

1. General Conditions of Play

1.1. Introduction

All matches will be played in accordance with the Laws and these Conditions of Play.

Situations may arise that are not specifically covered by these Conditions of Play. It is expected that in such circumstances any decision taken will reflect the spirit of these Conditions and embody the ideals of fair play and good sportsmanship supported by good common sense.

Amendments may occur to this document, as and when necessary. Refer Bowls NSW website (www.bowlsnsw.com.au) and Circulars. The current Conditions of Play will be published on the Bowls NSW website.

1.2. Interpretation

The following rules shall apply in the interpretation of these Conditions of Play:

- i. Headings are for convenience only and do not affect interpretation.
- ii. The singular includes the plural and vice versa.
- iii. Where a word or phrase is defined, its other grammatical forms have corresponding meanings.
- iv. A reference to a rule or sub-rule is to a rule or sub-rule, as the case may be, of these Conditions of Play unless stated to the contrary.
- v. A reference to a schedule, annexure or appendix is a reference to a schedule, annexure or appendix of these Conditions of Play unless stated to the contrary.
- vi. A mention of anything after “include”, “includes” or “including” does not limit what else might be included.

1.3. Terms & Definitions

In these Conditions of Play the following capitalised terms and the following non-capitalised terms shall have the corresponding meanings unless otherwise stated. In addition, capitalised terms used in these Conditions of Play which are defined in the Constitution of Bowls NSW shall have the same meaning when used in these Conditions of Play unless otherwise stated.

1.3.1. Affiliated Member

Means a player who is registered with a State or Territory Association as a member of a club affiliated with that State or Territory Association.

1.3.2. Affiliated Sub-Club

Means an unincorporated bowling sub-club of an incorporated entity, such as a licensed club, with such rights as set out in the Regulations as amended from time to time.

1.3.3. Appeals Tribunal

Means the Appeals Tribunal of Bowls NSW as established by the Board of Bowls NSW.

1.3.4. Association

Means Bowls NSW Ltd.

1.3.5. Championship Events

Means events which are under the control of these Conditions of Play, which are listed in Condition 1.12.

1.3.6. Championship Event Attire Policy / Uniform Policy

Means the Championship Event Attire Policy / Uniform Policy available on the Bowls NSW website.

1.3.7. BA

Means Bowls Australia Incorporated, the Australian national governing body for the sport of lawn bowls.

1.3.8. Board

Means the Board of Bowls NSW Ltd.

1.3.9. Bowling Member

Means a natural person who has paid the appropriate membership fees, if any, to a Club for the current financial year and who is entitled to play bowls at that Club by virtue of their membership and is registered with Bowls NSW as a member of that club.

1.3.10. Bowling Season

Means the period that commences July 1st and concludes the following June 30th in each year.

1.3.11. Bowls NSW

Means Bowls NSW Ltd.

1.3.12. Clearance and Registration Transfer Application

Means an application to Bowls NSW to transfer the registration of a player between Clubs.

1.3.13. Cleared

Means that a player's Clearance and Registration Transfer Application form, including any required fee payment, has been lodged with and accepted by Bowls NSW.

1.3.14. Club and Sub-Club

Means both Member Clubs and Affiliated Sub-Clubs.

1.3.15. Competition

Means a specific bowls event under the control of these Conditions of Play, or under the control of Bowls NSW.

1.3.16. Completion Date

Means the last date on which play in a specific competition is scheduled.

1.3.17. Conditions of Play

Means the rules governing how a competition is played.

The State Match Committee reserves the right to make any changes to the Conditions of Play and/or the schedule of play as needed to bring events to a successful conclusion.

1.3.18. Constitution

Means the Constitution of Bowls NSW.

1.3.19. Controlling Body

Means the body with immediate control over the Conditions of Play for that competition.

Authority may be delegated under the Conditions of Play to the Controlling Body of the Region, which may in turn delegate to the host Club for the conduct of Championship Events.

1.3.20. Controlling Body Representative

Means the person(s) appointed to act as and represent the Controlling Body during play of a Championship Event.

1.3.21. Declared Club (Primary Club)

Means the Club with which a player shall play their Championship Events in a Bowling Season in accordance with these Conditions of Play. If the player is registered as a member of more than one club, this club shall be designated as their primary club on their registration record (Bowlslink).

1.3.22. Geographic Draws

Means a draw is established with consideration to geographical location of participants.

1.3.23. Host Venue

Means the Club on whose green matches within a competition are to be played.

1.3.24. International / Interstate Event

Means an event played between National representatives or State (or Territory) representatives, respectively.

1.3.25. Junior Bowler

Means a bowler who is under the age of 18 years as at the completion date of the competition.

1.3.26. Justifiable Cause

Means unforeseen or urgent circumstances which would cause serious detriment and disadvantage to participants in the absence of the postponement of the playing of a Championship Event under those circumstances.

1.3.27. Laws

Means the Laws of the Sport of Bowls **Crystal Mark 4th Edition, April 2023** and including Domestic Regulations for play in Australia and as amended, modified or replaced from time to time.

1.3.28. Match Committee

Means the Controlling Body of Bowls NSW, or of a Region, or of a Club, as the case may be.

1.3.29. Match and matches

Means a game or games of bowls played within a competition.

1.3.30. Member Club

Means a club who is recognised as a member of Bowls NSW in accordance with the Constitution and Regulations.

1.3.31. National Umpire

Means a person who holds a current accreditation as a Lawn Bowls umpire.

1.3.32. Order of Precedence

Means the priority for matches to be played in accordance with these Conditions of Play as set out herein.

1.3.33. Previous Season Grading

Means the established grade of a player during their previous Bowling Season.

1.3.34. Player and players

Means any Bowling Member and/or any Junior Bowling Member participating in a Championship Event.

1.3.35. Policy

Means any policy of Bowls NSW and any relevant policy of Bowls Australia

1.3.36. Region

Means a Region Association as established under the Bowls NSW Constitution and Regulations.

1.3.37. Regulations

Means any regulations of Bowls NSW.

1.3.38. Senior Bowler

Means a bowler who is aged 60 years or over as at the date specified in the Conditions of Play for that Senior Event.

1.3.39. State

Means New South Wales, Bowls NSW or other State or Territory Bowling Association.

1.3.40. State Match Committee

Means the State Match Committee of Bowls NSW, which is the Controlling Body for all Championship Events.

1.3.41. Region Competition

Means a competition where control of that competition is delegated under these Conditions of Play to the Region.

1.3.42. Reserve Bowler

Means a player who has a Previous Season Open Pennant grading of Grade 5, Grade 6 or Grade 7. If a player has no Previous Season Open Pennant grading and did not play 50% or more matches in the current or previous season in Division 1 or Division 2 Single Gender Pennant.

1.3.43. State Pennant Finals Series

Means the series of matches played between qualifiers to determine the winner of each State Pennant.

1.3.44. Umpires Committee or Panel

Means the Committee that organises and/or controls the umpires within Bowls NSW, a Region or Club.

1.3.45. Unregistered Player

Means a player who enters or plays in a Championship Event and who is not registered with Bowls NSW as a member of that club.

1.3.46. WWCC

Means a Working with Children Check registered with Service NSW

1.4. Club, Region and State Match Committee Responsibility

Regions and Clubs are delegated the responsibility of ensuring that Championship Events are conducted in accordance with the Conditions of Play.

The relevant Match Committee is responsible for the conduct of all Championship Events under its control.

The relevant Match Committee, in the case of special or exceptional circumstances, may change the number of ends to be played, change the days and times of play, change greens or venues for play or make other changes as are deemed necessary to conduct and complete an event.

The relevant Match Committee shall inquire into and settle disputes concerning Championship Events in accordance with agreed procedures set out in these Conditions of Play or otherwise.

Appeals and disputes arising from the application of these Conditions of Play shall be determined according to the protocol through Region, and then State Match Committee. The only right of appeal from a decision of the State Match Committee is to the Appeals Tribunal in accordance with the Bowls NSW Appeals Tribunal Rules.

Any Match Committee member who is a party to a dispute must not take part in any discussion/resolution of the dispute.

1.5. Compliance with Bowls NSW Constitution, Regulations & Policies

All Players and officials in Championship Events shall be required to comply with the provisions of the Constitution, Regulations and Policies.

1.6. Attire

Players are at all times required to be attired in accordance with the [Championship Event Attire / Uniform Policy](#).

1.7. Calendars and Schedules

Regions shall include details of the dates of play in their Bowling Program (including provision for deferred matches) for ALL Championship Events being conducted by them. Details of dates of play must be included on entry forms for events.

Regions must complete Championship Events by the dates shown in the Bowls NSW calendar.

A Championship Event shall not commence before 1 July in a Bowling Season.

Regions are required to forward to State Match Committee, their season program no later than 1 May prior to the commencement of that Bowling Season.

1.8. Results

Region winners must be found, and names of winners, runners-up, and total number of entries shall be forwarded on the prescribed form and in the prescribed format to reach the Association before the date shown in the State Calendar.

1.9. Deferral of Matches

A Championship Event shall not be postponed except for inclement weather or other justifiable cause. If two events fall on the same date the one with the higher precedence will be played.

A postponed match shall be played on the next available playing date (on days/dates when matches in that competition would normally have been scheduled).

Regions shall list dates for the playing of deferred matches (Pennant and Regional Championships) in their season calendar.

1.10. Play or Forfeit

At least six (6) days' notice of play will be given to all players prior to each match. If a player or team drawn to play cannot do so, a forfeit will apply unless:

- i. A Substitute or Replacement Player is permitted under the Bowls Australia Domestic Regulations or Condition 34; or
- ii. The opponents, by mutual arrangement, and with the consent of the Controlling Body, agree to and do play the match prior to the commencement of the next scheduled round.

If the Controlling Body gives its consent and the match is then not able to be completed before the next scheduled round, the player(s)/team(s) that were originally unable to play on the scheduled date shall be deemed to forfeit that match. The Controlling Body may determine that match(es) must be played on or before the scheduled date in their event Conditions of Play.

1.11. Geographic Draws

Geographic Draws may be conducted.

1.12. Championship Events

Championship Events are as stated below:

- i. State Pennants (Platinum, Open State Pennants, Men's & Women's Pennants)
- ii. Club Major Singles, Pairs, Triples & Fours
- iii. State Championships
- iv. State Senior Championships
- v. State Junior Championships
- vi. State Multi-Disability Championships
- vii. State Open Reserve Championships
- viii. Inter-Region Sides Championships
- ix. Senior Inter-Region Sides Championship
- x. Junior Inter-Region Sides Championship
- xi. Champion of Club Champions Singles & Pairs

- xii. State Mixed Pairs
- xiii. State Rookies Singles and Pairs
- xiv. Australian Indoor Singles Championship (NSW Qualifying)
- xv. State Over 40s Pairs
- xvi. State Carnival
- xvii. Such other events as may be declared as Championship Events by Bowls NSW.

All other events are NOT Championship Events and are not governed by Bowls NSW Conditions of Play. It is the responsibility of the Controlling Body for that event to determine the Conditions of Play.

