

CIRCULAR

No: C22/2023
Date: 20 October 2023
To: Zone & District Executive
Re: Update on New Governance Structures



Dear Zone & District Executive members,

Following the previous announcement regarding competition boundaries, we refer to the below three stages from the information pack which was sent to Zone and District Executives on Friday 25th August 2023:

Stage 1: Establishing new competition boundaries – complete

Aligning men's and women's competition boundaries

Stage 2: Establishing new governance structures – in progress – August – November 2023

Developing new Governance structures that can develop our sport for the future. Uniformly aligned and Governed across all their functions.

Stage 3: Implementation – to commence – January – June 2024

Implementation of 'future state' governance structures; Appointment of Management / Executive members to the new Governance structures; calendar planning for the new competition areas; adoption of communication technology to simplify communication between Bowls NSW and new Governance structures; simplification of financial operations.

You'll note that we are currently working through Stage 2 of the above process. This has entailed a review of several structural options for the delivery of our sport into the future. These options were refined down to three and presented to Bowls NSW from Thomson Geer Lawyers, a well renowned and respected Club and Sport Governance law firm.

The options presented to Bowls NSW were as follows:

1. Dissolve current District Administrations. Request current Zones to adopt and accept new uniform Constitutions and By-Laws.
2. Establish sixteen new incorporated Associations. Establish uniform Constitutions and By-Laws. Dissolve current Zone & District Administrations.
3. Establish sixteen Committees as an extension of the Board of Bowls NSW. Dissolve current Zone and District administrations.

In reviewing the pros and cons of each option, it was agreed unanimously by the Board of Bowls NSW to proceed with option two (2) as the most effective legal, political and operational option.

PLEASE NOTE: WE DO NOT REQUIRE CURRENT ZONE OR DISTRICT ADMINISTRATORS/EXECUTIVES TO TAKE ANY ACTION AT THIS STAGE.

We are conscious that some Zones and Districts commenced discussions to move in this direction however, we need to proceed together, collectively and uniformly. We appreciate the positive intent, but it is not helpful for current Zone and District executives to be registering business names, seeking ABNs or seeking to register a new Association with NSW Fair Trade given the below next steps.

Below is a summary of the next steps and road ahead. These steps will be led by Bowls NSW – further detail of each will be announced shortly:

1. **The creation of 16 new incorporated associations:** In progress. Updates to be provided.
2. **The establishment of uniform Constitutions/Objects and Regulations for these new entities:** Including an overview of core deliverables. In progress. To be circulated.
3. **The wind-down of current Zone and District administrations:** The provision of a checklist for current Zone and District administrators outlining every step that needs to be taken in reference to winding down and the timeline for this to happen will be provided.
4. **Legal advice in reference to the distribution and/or transfer of assets from existing Zone and District administrations:** To be provided.
5. **Advice relating to the establishment of Executive structures of the new associations:** We are very keen to see current Zone & District executives remain involved within the newly created associations. Further advice regarding the establishment of these executive structures will be provided.
6. **Administrative and set-up support for the new incorporated associations:** Uniform communications and financial systems to be established and implemented by Bowls NSW.
7. **Provision of ongoing legal, administrative and operational support:** This support will remain ongoing.

It is important to note, if any associations are created outside of the above-mentioned process, these entities will not be recognised by Bowls NSW, nor will they be affiliated with Bowls NSW into the future.

We will provide your Zone and District with further information on each step in due course following this announcement.

We have created an online portal where current Zone & District Executives have an opportunity to ask questions. The below link will take you to this portal:

[Zone & District Unification - Questions](#)

We will establish a number of online information sessions over the coming weeks and these dates/times and links will be sent to Zone and District secretaries for your broader Zone and District executives to dial in and hear an update from us and ask any other questions that may arise.

Thank you for your ongoing support. We are moving in a positive direction for our sport, and we appreciate your cooperation as we work through this critical process of Governance and administrative reform.

Kind regards,



Tim Rowe
CEO | Bowls New South Wales Ltd