BOWLS
NEW SOUTH WALES

# 2025-26

# Conditions of Play

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# 1. General Conditions of Play

### *1.1 Introduction*

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

Situations may arise that are not specifically covered by the 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, and will be published on the Bowls NSW website.

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.

### *1.2 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 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 BA***

Means Bowls Australia Incorporated.

***1.3.6 Board***

Means the Board of Bowls NSW Ltd.

***1.3.7 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.

***1.3.8 Bowling Season***

Means a period that commences 1 July and concludes the following 30 June. Bowls NSW may hold State Finals of events for the current Bowling Season outside of the above dates at its discretion. The 2025/26 Conditions of Play shall apply to a 2025/26 event until its conclusion.

***1.3.9 Bowls NSW***

Means Bowls NSW Ltd.

***1.3.10 Championship Events***

Means events which are under the control of these Conditions of Play (refer clause 1.8).

***1.3.11 Clearance and Registration Transfer Application***

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

***1.3.12 Cleared***

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

***1.3.13 Club and Sub-Club***

Means both Member Clubs and Affiliated Sub-Clubs.

***1.3.14 Competition***

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

***1.3.15 Completion Date***

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

**1.3.16 *Conditions of Play***

Means the rules governing how a competition is played.

***1.3.17 Constitution***

Means the Constitution of Bowls NSW.

***1.3.18 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.

***1.3.19 Controlling Body Representative***

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

***1.3.20 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 Declared (Primary) club on their registration record (Bowlslink).

***1.3.21 Geographic Draws***

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

**1.3.22 *Host Venue***

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

***1.3.23 International / Interstate Event***

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

***1.3.24 Junior Bowler***

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

***1.3.25 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.

***1.3.26 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.

***1.3.27 Match and matches***

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

***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 Member Club***

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

***1.3.30 National Umpire***

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

***1.3.31 Open Reserve Bowler***

Means a player whose Previous Season Open Pennant grading is Grade 5, Grade 6, or Grade 7, or who is ungraded in Open Pennant.

***1.3.32 Order of Precedence***

Means the priority for matches to be played in accordance with the Conditions of Play. (refer clause 1.35).

***1.3.33 Player and players***

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

**1.3.34 *Policy***

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

**1.3.35 *Previous Season Grading***

Means the grading of a player at the conclusion of their previous Pennant Season.

**1.3.36 *Region***

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

**1.3.37 *Region Competition***

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

**1.3.38 *Regulations***

Means any Regulations of Bowls NSW.

**1.3.39 *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.

**1.3.40 *State***

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

**1.3.41 *State Match Committee***

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

**1.3.42 *State Pennant Finals Series***

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

**1.3.43 *Umpires Committee or Panel***

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

**1.3.44 *Uniform Policy***

Means the Bowls NSW Uniform Policy available on its website.

**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.

### *1.4 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.

In special or exceptional circumstances and following written permission from the Bowls NSW State Match Committee, the relevant Match Committee 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 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 Uniform Policy.

### *1.7 Calendars and Schedules*

Regions are required to submit their 2025/26 Bowling Season program to State Match Committee no later than 1 April 2025.

Regions shall include the dates of play for all Championship Events being conducted by them in their Bowling Season program, including provisional dates for deferred matches. All dates of play must also be included on the entry form for the event.

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

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

### *1.8 Championship Events*

The following are Championship Events governed by these Bowls NSW Conditions of Play:

(i) State Pennants (Platinum Pennant, Open State Pennant, Men's Pennant, Women's Pennant)
(ii) Club Major Singles, Pairs, Triples & Fours Championships
(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) Women's State Carnival
(xvii) Such other events as may be declared Championship Events by Bowls NSW.

All other events are not required to be played under the Bowls NSW Conditions of Play. It is the responsibility of the Controlling Body for that event to determine the Conditions of Play.

### *1.9 Deferment of Matches*

A Championship Event shall not be postponed except for inclement weather or other unforeseen, justifiable cause. If two events fall on the same date the one with the higher precedence will be played (refer clause 1.35).

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).

### *1.10 Results*

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

### *1.11 Disqualification*

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

#### *1.11.1 Sectional / Round Robin Play*

Refer clause 1.36.1 Determining Winners in Sectional Play (as per forfeit).
For penalties in Pennant play refer clause 11.11.