1.13. Disqualification

If a player or team is disqualified for any reason (through application of the Laws or of these Conditions of Play) the following actions shall be taken:

1.13.1. Sectional / Round Robin Play

See 1.40 Determining Winners in Sectional Play (as per forfeit)

For Penalties in Pennant Play see 11.1.11.

1.13.2. Knockout Play

The player, team or side LAST DEFEATED by the disqualified player, team or side, shall take the place of the player, team or side disqualified.

1.14. Entries

Nominations for an event showing the player(s) names and National Identity Number (NIN) and Club must be made to Bowls NSW, Region or Club as per the method specified by the relevant Controlling Body.

The Controlling Body may accept late entries to be placed on a 'wait' or stand-by list to fill a vacant position in the draw caused by a bye, withdrawal or forfeit. A late entry may be included prior to commencement of the first round of the competition.

Entry fees must accompany the entry unless alternative arrangements are made with the relevant Controlling Body.

1.15. Eligibility

1.15.1. Players Eligibility to Enter Championship Events

To enter and play a Championship Event with a Club, a player shall:

- i. Be registered with Bowls NSW as an Individual Member of that Club.
- ii. Have that club as their registered primary club (declared club).
- iii. Be registered, and listed on Bowlslink, with their respective Region Association.
- iv. Be Cleared to play at that club (if required).
- v. Satisfy any eligibility requirements for that event.
- vi. If applicable, have a membership category at that Club that entitles them to play Championship Events.

1.15.2. 'Same Club' Requirements

For events with no gender requirements, or mixed gender events with requirements for players to form a team or side to be from the same club, the affiliated sub-clubs of a club (invoiced club) shall be regarded as being the same club.

1.15.3. Player Changing Club

- i. A player changing Club with which they are registered with Bowls NSW requires a Clearance & Registration Transfer (with the appropriate fee) to be submitted to Bowls NSW via Bowlslink, and appropriate payment form.

- ii. Once a Clearance and Registration Transfer Application is lodged with Bowls NSW the player shall cease to be eligible to enter or play in ANY Championship Event in the current Bowling Season with their former club (except as provided for below 1.15.5) and shall become eligible to enter or play in any Championship Event with their new club in which they have not already become constituted during the current Bowling Season.
- iii. A player changing club who has already played in a Pennant Match with their former club is ineligible to play **in that Pennant Competition (Men/Women/Open)** with their new club except with the written permission of the State Match Committee. Such application will be considered only if:
 - A player changes their place of residence, the change making travel to their declared Club impractical, or
 - The player is required to change their declared Club as a condition of their employment with their prospective new Club. Employment must be full-time or a primary source of income, or
 - There are other special or exceptional circumstances which apply.

1.15.4. Penalty:

- i. Player or team disqualified from the competition.
- ii. Penalties for Pennants matches applies only to the Round(s) in which an ineligible player played.

1.15.5. Winners / Qualifiers

Notwithstanding the foregoing, any Club or Region Champion always remains eligible to continue to compete in that specific event during the season, irrespective of any change of declared Club membership, provided they are registered with Bowls NSW.

This does not apply to State Pennants, where a player is required to be registered as an Individual Member with that club at the time any match is played.

1.16. Host Clubs of Events

All players are eligible to play in Championship Events unless suspended for a bowls related matter.

A Player's ability to enter a host club may be limited by any disciplinary action in place by that host club.

Should a club hosting a Region or State Championship Event decline to allow a player entry to their club & greens:

- i. The Controlling Body shall allow a substitute or replacement player in a team game in line with the relevant Conditions of Play and Domestic Regulations.
- ii. A Singles player shall forfeit that match.
- iii. That player shall not be eligible to play in a sides match, the player's club shall select another player to play in that match.

All players suspended or de-registered under Bowls NSW regulations are ineligible to participate in Championship Events.

1.17. Withdrawals or Forfeits - Players / Teams / Sides Obligations

1.17.1. Withdrawal

An intended team may withdraw before becoming constituted in that Championship Event.

The team withdrawing is regarded as having not entered the Championship Event and the members of that withdrawing team are eligible to act as a substitute or replacement player in that Championship Event.

1.17.2. Forfeit

A player or team unable to meet their commitment to play on a drawn playing date and to whom dispensation is not applicable shall forfeit the match to their opponents. (See also Conditions 1.9 (Deferment of Matches), 1.10 (Play or Forfeit) and 1.39 (Concurrent Events & Order of Precedence))

1.17.3. Notification

A player, team or side forfeiting or withdrawing shall notify:

- i. The Controlling Body – Club, Region or Bowls NSW; and
- ii. The Venue Club

at least twenty-four (24) hours prior to the scheduled commencement time of the match to be forfeited unless there is a satisfactory explanation for not doing so.

A team withdrawing shall give notification a minimum of twenty-four (24) hours before their first scheduled match. Notification after this time shall constitute a forfeit.

Notification of a forfeit is binding and may not be revoked. Should play not commence on the date of the forfeited match, the forfeit shall remain in force.

1.17.4. Penalty

Not exceeding \$110 per player for any one offence and/or have their entry declined for any Championship Event for a period of up to twelve (12) months.

Any determination to deny a player's entry for Championship Events must be endorsed by the State Match Committee.

1.17.5. Obligation for Payment of a Fine

Rests with the individual to pay the relevant Controlling Body.

1.17.6. Non-Payment of a Fine

A player is liable to have their entry declined for Championship Events until payment is made.

1.18. Championship Draws

The draw for each Championship Event should include the names of all intended players.

A draw for a Championship Event shall not be added to, amended, altered, or in any way interfered with by any player.

Penalty: Disqualification from the Championship Event.

Any permitted changes shall be made by the appropriate Controlling Body.

1.19. Starting Times

Starting times shall be determined by the relevant Controlling Body, considering local conditions.

1.20. Meal Break

Thirty (30) minutes to be allowed between matches for meals (where applicable).

1.21. Late Arrivals

If, 30 minutes after the scheduled start time for a match, one or more players is absent from a team, that team will forfeit the match to their opponents. (See also Absentee players in a side).

The Controlling Body shall, in the spirit of good sportsmanship, allow additional time for late arrivals in a singles or team event, where players are delayed by extenuating circumstances beyond their control (for example, traffic delays caused by an accident).

1.22. Trial Ends

A singles player, team or side shall be allowed two (2) trial ends for each match, playing the number of bowls to be used in the event on each end (unless specified otherwise on event Conditions of Play). Trial ends shall be completed prior to the scheduled starting time.

The rink on which a player or team is to play shall be announced and made available for trial ends not later than twenty (20) minutes prior to the scheduled starting time.

1.23. Practice

Players may practice up to thirty (30) minutes prior to the scheduled start time of the match, providing that rink space is available, and the Controlling Body approves.

Players shall not practice on the rink on which their match is drawn to be played.

1.24. Controlling Body / Umpires

The Controlling Body Representative for a Championship Event shall not, unless unavoidable, be a contestant in the Championship Event in that playing session.

The Controlling Body, through the Umpires Committee / Panel shall appoint a person currently accredited as a National Umpire to attend all Championship Events. The Umpire so appointed shall not, unless unavoidable, be a contestant in the Championship Event in that playing session. If there is no currently accredited National Umpire available, a person currently accredited as a Measurer should be appointed to officiate.

If no accredited official is available, the Controlling Body of the day shall appoint a suitable person to officiate.

See also: [Duties of Controlling Body](#).

1.25. Bowls

Bowls NSW does not require bowls to be re-tested and re-stamped every 10 years for Bowls NSW Championship Events. A World Bowls stamp is required on bowls used in Championship Events but is not required to be of a current or future year.

If a player qualifies for an event under the control of Bowls Australia, Bowls Australia **may require** bowls to carry a stamp of a specified date or later and shall specify the required date.

1.26. Bowls Stickers / Adhesive Markings

A Controlling Body may supply and require identifying bowls stickers (adhesive markings) to be used on bowls and stipulate the occasions on which they may or must be used.

Worn or faded stickers shall be removed or replaced. Bowls shall have only one layer of stickers used at any time (that is, each bowl shall have one LAYER of sticker on each side only).

Bowls stickers may cover the distinctive engraving on the bias side of the bowl (small engraving).

If used, Stickers must be applied on both sides of the bowl.

Stickers used by a team or side must be of the same colour scheme and design but may be of different sizes to accommodate larger engravings on bowls. (Stickers may be in more than one part, but only one layer of stickers shall be used on each side of a bowl.)

If opposing sides, teams or players have the same design or colour of markings and an alternative is not available, players in the side listed second in the draw must remove their markings.

Refer Law 52.1.8 and DR 4.7.

1.27. Markers

A marker shall be appointed for each singles match.

- i. A marker shall be a registered Bowling Member of a Club affiliated with a State, Territory and/or National Lawn Bowls Association of a nation other than Australia.
- ii. A player defeated must mark in the next round scheduled on that day, if required by the Controlling Body. If more markers are available than required names shall be drawn by lot, before the first match. A substitute marker may mark.

- iii. A player drawn in singles sectional play must mark in any round of that sectional play if required by the Controlling Body.
- iv. A player who has drawn a bye in knockout play must mark that round played on the same day they are drawn to play if required by the Controlling Body.
- v. A player defeated in Clubs Singles match must mark a match in the subsequent round, if required by the Club Controlling Body. If more markers are available than required names shall be drawn by lot, before the first match.
- vi. A substitute marker may mark.

1.27.1. Penalty

Failure to mark if required – Penalty shall not exceed one hundred and ten dollars (\$110) and/or have their entry declined for all Championship Events for a period of up to twelve (12) months. Any determination to deny a player’s entry for Championship Events must be endorsed by the State Match Committee.

1.28. Inclement Weather

Bowls NSW has an Extreme Weather Policy, any decision on suspension or cessation of play should be made in line with the Bowls NSW Extreme Weather Policy.

A Club may have in place a policy under which all play is suspended if certain criteria are reached or met under the Bowls NSW Extreme Weather Policy or any local extreme weather policy that applies in relation to the play concerned (e.g. a threshold temperature at which all play is suspended while conditions remain at or above or below that temperature).

The Club, as the Controlling Body, may decide to cancel a match prior to its commencement, or during play, if they believe that the weather is not likely to be suitable for play to commence or continue.

Players may appeal to the Controlling Body / Umpire for play to be suspended or abandoned. In a team match, such appeal must be made by the Skip (players may request their Skip to make the appeal). In a side match, such appeal must be made by the Side Manager (players may request their Side Manager to make the appeal).

Appeals may apply only to the matches being played by the team(s) or side(s) who make that appeal.

In all cases, the health and safety of players should be the prime consideration in determining whether play should be suspended and/or abandoned.

1.29. Appeals and Disputes

Disputes or appeals arising out of the application of these Conditions of Play should be resolved by the relevant Controlling Body.

A decision taken by a Controlling Body shall be binding in all respects if any immediate result is required.

An appeal may be made to the next highest authority:

- to Club, then
- to Region, then
- to the State Match Committee, then
- to Bowls NSW Board/Appeals Tribunal. Any appeals to Bowls NSW Board must be in accordance with the Bowls NSW Appeals Policy.

