

**No.** 2021\_12

**To:** All Club's and Bowlers

**From:** Women's Bowls NSW and Bowls NSW

**Date:** 5<sup>th</sup> May 2021

**Re:** Reminder of the upcoming Unification Vote

Dear Members,

All clubs have now received the [Member Information and Voting Pack](#) (MIVP) and are in the process of organising General Meetings for member votes. We would like to take this opportunity to remind the bowling community of the benefits of unification and to stress the importance of participating in the upcoming vote.

Our vision is to create a new entity that will lead and enable the growth, success and sustainability of the sport for all current and future bowlers in NSW. In addition, below are some of the broader benefits of unification:

- Increased investment into game and club development.
- Aligned, cohesive and inclusive strategy.
- Greater opportunities for government funding and recognition.
- Improved ability to negotiate better commercial and supplier agreements.
- Uniformity of marketing and opportunities to grow sponsorship.
- Gradual reductions in administrative duplication over time.

The new entity's constitution will ensure the vital communication link between the grassroots clubs and bowlers, and the Board, is maintained. It stipulates that we will hold a strategic forum at least once per year with the following objectives:

- Inform the Board of significant membership issues;
- Assist the Board to design or review the Company's strategic plan and direction;
- Discuss state-wide issues and allow Member, District and Zone issues to be raised and discussed, and;
- Provide feedback to the Board on the results of its governance decisions in practice at Member level.

This clause was developed in consultation with the legal counsel of both BNSW and WBNSW to ensure the organisation is aligned with best practice legal structures, clauses, and processes for member engagement.

Should unification go ahead, members can expect a forum to be scheduled as one of the first action items for the Transitional Board.

We are currently engaging with all zones and any club representatives who are seeking clarity on any issues, and we are happy to sit down and discuss any concerns further with you.

We have been heartened to hear the overwhelmingly positive feedback from the bowls community on unification, and we trust that this sentiment will translate into a positive vote at every club. Each member and club vote will be critical to ensure unification of the sport in New South Wales.

Finally, a brief reminder of the key steps in the voting process for each Association are outlined below:

**WBNSW:**

- Please ensure that you have registered your club to vote by Friday 7<sup>th</sup> May via the following link: <https://wbnswwote.questionpro.com/>
- Unique voting codes and links will be sent this week to the email address that was registered.
- By now, each club should have scheduled their own Club General Meeting, which must be held no later than Friday 28<sup>th</sup> May.
- The electronic vote by the club secretary must be completed by Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> May.

**BNSW:**

- By now, each club should have scheduled their own Club General Meeting, which must be held no later than Friday 28<sup>th</sup> May.
- Zones should have emailed to all Clubs a "Club Voting Form" to record the Club's vote.
- The vote by the club secretary must be completed and submitted to the **Zone** on the Club Voting Form by 30<sup>th</sup> May.

Finally, a reminder that we continue to welcome any questions you may have throughout the unification process. These can be submitted to [unification@bowlsnsw.com.au](mailto:unification@bowlsnsw.com.au).

Yours sincerely,



Anne Johns  
CEO – Women's Bowls NSW



Greg Helm  
CEO – Bowls NSW