



**Regional Pennant  
Conditions of Play**

**2022/23**

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# SECTION 1 – CONDITIONS OF PLAY

APPLICABLE FOR REGIONAL PENNANT COMPETITIONS

## Introduction

These Conditions of Play apply to the conduct of the 2022-23 Midweek and Weekend Regional Pennant competitions.

The Conditions of Play are reviewed annually by Bowls Victoria, with input and feedback from the Officiating and Laws Committee.

Bowls Victoria reserves the right to amend the Conditions of Play from season to season, or as required.

Regional Pennant competitions are conducted in accordance with the:

- Laws of the Sport of Bowls Crystal Mark 3rd edition versions 3.1 or 3.2, and BA Domestic Regulations (DRs) as published in April 2019.
- Bowls Australia (BA) Policies; and
- Bowls Victoria (BV) Constitution, BV Regulations, and BV Policies.
- No laws governing a sport can cope with every situation, and the Laws governing the sport of bowls are no exception. The Laws of the Sport of Bowls have been drawn up in the spirit of true sportsmanship. So, if a situation arises that is not covered by the Laws or these Conditions of Play, players and officials must use their common sense and a spirit of fair play to decide the appropriate course of action.

A Region Pennant Committee reserves the right to alter or amend the Conditions of Play as it considers necessary, so long as any alteration is not in conflict with the Laws of the Sport of Bowls or Domestic Regulations.

## 1. Eligibility of Member Clubs

- 1.1. Clubs may enter any number of Sides, up to the maximum number which can be accommodated on the rinks available for use.
- 1.2. Sides of a club will be graded numerically (1, 2, 3, 4 etc.) in descending order of ability.

## 2. Insufficient Players to Enter a Side

- 2.1. A club may seek approval from their Region to combine with another club or clubs to enter a Side.

- 2.2. One of the combined clubs must be nominated as being responsible for submitting the side and recording results in BowlsLink, as provided for in Section 1, Clause 31.
- 2.3. If a combined side is approved, the players are permitted to wear their respective club uniform and cap. If bowls discs are used, all members of the combined side must use discs that are of the same colour/design.
- 2.4. If a club does not have sufficient players to form a side for the club's lowest numbered Side, the Side can play with one or more teams playing in accordance with DR 2.6.

### 3. Eligibility of Players

- 3.1. Clubs must ensure all their players competing in any Victorian pennant competition are registered BV Members with playing rights and recorded on the club's BowlsLink database prior to the commencement of the game.

A breach of this requirement will result in forfeiture of the game to the opponent and/or action being taken under Section 1, Clause 48.

*Note: Any participant in an organised event<sup>^</sup> at club level and above must be a registered financial member<sup>\*\*</sup> of a BV Member club and recorded on the BowlsLink database as having playing rights.*

*<sup>^</sup>Organised club events include all regular competitions regardless of the value of the prize or prestige associated with the event. For the avoidance of doubt, this includes social competitions such as Thursday morning triples where the prize might be a frozen chook or a small amount of money, but does not include barefoot bowls or Christmas parties which are understood to serve as an important format to attract new members and a vital income stream for clubs.*

*\*\* A registered financial member is any club membership that includes playing rights of any kind.*

### 4. Gender specific restrictions

- 4.1 Regions, in making decisions on gender-specific competitions, and determining the positions each gender may play, must ensure that they are in line with equal opportunity requirements.

### 5. Pennant Permit

- 5.1. A player can be approved to play in a midweek or weekend pennant competition for a member club other than their nominated club by submitting a pennant permit request form to BV prior to round 5 of the pennant competition they wish to play in. No application will be considered after round 5. This form must be endorsed by both clubs.

Link to form: <https://bit.ly/3QC3SoQ>

- 5.2. If approved by BV, a permit remains in place until 30 June of the following year and the player is not eligible to play pennant for their nominated club in the competition for which the permit applies, until the permit expires.

- 5.3. A player may apply for a clearance from their nominated club while a permit is in place.
- 5.4. A player may only apply for one permit for a pennant competition.
- 5.5. A player with a pennant Permit may not play in the singles, pairs, mixed pairs, triples and fours championships at their permit club. The ability to play in other club events is at the discretion of the club conducting the event.
- 5.6. A player with a pennant Permit may not play in the Singles, Pairs, Mixed Pairs, Triples or Fours Championships of a region, other than that of their nominated club and is not eligible to represent a region other than that of their nominated club.