Appeals must be accompanied by all relevant information.

If an immediate result is not required, an appeal may be made on the grounds:

- i. That there was an error of application of the Conditions of Play, an error of application of the Laws or a denial of natural justice.
- ii. That the decision was unreasonable or insupportable having regard to the evidence presented at the time that the decision being appealed against was made.
- iii. If new evidence is available which was not available to the Appellant at the time the decision being appealed against was made; or
- iv. If the decision being appealed against was manifestly excessive or manifestly unfair to the Appellant.

1.30. Personal Electronic Devices

As defined in the [Bowls Australia Personal Electronic Device Policy](#).

NOTE: Devices may be carried or worn by the player but must be in silent mode and must not be used for communication other than in an emergency situation.

Devices may be used for electronic scoring if specified by the Controlling Body.

Penalty: as per the Bowls Australia Personal Electronic Device Policy.

1.31. Player Damaging Green

The Controlling Body shall be at liberty to warn a player if in their opinion they are causing damage to the green. Following the warning, if the player continues to cause damage to the green, the Controlling Body may request the player to retire from the green and take no further part in the match. Refer [Bowls Australia Greens Protection Policy](#).

1.32. Wheelchairs & Walking Frames

Wheelchairs or walking frames should be used in accordance with the [Bowls Australia Artificial Devices Policy](#).

1.33. Coaching

The coach of a player, team or side must be an accredited coach and can give advice to a player during play provided that:

- i. The Controlling Body is given the name of the coach before the game starts; (The Controlling Body shall advise the umpire(s) of the nominated coach.)
- ii. Only one person is present at the rink to give advice at any one time.
- iii. The person giving the advice does so when their player or team is in possession of the rink; and
- iv. The person giving the advice does so from outside the boundaries of the green.

If, in the umpire's opinion, this law has been broken, the umpire must ask the coach concerned to stay within the law. If they do not stay within the law, the umpire must ask the Controlling Body to take immediate action to make sure that the offender stops breaking the law.

The Coach shall be considered as a member of the team or side and shall be attired in a manner that identifies them as a member of that club.

1.34. Working with Children / Junior Events

A coach for any Junior event must have a valid WWCC record filed with Bowls NSW (on Bowlslink).

1.35. Delaying Play

If the Umpire, either by their own observation or on appeal from one of the Skips (or the opponent in singles), decides that a player is deliberately or unnecessarily delaying play:

- i. The umpire will warn the player on the first occasion.

- ii. If the player delays play a second time the end will be regarded as completed and the opponents of the offender will be awarded as many shots as there are bowls in use by the opponent.
- iii. If the player delays play a third time the match will be forfeited to the opponent.

1.36. Restricting Movement of Players

At the commencement of each end, Singles players, Leads and Seconds shall be at the mat end of the green and skips at the head end.

In fours, a Third may move to the head end of the green before the commencement of the end (before delivery of the jack to commence that end).

A skip may appoint a team member to direct the head should they need to leave the green until they return to the green.

1.36.1. Moving to the Head

After delivering their first bowl, players will only be allowed to move from the mat end to head end of the green under the following circumstances.

Note: A skip may move to the head end of the green before playing their final bowl of an end (as this is after delivery of their 2nd-last bowls as provided below).

1.36.2. Singles Game

After delivery of their third and fourth bowls. A player is **NOT** permitted to ask the marker to move to the head before they have delivered their third bowl.

1.36.3. Pairs game (Four bowls per player)

Leads: after delivery of their second, third and fourth bowls.

Skips: after delivery of their second, third and fourth bowls.

1.36.4. Pairs Game (Three bowls per player)

Leads: after delivery of their third bowl.

Skips: after delivery of their second and third bowl.

1.36.5. Triples Game (2 bowls)

Leads: after delivery of their second bowl.

Seconds: after delivery of each of their bowls.

Skips: after delivery of each of their bowls.

1.36.6. Fours Game

Leads: after delivery of their second bowl.

Seconds: after delivery of their second bowl.

Thirds: after delivery of each of their bowls.

Skips: after delivery of each of their bowls.

1.36.7. Players Remaining at Head End

In all instances players need to be aware not to continually delay play or they may be subject to penalties under 1.35. (Delaying Play).

1.36.7.1. Pairs

- i. Both leads must cross to the mat end at the same time (when it is the turn of the Leads to play their third bowls).
- ii. Skips may remain at the head when their opponent is playing their third and/or Fourth bowls.

1.36.7.2. Triples

- i. There are no restrictions on Seconds and Skips remaining at the head end.

1.36.7.3. Fours

- i. There are no restrictions on Thirds and Skips remaining at the head end.

1.36.7.4. Penalty

- i. See 1.35. (Delaying Play).

1.37. Substitutes and Replacements

1.37.1. Definitions

1.37.1.1. Eligible Member

A player who satisfies the eligibility criteria, as stated in the Conditions of Play for that event.

1.37.1.2. Affiliated Member

A player who is registered with a State or Territory Association as a member of an affiliated club.

1.37.1.3. Substitute

A player who is appointed to take the place of a team member who is unavailable at any time (including the first end), for a reason accepted by the Controlling Body.

1.37.1.4. Replacement Player

A player who is appointed to take the place of a Constituted player who is physically incapable or otherwise prevented from taking further part in any end (after the first round) for a reason accepted by the Controlling Body. The replacement player becomes a constituted member of the team.

1.37.2. Team Nominations

- i. If approved by the Controlling Body, the players nominated to form a team entered in a competition may be changed before their first round in that competition.
- ii. Any player withdrawn before the first round shall be regarded as not having entered the competition and can act as a substitute or replacement player in that competition.

1.37.3. Constitution of Teams

- i. A team shall become constituted when the jack is rolled in the first end of the first match to be played by that team.
- ii. Players in a team forfeiting or receiving a forfeit shall be constituted and cannot act as a substitute or replacement player in any other team in that competition.
- iii. If a player in a team becomes unavailable or is incapable of playing, the Controlling Body may authorise the use of one substitute player at any time (including the first end of any game) and/or one replacement player.

1.37.4. Substitute

- i. Only one substitute will be allowed in a team at any one time.
- ii. A Substitute shall be chosen from Eligible Members who have not been constituted in that competition and are not nominated as a player in a team yet to be constituted.
- iii. If there are no eligible players available, the Controlling Body can approve an affiliated member to act as a substitute.
- iv. A player acting as a substitute may, with the approval of the Controlling Body, be changed at the completion of any end during a game or between succeeding games in the same competition.
- v. Substitutes introduced after the game has commenced must play in the same position as the player being substituted, except if it is skip. If a substitute is required for a skip, then the other members of the team must rearrange their positions as necessary. In subsequent games in the same competitions the position of players may be rearranged (unless otherwise specified in the Conditions of Play for that event) however a substitute must not play in the position of skip.

- vi. A player for whom a substitute is obtained, will, if they become available and are physically capable, re-join the team in the player's original position at the start of the next end and the others must revert to their original positions.
- vii. A player who has played as a substitute player, is eligible to again play as a substitute in that team or another team in that competition.
- viii. If a replacement player is used in a pairs team, then a substitute is only permitted to the place of the replacement player and the original team member must skip, otherwise a substitute cannot be permitted.
- ix. Substitutes are not permitted for a singles player who is not part of a sides competition.
- x. A substitute is not to be approved for a player who is unavailable because of a commitment to play bowls in another event they have entered.
- xi. A substitute must be permitted for a player who is unavailable to play because of their selection in a recognised National, State or Divisional/Regional Representative side.

1.37.5. Replacement Player

- i. Only one replacement player will be allowed in a team and, when approved by the Controlling Body, becomes a constituted player.
- ii. Replacement players must be chosen from available eligible members and when approved by the Controlling Body can play in any position including skip.
- iii. Constituted players are ineligible to act as replacement players.
- iv. Players nominated to be a part of a team that is not yet constituted are ineligible to act as replacement players.

1.37.6. Substitutes and Replacements in State Pennants

- i. Substitutes are permitted in State Pennants Matches.
- ii. Replacement Players are permitted to be used in State Pennants Matches only where:
 - the match has been commenced but not been completed and is then resumed on a subsequent date.
 - a substitute has already been used in the team in which the replacement player is required.
- iii. The original players shall remain those recorded as the Constituted Players. The match may be used as a factor for an application to waive post-sectional eligibility.

1.37.7. Absentee players in a side game.

(see Bowls Australia Domestic Regulation 2.6)

- i. If, 30 minutes after the scheduled start time for a game one player is absent from one or more teams in a side and no eligible substitute is available or allowed, the game must continue, however:
- ii. A team with an absent player plays as though the second is the missing player.
- iii. Each player must use the number of bowls specified in the Conditions of Play for that event.
- iv. The order of play shall be maintained by the second of the complete team playing consecutive bowls.
- v. If a player is unable to continue the game and no eligible substitute or replacement player is available or allowed, play will continue as if one player is absent as per this COP.
- vi. If an absent player arrives late, they must take their original place in the team when they arrive and enter the game at the completion of the end in progress.
- vii. If an eligible substitute or replacement player becomes available and is permitted by the Controlling Body, they may be introduced to the game at the completion of the end in progress.

1.38. Instantaneous Penalties

If the Umpire, on appeal by the Controlling Body, a Side Manager, a Skip or an Opponent, or by observation, in their opinion decides that a breach of any Law or Rule or any action by a Player/s, (where there is no penalty specified in that Law or Rule) has taken place, including without limitation:

- Acting in an abusive, threatening or intimidating manner towards any person,
- Using obscene, offensive, abusive, threatening or intimidating language towards any person,
- Threatening any person with physical violence or assault,
- Assaulting any person,
- Acting in a manner likely to bring the sport of bowls into disrepute,
- Acting in a manner likely to bring Bowls NSW or any affiliated body into disrepute,
- Repeatedly breaching the Bowls NSW Smoke Free Greens Policy.

Then after consultation with the controlling body (in their absence the team/side managers), the end shall be immediately regarded as completed and the following shall occur:

- i. The opponent of the offender shall be awarded as many shots as there are bowls in use by the Opponent in singles or opposing Team in a team game or team in a side game.
- ii. Upon a second such offence by the same player in the same game, the Umpire shall award the game to the Opponent/s according to Laws C2 and C10.
- iii. Should this penalty be applied, no Replacement or Substitute player will be allowed for their Team.
- iv. In a Team game the defaulting Team will forfeit the game to their Opponent.
- v. In a Side game BA Domestic Regulations 2.6 (Absentee Players in a Side Game) will apply.
- vi. A Replacement player is not permitted for a singles player.

The umpire must forward a written detailed report about any incident involving an instantaneous penalty to the respective Controlling Body within seven (7) days of the incident.

1.39. Concurrent Events and Order of Precedence.

Where a player is scheduled to play in a championship event being conducted by a Controlling Body and is not able to do so because of selection to play in or officiate at an International or Interstate Event scheduled to be played at the same time, or take part in a selection trial for such an event, reasonable time being allowed for travel; the championship event should be rescheduled if possible. If the event cannot be rescheduled the player must decide which event to contest. Any player requesting an event to be rescheduled must make application a minimum of seven (7) days in advance.

