



2023-24
GOULBURN MURRAY
BOWLS REGION
PENNANT
CONDITIONS OF PLAY V.6

Applicable for all Goulburn Murray Bowls
Region Playing Areas

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SECTION 1 – CONDITIONS OF PLAY

Introduction

The Conditions of Play are reviewed annually by the Bowls Vic and the GMBR Officiating and Laws Committee.

Bowls Victoria and the Goulburn Murray Bowls Region reserve the right to amend the Conditions of Play from season to season, or as required.

2023-24 Goulburn Murray Bowls Region Pennant competitions are conducted in accordance with the:

- Laws of the Sport of Bowls Crystal Mark 4th edition and BA Domestic Regulations (DRs) as published in April 2023.
- 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.

The Goulburn Murray Bowls Region 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 Members 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 if playing in the same division will be treated as different sides and 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 32.
- 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[^] at club level and above must be a registered financial member** of a BV Member club and recorded on the BowlsLink database as having playing rights.*

[^] 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/Playing Areas, 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

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://forms.office.com/r/ajzkqEdAeh>

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, unless all parties agree on the permit being voided.

- 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 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 Interstate, International (Marquee Players) Pennant and Promotional Permit

- 6.1 Up to three 'invited' interstate and/or international, to be known as 'marquee players', may be used by a club for both midweek and weekend pennant, in any division.
- 6.2 A club is entitled to have three marquee players for midweek pennant, and three marquee players for weekend pennant.
- 6.3 A 'marquee player' must be a registered member of the club and registered on the BowlsLink database prior to the first round of the applicable pennant competition.
- 6.4 The names of an interstate player or players must be submitted to BV via e-mail prior to the first round of the pennant competition. No additional or replacement interstate players can be added to a club's list after round 1.

- 6.5 Interstate players must submit a BA Interstate Pennant Permit Declaration Form through their state body. An Interstate clearance is not required.
- 6.6 An international player is defined as a player, that prior to playing in a metropolitan pennant competition, has held no prior affiliation with a State Body within Australia, but has held affiliation with an overseas body and represented that body in an open national side in the last 2 years (from round 1 of Pennant season).
- 6.7 International players may be nominated at any stage during the season but remain part of the 3-marquee player limit. Names of an international player or players must be submitted to BV via e-mail prior to the player playing.
- 6.8 Any player that falls into the international player definition, but has had an affiliation prior to the 22/23 season, is not counted as an international player.

Promotional Permit

- 6.9 The promotional permit can only be used once per club, per season
- 6.10 The promotional permit must be used before the Christmas break, or prior to the last 4 rounds of pennant if the pennant competition is scheduled to finish prior to Christmas.
- 6.11 The promotional permit player must fit within the 3-player marquee cap
- 6.12 A promotional permit player must not already be playing on a pennant permit for that season in that competition (e.g., a Player on a Weekend permit to their non-primary club for weekend pennant **is-not** eligible for a promotional permit for weekend pennant).

- 6.13 An eligible player can play on multiple promotional permits throughout the season
- 6.14 The application form must be completed, and approved by BV, 14 days prior to promotional permit player representing the club.

7. Protected Events

7.1 BV Victorian Open.

7.1.1 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.

7.1.2 No exemptions will be given for the conduct of region/club championships during this time

7.2 The Nationals (Bowls Australia Event)

7.2.1 The Nationals are a protected event under the following conditions.

7.2.1 Where one player from a pennant side is unavailable due to playing in The Nationals, then that side will play without any recourse

7.2.2 Where 2 or more players are playing in The Nationals, the following shall occur:

7.2.3.1 By mutual agreement, teams can agree to play without players that are playing in The Nationals

7.2.3.2 Clubs are encouraged to find suitable alternate date to avoid any clash:

7.2.3.3 Where a suitable alternative date cannot be agreed to, BV or the Playing area pennant committee will nominate the suitable date.

7.2.3 If clause 7.2.3.3 is invoked, the controlling body cannot choose a date during The Nationals

7.2.4 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.

