

NSW Women's Pennant

1. Introduction and Scope

All events shall be conducted in line with the Laws of the Sport of Bowls and with the Bowls NSW General Conditions of Play.

These Conditions of Play provide specific Conditions relative to NSW Women's Pennant Competition.

2. Event Name

NSW Women's Pennant

3. Eligibility

Open to all Bowls NSW Limited registered members, who are female and have a current NSW declared club.

4. Administration

NSW Women's Pennant shall be conducted under the control of the Bowls NSW Limited State Match Committee.

4.1. Delegation

The State Match Committee delegates to District Match Committees, to administer the competition, in line with these Conditions of Play, along with the General Conditions of Play.

4.2. Entry Fees

Districts may apply any reasonable entry fee to competition on a per side basis. *A State Finals entry fee may be charged (See Condition 8.1.1)*

5. Competition Divisions

5.1. Number of Divisions:

The NSW Women's Pennant competition comprises 4 divisions.

- i. **Division 1:** Open to all eligible players.
- ii. **Division 2:** Open to all eligible players who have a 2022/23 Women's Pennant grading of 2 or below or are ungraded.
- iii. **Division 3:** Open to all eligible players who have a 2022/23 Women's Pennant grading of 3 or below or are ungraded.
- iv. **Division 4:** Open to all eligible players who have a 2022/23 Women's Pennant grading of 4 or are ungraded.

5.2. Multi-Division Competitions

- i. Districts are permitted to combine Divisions for the purposes of creating equitable competitions.
- ii. In any multi-division competition, the side(s) in the higher division must finish the sectional rounds higher than any side in the lower division to proceed to any playoffs.

5.3. Inter District Competitions

- i. If Districts have a low number of entries to any division, the State Match Committee strongly recommends that they form a Regional competition rather than District Competition.

- ii. Only Districts within same Region can play Inter District competitions.

6. Sides

Each Pennant side shall comprise two (2) teams of four (4) players. A total of eight (8) players per side.

6.1. Composite Sides

Clubs may combine to enter composite sides into any division.

Clubs wishing to enter a composite side shall forward a written application, which shall be endorsed by the District and sent to State Match Committee with the District Pennant Submission for approval.

Such application shall detail:

- i. Names of clubs forming composite side.
- ii. The playing uniform to be worn by the composite side. This may be the individual's clubs' uniform of each player, a neutral uniform, or a new approved design.
- iii. Which Club shall host allocated home matches or the number of home matches to be hosted by each club.
- iv. Which club is responsible for payment of entry fees, recipient of any winning flags, entering and keeping of player participation records, etc.

6.2. Withdrawal of Sides

- i. If a side is withdrawn from a competition, after the draw is finalised, it must be the lowest side entered.
- ii. If a side is withdrawn, without a satisfactory explanation to the district and confirmed by State Match Committee, the penalty may include a fine not exceeding \$400 and/or refusal of entry into any subsequent competition, at the discretion of the district, with approval also required to be confirmed by State Match Committee.

7. Entries

7.1. Number of Club Sides

- i. Clubs may enter as many sides as deemed necessary based on the number of eligible players.

7.2. Clubs with 2 or more sides in a division

- i. Where a Club has two or more sides entered in any grade they shall be identified as No.1, No.2, No.3 or A, B, C or Red, Green or Blue etc.
- ii. The sides are considered equal within that grade and players can play in either side during all stages of play (if not graded higher).
- iii. Clubs with 2 or more sides in a grade, must be drawn in separate sections, if there are multiple sections within that grade. If there is only one (1) section, those sides must be drawn to play each other in round 1 and any corresponding round.

7.3. Elevation/Regression

- i. The clubs of a winning Region side in 2022-23 Women's Pennant will be elevated to the next highest division.
- ii. The Clubs winning a District Division may be elevated to the next highest grade.
- iii. The Clubs placing last in any District in 2022-23 Women's Pennant may be regressed to the next lowest division

7.4. Clubs Nominate day of Play

- i. The District shall nominate the default day(s) and time(s) for play in Pennant Competitions
- ii. If the District nominates a weekday as the default day for play, Clubs shall nominate if they have a different playing day and/or time for their home matches with the submission of their entry for each division entered. (Note, different times and days may be nominated for different divisions entered).
- iii. Districts shall include this information with their submission to the State Match Committee for approval of the proposed competitions.

8. Competition Format

- i. Each match shall consist of 42 ends in total (21 ends per rink) in fours format.
- ii. Competition **MUST** be played from **1 July 2023** and be completed no later than **22 April 2024 (including Regional Finals)**.
- iii. District must detail length (number of rounds) of each division competition and any post sectional play format within their District Pennant Submission.
- iv. Districts must advise on the entry form the dates of play nominating a 7-day period in which each round must be played (eg date in a Mon-Sun period), Districts can also determine if 1 or 2 rounds will be played per week.