1.39.1. Priority Events

Player participating in priority events will be granted dispensation from playing events in lower category priority.

Controlling Bodies should avoid scheduling events where players may be involved in higher category priority events.

1.39.1.1. Category 1

National Representation, State Representation, Australian Open, Bowls Australia Nationals, BPL, BPL Cup National Finals.

1.39.1.2. Category 2

Bowls NSW Championships Events State Finals, Bowls NSW Inter-Region Championships, BPL Cup State Finals.

1.39.1.3. Category 3

Region Qualifying events for State Championships.

Regions may nominate one weekend for representative fixtures that shall take priority over Club events. The Region may specify that any affected Pennant matches by player selection on that weekend are to be rescheduled & shall include the dates in their draws.

1.40. Determining Section Winners / Standings

1.40.1. Singles / Teams Games

1.40.1.1. Allocation of Points

In each match of sectional play points shall be awarded as follows:

- Win 3 Points (Player/team scoring the highest number of shots)
- Tie (Draw) 1 Point (Both players/teams score equal number of shots)
- Loss 0 Points (Player/team scoring the lesser number of shots)

1.40.1.2. Allocation of Points for Forfeited Matches

A team/player receiving a forfeit shall be credited with a win (3 points)

If a player/team forfeits a match in sectional play, all matches in that section shall be forfeited and no results recorded for the player/team receiving the forfeit.

1.40.1.3. Sectional Standings

The winner of the Sectional Series of Matches shall be determined as follows:

- i. The player or team scoring the highest number of points shall be declared the winner.
- ii. If two or more players or teams are equal on points, the player or team with the largest difference between 'total shots for' and 'total shots against' shall be the winner.
- iii. If there is still a tie, the player or team with the lowest 'total shots against' shall be the winner.
- iv. If two players or teams remain tied, the winner of the match between those teams/players shall be declared the winner.
- v. If there is still a tie the team with the higher number of ends won (does not apply to singles player) shall be declared the winner.
- vi. If there is still a tie in singles, the player to have conceded the least number of ends shall be the winner.

1.40.2. Sides Matches

1.40.2.1. Determining Section Rankings

Sides shall be ranked within their section by the following criteria:

- i. The Side scoring the highest number of points.
- ii. The side with the largest difference between 'total shots for' and 'total shots against'.
- iii. The lowest 'total shots against' shall be the winner.
- iv. The aggregate results from matches played between the equal sides using (i.), (ii.), (iii.) above (in that order).

1.40.2.2. Knockout Matches

If scores are tied at the completion of the scheduled number of ends in a knockout Sides Match, all teams in that side shall play an extra end to determine the result. If scores are tied at the completion of those extra ends, further extra ends shall be played to determine a winner.

1.41. Artificial Light

Artificial light is permitted to be used during play in Championship Events.

1.42. Live Streaming, Broadcast or Recording of Matches

Matches may be live streamed, broadcast or recorded at the discretion of the relevant Controlling Body. Players do not have the option to refuse to be live streamed, broadcast or recorded.

1.42.1. Equipment & Personnel for Livestream

- i. The person(s) involved in streaming must not be on the green whilst an end is being played and are encouraged to not interact with players whilst they are playing.
- ii. They are entitled, as part of the streaming as an official, to be behind the head, on the bank, and should not move in any way to distract the players.
- iii. If the Controlling Body streaming a match does not have equipment for both ends of a green, the person streaming may move to be at the 'head end' of the green. They should;
 - If possible, move to the other end of the green before the jack is rolled or
 - Walk down the space between the rink and the side ditch (match on ditch rink or
 - Walk down a vacant rink beside the rink of play or
 - Walk near the boundary line of the rink of play so that they do not encroach on a rink in use.

2. Club Championships

2.1. Match Formats

Clubs may conduct Championships as knockout, sectional or a combination of both.

Number of ends and bowls used:

2.1.1. Singles

Matches are to be played as the first to score 25 shots – shots in excess of 25 do not count.

2.1.2. Pairs

Matches are to be played as 4 bowls per player in the order lead 2 bowls, skip 2 bowls and repeat. All matches are to be played as 21 ends. If 3 rounds of sectional are played on the same day matches can be of 14 ends duration.

2.1.3. Triples

2 bowls per player, 25 ends, or unless otherwise set in Club Conditions of Play.

2.1.4. Fours

2 bowls per player, 21 ends or unless otherwise set in Club Conditions of Play.

2.2. Eligibility

Players are eligible as per 1.15.

A player may enter 1 (one) only Association Championship Club Singles in one season (Men's / Women's or Open Singles)

A player may enter 1 (one) only Association Championship Club Pairs in one season (Men's / Women's or Open Pairs)

Note – If a Club conducts a Men's Championship **and** a Women's Championship, an Open Gender event is not an Association Championship (for each of Singles and Pairs).

2.3. Singles & Pairs

Club Championships Singles and Pairs must be played in line with the State Championships formats for players to qualify for Champion of Club Champions Singles and Pairs.

Clubs must complete their Club Singles and Pairs by the date shown in the Bowls NSW Calendar for the Club Champions to enter Champion of Club Champions.

Note eligibility in Champion of Club Champions Conditions (see Section 5).

2.4. Triples & Fours

Clubs may determine their own Conditions of Play to conduct Triples & Fours Championships.

Any Conditions put in place for Club Triples and Fours should be aimed at maximizing participation in these events and must be clearly displayed on the entry form for these events.

2.5. Dates of Play

Clubs must conduct their 2024/2025 Singles and Pairs Championships after 1 July 2024 and concluding before the closure of Champion Club Champions Singles and Pairs.

2.6. Eligibility for Champion of Club Champions

Refer Condition 5.3

3. State Championships

3.1. State Championships Categories

There shall be five categories of State Championships

Qualifying shall be conducted in each discipline within Region Boundaries.

Region Winners shall qualify for State Finals

- i. State Men's Championships
- ii. State Women's Championships
- iii. Senior Men's Championships
- iv. Senior Women's Championships
- v. Reserve Championships

3.2. Players Eligibility

Players must satisfy eligibility requirements as set out in General Conditions of Play.

In addition:

3.2.1. Gender Requirements

3.2.2. Men's State Championships and Senior Championships

To enter a Men's State Championship or Men's Senior Championship, the player must be a male member.

3.2.3. Women's State Championships and Senior Championships

To enter a Women's State Championship or Women's Senior Championship, the player must be a female member.

3.2.4. Reserve Championships

There are no gender requirements for Reserve Championships

3.2.5. Additional Event Eligibility Requirements

3.2.5.1. Senior Championships

To enter Senior Championships the player must be aged 60 years or over as at the first date scheduled for **The Bowls Australia Nationals - 4 October 2025**.

3.2.5.2. Reserve Championships

To enter and play in Reserve State Championship a player must:

- i. Have a Previous Season Open Pennant grading of Grade 5, Grade 6 or Grade 7.
- ii. If a player has no Previous Season Open Pennant grading and did not play 50% or more matches in the current or previous season in Division 1 or Division 2 Single Gender Pennant.

3.2.6. One Entry per discipline

A player is eligible to enter each discipline in one event category only.

- i. A player may enter only one of State Singles, Senior Singles or Reserve Singles
- ii. A player may enter only one of State Pairs, Senior Pairs or Reserve Pairs
- iii. A player may enter only one of State Triples, Senior Triples or Reserve Triples
- iv. A player may enter only one of State Fours, Senior Fours or Reserve Fours

A player is eligible to enter different disciplines in different event categories (provide the player meets all eligibility requirements for that category).

3.2.7. Teams

All members of a team are required to be from the same Club. (That is, they shall be registered with Bowls NSW as an Individual Member of that Club). See also General COP 1.14.

3.3. Format

3.3.1. Qualifying

Region may play sectional, knockout or a combination of both as required.

3.3.2. State Finals

State Finals will be conducted as a combination of sectional play and knockout.

3.3.3. Duration of Matches

Reduced durations of matches may be used where 3 matches of sectional play are played in one day, as listed in this clause. Sectional play may be conducted in sections of 3 or 4 teams/players.

3.3.3.1. Singles

State Men's Singles Championships.....25 shots up.

State Women's Singles Championships.....25 shots up.

Senior Men's Singles Championships25 shots up.

Senior Women's Singles Championships.....25 shots up.

Open Reserve Singles Championships.....25 shots up.

3.3.3.2. Pairs

All Pairs are played as 2x2x2x2 except Senior Women's Pairs which is 3 bowls per player.

State Men's Pairs Championships.....21 ends or Sectional 3 rounds per day of 14 ends

State Women's Pairs Championships.....21 ends or Sectional 3 rounds per day of 14 ends

Senior Men's Pairs Championships21 ends or Sectional 3 rounds per day of 14 ends

Open Reserve Pairs Championships.....18 ends Sectional 3 rounds per day of 12 ends

Senior Women's Pairs Championships.....21 ends or Sectional 3 rounds per day of 14 ends

Senior Women's Pairs Championships are 3 bowls per player.

3.3.3.3. Triples

All matches 2 bowls per player

State Men's Triples Championships.....25 ends or Sectional 3 rounds per day of 17 ends

State Women's Triples Championships.....25 ends or Sectional 3 rounds per day of 17 ends

Senior Men's Triples Championships25 ends or Sectional 3 rounds per day of 17 ends

Senior Women's Triples Championships.....21 ends or Sectional 3 rounds per day of 14 ends

Open Reserve Triples Championships.....21 ends or Sectional 3 rounds per day of 14 ends

3.3.3.4. Fours

All matches 2 bowls per player

State Men's Fours Championships.....21 ends Sectional 3 rounds per day of 14 ends

State Women's Fours Championships.....21 ends Sectional 3 rounds per day of 14 ends

Senior Men's Fours Championships21 ends Sectional 3 rounds per day of 14 ends

Senior Women's Fours Championships.....18 ends Sectional 3 rounds per day of 12 ends

Open Reserve Fours Championships.....18 ends Sectional 3 rounds per day of 12 ends

3.3.4. Entry Fee

3.3.4.1. Qualifying

As determined by the Region.

3.3.4.2. State Finals

As determined by the Board of Bowls NSW.

4. NSW State Mixed Pairs

4.1. Match Format

4.1.1. Pairs.

Played as three bowls per player. In the order lead 3 bowls, skip 3 bowls.
Each match shall be played over 18 ends.

4.1.2. Time Limit

2 hours and 15 minutes, not including trial end.

The Controlling Body will signal for matches to commence.

When the time limit is reached a signal will be given that the time limit has been reached.

At the conclusion of the time limit any end in progress shall be completed, but no further ends commenced.

4.1.3. Re-spotting the jack

If a jack in motion passes completely outside the boundaries of the rink or rebounds to a distance less than 18m from the mat line the end shall not be declared dead, but the jack re-spotted on the 2m mark.

4.1.4. Trial Ends

1 trial end shall be permitted before each match.

4.2. Eligibility

4.2.1. Players Eligibility

Players must satisfy eligibility requirements as set out in General Conditions of Play.

4.2.2. Pairs Teams

Pairs Teams are required to be from clubs within the same Region. Players are NOT required to be from the same club.