7.3 Regional Pennant Competition

7.3.1 The scheduling/playing of rounds of region championships and club championship events on a day of Regional Pennant rounds are scheduled is prohibited.

7.3.2 No exemptions will be given for the conduct of region or club championships during this time

7.4 Regional Sides Competition

7.4.1 The scheduling/playing of Regional Pennant during the Region Sides Championship is Prohibited

8. Competition Format

8.1 The number of divisions and Sections will depend on the number of entries received

8.2 Regions are responsible for the formatting regarding number of teams, rounds and fixtures with a competition.

GV Weekend Pennant
Divisions 1 to 4 – 16 a side
Divisions 5 to 6 – 12 a side
Division 7– 8 a side

GV Midweek Pennant
Divisions 1 to 5 – 12 a side
Division 6– 8 a side

MURRAY Weekend Pennant
Divisions 1 to 3 – 12 a side
Division 4 & 5 – 8 a side

MURRAY Midweek Pennant
Divisions 1 to 2 – 12 a side

9. 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.

10. Side Managers on Day of Play

10.1 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.

10.2 The Side Manager must not be the umpire of the day for the game they are managing.

11. Umpires

11.1 The club that is designated as the Home Club must appoint an accredited umpire to officiate.

11.2 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.

11.3 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.

11.4 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.

11.5 The umpire of the day must resolve any matter where the Side Managers cannot agree.

11.6 The umpire of the day must not be the Side Manager, Side Captain, or Coach for the game they are umpiring.

12. Selection of sides & the use of Substitutes

- 12.1 Gender cannot be used as criteria for selection.
- 12.2 Subject to Section 1, Clause 13, sides will be filled by available players in descending order of ability.
- 12.3 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 forfeits.
- 12.4 The club's lowest graded side can play with one or more teams playing ONE player short in accordance with DR 2.6.
- 12.5 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.
- 12.6 Only one substitute is permitted in each team (rink) and the substitute cannot skip.
- 12.7 A player will not play or substitute in more than one side in the same round of the same region pennant competition.
- 12.8 A club forfeiting must notify their opponent via phone as soon as possible, but no later than two hours before the scheduled starting time.
- 12.9 Failure to comply will result in forfeiture of the game, under Law 39.2.1

13. Incomplete team at Commencement of Play

- 13.1 If 30 minutes after the scheduled start time for a game, one player is absent from one or more teams in a side and eligible or affiliated substitute is available or allowed, the game must continue in accordance with the provision of DR 2.6.

- 13.2 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.
- 13.3 The skips of both teams will carry the scorecard and update the score at the completion of each end.
- 13.4 If the absent player arrives late, all players must take their original place in the team, at the completion of the end in progress

14. Substitutes at commencement of a Game

- 14.1 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 provisions of DR 2.6
- 14.2 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.
- 14.3 If a substitute is not available, the skips of both teams will carry the scorecard and update the score at the completion of each end.
- 14.4 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
- 14.5 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.

- 14.6 If a substitute becomes available, the controlling body may allow them to enter the game at the completion of the end in progress.

15. Interchange of players between sides Prior to Finals

- 15.1 Prior to the last 3 (three) rounds of a region pennant competition, there will be no restrictions on the interchange of players between the sides of a club.

- 15.2 For the last 3 (three) rounds of a region/playing area pennant competition, no side will include more than, in;

Sides of 16 players – 4 inclusions

Sides of 12 players – 3 inclusions

Sides of 6 & 8 players – 2 inclusions

of players who have played most of their games, in any combination of higher graded sides, unless the player has also played in 3 (three) or more games in the side concerned and /or a lower graded side.

- 15.3 In addition, if a spare day is scheduled and activated as the last 3 (three), after the completion of the season fixture, the above conditions apply for this round.

- 15.4 The BowlsLink competition Management System shall be used as the official record of the number of games played by a player.

- 15.5 Failure to comply will result in forfeiture of the game, under Law 39.2.1.