## **6. Protected Events**

- 6.1. BV Victorian Open.
  - 6.1.1. The BV Victorian Open is a protected event. Regional pennant is not scheduled during the running of the event, and the scheduling/playing of rounds of region state championships and club championship events during the Victorian Open is prohibited.
  - 6.1.2. No exemptions will be given for the conduct of region/club championships during this time.
- 6.2. The Nationals (Bowls Australia event).
  - 6.2.1. The Nationals are a protected event for pennant under the following conditions;
  - 6.2.2. Where one player from a pennant side is unavailable due to playing in The Nationals, then that side will play without any recourse
  - 6.2.3. Where 2 or more players are playing in The Nationals, the following shall occur:
    - 6.2.3.1. By mutual agreement, teams can agree to play without players that are playing in The Nationals:
    - 6.2.3.2. Clubs are encouraged to find a suitable alternate date to avoid any clash;
    - 6.2.3.3. Where a suitable alternative date cannot be agreed to, Bowls Victoria or the region pennant committee will nominate the suitable date.
  - 6.2.4. If Clause 7.2.2.3 is invoked, the controlling body cannot choose a date during The Nationals.

- 6.2.5. State and club championships can be conducted on the proviso that any player at The Nationals must have an equal opportunity to participate with no exception.
- 6.3. Regional Pennant Competition.
  - 6.3.1. The scheduling/playing of rounds of region championships and club championship events on a day when Regional Pennant rounds are scheduled is prohibited.
  - 6.3.2. No exemptions will be given for the conduct of region or club championships during this time.
- 6.4.

## 7. Competition Format

- 7.1. The number of divisions and Sections will depend on the number of entries received.
- 7.2. Regions are responsible for the formatting in regard to amount of teams, rounds and fixtures with a competition.

## 8. Controlling Body on Day of Play

The Controlling Body for matters arising on the day of play is the Host club. The Club must nominate a person for this position. This person must not be the Umpire or Side Manager of the day.

## 9. Side Manager on Day of Play

- 9.1. Wherever under a law, regulation, policy or the BV Conditions of Play, a side is given a right of decision or choice, it will be exercised by the Side Manager who will act on behalf of the Side.
- 9.2. The Side Manager must not be the umpire of the day for the game they are managing.

## 10. Umpires

- 10.1. The club that is designated as the home club must appoint an accredited umpire to officiate.
- 10.2. If the home club does not have an accredited umpire available, then a visiting accredited umpire may be appointed to officiate. Alternatively, if no accredited umpire is available, then an accredited measurer must be appointed umpire.
- 10.3. If no accredited umpire or measurer is available, then a competent player from the home club must be appointed to act as umpire for that day.

- 10.4. An umpire's decision is final and cannot be contested, disregarded, or appealed except for matters relating to the meaning or interpretation of a Law.
- 10.5. The umpire of the day must resolve any matter where the side managers cannot agree.
- 10.6. The umpire of the day must not be the side manager or coach for the game they are umpiring.

## **11. Selection of Sides & the use of Substitutes**

- 11.1. Gender cannot be used as criteria for selection.
- 11.2. Subject to Section 1, Clause 13, sides will be filled by available players in descending order of ability.
- 11.3. If there are insufficient players available on a day of play to fill all sides entered by the club, the lowest graded side must be the side which concedes a walkover.
- 11.4. The club's lowest graded side can play with one or more teams playing ONE player short in accordance with DR 2.6.
- 11.5. If a club has insufficient players to fill all sides entered by the club, an affiliated player may act as a substitute in the club's lowest graded side.
- 11.6. Only one substitute is permitted in each team (rink) and the substitute cannot skip.
- 11.7. A player will not play or substitute in more than one game in the same round of the same Pennant competition.
- 11.8. A club conceding a walkover must notify their opponent via phone as soon as possible, but no later than two hours before the scheduled starting time.
- 11.9. Failure to comply will result in forfeiture of the game, under Law 39.2.1

## **12. Incomplete Team at Commencement of a Game**

- 12.1. If, 30 minutes after the scheduled start time for a game, one player is absent from one or more teams in a side and no eligible or affiliated substitute is available or allowed, the game must continue in accordance with the provisions of DR 2.6.
- 12.2. A team with an absent player plays as though the second is the missing player. The opponents with a complete team will have their second play consecutive bowls in accordance with DR 2.6.
- 12.3. The skips of both teams will carry the scorecard and update the score at the completion of each end
- 12.4. If the absent player arrives late, all players must take their original place in the team, at the completion of the end in progress.