Teams must comprise of one female player and one male player.

4.2.2.1. Pairs Teams Attire

Composite Pairs teams are not required to be similarly attired. Players may wear their own club uniform.

4.3. Qualifying Play

Qualifying play shall be conducted at local qualifying venues.

Qualifying play shall be conducted as a combination of sectional and knockout play.

4.4. Entry Fees

As determined by the Board of Bowls NSW.

4.5. State Finals

State Finals will be conducted as a combination of sectional and knockout play.

32 Teams will qualify for State Finals.

A minimum of one qualifier from each Region will qualify for the State Finals. Additional places for State Finals will be allocated to Regions based on the number of entries received.

5. Champion of Club Champions

5.1. Competitions

Bowls NSW Champion of Club Champions shall be conducted as single gender competitions:

- Men's Champion of Club Champions Singles
- Men's Champion of Club Champions Pairs
- Women's Champion of Club Champions Singles
- Women's Champion of Club Champions Pairs

5.2. Number of Bowls used & Duration of Matches

5.2.1. Singles:

4 bowls per player, 25 shots up (shots in excess of 25 do not count)

5.2.2. Pairs

4 bowls per player in the order lead 2 bowls, skip 2 bowls and repeat.

Matches shall be played over 21 ends.

Where 3 sectional matches are played in a day, matches shall be played over 14 ends.

5.3. Eligibility

5.3.1. Current Season

The current season Club Champion is eligible to enter the Champion of Club Champions.

5.3.2. Change of Club

Any current season Club Championship winner remains eligible to play in the Champion of Club Champions (as the winner of that club championship) irrespective of any change of declared club after they win that Championship, provided that they are registered with Bowls NSW as a member of an affiliated club.

Attire: Players wear the club uniform of the club with which they won the club championship to qualify.

5.3.3. Where a Club conducts single gender championships

- The Club Men's Singles Champion is eligible to enter the Men's Champion of Club Champions Singles.
- The Club Women's Singles Champion is eligible to enter the Women's Champion of Champions Singles.
- The Club Men's Pairs Champion is eligible to enter the Men's Champion of Club Champions Pairs.
- The Club Women's Pairs Champion is eligible to enter the Women's Champion of Champions Pairs.

5.3.4. Where a Club conducts only open gender championships

- The winner of the Singles Championship is eligible to enter their respective gender Champion of Champions Event.
- If the winner of the Pairs Championship is a mixed team, they are ineligible to enter Champion of Champions. Winning Teams who are both the same gender are eligible to enter their respective Champion of Champions Pairs event.

5.3.5 Where a Club conducts only one Single Gender (male or Female) and an Open Gender championships

- The Single Gender Champion is eligible to enter Champion of Club Champions
- The Open Gender winner is only eligible if the winner is a different Gender to the winner of the Single Gender event.

5.4. Entry

Club Champions will enter directly to State Finals with Bowls NSW.

5.5. Substitutes & Replacement Players

5.5.1. Replacement Players

Replacement players are not permitted.

5.5.2. Substitutes

A substitute will be permitted in Pairs.

The player acting as a substitute must have been eligible to enter the Club Pairs and not have been constituted in that competition.

5.6. Entry Fee

As determined by the Board of Bowls NSW.

5.7. Competition format

Competition will be conducted as a combination of sectional play and knockout.

6. NSW Over 40s Pairs

6.1. Match Format

6.1.1. Pairs.

Played as three bowls per player. In the order lead 3 bowls, skip 3 bowls.

Each match shall be played over 18 ends.

6.1.2. Time Limit

2 hours and 15 minutes, not including trial end.

The Controlling Body will signal for matches to commence.

When the time limit is reached a signal will be given that the time limit has been reached.

At the conclusion of the time limit any end in progress shall be completed, but no further ends commenced.

6.1.3. Respotting the jack

If a jack in motion passes completely outside the boundaries of the rink or rebounds to a distance less than 18m from the mat line the end shall not be declared dead, but the jack re-spotted on the 2m mark.

6.1.4. Trial Ends

1 trial end is permitted before each match.

6.2. Players Eligibility

6.2.1. Age Restrictions

As at October 27, 2024, players must be aged

- i. 40 years and over AND
- ii. 59 years or under

the scheduled completion of the Championship.

6.2.2. Pairs Teams

Pairs Teams are required to be from the same club.

6.2.3. Gender Requirement

There are no gender requirements for NSW Over 40s Pairs.

6.3. Qualifying Play

Qualifying play shall be conducted at local qualifying venues.

Qualifying play shall be conducted as a combination of sectional and knockout play.

6.4. Entry Fees

As determined by the Board of Bowls

6.5. NSW State Finals

State Finals will be conducted as a combination of sectional and knockout play.

32 Qualifiers for Singles and 32 Teams of Pairs will qualify for State Finals.

A minimum of one qualifier from each Region will qualify for the State Finals. Additional places for State Finals will be allocated to Regions based on the number of entries received.

7. NSW Rookies Championships

7.1. Discipline Formats

There shall be two disciplines of NSW Rookies played:

7.1.1. Singles

Played as four bowls per player.

Each match shall be played as 17 shots up. Shots in excess of 17 do not count.

7.1.2. Pairs

Played as three bowls per player. In the order lead 3 bowls, skip 3 bowls.

Each match shall be played over 12 ends.

7.1.3. Trial Ends

One trial end shall be permitted before each match.

7.1.4. Re-spotting the jack

If a jack in motion passes completely outside the boundaries of the rink or rebounds to a distance less than 18m from the mat line the end shall not be declared dead, but the jack re-spotted on the 2m mark.

7.2. Eligibility

7.2.1. Players Eligibility

- i. Players must satisfy eligibility requirements as set out in General Conditions of Play.
- ii. There are no gender requirements for NSW Rookies Championships
- iii. Players must not have been a bowling member of a club (anywhere in the World) before 1 April 2022 **and**
- iv. Must not have played in more than one year of Rookies Competitions in previous years. (ie, may have played in one year only of Rookies in 2022-23 or 2023-24)
- v. Previous State Rookies Winners are ineligible to enter in that discipline.

7.2.2. Pairs Teams

7.2.2.1. Pairs Teams are required to be from clubs within the same Region. Players are NOT required to be from the same club.

7.2.2.2. Pairs Teams Attire

Composite Pairs teams are not required to be similarly attired. Players may wear their own club uniform.

7.3. Qualifying Play

Qualifying play shall be conducted at local qualifying venues.

Qualifying play shall be conducted as a combination of sectional and knockout play.

7.4. Entry Fees

7.4.1. Singles

As determined by the Board of Bowls NSW

7.4.2. Pairs

As determined by the Board of Bowls NSW

7.5. State Finals

32 Qualifiers for Singles and 32 Teams of Pairs will qualify for State Finals.



A minimum of one qualifier from each Region (in singles and in pairs) will qualify for the State Finals. Additional places for State Finals will be allocated to Regions based on the number of entries received.

State Finals will be conducted as a combination of sectional and knockout play.

8. NSW State Junior Championships

8.1. Eligibility

8.1.1. Players

To enter and play in NSW State Junior Championships a player must be:

- i Registered as an Individual Member with Bowls NSW
- ii Have a nominated club in NSW as per the Bowls Australia Affiliation and Eligibility to play policy.
- iii Under the age of 18 years as at the scheduled completion date of the Championship.
- iv Under the age of 15 years as at the scheduled completion of the Championships for Under 15 years event.

8.1.2. Teams

Members of Teams are NOT required to be from the same Club.

8.1.2.1. Team Entries for Team Events

Entries for team events may be submitted as nominated teams.

Members of teams are required to be registered with Bowls NSW and have their declared (Primary) Clubs that are within the same Region Boundaries.

8.1.2.2. Single Entries for Team Events

Entries for team events may be submitted as single entries.

Entries submitted in this way will be formed into teams (as possible) by Bowls NSW. Players in teams formed in this way may be from any club & are not required to be from within the same Region.

8.1.3. Attire for teams:

Teams are not required to be similarly attired. Players shall wear their own club uniform.

8.2. Event Format

Players shall enter direct to Bowls NSW.

Each Championship shall be combination of sectional play and knockout, as required.

Championships shall be conducted in

- Boys Under 18 Years Singles (Restricted to male players)
- Girls Under 18 Years Singles (Restricted to female players)
- Boys Under 15 Years Singles (Restricted to male players)
- Girls Under 15 Years Singles (Restricted to female players)
- Girls Pairs (Restricted to female players)
- Boys Pairs (Restricted to male players)
- Fours (No gender requirements for team composition)

Should there be insufficient entries to successfully conduct a singles event within a category (under 15 &/or Under 18) Bowls NSW Reserve the right to combine categories.

8.3. Match Formats

The NSW State Junior Championships shall be played as follows:

8.3.1. Match Durations

8.3.1.1. Singles

4 bowls per player.

Each match shall be played as 21 shots up. Shots in excess of 21 do not count.

8.3.1.2. Pairs

3 bowls per player in the order lead 3 bowls, skip 3 bowls.

Each match shall be played over 18 ends.

8.3.1.3. Fours

2 bowls per player.

Each match shall be played over 15 ends.

8.3.2. Trial Ends

One trial end shall be permitted before each match.

8.3.3. Time Limits

Singles & Pairs – 1 hour and 45 minutes, not including trial end.

Fours – 2 hours, not including trial end.

8.3.4. Format Alterations

Bowls NSW reserves the right to alter match formats or durations as required to successfully conduct or complete the event.

8.4. Entry Fee

As determined by the Board of Bowls NSW.

9. Australian Indoor Singles (NSW Qualifying)

9.1. Event Format

Singles – Sets Play

Qualifying will be conducted as a combination of sectional play and knockout.

9.1.1. Match Duration

Matches shall comprise of 2 sets of 9 ends, with a 3-end tie breaker if required (Shots count in tie-break)

As per Law 56 (Laws of the Sport of Bowls, Crystal Mark 4th edition, 2023).

All ends in sectional play MUST be completed.

During knockout play, there must be no further play in a set if, at any point, it becomes impossible for one player or team to draw or win the set, given the number of ends left.

9.1.2. First to play:

First Set & Tie Break– the players shall toss a coin – the winner of the toss shall choose whether to roll the jack and play first on the first end.

Second Set: The winner of the first set shall roll the jack and play first on the first end of the second set. If the first set is tied, the winner of the last end of the first set shall roll the jack and play first on the first end of the second set.

9.1.2.1. Re-spotting the jack

If a jack in motion passes completely outside the boundaries of the rink or rebounds to a distance less than 18m from the mat line the end shall not be declared dead, but the jack re-spotted on the 2m mark.

9.1.3. Competition Structure

Competition will be conducted in groups/sections as determined to find the number of Qualifiers to represent NSW as determined by Bowls Australia.

9.2. Eligibility

9.2.1. Australian Indoor Singles (NSW Qualifying) Men

Open to any male registered with Bowls NSW as an Individual Member who has a declared club in NSW as per the Bowls Australia Affiliation and Eligibility to Play Policy (that is, eligible to play State Championships in NSW).

