only one of the Seconds has been appointed to direct the head in the absence of the skip, they must cross to the mat end when it is their turn to play.
- iii. Both Skips must cross to the mat end at the same time (when it is the turn of the Skips to play).
- iv. If a skip has followed their first bowl to the head, they must remain at the head until it is their turn to play their next bowl.

### **33.2.3. Fours**

- i. If both Thirds have moved to the head at the commencement of the end, they both must cross to the mat end at the same time (when it is the turn of the thirds to play).
- ii. If only one of the Thirds has moved to the head, they must move to the mat end immediately when it is their turn to play.
- iii. Both Skips must cross to the mat end at the same time (when it is the turn of the Skips to play).
- iv. If a skip has followed their first bowl to the head, they must remain at the head until it is their turn to play their next bowl.

## **33.3. Televised / Streamed Matches**

Bowls NSW may specify further or alternate restrictions where a match is to be broadcast/televised or live streamed.

### **33.4. Penalty**

- i. On the first occasion of a breach of this Condition, the umpire shall warn the player concerned. The Skip of the team and Manager/Coach in a sides game shall also be advised of the warning.
- ii. On the Second occasion of a breach of this Condition the umpire must have the bowl last played by the offending player or team declared dead. If that bowl has disturbed the head, the opponent must choose whether to:
  - replace the head or;
  - leave the head as altered.
- iii. On the third occasion of a breach the end in progress shall be declared completed and the opponents awarded the number of shots the same as the number of bowls in use in that game.
- iv. In a team game, on the fourth occasion of a breach, the match shall be forfeited to the opponents.
- v. In a side game, on the fourth occasion of a breach the offending player shall take no further part in the match. A substitute or replacement player shall not be permitted, and the team shall play one player short (as if the second were missing) as per the requirements of Condition 34.7
- vi. Warnings/penalties apply to individuals. A warning given to a player is not a warning for the team or side.

## **34. Substitutes and Replacements**

### **34.1. Definitions**

#### **34.1.1. Eligible Member**

A player who satisfies the eligibility criteria, as stated in the Conditions of Play for that event.

#### **34.1.2. Affiliated Member**

A player who is registered with a State or Territory Association as a member of an affiliated club.

#### **34.1.3. Substitute**

A player who is appointed to take the place of a team member who is unavailable at any time (including the first end), for a reason accepted by the Controlling Body.

#### **34.1.4. Replacement Player**

A player who is appointed to take the place of a Constituted player who is physically incapable or otherwise prevented from taking further part in any end (after the first round) for a reason accepted by the Controlling Body. The replacement player becomes a constituted member of the team.

### **34.2. Team Nominations**

- i. If approved by the Controlling Body, the players nominated to form a team entered in a competition may be changed before their first round in that competition.
- ii. Any player withdrawn before the first round shall be regarded as not having entered the competition and can act as a substitute or replacement player in that competition.



### **34.3. Constitution of Teams**

- i. A team shall become constituted when the jack is rolled in the first end of the first match to be played by that team.
- ii. Players in a team forfeiting or receiving a forfeit shall be constituted and cannot act as a substitute or replacement player in any other team in that competition.
- iii. If a player in a team becomes unavailable or is incapable of playing, the Controlling Body may authorise the use of one substitute player at any time (including the first end of any game) and/or one replacement player.