### **13. Substitute After a Game has Commenced**

- 13.1. If a player who has commenced the game cannot continue and there is no eligible or affiliated substitute available, the game must continue in accordance with the provisions of D.R. 2.6..
- 13.2. If a substitute is available, they must play in the same position as the player being substituted (excluding the skip). If the skip is required to be substituted, then the other members of the team must rearrange their positions as necessary. A substitute cannot skip.
- 13.3. If a substitute is not available, the skips of both teams will carry the scorecard and update the score at completion of each end.
- 13.4. A team with an absent player plays as though the second is the missing player. The opponents with a complete team will have their second play consecutive bowls in accordance with DR 2.6.
- 13.5. If a player who leaves the game subsequently becomes available, they must re-join the team in their original place in the team at the completion of the end in progress.
- 13.6. If a substitute player becomes available, the controlling body may allow them to enter the game at the completion of the end in progress.

### **14. Interchanging of Players Between Sides Prior to Finals**

- 14.1. Prior to the last four rounds of a region pennant competition, there will be no restrictions on the interchange of players between the sides of a club.
- 14.2. For the last four rounds of a region pennant competition, no side will include more than three (3) players who have played a majority of their games, prior to the fourth last game, in any combination of higher graded sides.
- 14.3. The BowlsLink competition Management System shall be used as the official record of the number of games played by a player.
- 14.4. Failure to comply will result in forfeiture of the game, under Law 39.2.1.

### **15. Use of Alternative Venue for Home Games**

- 15.1. When a club enters more Sides than can be catered for at home, the club must nominate the Side(s) to use the alternative venue prior to the commencement of the pennant season.
- 15.2. If during the pennant season it is necessary to transfer a home game to an alternative venue, the club must get agreement from the opposing side. If agreement cannot be reached between the clubs, it will be referred to the chair of the region pennant committee for resolution.

- 15.3. Where the home green is available, Sides will be allocated to play at the home green in order of seniority of the Sides drawn to play at home.

## 16. Bowls Identification Discs

- 16.1. Sides are not required to use bowls discs (adhesive labels). If they are used, then all players in the Side must use a disc of the same colour/design.
- 16.2. Where opponents use the same-coloured discs, the visiting Side shall remove theirs or use another colour if available.
- 16.3. Bowls discs cannot cover the WB Stamp/Date, or the Serial Number of the bowl, and they should be cut or trimmed to comply.
- 16.4. Only a single layer of disc is permitted on a bowl. All bowls must have discs on both sides of the bowl.
- 16.5. The dot from the set of discs may be placed over the insignia on the bias side of the Bowl in lieu of the small ring, provided it is from the same set of discs used by the Side.

## 17. Rules for Attire

- 17.1. It is the responsibility of the president of the player's club to ensure a player is attired in accordance with the BV Rules for Attire when playing in a region pennant competition.
- 17.2. All attire must comply with Bowls Australia National Merchandise Program (NMP) Logo Policy as it relates to upper and lower body attire.
- 17.3. Players must be attired in the same BV registered shirts/tops, and lower body wear (colour/image), except for a combined side as provided for in Section 1, Clause 2.3.
- 17.4. All lower body attire and outer wear must include the NMP logo, with placement of logo conforming to the Bowls Australia NMP guidelines.
- 17.5. For information about approved footwear, refer to the following Bowls Australia information and all footwear must comply with the Laws of the Sport of Bowls, Appendix A.2.  
<https://www.bowls.com.au/get-involved/attire-equipment/footwear/>
- 17.6. 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.
- 17.7. An affiliated member approved as a substitute must comply with the BA National Merchandise Program (NMP) Logo Policy and is permitted to wear their respective club uniform and cap.
- 17.8. Complaints must be lodged via the following form: <https://bit.ly/BV-ComplaintForm>
- 17.9. Failure to comply will result in a warning on the first occasion. A subsequent breach(s) may result in a fine of \$100 and/or action being taken under Section 1, Clause 48.