9.2.2. Australian Indoor Singles (NSW Qualifying) Women

Open to any female registered with Bowls NSW as an Individual Member who has a declared club in NSW as per the Bowls Australia Affiliation and Eligibility to Play Policy (that is, eligible to play State Championships in NSW).

9.3. Entry Fee

As determined by the Board of Bowls NSW.

10. Bowls NSW Women's State Carnival

10.1. Eligibility

Only female registered bowlers will be eligible to enter NSW Women's State Carnival.

(Registered with any State or Territory Association recognised by Bowls Australia or with a Member National Authority of World Bowls).

10.1.1. Teams

Teams for the Women's State Carnival shall comprise of four players.

Composite teams are allowed. (Players do not need to be from same declared club).

Teams may alter positions prior to each match played.

10.2. Substitutes

Substitutes may be permitted by the Controlling Body in line with the Bowls NSW General Conditions of Play and Bowls Australia Domestic Regulations.

10.3. Attire

Teams are not required to be similarly attired. Players may wear any approved club uniform or clothing bearing the Bowls Australia logo.

10.4. Entries

Entries must be submitted by the prescribed format and be accompanied with payment of entry fee prior to the nominated close date and time.

The Bowls NSW Limited State Match Committee reserves the right to replace any team in a draw in the event of an approved withdrawal.

If a team withdraws, after the closing date of entries for the competition, the entry fee will be forfeited.

10.4.1. Entry Fee

As determined by the Board of Bowls NSW

10.4.2. Daily Fees

A daily fee shall be paid to the host club each day. This fee will include any morning tea, lunch, and green fees applicable for each day of play.

10.5. Competition Format

10.5.1. Teams

This event is conducted for fours teams.

10.5.2. Re-spotting the Jack

If a jack in motion passes completely outside the boundaries of the rink or rebounds to a distance less than 18m from the mat line the end shall not be declared dead, but the jack re-spotted on the 2m mark.

10.5.3. Trial ends

One trial end is permitted prior to each match.

10.5.4. Sectional Matches:

Will be played over 18 ends with 2 matches per day.

Drawn matches are allowed – there will be no extra end played.

All Sectional Matches must be played.

Determining Section Winners: *as per General COP 1.40.*

10.5.5. Byes

Where a bye occurs in sectional play, the team will be allocated 3 points and +10 shots.

10.5.6. Forfeits

A team forfeiting will be required to pay the daily fee to the host Club. A team not paying the daily fee may have a fine or disciplinary action taken as determined by Bowls NSW.

10.6. Post Sectional Matches:

A draw involving all section winners & required number of best performed second placed sides from sections will be made and all matches will be knockout.

The duration of knockout matches will be determined as required.

Semi Finals, 3rd place playoff and Final will be played over 18 ends.

10.7. Daily Schedule

Morning Tea will be available from 8.30am each day.

Call of cards each day of play will be at 8.50am, followed by trial end and start of play.

A minimum of 30 minutes will be taken for lunch with all afternoons matches to be commenced no later than 1.00pm.

10.8. Prizes

All daily prizes, section winners, playoffs and winners & runner up prizes will be determined upon number of entries and will be declared at time of release of draws.

11. Pennants

11.1. General - For All Pennants

11.1.1. Administration

NSW Open State Pennant, Women's Pennant and Men's Pennant Competitions shall be conducted under the control of the Bowls NSW Limited State Match Committee.

The State Match Committee delegates to Region Match Committees, to administer the competitions within their Regions, in line with these Conditions of Play.

The State Match Committee will administer the competition and draw in Platinum Pennant.

The State Match Committee will administer the competition and draws in Grade 1 Open Pennant, or delegate to the Regions as required.

11.1.2. Entry Fees

Regions may apply any reasonable entry fee on a per side basis.

A State Finals entry fee may be charged by Bowls NSW.

11.1.3. Region Competitions - Endorsement of State Match Committee

All Regions are required to submit a proposal to the State Match Committee outlining the structure and format of each of the Pennant Competitions to be played within the region in that Season.

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

All Region Pennant Submissions must be on the prescribed documents and in the prescribed format. (All Regions 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.

11.1.4. Geographic Draws

Geographic draws may be used.

11.1.5. Multi-Grade or Multi-Division Competitions.

There should be a minimum of four sides involved in each competition.

Where there are low numbers of sides entered in Grades/Divisions, Multi-Grade or Multi-Division Competitions (involving sides from more than one Grade or Division) shall be formed.

Multi Grade or Multi Division Competitions must contain a minimum of two sides forming the lowest Grade or Division making up that competition.

11.1.5.1. Qualification for Post-Sectional Play (Multi Grade/Division)

- i. Where there are two or more sides from a Grade or Division, the highest placed side shall qualify for post-sectional play in that Grade or Division, irrespective of that Side's finishing position on the ladder.
- ii. Where there is one side from a Grade or Division, that side must finish above all sides from a lower Grade/Division to qualify for post-sectional play.

11.1.6. Multi-Region Competitions

Regions with a low number of entries in a Grade or Divisions are encouraged to (as practical) combine for that Grade or Division with a neighbouring region or regions to play a Multi-Region Competition.

The State Match Committee may combine Regions to form competitions in a Grade or Division.

Qualification for State Finals from any such competition will be determined by consultation between the participating Regions and State Match Committee.

11.1.7. Clubs with 2 or more sides in a Grade or Division

- i. Where a Club has two or more sides entered in any grade or Division 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 or Division and players can play in any of the sides during all stages of play (if not graded higher).
- iii. Clubs with 2 or more sides in a grade or Division, 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.

11.1.8. Side Withdrawal

If, after the State Match Committee has approved a Region Submission for a Pennant Competition, a Club withdraws a side, the side to be withdrawn shall be the lowest Grade/Division entered by that Club unless otherwise approved by the State Match Committee.

The Region may submit to the State Match Committee that a side other than the lowest be withdrawn if that is in the best interests in providing balanced, fair and equitable competition in any affected Grades/Divisions.

If a Side is withdrawn without satisfactory explanation the Club may be penalised with A fine not exceeding \$400 may be applied by the Region and/or, Having their entry for any Pennant competition declined for up to one season. Penalties applied under this clause require approval from State Match Committee.

11.1.9. Composite Sides

Clubs may combine to enter composite sides into any Grade or Division.

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

A composite side is required to have players from more than one club participating in each match.

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.

11.1.10. Match & Season Participation Records:

11.1.10.1. Bowlslink

Regions and Clubs are **required** to use Bowlslink to set up and administer competitions.

Please refer to Bowlslink training manuals & tutorials. (Bowls NSW Sports team & Bowls Australia CSM'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 6 hours after each match.
- iii. Clubs are encouraged to maintain their own participation sheet to assist them with player grading records.

11.1.11. 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 (10 Points Open & Men, 7 Points Women) and be credited with a margin of +5 shots per team in each side (+10 for Women's Pennant or +15 for Open & Men's Pennant) 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 -5 shots per team in each side (-10 for Women's Pennant or -15 for Open & Men's Pennant) or the margin by which they lost, whichever is the greater.
- iii. If scores are required to be recalculated (to apply the margin in clause (ii)) 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 the required number of shots.

11.1.12. Forfeits

11.1.12.1. Forfeit During Sectional Play

- i. A side receiving a forfeit during sectional play shall be awarded maximum points (10 Points Open & Men, 7 Points Women) and be credited with a margin of +5 shots per team in each side (+10 for Women's Pennant or +15 for Open & Men's Pennant).
- ii. A side forfeiting shall be awarded 0 points and be credited with a margin of -5 shots per team in each side (-10 for Women's Pennant or -15 for Open & Men's Pennant).
- iii. A side forfeiting shall notify:
 - The Region
 - The opponent
 - The host venue
- iv. All notifications of any forfeits must be at least 24 hours prior to the scheduled start time of any match.
- v. Penalty for failure to notify all 3 above may include a fine not exceeding \$110 for any one offence and/or expulsion from club entering any other Association event for a period of up to 12 months.

11.1.12.2. 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 +5 shots per team in each side (+10 for Women's Pennant or +15 for Open & Men's Pennant), whichever is the higher.

The Side forfeiting shall be awarded 0 points and a similar negative margin.

11.1.13. Play Not Commenced

- i. Matches not commenced may be played as necessary and at the discretion of the Region. The Region should notify all participating clubs of any dates allocated for matches not commenced as soon as practicable. These dates are to be included with Season Calendar.
- ii. Home Clubs must advise the Region of any play not commenced and the reason.
- iii. Regions may determine that if a match will have no bearing on sectional results (first or last place) that it is not required to be played and the match will be declared a tie (5 points each).
- iv. Byes do not count as a match played. Matches determined by the Controlling Body as not requiring to be played may be considered to count towards grading and eligibility for Post-Section.

11.1.14. 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
 - 54 or more ends have been completed (Open / Men)
 - 36 or more ends have been completed (Women)
 - b) resumed at a later date if less than 54/36 (as above) ends have been completed.
- iii. The Region should notify all participating clubs of any dates allocated for matches to be resumed as soon as practicable. Dates as listed in Season Calendar
- 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 Region of any match not able to be completed on the day of play together with reason for stoppage.
- vi. Regions 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 (5 points each).
- vii. Matches determined by the Controlling Body as not requiring to be completed may be considered to count towards grading and eligibility for Post-Section.

11.1.15. 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.

11.1.15.1. 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.

11.1.15.2. 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.

11.2. Platinum Pennant

Platinum Pennants COP will be reviewed and published following the conclusion of the 2023-24 Platinum Pennant competition.

11.3. Open Pennant

11.3.1. Eligibility

Open to **ALL** Bowls NSW Limited registered members, who have a current NSW declared club with a club membership category permitting participation in Association events.

Eligible members affiliated through member club or sub clubs, irrespective of any sub-club administering the competition for that member club can participate in Bowls NSW Open State Pennant.

11.3.2. Competition Grades

11.4. Number of Grades

- i. The Bowls NSW Open State Pennant competition comprises Platinum Pennant and 7 Grades.
- ii. Platinum is considered to be a higher Grade than Grade 1 Pennant and is covered under a separate Conditions of Play.
- iii. Grade 1 is the next 'highest' Grade of Pennant, through to Grade 7 the 'lowest'. All definitions in these Conditions of Play of higher and lower grades refer to this convention.

11.4.1. Sides

Each Pennant side shall comprise three (3) teams of four (4) players. A total of twelve (12) players per side.

11.4.2. Entries

Clubs are allocated grades by State Match Committee based on previous season performance.

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

Clubs may apply for the preferred grades for those additional sides however allocation will be determined by the Region, within their pennant submission, based on creating equitable competitions throughout all grades, with final approval required by State Match Committee.

11.4.2.1. Elevation/Regression of Sides

11.4.2.2. Allocation of Grades

- i. Allocation of grades shall be based on a club's results from the previous season.
- ii. For 2024/25 Bowls NSW Open State Pennant, clubs shall be allocated based on their 2023/24 Bowls NSW Open State Pennant competition grades.