### **34.4. Substitute**

- i. Only one substitute will be allowed in a team at any one time.
- ii. A Substitute shall be chosen from Eligible Members who have not been constituted in that competition and are not nominated as a player in a team yet to be constituted.
- iii. If there are no eligible players available, the Controlling Body can approve an affiliated member to act as a substitute.
- iv. A player acting as a substitute may, with the approval of the Controlling Body, be changed at the completion of any end during a game or between succeeding games in the same competition.
- v. Substitutes introduced after the game has commenced must play in the same position as the player being substituted, except if it is skip. If a substitute is required for a skip, then the other members of the team must rearrange their positions as necessary. In subsequent games in the same competitions the position of players may be rearranged (unless otherwise specified in the Conditions of Play for that event) however a substitute must not play in the position of skip.
- vi. A player for whom a substitute is obtained, will, if they become available and are physically capable, re-join the team in the player's original position at the start of the next end and the others must revert to their original positions.
- vii. A player who has played as a substitute player, is eligible to again play as a substitute in that team or another team in that competition.
- viii. If a replacement player is used in a pairs team, then a substitute is only permitted to the place of the replacement player and the original team member must skip, otherwise a substitute cannot be permitted.
- ix. Substitutes are not permitted for a singles player who is not part of a sides competition.
- x. A substitute is not to be approved for a player who is unavailable because of a commitment to play bowls in another event they have entered.
- xi. A substitute must be permitted for a player who is unavailable to play because of their selection in a recognised National, State or Divisional/Regional Representative side.

### **34.5. Replacement Player**

- i. Only one replacement player will be allowed in a team and, when approved by the Controlling Body, becomes a constituted player.
- ii. Replacement players must be chosen from available eligible members and when approved by the Controlling Body can play in any position including skip.
- iii. Constituted players are ineligible to act as replacement players.
- iv. Players nominated to be a part of a team that is not yet constituted are ineligible to act as replacement players.

### **34.6. Substitutes and Replacements in State Pennants**

- i. Substitutes are permitted in State Pennants Matches.
- ii. Replacement Players are permitted to be used in State Pennants Matches only where:
  - the match has been commenced but not been completed and is then resumed on a subsequent date.
  - a substitute has already been used in the team in which the replacement player is required.
- iii. The original players shall remain those recorded as the Constituted Players. The match may be used as a factor for an application to waive post-sectional eligibility.

### **34.7. Absentee players in a side game.**

(Law 39.2.3 and Bowls Australia Domestic Regulation 2.6)

- i. If, 15 minutes after the scheduled start time for a game one player is absent from one or more teams in a side and no eligible substitute is available or allowed, the game must continue, however:
- ii. A team with an absent player plays as though the second is the missing player.
- iii. Each player must use the number of bowls specified in the Conditions of Play for that event.
- iv. The order of play shall be maintained by the second of the complete team playing consecutive bowls.
- v. If a player is unable to continue the game and no eligible substitute or replacement player is available or allowed, play will continue as if one player is absent as per 37.7 (i).
- vi. If an absent player arrives late, they must take their original place in the team when they arrive and enter the game at the completion of the end in progress.
- vii. If an eligible substitute or replacement player becomes available and is permitted by the Controlling Body, they may be introduced to the game at the completion of the end in progress.

## **35. Instantaneous Penalties**

If the Umpire, on appeal by the Controlling Body, a Side Manager, a Skip or an Opponent, or by observation, in their opinion decides that a breach of any Law or Rule or any action by a Player/s, (where there is no penalty specified in that Law or Rule) has taken place, including without limitation:

- Acting in an abusive, threatening or intimidating manner towards any person,
- Using obscene, offensive, abusive, threatening or intimidating language towards any person,
- Threatening any person with physical violence or assault,
- Assaulting any person,
- Acting in a manner likely to bring the sport of bowls into disrepute,
- Acting in a manner likely to bring Bowls NSW or any affiliated body into disrepute,
- Breaching the Bowls NSW Smoke Free Greens Policy.

Then after consultation with the controlling body (in their absence the team/side managers), the end shall be immediately regarded as completed and the following shall occur:

- i. The opponent of the offender shall be awarded as many shots as there are bowls in use by the Opponent in singles or opposing Team in a team game or team in a side game.
- ii. Upon a second such offence by the same player in the same game, the Umpire shall award the game to the Opponent/s according to Laws C2 and C10.
- iii. Should this penalty be applied, no Replacement or Substitute player will be allowed for their Team.
- iv. In a Team game the defaulting Team will forfeit the game to their Opponent.
- v. In a Side game BA Domestic Regulations 2.6 (Absentee Players in a Side Game) will apply.
- vi. A Replacement player is not permitted for a singles player.