- 17.10. To register all uniform garments, the following Uniform Registration Form must be used:  
**Uniform Registration Form:** [https://bit.ly/BV Uniform Registration](https://bit.ly/BV_Uniform_Registration)

## 18. Playing of Music

- 18.1. If music is played during a pennant game, it should be appropriate in content, not impact on the conduct of the game and be at a level acceptable to side managers. If side managers cannot agree, the umpire of the day will make the final decision.
- 18.2. Any breach of this Clause may result in action being taken under Section 1, Clause 48.

## 19. Photography, Video and Live Streaming

- 19.1. Bowls Victoria reserves the right to use any photographs, video, or live streaming footage taken during pennant for promotional purposes.
- 19.2. Bowls Victoria encourages third-party live streaming for all matches.
- 19.3. Third party live streaming requires prior approval from the region.

## 20. Commencement Time

- 20.1. Games will commence at a time determined by the region pennant committee. Two trial ends will be completed before the scheduled commencement time.

## 21. Pre-Game Pennant Practice

- 21.1. The provision for pre-pennant practice will be as determined by the region pennant committee.

## 22. Timing of Green

- 22.1. The region pennant committee will determine the requirements and procedures for timing of the green.

## 23. Draw for Rinks

- 23.1. The rink draw will be conducted, by side managers, prior to the commencement of the game. Rink draws are not to be conducted until pregame pennant practice is complete.
- 23.2. The cards must be shuffled and exchanged with the cards of one side being placed name face down by one manager then the other manager will place a card face down on each card.
- 23.3. Rink draws may be conducted, from time to time, by BV and will be communicated to all clubs involved. This can be done in the days prior to the game being played. This includes the draws for rinks for livestreamed games.

## 24. Allocation of Rinks

- 24.1. Rinks must be consecutively numbered. A side will play on consecutively numbered rinks, preferably on the same green.
- 24.2. The separation of teams that are part of a side is not permitted on the same green.
- 24.3. Where more than one green is required, a side will play on those rinks which have been consecutively numbered for both greens.

## 25. Duration of Game

- 25.1. The region pennant committee will determine the duration of a game.

## 26. Scheduled Breaks

- 26.1. The region pennant committee will determine arrangements for scheduled breaks.

## 27. Points Allocated for a Game

- 27.1. The region pennant committee will determine the allocation of points for a:
  - Side win
  - Side receiving a forfeit or walkover
  - Side giving a forfeit or walkover
  - Side tie
  - Team win or forfeit
  - Team tie
  - Bye
  - Walkovers resulting from a Side withdrawal (including the withdrawal of a Side after the season has commenced).
  - Game abandoned

## 28. Division Results by Round

- 28.1. The order of sides in each playing area will be determined by the total points gained.
- 28.2. If two or more sides have the same number of points their order will be determined by net margin of shots 'for' minus shots 'against' each side.
- 28.3. If net margins be equal the order will be determined by the higher proportion of 'total shots for' divided by 'total shots against'.
- 28.4. If there is still a tie for a position to qualify for finals play, the sides concerned will play a deciding game.

## **29. Results submitted to Region**

- 29.1. The procedure for submitting results will be determined by the region pennant Committee.

## **30. Results for a Side Forfeit or Walkover**

- 30.1. The procedure for submitting details of a forfeit or walkover will be determined by the region pennant committee.
- 30.2. If a side receives a walkover/forfeit or a bye, they must submit the names of the selected players for finals eligibility purposes.

## **31. Alterations to a Recorded Result**

- 31.1. Clubs may seek a correction to the result entered in BowlsLink. The request must be submitted to the region pennant committee within 48 hours of the game being completed..

## **32. Promotion & Relegation**

- 32.1. Promotion and relegation arrangements will be determined by the region pennant committee.