11.4.2.3. Elevation of Clubs

- i. All **2023/2024** Zone Winners of State Open Pennants, Grades 2 to 7, shall be elevated to the next highest grade, irrespective of whether that Club has a side already entered in that higher grade.
- ii. Clubs winning sections in a Zone within a grade of the State Open Pennant Zone competitions may be elevated as required by the need to balance numbers in each grade of competition within the Region.

11.4.2.4. Regression of Clubs

- i. Clubs finishing last in a Zone in State Open Gender Pennant grades 1 to 6 within a Zone **may** be regressed, irrespective of whether that Club has a side already entered in that lower grade.
- ii. Clubs finishing last in sections in a Zone within a grade of the 2023/24 State Open Pennant zone competitions **may** be retained or regressed in that Grade, as required by the need to balance numbers in each grade of competition within the Region.

11.4.2.5. Request for Elevation or Regression

A club may submit a written request for sides to be elevated from a grade, regressed from a grade or retained from a grade in variation of the allocation as per above. Any such application shall be based on an increase or decrease of the number of players eligible for those grades (which will be assessed based on registration and transfer details in BowlsLink).

The Club is responsible for ensuring that it is able to select players in grades they are eligible to play under these Conditions of Play.

11.4.3. Competition Format

11.4.3.1. Duration of Matches

Each match shall consist of 63 ends in total (21 ends per rink) in fours format.

11.4.3.2. Playing Dates

- i. Regions **MUST NOT** start 2024/25 Bowls NSW Open State Pennant competitions prior to **1 February 2025** (unless approved by State Match Committee), and they **MUST** be completed no later than **19 May 2025**.
- ii. Regions must detail length (number of rounds) of each grade competition and any post sectional play format within their Zone Pennant Submission.
- iii. Regions must advise on entry form the dates of play.
- iv. Regions must schedule all rounds of play on weekend dates. These dates can be re-scheduled by clubs, with mutual agreement of both participating clubs by submitting the Match Start Variation Application to the relevant controlling body.

11.4.3.3. State Finals

- i. The Bowls NSW State Open Pennant Finals are scheduled to be played **27-29 June 2025**.
- ii. Region Winners shall qualify for State Finals in Grades 1-7.
- iii. Should a Region not have a winner in any Grade the State Match Committee will offer additional places (to ensure 16 sides competing) to Regions in preference order based on the percentage of sides in that grade per number of clubs in that region.
- iv. All Bowls NSW Open State Pennant Finals for each grade will be sectional play followed by knockout finals.

11.4.4. Method of Scoring.

11.4.4.1. All NSW Open State Pennant Sectional &/or Round Robin matches will be:

11.4.4.2. Allocation of Points

Side Win:	7 points (Side scoring the most aggregate number of shots)
Side Tie (Draw):	3.5 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: 10 points

11.4.4.3. Byes

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

11.4.5. Participation

11.4.5.1. Player Eligibility:

Player's eligibility to participate in Bowls NSW Open State Pennants is based on:

- i. Their grading (if any) from their previous season and then
- ii. Their grading when attained in the current season.
- iii. In exceptional cases, a variation of eligibility may be granted by the State Match Committee.

- iv. Clubs should ensure that their available players are able to be selected in their grades to be allocated, making application for elevation or regression of sides (as per 11.4.2.5.) if necessary.

11.4.5.2. Players with a ‘Nominated’ Club other than a NSW club

- i. Players with a nominated club outside NSW are not eligible to play Open State Pennants unless they:
 - Are registered with Bowls NSW as a member of the NSW Club **prior to the start of the competition AND**
 - Have an Interstate Clearance lodged with Bowls NSW to become an NSW player as **prior to the start of the competition OR**
 - Receive written permission from the State Match Committee to be considered an NSW based player. The player (through the club) shall make written application and shall submit evidence of their case to be considered as an NSW based player. Any player registered after Round 1 of their competition and has been approved by the State Match Committee will not have an Interstate Clearance issued for a return to their previous state until after 1 July 2025.

11.4.5.3. Players from outside NSW

- i. Players who have previously played in a State or Territory other than NSW and who do NOT have a previous season grading from NSW shall be deemed to have a grading in that club’s highest grade and are ineligible to play in a lower grade without receiving permission (regrade) from the State Match Committee.
- ii. Players registered with or playing in a body recognised by another National Association who do not have a NSW Previous Season Grading shall be deemed to have a Previous Season Grading of Grade 1.
- iii. The eligibility of players may be varied on written application (through relevant Region) to the State Match Committee. (Any such variation will be included in any restriction the number of players permitted to play in a grade due to their previous season grading).
- iv. Players covered under this clause must be registered with Bowls NSW and have any required clearances submitted to Bowls NSW to be eligible to play.

11.4.5.4. Variation of Eligibility

- i. Any variation to a player’s eligibility must have the written approval of the State Match Committee. Such application must be made by completing the Player Regrade Application form, which must be sent to Region for endorsement, prior to being sent to State Match Committee for approval.
- ii. Clubs must ensure that their grades proposed to be allocated (before commencement of the season) allow for selection of their players in grades in which they are eligible to play in accordance with these Conditions of Play. An application for elevation should be submitted as per 11.4.2.5 if necessary.
- iii. Applications for variation of players’ eligibility may not be granted for clubs with an excess of higher graded players and may result in the club being elevated to appropriate grade.
- iv. Any player granted a variation of eligibility (regrade) will be counted as 1 of 3 players allowed to play in any grade that is more than 2 grades below their Previous Season Grade.

11.4.5.5. Recording Player’s Gradings.

Players previous gradings shall be recorded on BowlsLink as a certification.

The certification name refers to the grade in which they were graded in sectional play in their previous season, The reference ID for the certification records any previous season winner or regrade restrictions (N or R grades).

11.4.5.6. Player's Eligibility

Players are eligible to play in Grades based on their previous grading in Open State Pennants until they are graded in the current season, regardless of Grades entered by their current club.

11.4.5.7. Previous Season Winners

Previous season Zone Winners shall be recorded as "N" grades. The number of players with "N" grades eligible to play in grades below that "N" grading shall be restricted to 3 in the club's next lowest grade.

N Grades shall only be applied for **the** previous season.

11.4.5.8. Previous season State Winners

Any player graded in a side winning a State Pennant Grades 2-7 shall be graded as "N" one grade higher than the grade they won. State Grade 1 winners shall be recorded as N1.

11.4.5.9. Previous Season Zone Winners

Any player graded in a side winning a Zone Pennant Grades 1-7 shall be graded as "N" in that Grade.

11.4.5.10. All Players

All players (other than previous season winners or players with an eligibility variation) shall be eligible to play no more than two (2) grades below their previous season grading except as otherwise provided in these Conditions of Play, regardless of Grades entered by their current club.

11.4.5.11. Additional Eligibility:

(1) Players changing declared club

A maximum of three players who have changed their declared club from the previous season will be eligible to play more than two grades below their previous season grading in their new club's highest grade.

(2) N Grade

A maximum of three players with an "N" grade are eligible to play in the next lowest side entered (below their N grading) by the club.

(3) Non-Consecutive Grades.

Where a club has a gap of more than two grades below a player's previous season grading, that player is eligible to play in the club's next lowest side entered by that club (note this will apply to all players in that club). Unless they have transferred, see 11.4.5.11(1)

Additionally, a maximum of three (3) players are eligible to play more than 2 grades below their current grade in their club's next grade that is more than 2 grades below the player's current grade.

(4) Total Number of Additional Eligibility

Each Side shall be a limited a total of three for all categories (combined) under this clause. (Eg, 1 player regressed, 1 "N" player and 1 Transfer = 3 Maximum)

11.4.5.12. Graded During Season

A player who becomes graded during a season shall be ineligible to play in a lower grade from the date they become graded. The player shall not play in a lower grade except for a rescheduled match. (they must have been eligible on the original scheduled date and entered into that side in BowlsLink before that date).

11.4.5.13. Player Graded in Current Season

A player shall be graded in the current season once they have played the required number of sectional matches in that grade. The required number of sectional matches in one less than 50% of matches in that grade, with the exception of a competition with 2 sectional matches, where 1 match shall grade the player.

Table: Number of matches to be graded

Number of Sectional Matches in Season	Player is graded after playing
11 or more	5 matches
9 or 10	4 matches
7 or 8	3 matches
5 or 6	2 matches
2, 3 or 4	1 match

11.4.5.14. Graded at end of Sectional Play

A player who has not been graded at the end of sectional play but has played a total (across all grades) of the minimum threshold number of matches applicable to any grade in which they played, shall be graded in the current season in the grade in which they have the greater number of matches (if equal, the lowest grade shall apply).

11.4.5.15. Ungraded in Current Season

A player who has not played a total (across all grades) of the minimum threshold number of matches applicable to any grade in which they played shall retain their previous season grading for the purpose of eligibility in the next season.

11.4.5.16. Eligibility for Post Sectional:

To be eligible for post sectional play a player must have been:

- i. Graded in the current season in that Grade or in a lower Grade OR
- ii. If not graded in the current season, have a previous season grading in that grade or lower or have never been graded in Open State Pennants.

11.4.5.17. Participation in Bowls NSW Open State Pennants

- i. A player is eligible to participate in more than one match in any Round (Platinum to Grade 7), provided they play in the lower Graded match first, and are Graded equal or lower than the second match to be played in the same round.
- ii. In a resumed match, if only one player is unavailable then a Substitute MUST be used; if 2 players are unavailable in a Rink, a Substitute and a Replacement player may be used.
- iii. Matches shall be counted as matches played for grading and eligibility for post-section purposes.
- iv. In a resumed or rescheduled match, the players listed on Bowlslink in the side on the date of when the match was originally scheduled to be played are eligible to play providing their current grade allows. Should this match change their current season grading, their new grade will apply from after this match is completed.

11.4.5.18. Penalties for Infringements

A side playing an ineligible player shall forfeit the match to their opponents (See clause 11.1.11)

11.4.5.19. State Finals

11.4.5.20. State Finals Draw

- i. State Finals will be sectional play followed by knockout finals.

- ii. Clubs shall nominate their sides as three (3) teams of four (4) by completing the Bowls NSW Open State Pennant Finals Registration Form. In each match the draw will be Team 1 v Team 1; Team 2 v Team 2; Team 3 v Team 3.
- iii. If two sides are drawn to play each other in the knockout stages of the finals and those two sides have already played each other in sectional play, the Controlling Body will alter the rink draw to ensure the same teams do not play each other.

11.4.5.21. 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.

11.4.5.22. Bowls NSW Open State Pennant Flags

- Grade 1: Union Jack Blue with White letters
- Grade 2: Red with White letters
- Grade 3: White with Royal Blue letters
- Grade 4: Green with White letters
- Grade 5: Gold with Green letters
- Grade 6: Airforce Blue (Sky Blue) with White letters
- Grade 7: Brown with White letters

11.5. Women’s Pennant

11.5.1. Eligibility

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

11.5.2. Competition Divisions

11.5.2.1. Number of Divisions:

The NSW Women’s Pennant competition comprises 4 divisions.