The umpire must forward a written detailed report about any incident involving an instantaneous penalty to the respective Controlling Body within seven (7) days of the incident.

## **36. Concurrent Events and Order of Precedence.**

Where a player is scheduled to play in a championship event being conducted by a Controlling Body and is not able to do so because of selection to play in or officiate at an International or Interstate Event scheduled to be played at the same time, or take part in a selection trial for such an event, reasonable time being allowed for travel; the championship event should be rescheduled if possible. If the event cannot be rescheduled the player must decide which event to contest. Any player requesting an event to be rescheduled must make application a minimum of seven (7) days in advance.

### **36.1. Priority Events**

Player participating in priority events will be granted dispensation from playing events in lower category priority.

Controlling Bodies should avoid scheduling events where players may be involved in higher category priority events.

#### **36.1.1.1. Category 1**

National Representation, State Representation, Australian Open, Bowls Australia Nationals, BPL

#### **36.1.1.2. Category 2**

NSW State Championships Finals

Bowls NSW Inter-Zone Championships

#### **36.1.1.3. Category 3**

Zone/District Region Qualifying events for State Championships.

Zones & Regions/Districts may nominate one weekend for representative fixtures that shall take priority over Club events. The Zone/Region/District may specify that any affected Pennant matches by player selection on that weekend are to be rescheduled & shall include the dates in their draws.

## **37. Club Championships**

### **37.1. Eligibility**

Players are eligible as per General COP 14

A player may enter 1 (one) only Association Championship Club Singles in one season (Men's / Women's or Open Singles)

A player may enter 1 (one) only Association Championship Club Pairs in one season (Men's / Women's or Open Pairs)

Note – If a Club conducts a Men's Championship **and** a Women's Championship, an Open Gender event is not an Association Championship (for each of Singles and Pairs).

### **37.2. Singles & Pairs**

Club Championships Singles and Pairs must be played in line with the State Championships formats for players to qualify for Champion of Club Champions Singles and Pairs. (Champion of Club Champions covered in event specific COP)

Clubs must complete their Club Singles and Pairs by the date shown in the Bowls NSW Calendar for the Club Champions to enter Champion of Club Champions.

Note eligibility in Champion of Club Champions Conditions.

### **37.3. Triples & Fours**

Clubs may determine their own Conditions of Play to conduct Triples & Fours Championships.

Any Conditions put in place for Club Triples and Fours should be aimed at maximizing participation in these events.

### **37.4. Dates of Play**

A Club is permitted to play **2023/2024 Club Triples and Fours Championships** before 1 July 2023.

### **37.5. Eligibility for Champion of Club Champions**

#### **37.5.1. Where a Club conducts single gender championships**

- The Club Men's Singles Champion is eligible to enter the Men's Champion of Club Champions Singles.
- The Club Women's Singles Champion is eligible to enter the Women's Champion of Club Champions Singles.
- The Club Men's Pairs Champion is eligible to enter the Men's Champion of Club Champions Pairs.
- The Club Women's Pairs Champion is eligible to enter the Women's Champion of Club Champions Pairs.

#### **37.5.2. Where a Club conducts only open gender championships**

- If the current season Club Singles Champion is female, they are eligible to enter the Women's Champion of Club Champions Singles & the club will have no representative in the Men's Champion of Club Champions Singles.
- If the current season Club Singles Champion is male, they are eligible to enter the Men's Champion of Club Champions Singles & the club will have no representative in the Women's Champion of Club Champions Singles.
- If the current season Club Pairs Champion are both female, they are eligible to enter the Women's Champion of Club Champions Pairs & the club will have no representative in the Men's Champion of Club Champions Pairs.
- If the current season Club Pairs Champion are both male, they are eligible to enter the Men's Champion of Club Champions Pairs & the club will have no representative in the Women's Champion of Club Champions Pairs.
- If the current season Club Pairs Champion are one male and one female, they are ineligible to enter either Champion of Club Champions Pairs & the club will have no representative in Champion of Club Champions Pairs.

