Region Powers – New Disciplinary Guidelines

February 2026

Bowls Victoria has made further improvements to the management of disciplinary matters complementing the recent introduction of the new Personal Grievances Policy and the existing National Integrity Framework. Foreshadowed in the announcement of the new Personal Grievances Policy, all 16 Bowls Regions now have greater power to initiate and manage disciplinary action for Code of Conduct and Laws of the Sport breaches.

The new powers enable Regions to act as a support to Clubs where an incident occurs and the line of responsibility is blurred or occurs in an event or competition where the Region is the controlling body.

The new powers will provide for two important outcomes: that the matter be dealt with in a timely manner and in the setting in which it has occurred.

The updated Disciplinary & Appeals Guidelines can be found here, or on the Bowls Victoria website resources under **Club Assist → Club Management → Disciplinary Management**.

An outline of the operation of the new Personal Grievances Policy was circulated in the December Heads Up, while the Policy is available on the Bowls Victoria website under **About Us → Governance**.

Region Disciplinary Panels

Bowls Victoria Country Managers, Josh Thornton and Mark Coleman, are currently working with their respective Regions to identify and recruit appropriately experienced individuals to act as independent tribunal members for Regions.

The pool of volunteers will be available to Regions when the need to convene an independent panel to hear a matter arises. The Country Manager will work closely with the relevant Region to support the disciplinary process and convene an appropriate panel. The panel may be made of individuals within and external to the sport of Bowls.

New Policy Flowchart

The context of the three Policies can be seen here in a simplified flowchart.