16. Eligibility to Play in Finals

- 16.1 To be eligible to play in finals, a player must comply with Clause 3 in the Conditions of Play (Eligibility of Players) and must have played a minimum of 3 (three) games for the club in that region/playing area pennant competition.

- 16.2 A side may not include any player who, during the current season has played 3 (three) or more games in any combination of higher graded sides unless the player has also played in 3 (three) or more games in the side concerned and/or a lower graded side.
- 16.3 A club with consecutive division sides playing in finals on the same day will be permitted open selection, provided those players have played 3 (three) or more games with that club in that competition (Weekend and Midweek are separate competitions).
- 16.4 The provisions relating to the interchange of players between sides prior to finals also apply to players involved in combined sides formed under Clause 2.
- 16.5 A club who has insufficient eligible players for any finals of a region/playing area competition may apply to the region /playing area pennant Committee for approval to play other players from the club. If this approval is granted. Then such players may play in any position other than skip.
- 16.6 If a club has 2 (two) sides in the same division, the club must determine which is the higher numbered side and which is the lower numbered side with players selected in descending order of ability. The interchange of players between the 2 (two) sides is then treated as though they were in different divisions.

17 Use of Alternative Venues Home and Away Games

- 17.1 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.

- 17.2 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 playing area pennant committee for resolution.
- 17.3 Changes of venue and times must be notified to the Match Committee who will arrange for a Bowlslink update
- 17.4 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.

18 Bowls Identification Discs

- 18.1 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.
- 18.2 Where opponents use the same-coloured discs, the visiting Side shall remove theirs or use another colour if available.
- 18.3 Bowls discs cannot cover the WB Stamp/Date, or the Serial Number of the bowl, and they should be cut or trimmed to comply.
- 18.4 Only a single layer of disc is permitted on a bowl. All bowls must have discs on both sides of the bowl.
- 18.5 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.

19. Rules for Attire

- 19.1 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.
- 19.2 All attire must comply with Bowls Australia National Merchandise Program (NMP) Logo Policy as it relates to upper and lower body attire.
- 19.3 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.
- 19.4 All lower body attire and outer wear must include the NMP logo, with placement of logo conforming to the Bowls Australia NMP guidelines.
- 19.5 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/>
- 19.6 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.
- 19.7 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.
- 19.8 Complaints must be lodged via the following form:
<https://bit.ly/BV-ComplaintForm>
- 19.9 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 47.

19.10 To register all uniform garments, the following Uniform Registration Form must be used:

Uniform Registration Form:

https://bit.ly/BV_Uniform_Registration

20. Playing of Music

20.1 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.

20.2 Any breach of this Clause may result in action being taken under Section 1, Clause 47.

21 Photography, Video and Live Streaming

21.1 Bowls Victoria reserves the right to use any photographs, video, or live streaming footage taken during pennant for promotional purposes.

21.2 Bowls Victoria encourages third-party live streaming for all matches.

21.3 Third party live streaming requires prior approval from the region.

22. Commencement Time

22.1 Games will commence at a time determined by the playing area pennant committee. Two trial ends will be completed before the scheduled commencement time.

GOULBURN VALLEY PLAYING AREA WEEKEND PENNANT

- 12.45 pm is the scheduled roll-up time
- 1.00 pm is the scheduled starting time
(Pending Heat Rule)

MIDWEEK PENNANT

- 9.45 am roll-up
- 10.00 am scheduled starting time
(Pending Heat Rule)

MURRAY PLAYING AREA

WEEKEND PENNANT

- 1.00 pm is the scheduled roll-up time
- 1.15 pm is the scheduled starting time
(Pending Heat Rule)

MIDWEEK PENNANT

- 9.15 am is the scheduled roll-up time
- 9.30 am is the scheduled starting time
(Pending Heat Rule)

22.2 Clubs by mutual agreement may reschedule games to Friday night, earlier Saturday morning, Saturday night or Sunday time slots, Region/Playing Area Match Committees must be informed of the agreement.