## 38. Determining Section Winners in Singles / Teams Games

### 38.1. Allocation of Points

In each match of sectional play points shall be awarded as follows:

- Win 3 Points (Player/team scoring the highest number of shots)
- Tie (Draw) 1 Point (Both players/teams score equal number of shots)
- Loss 0 Points (Player/team scoring the lesser number of shots)

#### 38.1.1. Allocation of Points for Forfeited Matches

A team/player receiving a forfeit shall be credited with a win (3 points)

#### 38.1.2. Allocation of Margin for Forfeited Matches

A player/team receiving a forfeit shall receive a margin as below- the team forfeiting shall be recorded with the negative margin.

- **Match not commenced** - The average winning margin of that player/team in the competition **or** the average winning margin from all other matches in that section, whichever is the higher
- **Match completed** – Margin by which the team won **or** the average winning margin of that player/team in the competition **or** the average winning margin from all other matches in that section, whichever is the higher
- **Match in progress** –Singles player shall be awarded the shots required to win the game and the shots conceded at the time of forfeit. Teams receiving a forfeit shall be awarded the scores at the time of the forfeit increased proportionally taking into account the number of ends remaining **or** the average winning margin of that team in the competition **or** the average winning margin from all other matches in that section, whichever is the higher.

### 38.2. Sectional Standings

The winner of the Sectional Series of Matches shall be determined as follows:

- i. The player or team scoring the highest number of points shall be declared the winner.
- ii. If two or more players or teams are equal on points, the player or team with the largest difference between 'total shots for' and 'total shots against' shall be the winner.
- iii. If there is still a tie, the player or team with the lowest 'total shots against' shall be the winner.
- iv. If two players or teams remain tied, the winner of the match between those teams/players shall be declared the winner.
- v. If there is still a tie the team with the higher number of ends won (does not apply to singles player) shall be declared the winner.
- vi. If there is still a tie in singles, the player to have conceded the least number of ends shall be the winner.

## 39. Match Durations

The following durations shall apply to all Championship Events unless otherwise stated in event specific Conditions of Play. **(Note State Championships Conditions of Play)**

Where 3 sectional rounds are to be played in a day, a reduced match duration may be used.

### 39.1. Singles

All matches shall be 25 shots up. Shots in excess of 25 do not count.

There are no reduced durations for sectional matches in singles.

### **39.2. Pairs**

All matches to be played as 4 bowls per player, played in the order lead 2 bowls, skip 2 bowls and repeat.

Matches shall be played over 21 ends.

Where 3 sectional rounds are to be played in a day matches shall be played over 15 ends.

### **39.3. Triples**

All matches to be played as 2 bowls per player.

Matches shall be played over 25 ends

Where 3 sectional rounds are to be played in a day matches shall be played over 21 ends.

### **39.4. Fours**

All matches are to be played as 2 bowls per player

Matches shall be played over 21 ends.

Where 3 sectional rounds are to be played in a day matches shall be played over 15 ends.

## **40. Artificial Light**

Artificial light is permitted to be used during play in Championship Events.

## **41. Live Streaming, Broadcast or Recording of Matches**

Matches may be live streamed, broadcast or recorded at the discretion of the relevant Controlling Body.

Players do not have the option to refuse to be live streamed, broadcast or recorded.

### **41.1. Equipment & Personnel for Livestream**

- i. The person(s) involved in streaming must not be on the green whilst an end is being played and are encouraged to not interact with players whilst they are playing.
- ii. They are entitled, as part of the streaming as an official, to be behind the head, on the bank, and should not move in any way to distract the players.
- iii. If the Controlling Body streaming a match does not have equipment for both ends of a green, the person streaming may move to be at the 'head end' of the green. They should;
  - If possible, move to the other end of the green before the jack is rolled or
  - Walk down the space between the rink and the side ditch (match on ditch rink or
  - Walk down a vacant rink beside the rink of play or
  - Walk near the boundary line of the rink of play so that they do not encroach on a rink in use