

## Memo 343.19

**To:** All Districts, Affiliated Clubs and members

**From:** Women's Bowls NSW Head Office

**cc:** Womens Bowls NSW Directors, Committees and Staff

**Date:** 7<sup>th</sup> May 2019

**Re:** **Annual affiliation fees**

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When the fixed fee policy for affiliation was adopted several years ago, the Directors agreed at the time to review the process after two years. After varying levels of feedback both positive and negative, a comprehensive review has taken place over the past few months attempting to determine a method of affiliation that will cater for clubs as well as fulfil the financial requirements of our member funded Association to enable us to satisfy our responsibility to the sport.

We accept that this review has taken some time, however in doing so we were obligated to await a decision from Bowls Australia on their new funding requirements from the States which has naturally had an impact on the review. With Bowls Australia capitation being our largest annual individual expense, we had little alternative than to await their position before finalising our way forward.

In accordance with section 9 of the Women's Bowls NSW Constitution, we are pleased to announce that we have finalised a new member-based affiliation scheme for 2019/20 and beyond, which addresses the concerns raised by the member clubs. We feel that the proposal below will provide the best compromise between the needs of clubs, whilst also rewarding clubs who are proactive in recruitment at club level.

The new model for affiliation, which will be adopted for 2019/20 and through to at least 2021/22 before being reviewed, is outlined in the dot points below:

- From the 2019/20 year, Women's Bowls NSW will have two levels of membership, one being Silver membership and one being Gold. The attached list will outline the membership entitlements for each category. The Silver membership category will be priced at \$60.00 (\$1.15 per week\*) annually per member whilst the Gold category will be \$80.00 (\$1.53 per week\*) annually per member.
- Members will have the opportunity to upgrade from the Silver (\$60.00) to the Gold (\$80.00) midyear however will incur a \$30.00 transfer fee and minimum one-week lead time to do so.
- Any female player under the age of 18 will receive Gold membership upon application at no charge. Players will retain free junior membership until the end of that financial year in which they turn 18 years of age.
- Any person who joins Women's Bowls NSW having not been a member within the previous 24 months will not be charged for affiliation to WBNSW for their first-time membership although may still be charged by the club as per their usual policies and fee structures.
- Any member who resigns after receiving membership will not be entitled to a refund of any amount under any circumstance.
- Each club will be charged a single \$75.00 membership fee per club annually, in addition to the individual membership rates noted above.
- The Club Financial Relief Program will not be continued in lieu of the return to a per member structure.
- Both the Silver and Gold membership categories will increase at least 3.5% annually unless a club maintains its respective membership levels at which time the increase will be waived as a loyalty reward for the club.

As we are steering toward a “user pays” model, the production of a Bowls Matters magazine will still be available in hard copy (2 editions annually) however each club will be able to elect whether that club opts in or out of receiving a hard copy. This will be a club decision for all members of that club. Should your club opt in, every member in your club will be charged an additional \$11.00 annually for the two editions to be supplied in hard copy as they are now. Should the club elect not to opt in, then Bowls Matters will not be made available to your club in hard print. We note that Bowls Matters will be available at no charge to all members in an electronic format via the Women's Bowls NSW website. Bowls Matters hard copy magazine may also be purchased by individuals at [ibowlonline.com.au](http://ibowlonline.com.au) however will be priced at the true cost of production and postage rather than the subsidized \$11.00 per year rate offered to clubs.

Whilst we are saddened that the excellent Bowls Matters magazine is now a discretionary inclusion, we are required to cull expenses to keep the membership fees at an affordable rate. It is one of the compromises forced upon us to keep the sport affordable.

We realise that the new affiliation model is a great departure from the way we have conducted business in the past and presents a wonderful incentive for the clubs who retain and recruit new membership whilst satisfying those that desired a return to the per member levy of the past. We appreciate that it will not satisfy all, however we politely advise that the decisions made are for the advantage of the entire sport in NSW rather than any one club.

We will continue to make the hard decisions to bring this Association back into the black after several years of operational losses stemming from a historical reluctance to amend pricing whilst costs of operation increased exponentially in the same period. Whilst the changes to affiliation will not create immediate sustainability, we are confident that coupled with other pricing amendments, a rationalization of expenditure and the curbing of discretionary spending, we will achieve outcomes that future proof the Association and its members.

Additional information as well as a **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)** document will be released in the coming weeks however we provide this update now to enable clubs to commence planning for their new subscription period.

We take this opportunity to thank all clubs for their patience and perseverance whilst we engaged in this exhaustive process and hope that each will embrace the changes implemented. Should any enquiries exist, please do not hesitate to put them in writing and forward them to us so we can include them in the FAQ document.

Kind regards,

Maryann Parcell

On behalf of the

Womens Bowls NSW Board of Directors

*\* Weekly fees are averaged over a 52 week period and are used for indicative purposes. Fees are levied on an annual basis only.*

## Womens Bowls NSW Membership Categories

	Silver	Gold
Eligible to vote on Club issues	✓	✓
Eligible to play Club Championships	✓	✓
Eligible to play State Carnival	✓	✓
Eligible to play Summer League	✓	✓
Eligible to play Weekend Pennant	✓	✓
Eligible to play social bowls	✓	✓
Must be a member of the Registered Club	✓	✓
Eligible for a Continuous Membership Badge	✓	✓
Eligible to nominate for a Club committee	✓	✓
Eligible to nominate for a District Committee	✓	✓
Eligible to nominate for a State Committee	✓	✓
Eligible to nominate for the State Board of Directors	✓	✓
Eligible to vote on District issues	✓	✓
Eligible to be elected as a Delegate to the District	✓	✓
Eligible to play in tournaments if the Conditions of Play allow	✓	✓
Eligible to play in the Australian Open events	✓	✓
Eligible to play in District Championships		✓
Eligible to play in District Representative Teams		✓
Eligible to play in other District run events		✓
Eligible to play State Representative Bowls		✓
Eligible to play Regional events		✓
Eligible to play in Pennants		✓
Eligible to play in all State Championships		✓
Eligible to be selected for City v Country		✓
Eligible to be selected for Australia		✓
Eligible to be selected for State trial games		✓
Eligible to be selected for Australian Sides teams for NSW		✓
Eligible to play in the NSW qualifying event for the Australian Indoor Singles		✓