22.3 If inclement weather prevails original timeslot will take effect providing Match has not commenced, if Match has commenced and abandoned the result will be declared a draw & equal points allocated.

23. Pre-Game Pennant Practice

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

23.1 GOULBURN VALLEY

23.1.1 **Midweek Pennant** – pre-match practice is not permitted on match day other than the trial ends.

23.1.2 **Weekend Pennant** – No practice allowed on rinks of play. Home side can practice on other rinks 1hr prior to play.

23.1.3 **Finals:** No side shall practice at the venue on the day of the final apart from the 2-end roll-up

23.1 MURRAY

23.1.1 **Midweek Pennant** – Pre-match practice is not permitted on match day other than the trial ends.

23.2.2 **Weekend Pennant** – Pre-Game Pennant Practice for weekend pennant is not permitted on match day on designated rinks of play other than the trial ends and No practice after 12 noon. Visiting Sides are NOT allowed to practice on day of play at away venue apart from trial ends.

23.2.3 **Finals:** No side shall practice at the venue on the day of the final apart from the 2-end roll-up

24. Timing of Green

24.1. The playing area pennant committee will determine the requirements and procedures for timing of the green.

25. Draw for Rinks

25.1 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.

25.2 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.

25.3 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.

26. Allocation of Rinks

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

27. Duration of Game

- 27.1 The playing area pennant committee will determine the duration of a game.
- 27.2 Goulburn Valley Playing Area
- 25 Ends
 - Weekend Divisions 1 - 4
 - Midweek Division 1 – 3
 - 21 Ends
 - Weekend Divisions 5, 6 & 7
 - Midweek Division 4 & 5
- 27.3 Murray Playing Area
- 21 Ends
 - Weekend and Midweek All Divisions
- 27.4 REGION DIVISION PENNANT Playoffs shall be conducted over 21 ends

28 Scheduled Breaks

- 28.1 The region/playing area pennant committee will determine arrangements for scheduled breaks.
- 28.2 Goulburn Valley Playing Area - Managers of the Day will discuss and agree to timing of the afternoon tea break prior to the commencement of play.

28.3 Murray Playing Area

- Weekend nil scheduled break
- Midweek nil scheduled break

28.4 Managers of the Day may discuss and agree to any breaks prior to the commencement of play

29 Points Allocated for a Game

29.1 The playing area pennant committee will determine the allocation of points for a:

- Rink Win - 2 points
- Rink Draw - 1 point
- Side Win - 10 Points
- Tied Game – 5 points will be awarded to each side with 2 points for each rink win and 1 point for each rink tie
- Bye – No points will be awarded for a bye
- Forfeit & or Walkover – the side receiving the forfeit will receive ALL points available for that match plus 15 shots
- The side giving the forfeit or walkover will receive no points or shots
- Walkovers resulting from a Side withdrawal (including the withdrawal of a Side after the season has commenced) shall result in all points plus 15 shots being given to the side receiving the walkover.
- Game abandoned – equal points will be allotted

30 Division Results by Round

30.1 The order of sides in each playing area will be determined by the total points gained.

- 30.2 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.
- 30.3 If net margins be equal the order will be determined by the higher proportion of 'total shots for' divided by 'total shots against'.
- 30.4 If there is still a tie for a position to qualify for finals play, the sides concerned will play a deciding game.

31 Results submitted to Region

- 31.1 The procedure for submitting results will be determined by the playing area pennant committee.
- 31.2 Results must be entered by the Home team manager on Bowslink within a maximum of 2 hours of the completion of the game
- 31.2.1 WEEKEND PENNANT prior to 8.00pm
- 31.2.2 MIDWEEK PENNANT prior to 4.00pm
- 31.3 Failure to notify results in the prescribed method or time will be deemed an infringement and fines will apply

32 Results for a Side Forfeit or Walkover

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

33 Alterations to a Recorded Result

- 33.1 Clubs may seek a correction to the result entered in BowlsLink. The request must be

submitted to the playing area pennant committee within 48 hours of the game being completed.