8.1. State Finals

- i. The NSW Women's State Pennant Finals are scheduled to be played 21-23 May 2024.
- ii. There is **NO** compulsion on any District/Region to have competitions in any divisions.
- iii. All NSW Women's State Pennant Finals draws for each division will be based on number of sides qualified.

8.1.1. Bowls NSW State Finals Entry Fees

Any entry fee (if applicable) will be determined by the Board of Bowls NSW Limited annually.

9. Method of Scoring.

9.1. All NSW Women's Pennant Sectional &/or Round Robin matches will be:

Side Win:	3 points (Side scoring the most aggregate number of shots)
Side Tie (Draw):	1.5 points (Both sides scoring same number of aggregate shots)
Side Loss:	0 points (Side scoring the least aggregate number of shots)
Team Win:	1 point (One point for each team that wins (rink wins))
Team Tie (Draw):	0.5 points (0.5 points for each team that has drawn match (rink draw))
Team Loss:	0 points

Total Number of Points per match: 5 points

9.2. All NSW Women's Pennant Knockout matches will be:

The side scoring the most aggregate number of shots is declared the winner. If at the completion of a match, the aggregate score is equal, then all teams will play 1 extra end to determine result. If scores are still tied, the teams continue to play 1 extra end each until a winner is determined.

9.3. Byes

Where a bye occurs, there will be **NO** points allocated.

9.4. Forfeits

- i. A side receiving a forfeit during sectional play shall be awarded maximum points (5 points) and be credited with a margin of +10 shots.
- ii. A side forfeiting shall be awarded 0 points and be credited with a margin of -10 shots.
- iii. A side forfeiting shall notify:
 - The Region/District
 - The opponent
 - The host venue

All notifications of any forfeits must be at least 24 hours prior to the scheduled start time of any match.

9.5. Penalty

Penalty for failure to notify all 3 above may include a fine not exceeding \$100 for any one offence and/or expulsion from club entering any other Association event for a period of up to 12 months.

Any determination to deny entries for Association Events must be endorsed by the State Match Committee.

9.5.1. Forfeit of a Match in Progress

If a side forfeits a match in progress, the Controlling Body shall award maximum points to the side receiving the forfeit and shall adjust the scores of the match such that the side receiving the forfeit shall be credited with

The scores at the time of the forfeit, increased in proportion to account for the number of ends remaining *or*

The side receiving the forfeit to be credited with a +15, whichever is the higher.

10. District Pennant Submissions

10.1. Prior to Competition

All District Pennant Submissions must be received by State Match Committee no later than 8 weeks prior to the scheduled date of Round 1 matches.

All District Pennant Submissions must be on the prescribed documents and in the prescribed format. (All Districts will receive this information from Bowls NSW Limited). Any submissions not received in the correct format will be returned for resubmission.

Only approved submissions will be allowed to participate in the competition.

Any amendments to the submission (including any draws) after approval must be submitted to State Match Committee for consideration.

10.2. Conclusion of Competition

Districts must submit to State Match Committee results of all competitions, no later than 7 days after completion of competition. (All Districts will receive this information from Bowls NSW Limited).

Regional winners must be notified by the relevant host District official to State Match Committee, no later than 7 days after completion of playoffs.

11. Participation

11.1. Player Eligibility:

Players eligible for each division are as described in Item 5.

11.2. Players from Outside NSW:

- i. Players who have a declared club outside of NSW are NOT eligible to participate in this competition.
- ii. Interstate Pennant Declarations are NOT eligible for this competition.

11.3. Player Grading:

- i. Clubs may apply to have two (2) players from each division play one (1) division lower than their previous season grading. Such application must be made by completing the Player Regrade Application form, which must be sent to district for endorsement, prior to being sent to State Match Committee for approval.

11.4. Restriction During Season

A player is ineligible to play in a division if they have played 50% or more of scheduled matches in a higher division.

11.5. Eligibility for Post Sectional:

- i. A player must have played at least 50% of sectional matches in that division or lower to be eligible to participate in post section and/or State Finals.
- ii. A club may seek exemption to the above for a player to participate in any post sectional matches (including State Finals) by completing a Player Waiver for Post Section Eligibility form, which must be sent to district for endorsement, prior to being sent to State Match Committee, for approval.

11.6. Match & Season Participation Records:

11.6.1. Bowlslink

Districts and Clubs are encouraged to use Bowlslink to set up and administer competitions.

Please refer to Bowlslink training manuals & tutorials. (Bowls NSW Sports team & Bowls Australia RBM's are also available to help with set up).

