



## Torquay Bowls Club - Bowls Procedure

### # 7 - Safe Bowls

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Approved by: TBC Bowls Committee	Approved and accepted at Bowls Committee meeting on 3/2/2025 - See minutes	

#### PURPOSE

To provide a safe and healthy Lawn Bowls environment for players, coaches, and officials at the Torquay Bowls Club. This procedure encourages everyone to take a role in safe bowls participation and accident/incident prevention.

#### PROCEDURE SCOPE

The Torquay Bowls Club is committed to keeping all people associated with bowls activities, informed, safe and to manage any accidents and/or incidents in a manner which minimises harm to individuals and the club.

#### PROCEDURE INTENT

- Any person bowling, members, pennant opposition, visitors or casual bowlers will adhere to all safety related information or directives from the Board of Management, Bowls Committee or its sub-committees or Club Manager as outlined in this document.
- Everyone involved in bowls is encouraged to contribute to accident prevention by reporting potential risks or dangers to a member of the Bowls Committee.
- The Torquay Bowls Club will only use accredited coaches to instruct members and Working with Children Checks are compulsory for all volunteers who are likely to have unsupervised contact with minors. Cost of accreditation, reaccreditation will be paid for by the Torquay Bowls Club. Working with Children Checks (WWC is Free for volunteers).
- The Clubhouse will have first aid equipment available when clubhouse is open.
- Accidents, incidents and near misses occurring will be documented on the TBC 'Accident Incident report form'. Form on the TBC WEB site > About Us > Policies and Procedures > TBCWP # 9 and submit to the Club Manager for action. This register will be kept by the Board Secretary and will be viewed by the Board of Management monthly, to identify risk management strategies required.
- The Bowls Committee and its sub-committees encourage all bowls participants to adopt a healthy approach to play and player welfare including adoption of good warm-up, hydration, Sun Smart, and injury management practices.

#### DETAILED PROCEDURES TO SUPPORT SAFETY

##### 1 - Injury Prevention

**The Bowls Committee and its sub-committees encourage bowls participants to:**

- Consult your doctor about safe bowling, prior to bowling, if you have a medical condition or do not exercise regularly.
- Take lessons from a qualified coach to develop adequate skills and technique.
- Warm up and stretch before play to improve your range of movement, promote elasticity, and prevent muscular strain.

- Cool down after play to prevent stiffness and cardiovascular complications.
- Use appropriate equipment for lawn bowls, seek professional advice when you choose bowls to make sure they are the correct size. This will help to improve your technique and prevent injury.
- Seek advice when purchasing your footwear.
- Stop bowling immediately if an injury occurs to help prevent any further damage.
- Seek first aid or prompt medical treatment for an injury. This is important for all injured players, no matter how severe (or seemingly minor) the injury is.

The bowls club has a well-stocked first aid kit, and telephone and emergency services contact numbers on display. For reasons highlighted above, do not resume playing until you are completely recovered from any injury.

## 2 - Authority to manage Bowls events

**This policy includes all Barefoot Bowlers and all other Bowlers, public or Torquay Bowls Club Members to comply with the below rules.**

When Greens Manager, Greens Keeper or Club Manager (or their representatives) directs bowling to cease, all bowlers must cease bowling and vacate the greens for conditions that have been deemed extreme and that is when: -

- a. The temperature on the club weather display reads 36 degrees or above.
- b. Stormy weather and or lightning is close and threatens safe playing.
- c. Wet weather causing excess water on the playing surface that presents a possibility of damage to the playing surface.
- d. Excessive wind conditions where injuries or damage is possible.
- e. Any other extreme weather conditions deemed to put players at risk or possible damage to infrastructure.

## 3 - Inclement Weather

### 3.1 - Heat

For Pennant Bowls refer to the Geelong Bowls Region 'Conditions of Play'.

<https://geelongbowlsregion.bowls.com.au/wp-content/uploads/sites/942/2024/10/BV-Regional-Pennant-Conditions-of-Play-2024-25.pdf>

- **Pennant Pre-match** - play will not commence if the temperature has reached 36 degrees Celsius, as determined by the BOM APP as required by GBR. The commencement of the match will be suspended until the temperature falls below 36 degrees Celsius, and if play has not commenced within 60 minutes, then the match will be abandoned. If it is unlikely that the temperature will drop below 36 degrees Celsius the Controlling Body may abandon the game.
- **During Pennant Games** - if play has commenced and the Temperature reaches 36 degrees Celsius at any time during the game then play will be suspended until such time as the temperature falls back below 36 degrees Celsius. All play will be abandoned if play has not commenced within 60 minutes of play suspension.
- **For all other TBC sanctioned bowls events** - All Greens are closed at 36 Degrees Celsius, the TBC weather station will be used to determine temperature.
- **All bowlers must beware** that humidity, breeze and shade all have a significant impact on heat stress so must be managed sensibly. Heat events cause the most fatalities from that single weather event above all other events worldwide. Following this procedure is mandated.

### 3.2 - Rain/Wind

For Pennant Bowls refer to the Geelong Bowls Region "Conditions of Play".

**Pre-match** - the Controlling Body will monitor the current and expected conditions for the duration of the event as per:

- Bureau of Meteorology website ([www.bom.gov.au](http://www.bom.gov.au))

- Any other appropriate portable measuring device.