34 Promotion & Relegation

- 34.1 Promotion and relegation arrangements will be determined by the region playing area pennant committee and should be automatic with Premiers going up and the Last placed side going down, however, there should be a rider that promotion be reviewed pending premiers having sufficient players to move up from 8 to 12 to 16 side competitions.

NOTE:

GOULBURN VALLEY PLAYING AREA

No club shall field more than one team in Divisions 1,2,3 or 4 Weekend or Midweek

MURRAY PLAYING AREA

No club shall field more than one team in Divisions 1 or 2

Match Committees shall have discretionary powers to change

35 Awarding of Points for Abandoned Games

- 35.1 Points will be shared by sides when all games scheduled for that day are abandoned.
- 35.2 A forfeit or walkover will count as a completed game.
- 35.3 For a game abandoned by agreement before or during play, before a result is obtained, each side will share equally the maximum points available.
- 35.4 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.

- 35.5 For a game abandoned by agreement during play due to inclement weather (rain or heat) and the game has reached a minimum total number of ends played; result will stand as is and points awarded.

25 End Games

60 ends (16 a side)

45 ends (12 a side)

30 ends (8 a side)

21 End Games

60 ends (16 a side)

45 ends (12 a side)

30 ends (8 a side)

- 35.6 In the event of government-imposed constraints impacting on the competition, the Playing area pennant committee will take the necessary action, which may include abandonment of games.

- 35.7 If games are abandoned by Playing area pennant committee due to Government COVID restrictions, points will be shared equally as for an abandoned game (Clause 34).

36 Post-Sectional (knock-out) Game Abandoned due to Inclement Weather

- 36.1 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 playing area pennant committee decides.

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

37 Inclement Weather, Play Commencement, and Interruption to Play

An inclement weather arrangement suitable for local conditions will be developed by the playing area pennant committee.

37.1 Goulburn Valley Playing Area

37.1.1 Cancelled Rounds:

The relevant GV Playing Area Match Committee may determine at any time prior to 3 hours of the starting time of a Round, that the Round has been cancelled. If possible, a cancelled Round may be replayed later as determined by the Match Committee. If no date is available for play, then no points will be allocated for that Round. Teams should be submitted on BowlsLink as cancelled Rounds count towards qualification for finals.

There shall be NO Spare Days in the Goulburn Valley

37.1.2 Abandoned Games:

If within 2.5 hours of the starting time for a Pennant match, the Greens Director or their Deputy determines the game cannot commence, or the Side Managers agree that play is not possible, then that game will be abandoned with the points shared equally by the competing Sides. Abandoned games will not be replayed later.

Side Managers may by mutual agreement abandon the game at any time due to the prevailing weather conditions.

Teams should be submitted on BowlsLink as Abandoned Games count towards qualification for finals.

37.1.3 Closure of Green – Wet Weather:

If any Club closes its green 2 hours before both Midweek and Weekend Pennant starting times, that Club shall make every

effort to arrange to play at an alternate venue. If no alternate venue is available, they must then inform the opposing Club and the Relevant Match Committee

When play for the day has been commenced and stopped owing to inclement weather, it shall not be resumed if the club Greens Director or their nominated deputy declares the green unfit for play. Otherwise, the Side Managers shall decide whether to resume or not, failing agreement, the decision shall rest with the umpire.

If a game has been delayed or interrupted by inclement weather and is not completed or been abandoned within 5.1/2 hours of the appointed/agreed starting time, it shall stop. Any ends in progress at that time shall be completed, including dead ends.

37.1.4 Inclement Weather – Lightning:

When Lightning is sighted by the Managers, play will be suspended and all players are required to leave the green immediately and move to a safe structure. When the Managers deem it safe to return to the green, play should resume.

37.1.5 Inclement Weather – Heat:

If the temperature forecast the night before at venue club is 38° degrees, then the thermometer shall be placed appropriately and shall be checked prior to the start of play by both Side Managers and then at intervals not greater than 30 minutes.