- i. Clubs shall nominate the number of sides they wish to enter.
- ii. The State Match Committee and Regional Match Committee will determine the Divisions to be allocated to each based on finishing position and performance in post sectional matches from the previous season.
- iii. Clubs entering less sides than the previous season will be removed from the lowest Division entered in the previous season. Clubs may appeal for a variation of this allocation, based on evidence of player loss (Bowlslink Transfers).
- iv. Clubs entering more sides than the previous season may request the additional Division they wish to be added. The additional sides may be allocated by the Regional and State Match Committees based on the number of sides entered in each Division.

11.5.3. Participation

11.5.3.1. Player Eligibility:

Players are eligible to play in Sectional Matches in any Division entered by their Club until they have played the number of matches to be Graded in a Women’s Pennant Division in the Current Season (as per below table).

11.5.3.2. Players from Outside NSW:

Players who have a declared club outside of NSW are NOT eligible to participate in this competition.

Interstate Pennant Declarations are NOT eligible for this competition.

11.5.3.3. Player Grading:

- i. Previous season player gradings do not determine a player’s eligibility for sectional play in the current season unless they transfer to a new club after the competition has been approved.
- ii. If a player transfers to a club after the competition has been approved by SMC, those players can only play in the Division that their Previous season Grade allows providing they have not participated in this event at their previous club. Should the club not be entered in that Division, a maximum of two transferred players can play in the club’s next highest division.

11.5.3.4. Restriction During Season / Graded in Current Season.

- i. Once a player has played 1 less than 50% (unless only a 2-match season) of Sectional matches in a division they become ineligible to play in a lower division for the rest of that season. They may play in a higher division if required. A player who subsequently plays the number of Sectional matches required to be graded in a higher Division becomes Graded and is then ineligible to play in any lower Division.

Number of Sectional Matches in Season	Player is graded after playing
11 or more	5 matches
9 or 10	4 matches

7 or 8	3 matches
5 or 6	2 matches
2, 3 or 4	1 match

Note: Byes do not count as a match played.

Matches determined by the Controlling Body as not requiring to be played may be considered to count towards grading and eligibility for Post-Section.

11.5.3.5. Eligibility for Post Sectional:

To be eligible for post sectional play a player must have been

- i. Graded in the current season in Women's Pennant in that Division or a lower Division OR
- ii. If not graded in the current season, have a previous season grading in that grade or lower or have never been graded in Women's Pennants.

11.5.4. Sides

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

11.5.5. Entries

11.5.5.1. Number of Club Sides

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

11.5.5.2. Clubs with 2 or more sides in a division

- i. See Clause 11.1.7

11.5.5.3. Elevation/Regression

- i. The clubs of a winning State side in 2023-24 Women's Pennant will be elevated to the next highest division **irrespective of whether that Club already has a side in that Division.**
- ii. The Clubs winning a District or Region in 2023-24 may be elevated to the next highest Division.
- iii. The Clubs placing last in a District or Region in 2023-24 Women's Pennant may be regressed to the next lowest division.

11.5.5.4. Clubs Nominate day of Play

- i. The Region shall nominate the default day(s) and time(s) for play in Pennant Competitions.
- ii. If the Region nominates a weekday as the default day for play, Clubs can 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. Regions shall include this information with their submission to the State Match Committee for approval of the proposed competitions.
- iv. Regions should plan matches for maximum participation. This may include later start times or night fixtures.

11.5.6. 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 2024** and be completed no later than **19 January 2025.**
- iii. Regions must detail number of sectional rounds of each division competition and any post sectional play format within their Region Pennant Submission.
- iv. Regions must advise on the entry form the dates of play nominating a 7-day period in which each round must be played (e.g. date in a Mon-Sun period), Regions can also determine if 1 or 2 rounds will be played per week.

11.5.6.1. State Finals

- i. The NSW Women's State Pennant Finals are scheduled to be played 11-13 March 2025.
- ii. There is NO compulsion on any 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.

11.5.6.2. Bowls NSW State Finals Entry Fees

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

11.5.7. Method of Scoring.

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

Side Win:	5 points (Side scoring the most aggregate number of shots)
Side Tie (Draw):	2.5 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: 7 points

11.6. Men's Pennant

11.6.1. Eligibility

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

11.6.2. Competition Divisions

11.6.2.1. Number of Divisions:

The NSW Men'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 previous Open State Pennant grading of 2 or below or are ungraded.
- iii. **Division 3:** Open to all eligible players who have a previous Open State Pennant grading of 4 or below or are ungraded.
- iv. **Division 4:** Open to all eligible players who have a previous Open State Pennant grading of 6 or below or are ungraded.

11.6.3. Participation

11.6.3.1. Player Eligibility:

Players Eligibility is determined by their **previous season** Open State Pennant Grading.

11.6.3.2. Additional Players

A maximum of two players per side in any sectional match are eligible to play no more than one division lower than their Previous Season Grading would otherwise permit. (Note: this may be different players in each match)

Note: No player can play in a Division which is more than 1 Division below their Previous season Grading.

11.6.3.3. Regrades / Variations to Eligibility

There will be **no** regrades/variations to eligibility for Men's Pennant.

11.6.3.4. Players from Outside NSW:

Players who have a declared club outside of NSW are NOT eligible to participate in this competition.

Interstate Pennant Declarations are NOT eligible for this competition.

11.6.3.5. Player Grading:

Matches in Men's Pennant will not alter a player's Open Pennant Grading from their previous season.

11.6.3.6. Restriction During Season

Players may play in any Sectional Match their Previous Season Grading allows throughout the season based on criteria set out in 11.1.7.

11.6.3.7. Eligibility for Post Sectional:

Players may play in any Post Sectional Match their Previous Season Grading allows throughout the season based on criteria set out in 11.5.2.

In each Side in each Division in post-sectional play, a maximum of two players may play no more than one Division lower than their Previous Season Grading would otherwise permit provided those players have played a minimum of 50% of Sectional Matches in THAT Division.

Note: Byes do not count as a match played but matches determined by the Controlling Body as not required to be played may be counted toward eligibility.

11.6.4. Sides

Each Pennant side shall comprise three (3) teams of four (4) players. A total of twelve (12) players per side.

11.6.4.1. Composite Sides

See Clause 11.1.9

11.6.5. Entries

11.6.5.1. Number of Club Sides

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

11.6.5.2. Clubs with 2 or more sides in a division

- i. See Clause 11.1.7

11.6.6. Competition Format

- i. Each match shall consist of 63 ends in total (21 ends per rink) in fours format.
- ii. Competition **MUST** be played from **1 July 2024** and be completed no later than **19 January 2025**.
- iii. Regions must detail length (number of rounds) of each division competition and any post sectional play format within their Region Pennant Submission.
- iv. Region must advise on the entry form the dates of play,

11.6.6.1. State Finals

- i. The NSW Men's State Pennant Finals are scheduled to be played **11-13 March 2025**.
- ii. There is **NO** compulsion on any Region to have competitions in any divisions.
- iii. All NSW Men's State Pennant Finals draws for each division will be based on number of sides qualified.

11.6.7. Method of Scoring.

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

Side Win:	7 points (Side scoring the most aggregate number of shots)
Side Tie (Draw):	3.5 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: 10 points

12. Inter-Region Sides Championship

12.1. Composition of Sides

Each Side shall comprise of three teams, each of four players.

Regions shall nominate their players to make up their teams, nominating their teams as 'team 1', 'team 2' and 'team 3'. The draw in each match shall be team 1 v team 1, team 2 v team 2 and team 3 v team 3. Players may not be changed between teams without prior approval of the Controlling Body.

If sides from the same section meet in post-sectional play the Team Draw shall be:

Team 1 v Team 2, Team 2 v Team 3 and Team 3 v Team 1. (The side higher in the section shall be the left side of the draw).

12.2. Player Eligibility

12.2.1. Women's Inter-Region Sides Championship

- i. Players shall be female and registered with Bowls NSW as an Individual Member and shall have a declared Club which is affiliated with the Region in which they are selected.
- ii. Each Side shall contain a minimum of THREE Players who shall be eligible to be selected to represent NSW at The National Sides Championship & Not eligible to be selected in the National Senior Sides Championship (ie, aged UNDER 60 years of age as at the date specified by Bowls Australia).
- iii. Each Side shall contain a minimum of THREE Players who shall be eligible to be selected to represent NSW at The National Senior Sides Championship (The Nationals) as defined by Bowls Australia (ie aged 60 years or over as at the date specified by Bowls Australia).
- iv. A reserve player may be used, however the requirements of three players (Senior & under 60) as above must be maintained in each match.

12.2.2. Men's Inter-Region Sides Championship

Players shall be male and registered with Bowls NSW as an Individual Member and shall have a declared Club which is affiliated with the Region in which they are selected.

12.2.3. Men's Senior Inter-Region Sides Championship

- i. Players shall be male and registered with Bowls NSW as an Individual Member and shall have a declared Club which is affiliated with the Region in which they are selected.
- ii. Players shall be eligible to be selected to represent NSW at The National Senior Sides Championship (The Nationals) as defined by Bowls Australia (ie, aged 60 years or over as at the date specified by Bowls Australia).

12.2.4. Eligibility

All players selected, Men and Women, MUST be eligible to represent Bowls NSW in the Australian Sides Champions as per Bowls NSW Selection Policy.

12.3. Attire

Sides shall be attired in Region Uniform.

If Region Uniform is unavailable players may be attired in previous Zone or District Uniforms, as available.

12.4. Duration of Matches

Each Match shall comprise of sixty-three (63) ends.

Dead ends do not count (Twenty-one (21) ends per rink).

12.5. Trial Ends

Two (2) trial ends shall be permitted at the commencement of each match.

12.6. Play Not Completed

If a match is not able to be completed (to sixty-three (63) completed ends), a minimum of fifty-four (54) completed ends shall constitute a completed match.

12.7. Determination of Section Winners

12.7.1. Allocation of Points

The method of scoring for all sectional matches shall be:

Side Win:	7 Points (Side scoring the highest aggregate number of shots)
Side Tie (Draw):	3.5 Points (Both Sides Score equal aggregate number of shots)
Side Loss:	0 Points (Side scoring the lesser aggregate number of shots)
Team Win (Rink win):	1 Point (one point for each team of side that wins)
Team Tie (Rink tie):	0.5 Points (0.5 pts for each team of side that ties)

Total 10 Points per match

12.7.2. Determining Section Rankings

- i. As per Side Events COP

12.8. Post Sectional Play

The top 2 placed sides in each section shall play Quarter Finals:

QF1	Winner Section 1 v 2nd Section 2
QF2	Winner Section 2 v 2nd Section 1
QF3	Winner Section 3 v 2nd Section 4
QF4	Winner Section 4 v 2nd Section 3

The Winners of Quarter Finals shall play Semi Finals.

The Winners of Semi Finals shall play the Final.

In each post sectional match, the Side scoring the higher aggregate number of shots shall be declared the winner. If at the completion of the scheduled number of ends scores are tied an extra end or ends shall be played to determine a result.

12.9. Variations to Conditions of Play

The Controlling Body shall have the authority to vary Conditions of Play to bring the Championship to a successful conclusion. The Controlling Body shall advise the Side Managers of the participating sides.

The decision of the Controlling Body shall be final.