## **33. Awarding of Points for Abandoned Games**

- 33.1. Points will be shared by sides when all games scheduled for that day are abandoned.
- 33.2. A forfeit or walkover will count as a completed game.
- 33.3. For a game abandoned by agreement before or during play, before a result is obtained, each side will share equally the maximum points available.
- 33.4. For a game abandoned by agreement during play and a result is possible, points will be allocated as if the game had been completed, using the scores at the time the game was abandoned.
- 33.5. In the event of government imposed COVID constraints impacting on the competition, the Region Pennant Committee will take the necessary action, which may include abandonment of games.
- 33.6. If games are abandoned by Region Pennant Committee due to Government COVID restrictions, points will be shared equally as for an abandoned game (Clause 32.1).

## **34. Post-Sectional (knock-out) Game Abandoned due to Inclement Weather**

- 34.1. Every effort must be made to complete a post-sectional (knockout) game on the scheduled day. If a post sectional game is abandoned, it will be rescheduled and completed under such conditions as the region pennant committee decides.

- 34.2. If a post sectional match game is abandoned, it will be rescheduled and completed under such conditions as the region pennant committee decides unless the scores are such that one side must win the game if all remaining ends were played.

### 35. Inclement Weather, Play Commencement, and Interruption to Play

- 35.1. An inclement weather arrangement suitable for local conditions will be developed by the region pennant committee.

### 36. Instantaneous Penalties

- 36.1. During a game, if an umpire, by observation or on an appeal by the controlling body, a side manager, a skip, or an opponent decides that a player, coach or official is non-compliant then the end shall be immediately regarded as completed and the opponent of the offender shall be awarded as many shots as there are bowls in use by the opponents.
- 36.2. If the umpire forms the opinion on a second occasion that the same player, coach, or official is non-compliant, the player will be excluded from taking any further part in the game. A substitute will not be permitted.
- 36.3. An instantaneous penalty applied to one player in a team shall be considered as an instantaneous penalty to all players in that team.
- 36.4. Any of the above umpire-imposed penalties are final and cannot be appealed.
- 36.5. The umpire shall also complete a BA Instantaneous Penalty Report and forward it to both BA & BV within five (5) days of the incident.

**BA Instantaneous Penalty Report:** <https://bit.ly/BA-Penalty-Form>

### 37. Smoking

- 37.1. Smoking on the green (defined as having a lit cigarette, pipe, cigar, electronic nicotine delivery system (ENDS/vaping) including e-cigs, e-cigarettes and any other form of smoking device) by a player on the green is not permitted.
- 37.2. A failure to comply can result in the umpire applying an Instantaneous Penalty (Section 1, Clause 38) and/or referring the matter to the BV Disciplinary Committee.
- 37.3. Smoking is only permitted in the designated area as determined by the host club.

### 38. Personal Electronic/Communication Devices

- 38.1. The use of mobile phones/MP3 players/iPods/iPads/pagers/communication devices and/or other similar sound/communication devices on the green by a player is not permitted.
- 38.2. Should a player have a legitimate reason (personal emergency or medical or emergency services personnel) to answer a mobile phone, they must have permission from the controlling body and notify the umpire of the day prior to play. If approved, the device

can be carried on the player but must be on silent/vibrating (only) and responded to on the bank away from play.

- 38.3. A failure to comply can result in the umpire applying an Instantaneous Penalty (Section 1, Clause 38) and/or referring the matter to the BV Disciplinary Committee.
- 38.4. Exemptions will be provided for scoreboard control devices/applications and/or approved BV electronic scorecard devices/applications, requiring the use of an electronic device/application.

### **39. Consumption of Alcohol**

- 39.1. The consumption of alcohol on the green by a player whilst a game is in progress is not permitted.
- 39.2. A failure to comply can result in the umpire applying an Instantaneous Penalty (Section 1, Clause 38) and/or referring the matter to the Region Disciplinary Committee.