All Clubs shall have an official thermometer mounted in a Stevenson Screen for the purpose of monitoring temperature. On Pennant days if

temperatures are forecast to be extreme (38°) the thermometer shall be placed 1.2 to 1.5 metres above the ground and adjacent to the Green. Only the official thermometer shall be referred to.

If a **CATASTROPHIC FIRE DANGER DAY** is declared on Friday for the Saturday or Monday for the Tuesday, all pennant for the scheduled round will be cancelled, no exceptions. This round may be re-scheduled by the Match Committee.

If the actual dry bulb temperature recorded at the venue club thermometer has reached over 38° Weekend or 38° Midweek degrees Celsius 30 minutes before the start of play, then commencement of the match will be suspended until such time as the temperature falls back below 38° degrees Celsius Weekend, 38° degrees Celsius Midweek.

Playing Area Match Committee has the authority to amend starting times for Weekend Pennant to 9.30am start for all divisions under "Extreme Heat" policy if the forecast temperature for Saturday is or exceeds 38° in the week prior to any scheduled round of pennant.

Rule needs to be applied by Thursday 6.00pm or earlier so Weekend Pennant clubs may be notified of amended start time.

An exception to this rule applies to any pre-arranged Weekend Pennant games scheduled by individual clubs for "Friday night or other times."

Following commencement of a game for both WEEKEND and MIDWEEK Pennant, if the temperature at the venue club reaches 38° then play must be suspended for a maximum period

of one (1) hour or until the temperatures drops below 38°. If after that hour, the temperature has not reduced below 38° then the match will be declared completed if enough ends had been played, and if not, it would be abandoned.

Only Side Managers can check the thermometer and if the temperature is over Weekend 38° degrees or Midweek 38° degrees Celsius or above, the game in progress will be suspended until such time as the temperature falls to or below Weekend 38° or Midweek 38° degrees.

If a suspension of play occurs and the game is not completed or been abandoned within 5.5 hours of the appointed starting time, it shall stop. Any ends in progress at that time shall be completed, including dead ends.

Teams should be submitted on Bowls link as cancelled Rounds count towards qualification for finals.

37.1.6 Results for Games Affected by Inclement Weather:

If a sectional match is abandoned before or during play before a result is obtained, it will be a tie.

If a match is abandoned during play and one Side must win if all the remaining ends were played, points will be allotted as if the match had been completed, with the points for Team wins and shots allocated on the scores as they stand at the time of the abandonment.

37.1.7 Number of Ends to Complete a Match

If a game is interrupted by inclement weather and can't be completed. If a total of ends as

indicated below have been played then the side in front at that time would be deemed the winner –

16 per side = 60 ends

12 per side = 45 ends

8 per side = 30 ends

37.1.8 **Player Responsibility:**

When playing in warm or hot conditions, players should take responsibility for his/her wellbeing with good hydration and suitable preparation before and during the game. It is the Individuals responsibility to take care of themselves.

37.1.9 **BV Championships:**

For BV Men's and Women's Championships conducted by the Playing Area/Region the local heat policy will apply. If games are interrupted by inclement weather, every effort must be made to complete the ends in progress prior to leaving the green for suspension of play.

The game should be completed on the same day providing time allows and the temperature falls below 38° degrees Celsius, or the green becomes playable.

If a game is unable to be continued on the same day, it will be continued at a time and place as determined by the controlling body with the scores as they were at the time of the stoppage.

37.2 Murray Playing Area

37.2.1 **Cancelled Rounds:**

The relevant Murray Playing Area Match Committee may determine at any time prior to 3 hours of the starting time of a Round, that the Round has been cancelled. If

possible, a cancelled Round may be replayed later as determined by the Match Committee. If no date is available for play, then no points will be allocated for that Round. Teams should be submitted on BowlsLink as cancelled Rounds count towards qualification for finals. Cancelled Rounds may be played on Spare Days as available.