If play does not commence 60 minutes from scheduled starting time or the Controlling Body, Umpire or Greens Manager deems it unsafe to play then the game will be abandoned.

**During Game** - If rain or wind effects the game, play will continue until the Controlling Body, Greens Manager/Keeper deems it unsafe to do so or the greens become unplayable, play will be suspended. In making the decision, the Controlling Body will utilise the methods listed above to gain an understanding of the rain and wind patterns in the immediate area.

When the Controlling Body deems it safe to return to play then play shall resume.

If play does not commence within 60 minutes from time of play suspension or the Controlling Body, Umpire or Greens Manager deems it unsafe to play then the game will be abandoned.

For all other sanctioned bowls events, Barefoot, Twilight, Social, internal Club competitions and rollers at the Torquay Bowls Club the Greens manager, Greenskeeper or the Club Manager will decide that all bowling activities will cease to prevent damage to the playing surface.

### 3.3 - Lightning

For Pennant Bowls refer to the Geelong Bowls Region 'Conditions of Play'.

Lightning can strike without other typical storm characteristics (i.e., thunder, rain, and wind) being present.

When lightning is sighted by the Controlling Body, play will be immediately be suspended, and all players will be required to leave the green immediately and move to a safe structure. Only when the Controlling Body deems it safe to return to the green, should play resume.

For all other sanctioned bowls events, Barefoot, Twilight, Social, internal Club competitions and rollers at the Torquay Bowls Club the Club Manager/Bowls manager will decide that all bowling activities will cease to prevent injury.

## 4 - Uniform/Footwear

### For Pennant Bowls:

All Torquay pennant players must wear the prescribed uniform – specifically the registered club pennant shirt and light royal blue lower garments and are encouraged to wear a hat which conforms to Bowls Australia requirements and if possible, assists adhering to Sun Smart and bowls safety requirements.

### For all other sanctioned bowls events at the Torquay Bowls Club:

All Torquay bowlers need to be aware of their personal safety on a Bowls green, approved footwear, as defined below, provides protection (from strike injury and unwanted chemical interaction), support and stability.

- Whilst bowling all players should wear neat casual clothing and are encouraged to wear a hat that adheres to Sun Smart guidelines.
- Bowls Shoes or the "OOFOS Original Thong", as approved by Bowls Australia are preferred and encouraged. This procedural requirement will be implemented and enforced by the relevant Bowls sub - committees.
- Bare feet are acceptable for the bare foot bowling events.

## 5 - Sun Smart

For Pennant Bowls refer to the Geelong Bowls Region 'Conditions of Play'.

For all other sanctioned bowls events at the Torquay Bowls Club:

- a. Encourages the use of available shade for Bowls activities.
- b. Encourages bowlers to stay hydrated, water fountains are provided by the club.
- c. Encourages wearing of protective clothing, including appropriate hats, when in the sun during Bowls events.
- d. Encourages all Bowls participants to apply at least an SPF 30+ broad spectrum water-based sunscreen to use on uncovered areas of the skin, such as the face/neck and the back of the hands, for all outdoor activities.

## **6 - Smoking/Vaping and Alcohol**

For Pennant Bowls refer to the Geelong Bowls Region "Rules for Competition".

For all other sanctioned bowls events at the Torquay Bowls Club:

Torquay Bowls Club has Smoking/Vaping and Alcohol Policies:

Smoking/Vaping and the consumption of Alcohol on the greens is not permitted under any circumstances by participating bowlers during a game. Designated areas are provided for smokers/vapours outside the bowling area. (Car Park)

## **7 - Fall Prevention**

The Bowls Committee encourages various environmental measures to prevent falls including Bowler's handrails to allow access onto Green, ensuring footpaths are level and free of cracks or loose gravel, installation of ramps around the club and across the ditch.

## **8 - Walking Frame/Wheelchair Access**

The Bowls Committee recognises getting bowlers and equipment safely onto and off Bowls greens is becoming an important issue, therefore.

Ramp Facilities are available to assist bowlers with a Wheelchair to access green.

## **9 - First Aid**

- In case of emergency above a simple first aid required assistance, the required action depending on the injury may be to call 000 and request an ambulance.
- The first aid kit and instructions for emergency cases are located under the defibrillator.
- The Defibrillator hangs on the wall near the Bar, for information on how to use a defibrillator with simple instructions. There is a video course on the website home page on how to use it.
- If you notice that a certain item is in short supply, please advise the Club Manager.

## **PROCEDURE GOVERNANCE**

The Bowls Committee will:

- Review this procedure, prior to the commencement of the season and amend or enhance the procedure where necessary.
- Provide a Notice Board.
- Communicate procedure content to members through newsletter, email or on the Notice Board and encourage everyone to take a role in safety and accident prevention.
- Ensure the Club Manager replenishes first aid kits and replace any items out of date.
- Ensure the Club Manager replenishes sunscreen supplies and check use by dates.

- Conduct a safety briefing at the commencement of the season for all new Bowls Committee members, coaches, team managers etc. Include information on how to report accidents/incidents.
- Ensure an emergency procedure is posted around the clubhouse.
- Ensure the Club Manager and Board Secretary maintains the accident/incident register.