### **40. Player, Coach and Officials Conduct & Behaviour**

- 40.1. All players, coaches, and officials are required to conduct themselves in a polite and sportsmanlike manner. The following behaviours are not acceptable when participating or officiating in a metropolitan or region pennant competition:
  - 40.1.1. Act in an abusive, threatening, or intimidating manner;
  - 40.1.2. Use of obscene, offensive, abusive, threatening, or intimidating language including racial and gender-diverse discriminatory language;
  - 40.1.3. Act in an unsportsmanlike manner;
  - 40.1.4. Threaten any person with physical violence or assault;
  - 40.1.5. Assault any person;
  - 40.1.6. Act in a manner likely to bring the sport of bowls into disrepute; or
  - 40.1.7. Act in a manner likely to bring Bowls Victoria into disrepute.
- 40.2. A failure to comply can result in the umpire applying an Instantaneous Penalty (Section 1, Clause 38) and/or the matter being referred to the Region Disciplinary Committee.

### **41. Delaying Play**

- 41.1. If an umpire by their own observation or on appeal by a side manager decides a player is deliberately delaying the delivery of their bowl, or a skip is acting or issuing instructions designed to delay play, a warning will be issued to the skip, and the side manager must be advised.
- 41.2. If an umpire forms the opinion that the player or skip has repeated the same offence a second time, the end will be regarded as completed, and their opponent will be awarded

as many shots as there are bowls in use by their opponent.

#### **42. Damage to Green - Delivery of a Jack or Bowl**

- 42.1. If the umpire by observation or on appeal by a greens director or their deputy decides a player is causing damage to the green when delivering the jack or a bowl, a warning will be issued to the player and their skip and/or side manager advised.
- 42.2. If the umpire forms the opinion that the player has repeated the same offence a second time, the umpire will direct that the player must use a "dump mat" if available.
- 42.3. If the offending player refuses to use a "dump mat", they will be a defaulting player and be removed from the game as per DR 1.2.
- 42.4. If a "dump mat" is not available and the offending player refuses to leave the game, the game will be forfeited to the opposing side.
- 42.5. If a "dump mat" is not available and the offending player agrees to leave the game as directed by the umpire, a substitute is then permitted in accordance with DR 2.4.
- 42.6. A "dump mat" may only be used for an individual player(s) to address an identified issue as defined above.

#### **43. Damage to Green - Use of a Wheelchair, Walking Frame or other Approved Artificial Device**

- 43.1. If an umpire by observation or on appeal by the greens director or their deputy decides a player using a wheelchair, walking frame or other approved artificial device is causing damage to the green, a warning will be issued to the player and their skip and/or side manager advised.
- 43.2. If the umpire forms the opinion on a second occasion that the player has caused further damage to the green, the umpire will direct that the player retires from the game.
- 43.3. If a player retires from the game a substitute player is permitted.
- 43.4. If a player refuses to leave the green, they will be a defaulting player, and the game forfeited to the opponent.

#### **44. Bowler's Arm**

- 44.1. When a player commences using a bowler's arm in a game, then the arm must be used for the remainder of the game. This does not apply to the rolling of the jack, which can be rolled either by hand or by a bowler's arm.
- 44.2. If an umpire, by observation or on appeal by a side manager or a skip, decides that a player is non-compliant then they will warn the player and advise the skip and side manager.



- 44.3. If the umpire forms the opinion on a second occasion that the same player is non-compliant, the player will be excluded from taking any further part in the game and a substitute will not be permitted.
- 44.4. Failure to comply may also result in the matter being referred to the BV Disciplinary Committee and action taken under Section 1, Clause 48.
- 44.5. If a bowling arm is rendered unplayable, then the player may change to another approved brand or style, on approval of the umpire or controlling body.

## 45. Death of a Player

- 45.1. If a game has commenced and a participating player passes away all games in progress at the club will be abandoned.
- 45.2. Points for game other than a Final abandoned because of the death of a player will be awarded as per Section 1, Clauses 35.1.
- 45.3. Final games abandoned for this reason will be resumed under such conditions as the Region decides, with the scores carried forward as they were when play was abandoned, unless the scores are such that one Side must win the game if all the remaining ends were played.

## 46. Infringements

The infringement of any of the Laws, BA Domestic Regulations, BA Policies, BV Constitution, BV Regulations, BV Policies or BV Condition of Play, shall involve a monetary fine (not exceeding \$1,000) and/or disqualification, and/or game points penalty, and/or a replay or such other penalty as determined by the Region Disciplinary Committee, in respect of an affiliated player or club.