37.1.2 **Abandoned Games:**

If within 2.5 hours of the starting time for a Pennant match, the Greens Director or their Deputy determines the game cannot commence, or the Side Managers agree that play is not possible, then that game will be abandoned with the points shared equally by the competing Sides. Abandoned games will not be replayed later.

Side Managers may by mutual agreement abandon the game at any time due to the prevailing weather conditions. Teams should be submitted on BowlsLink as Abandoned Games count towards qualification for finals.

37.1.3 **Closure of Green – Wet Weather:**

If any Club closes its green 2 hours before for both Midweek and Weekend Pennant starting times, that Club shall make every effort to arrange to play at an alternate venue. If no alternate venue is available, they must then inform the opposing Club and the Relevant Match Committee.

When play for the day has been commenced and stopped owing to inclement weather, it shall not be resumed if the club Greens Director or their

nominated deputy declares the green unfit for play. Otherwise, the Side Managers shall decide whether to resume or not, failing agreement, the decision shall rest with the umpire.

If a game has been delayed or interrupted by inclement weather and is not completed or been abandoned within 5.1/2 hours of the appointed/agreed starting time, it shall stop. Any ends in progress at that time shall be completed, including dead ends.

37.1.4 Inclement Weather – Lightning:

When Lightning is sighted by the Managers, play will be suspended and all players are required to leave the green immediately and move to a safe structure. When the Managers deem it safe to return to the green, play should resume.

37.1.5 Inclement Weather – Heat:

If a **CATASTROPHIC FIRE DANGER DAY** is declared on Friday for the Saturday, all pennant for the scheduled round will be cancelled, no exceptions. This round may be re-scheduled by the Match Committee if a spare day is available.

If the actual dry bulb temperature recorded at the venue club has reached over Weekend 40° or Midweek 38° degrees Celsius 30 minutes before the start of play, then commencement of the match will be suspended until such time as the temperature falls back below 40° degrees Celsius Weekend, 38° degrees Celsius Midweek.

Playing Area Match Committee have the authority to amend starting times to 9.30am start for all divisions under “Extreme Heat” policy if the forecast temperature for

Saturday is or exceeds 38° in the week prior to any scheduled round of pennant.

Rule needs to be applied by Thursday 6.00pm or earlier so clubs may be notified of amended start time.

An exception to this rule applies to any pre-arranged games scheduled by individual clubs for 'Friday night games'

Following commencement of a game, only Side Managers can check the thermometer and if the temperature is over Weekend 40° degrees or Midweek 38° degrees Celsius or above, the game in progress will be suspended until such time as the temperature falls to or below Weekend 40° or Midweek 38° degrees.

If a suspension of play occurs and the game is not completed or been abandoned within 5.5 hours of the appointed starting time, it shall stop. Any ends in progress at that time shall be completed, including dead ends.

Teams should be submitted on Bowls link as cancelled Rounds count towards qualification for finals. Cancelled Rounds may be played on Spare Days as available. (if Spare Days are utilised, previously submitted teams don't count in relation to qualification for finals).

37.1.6 Results for Games Affected by Inclement Weather:

Rule 34.5 will apply for partially completed games and those completed games will stand for the Round.

If a match is abandoned during play and one Side must win if all the remaining ends were played, points will be allotted as if the match had been completed, with the points

for Team wins and shots allocated on the scores as they stand at the time of the abandonment.

37.1.7 Number of Ends to Complete a Match

If a game is interrupted by inclement weather and can't be completed. If a total of ends as indicated below have been played then the side in front at that time would be deemed the winner –

16 per side = 60 ends

12 per side = 45 ends

8 per side = 30 ends

37.1.8 Player Responsibility:

When playing in warm or hot conditions, players should take responsibility for their wellbeing with good hydration and suitable preparation before and during the game. It is the Individuals responsibility to take care of themselves.

37.1.9 BV Championships:

For BV Men's and Women's Championships conducted by the Playing Area/Region the local heat policy will apply. If games are interrupted by inclement weather, every effort must be made to complete the ends in progress prior to leaving the green for suspension of play.

