

# CIRCULAR

**No:** C2/2023  
**Date:** 16 March 2023  
**To:** District, Zone & Club Contacts  
**Re:** The Platinum Pennant



## *Introducing: The Platinum Pennant*

### Overview

The Platinum Pennant will be introduced as part of the 2023-24 State Open Pennant competition. The competition will start in April 2024 with the finals to take place in mid-May 2024.

### Context

Bowls NSW receives a great deal of feedback regarding the Open State Pennant competition. Key themes include:

- That Bowls NSW favours the elite clubs and players with the current competition structures
- That the elite clubs, with more money to spend on players, monopolise the Grade 1 competition
- This monopoly is unfair on smaller sized clubs and regional clubs who want the opportunity to compete in the Grade 1 competition, however, can't compete against the elite clubs and players.
- Some clubs in regional areas competing in the current Grade 1 competition who qualified for State Finals felt that they were only there to 'make up the numbers'. As such, they had a considerable expense to compete with no real expectation of progressing beyond sectional play.
- There is a current trend of clubs steadily dropping down pennant Grades. Bowls NSW wants to reverse this trend.

### The Purpose of the Platinum Pennant

The Platinum Pennant has been introduced in relation to the above commentary and is aimed at:

- Creating a world class competition for clubs with elite level players, where the playing field is even and all matches are competitive
- Providing a vehicle for promotion and showcasing the sport through streaming.
- Providing an opportunity for host clubs to promote their home matches and encourage spectator attendance.
- Levelling the playing field in the Grade 1 competition and encouraging other clubs across the State to enter Grade 1 pennant sides

### Additional information

#### Scheduling

Matches in the Platinum Pennant may be scheduled on Friday evenings, Saturday morning, afternoon or evening and on Sunday Morning or afternoon. Clubs will have a greater choice over match times, and as such will be encouraged to promote their home matches to attract spectators and to attract social members and visitors within the club to watch the sport.



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### **Promotion & Streaming**

Bowls NSW will promote the competition and will live stream selected competition matches each week.

### **Entering a Side into the Platinum Pennant**

Expressions of Interest will open shortly for clubs to enter the Platinum Pennant.

Expressions of Interest are open to all affiliated bowls clubs across NSW however, final selection into the Platinum Pennant will be subject to the discretion of Bowls NSW and the State Match Committee.

### **Conditions of Play**

Match formats for the Platinum Pennant will be the same as all other Open Gender Pennant Grades i.e. 12 players per side, three teams of four, 63 end matches.

Clubs competing in the Platinum Pennant will be required to nominate a squad of at least 12 players, male or female, to make up their side. These players will not be eligible to play in Grades 1-7 during the season.

Full Conditions of Play and details of the competition, including entry fees and prize money, will be provided in due course.

**State Match Committee**

**Bowls New South Wales Ltd**



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