- i. Clubs must submit their sides in Bowlslink at least 24 hours prior to each round to be played.
- ii. Clubs must confirm their results of each match in Bowlslink no later than 3 hours after each match.
- iii. Results Sheets can be used at the discretion of each club and/or District.
- iv. Failure to complete any of the above may result in fines to clubs, as determined by District.

11.6.2. Not using Bowlslink

For Districts & Clubs who do not utilise Bowlslink:

- i. Match Result Sheets must be used by both sides.
- ii. Match Results Sheets must be submitted to District, within timeframes specified.
- iii. Clubs must complete the Player Participation Spreadsheet for all divisions after each round.
- iv. Failure to complete any of the above may result in fines to clubs, as determined by District.
- v. Districts must submit their Player Participation Spreadsheets for all clubs with their end of competition on the form specified by Bowls NSW.

11.7. Penalties for Infringements

A side playing an ineligible player shall forfeit the match to their opponents.

- i. The non-infringing side shall be awarded maximum points (5 points) and be credited with a margin of +10 shots or the margin by which they won, whichever is the greater.

- ii. The infringing side be awarded 0 points and be credited with a margin of -10 shots or the margin by which they lost, whichever is the greater.
- iii. If scores are required to be recalculated (to apply the 10 shot margin) the infringing side shall retain their number of shots scored and the non-infringing side shall be recorded as having the non-infringing side score shots plus 10 shots

12. Play Not Commenced

- i. Matches not commenced may be played as necessary and at the discretion of the district. The district should notify all participating clubs of any dates allocated for matches not commenced as soon as practicable. It is preferred that the district allocate these dates and advise clubs at time of entry.
- ii. Home Clubs must advise the district of any play not commenced and the reason.
- iii. Districts may determine that if a match will have no bearing on sectional results that it is not required to be played and the match will be declared a tie (2.5 points each).

13. Play Not Completed

- i. If a match is stopped due to inclement weather, the Controlling Body can allow for a period of up to 60 minutes to determine whether play can be re-commenced.
- ii. If a match is stopped and unable to be resumed, the match shall be
 - a) **Deemed to be completed if 36 or more ends have been completed**
 - b) resumed at a later date **if less than 36 ends have been completed.**
- iii. The District should notify all participating clubs of any dates allocated for matches to be resumed as soon as practicable.
- iv. If a match is not completed and cannot be resumed, any score cards used must be signed by both teams, noting time of stoppage, and handed to controlling body. Upon any resumption of play, on a later date, the teams are allowed 2 trial ends each, with the match resuming from the end last played.
- v. Host Clubs must notify the district of any match not able to be completed on the day of play together with reason for stoppage.
- vi. Districts may determine that if a match will have no bearing on sectional results that it is not required to be completed and the match will be declared a tie (2.5 points each).

14. Side Officials

- i. All Side Officials are regarded as members of the side and must be attired in a manner that identifies them as member of that club/side.
- ii. All Side Officials should be nominated to the respective Controlling Body at each venue.

14.1. Side Managers

A Club shall appoint a Side Manager (Male or Female) who is member of the club and is responsible for drawing of cards & rinks, the toss of coin for the mat on first end as well as any extra ends and completion of any Result Sheet (if applicable), bowls discs and score board magnets.

14.2. Coaches

- i. A Club may appoint a coach to give advice to players during a match.
- ii. A coach must be a member of the club and must be a current accredited coach and provide proof of accreditation, if requested.
- iii. If a side comprises any player under the age of 18 years, the coach must also have a current and valid Working with Children Check number.

15.State Finals

15.1. State Finals Draw

- i. Draws for each division will be based on how many Regions have competitions in each division and number of qualifiers.
- ii. Clubs shall nominate their sides as two (2) teams of four (4) by completing the Women's Pennant State Finals Registration Form. In each match the draw will be Team 1 v Team 1: Team 2 v Team 2.
- iii. State Finals will be sectional play followed by knockout finals.

15.2. State Awards

- i. Winners and Runners Up Pennant Flags will be awarded to Clubs.
- ii. Winners and Runners Up **medallions** will be awarded to players participating in the Final. An additional two (2) Medallions (for each of the winners & runners up) will be available for presentation to reserves who were eligible to play.
- iii. Winners & Runners Up **medallions** will also be awarded to the Side Manager and Coach of sides participating in the final.
- iv. Clubs may apply for additional Medallions and will be invoiced for all costs.

15.3. Women's State Pennant Flags

Division 1 – Royal Blue with Gold Lettering

Division 2 – Gold with Royal Blue Lettering

Division 3 – Green with Gold Lettering

Division 4 – Pale Blue with Crimson Lettering