The game should be completed on the same day providing time allows and the temperature falls below 40° degrees Celsius, or the green becomes playable.

If a game is unable to be continued on the same day, it will be continued at a time and place as determined by the controlling body with the scores as they were at the time of the stoppage.

38 **Instantaneous Penalties**

- 38.1 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.
- 38.2 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.
- 38.3 An instantaneous penalty applied to one player in a team shall be considered as an instantaneous penalty to all players in that team.
- 38.4 Any of the above umpire-imposed penalties are final and cannot be appealed.
- 38.5 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>

39 **Smoking**

- 39.1. 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
- 39.2 Smoking is only permitted in the designated area as determined by the host club

39.3 A failure to comply can result in the umpire applying an instantaneous Penalty (Section 1, Clause 38) and/or referring the matter to the Region Disciplinary Committee.

40. Personal Electronic/Communication Devices

40.1 The use of mobile phones/Smart Watches/MP3 players/iPods/iPads/pagers/communication devices and/or other similar sound/communication devices on the green by a player is not permitted.

40.2 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.

40.3 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.

40.4 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.

41 Consumption of Alcohol

41.1 The consumption of alcohol on the green by a player whilst a game is in progress is not permitted.

41.2 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.

42 Player, Coach and Officials Conduct & Behaviour

- 42.1 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:
- 42.1.1 Act in an abusive, threatening, or intimidating manner;
 - 42.1.2 Use of obscene, offensive, abusive, threatening, or intimidating language including racial and gender-diverse discriminatory language;
 - 42.1.3 Act in an unsportsmanlike manner;
 - 42.1.4 Threaten any person with physical violence or assault;
 - 42.1.5 Assault any person;
 - 42.1.6 Act in a manner likely to bring the sport of bowls into disrepute; or
 - 42.1.7 Act in a manner likely to bring Bowls Victoria into disrepute.
- 42.2. A failure to comply can result in the umpire applying an Instantaneous Penalty (Section 1, Clause 37) and/or the matter being referred to the Region Disciplinary Committee.

43 Delaying Play

- 43.1 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.

43.2 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.

44 Damage to Green - Delivery of a Jack or Bowl

44.1 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.

44.2 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.

44.3 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.

44.4 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.

44.5 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.

44.6 A "dump mat" may only be used for an individual player(s) to address an identified issue as defined above.

45 Damage to Green - Use of a Wheelchair, Walking Frame, or other Approved Artificial Device

- 45.1 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.
- 45.2 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.
- 45.3 If a player retires from the game a substitute player is permitted.
- 45.4 If a player refuses to leave the green, they will be a defaulting player, and the game forfeited to the opponent.

46 Bowler's Arm

- 46.1 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.
- 46.2 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.
- 46.3 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.
- 46.4 Failure to comply may also result in the matter being referred to the BV Disciplinary Committee and action taken under Section 1, Clause 48.

46.5 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.

47 Death of a Player

47.1 If a game has commenced and a participating player passes away all games in progress at the club will be abandoned.

47.2 Points for game other than a Final abandoned because of the death of a player will be awarded as per Section 1, Clauses 34.3.

47.3 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.

48 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.

49 The Manager

The Side Manager needs to be competent in all aspects regarding the Managers duties, including an understanding of the Conditions of Play and importantly the ability to access the BowlsLink recording system, and should be carefully chosen for the role by the Club.

The Manager **CANNOT** be the Umpire of the Day

The Manager is responsible for;

- Ensuring correct names of players including correct spelling of names on the scorecards and on BowlsLink
- The draw for rinks, following the correct procedure (Clause 25)
- The HOME and AWAY Side Managers are responsible for ensuring the rinks match on the scorecards and results are entered correctly onto BowlsLink at the completion of the game. This includes Forfeits and Abandoned Games.
- Being Familiar with Pennant Rules and Conditions of Play
- Acting on the Sides behalf whenever any decisions must be made under any Laws and Rules.
- Determining the application of the Inclement Weather Rules (CoP Rule 37)