



# CIRCULAR

ROYAL NSW BOWLING ASSOCIATION LTD.

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**No:** C01/2020  
**Date:** 15 January 2020  
**To:** Zones, Districts & Clubs  
**Re:** CLARIFICATION OF ELIGIBILITY FOR CHAMPIONSHIPS AND PENNANTS

On 18<sup>th</sup> December 2019, Women's Bowls NSW released Memo 353.19 advising;

*“any of our members wishing to play in state championship and other championship events must nominate the STA they wish to play for that year and then logically, advise Women’s Bowls NSW the STA they have decided upon for the year.”*

This position is different to that provided by Bowls NSW in Circulars 11, 12 and 13 (all 2019), where we took the position that a female dual-registered member was eligible to participate in championships under both WBNSW and BNSW in the same year, provided that they complied with the BA Affiliation and Eligibility to Play Policy, and did not play in the same or equivalent event.

Further clarification was provided by Bowls Australia on this policy on 13<sup>th</sup> January 2020, stating;

*The BA Affiliation and Eligibility to Play Policy states that a player may be a member of multiple Clubs in more than one STA. Further, a player must declare only one (1) of those Clubs in one (1) STA as their Nominated Club for the purpose of playing in State Championship events conducted by an STA or BA during a bowling season.*

*A player may play Pennant in more than one (1) STA within the same bowling season. Playing in Pennant conducted by any STA shall not constitute a declaration of a player’s Nominated Club under this policy.*

It is acknowledged that BA’s clarification of Clause 5.4 is consistent with the advice provided by Women's Bowls NSW Memo 353.19. Despite this, BNSW has queried the interpretation that a player must only declare one Club and is unable to change their Nominated Club between STAs during a bowling season. A player can change their Nominated Club between STAs by completing and submitting an Interstate Clearance form, which enables that player to become eligible to play championships in a different STA.

Bowls NSW approached Bowls Australia seeking an exemption for NSW under the current circumstances and approached Women's Bowls NSW, both verbally and in writing, to seek an agreeable 'bipartisan' position on this matter. The reason for Bowls NSW seeking a bipartisan approach was to avoid the administrative burden on players, clubs and both STAs having to submit Interstate Clearance forms for individuals to compete in championship events under both Bowls NSW and Women's Bowls NSW, in most cases for the same physical club.

Bowls Australia has stated that both STAs can make submissions by 1<sup>st</sup> February 2020 for consideration by the BA Audit Risk and Integrity Committee Meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> February 2020, at which the Affiliation and Eligibility Policy will be discussed. Bowls NSW will be preparing a submission as appropriate and will continue to attempt to reach an agreed position with Women's Bowls on this issue, which could then be submitted to the BA meeting.

In the absence of a bipartisan approach being agreeable to Women's Bowls NSW and understanding that female dual registered members may have already competed in Bowls NSW events, the following process is outlined to female members of Bowls NSW for 2020.

### Championships

- 1) If a female member has already played in a Bowls NSW event in 2020, they will be required to submit an Interstate Clearance to Bowls NSW before they are eligible to compete in a Women's Bowls NSW event.
- 2) If a female member has played in a Women's Bowls NSW event in 2020, and they wish to play in a Bowls NSW event, they will be required to submit an Interstate Clearance to Women's Bowls NSW before they are eligible to compete in that Bowls NSW event.
- 3) An Interstate Clearance will need to be submitted on each occasion that a player wishes to change Nominated Club to a Club under Bowls NSW or Women's Bowls NSW and vice-versa to be eligible to compete in events for both.
- 4) Alternately, a player can choose to play all championships events for either Women's Bowls NSW or Bowls NSW without the need for an Interstate Clearance.
- 5) Players must comply with clause 8.1 of the BA Affiliation and Eligibility to Play Policy and cannot play in the same or equivalent Championship event for both STAs.

### Pennants

- 5) In accordance with BA Affiliation and Eligibility to Play Policy clause 6;
  - 6.1.1 *A player may play Pennant in more than one (1) STA within the same bowling season.*
  - 6.1.2 *The player must be registered with each of the STAs in which they play.*
  - 6.1.3 *An Interstate clearance is not required unless the player intends to change their Nominated Club.*
  - 6.1.4 ***The player must complete and submit an Interstate Pennant Declaration prior to being permitted to play Pennant in that STA.***

Bowls NSW and Women's Bowls NSW are two separate STAs under the BA Policy.

Prior to a female playing in Bowls NSW Pennants, they will be required to complete an **Interstate Pennant Declaration** and submit this to Women's Bowls NSW (regardless of whether playing at the same or different Club).

An Interstate Pennant Declaration Form is different to an Interstate Clearance form and does not change a player's Nominated Club.

Bowls NSW apologises for the inconvenience that this may cause bowling members and Clubs and advises that it continues to reach an agreed position with Women's Bowls NSW, which can be conveyed to Bowls Australia.

Greg Helm  
Chief Executive Officer

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