#### *1.11.2 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.

### *1.12 Entries*

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

Any entry fee payable must accompany the entry unless alternative arrangements are made with the relevant Controlling Body.

The Controlling Body may accept late entries to fill a vacant position in the draw caused by:

(i) A bye, up until the time the draw is published; or
(ii) A withdrawal up until 24 hours prior to the commencement of Round 1.

### *1.13 Eligibility*

#### *1.13.1 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 registered as their Declared (Primary) 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.

#### *1.13.2 'Same Club' Requirements*

For events conducted at Region or State level with requirements for players forming 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'.

#### *1.13.3 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 approved by 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 – refer clause 1.13.4) and shall become eligible to enter or play with their new Club in any Championship Event 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 (Open/Men/Women)** with their new club.

### *1.13.4 Winners / Qualifiers*

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

### *1.13.5 Players denied entry to a Host Club*

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) In a sides match, that player shall not be eligible to play, and 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.

### *1.13.6 Penalty for eligibility breaches*

(i) For Pennant matches, the penalty applies only to the round(s) in which an ineligible player played.
(ii) In all other Championship Events, the player or team will be disqualified from the event.

## *1.14 Withdrawals and Forfeits*

### *1.14.1 Withdrawal*

A team or any of its intended players may withdraw before becoming constituted in that Championship Event.

Any player withdrawing is regarded as having not entered the Championship Event and is eligible to act as a substitute or replacement player in that Championship Event.

A team withdrawing shall notify the Controlling Body (Club, Region, or Bowls NSW) a minimum of twenty-four (24) hours before their first scheduled match. Notification after this time shall constitute a forfeit.

### *1.14.2 Forfeit*

If a player or team drawn to play cannot do so, and has not withdrawn from the event under clause 1.14.1 or been given dispensation by the Controlling Body under clause 1.35, a forfeit will apply unless:

(i) A Substitute or Replacement Player is permitted under the Bowls Australia Domestic Regulations or clause 1.33; or

(ii) The opponents, by mutual arrangement and with the consent of the Controlling Body, play the match prior to the commencement of the next scheduled round. (Note: the Controlling Body may determine in their event Conditions of Play that match(es) must be played on or before the scheduled date of play). If the match is then not able to be completed as agreed before the next scheduled round (or scheduled date of play, if the Controlling Body has set that condition), the player or team that was originally unable to play on the scheduled date shall be deemed to forfeit that match.

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

### *1.14.3 Penalty for Withdrawals and Forfeits Breaches*

Failure by a player/team to notify the Controlling Body of their intention to forfeit prior to the match start time may result in:

(i) a fine up to $110 per player and/or

(ii) the player(s) entry declined for any Championship event for up to twelve months.

Any penalty levied must have endorsement from the State Match Committee.

### *1.15 Championship Draws*

(i) Clubs and Regions must conduct an open draw for Championship Events (i.e. draws cannot be seeded).

(ii) At least six (6) days' notice shall be given to all players prior to each match.

(iii) The draw for each Championship Event shall include the names of all intended players/sides.

(iv) Region Associations and Bowls NSW may conduct geographic draws.

(v) 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.

(vi) The appropriate Controlling Body shall make any permitted changes.

### *1.16 Starting Times*

Starting times shall be determined by the relevant Controlling Body.

The Controlling Body shall also advise players/teams/sides of the commencement time of trial ends.

### *1.17 Meal Break*

When there are two or more scheduled matches to be played in a day, one thirty (30) minute meal break will be allocated during the day.

### *1.18 Late Arrivals*

If, 30 minutes after the scheduled start time for a Championship match, one or more players are absent from a team and no substitute is available and/or permitted by the Controlling Body, that team shall forfeit the match to their opponents.

The Controlling Body may 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).

For a Sides match, refer clause 1.33.7.

### *1.19 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 in the 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.

### *1.20 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.

### *1.21 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 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.

### *1.22 Requirements for stamps on bowls*

Bowls NSW does not require bowls to be re-tested and re-stamped every 10 years for Championship Events. The 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.

### *1.23 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.

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

Worn or faded stickers shall be removed or replaced.

Each bowl shall have only one layer of sticker on each side at any time.

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

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

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.

### *1.24 Markers*

#### *1.24.1 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 or Territory of Australia and/or a 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.

(iii) A singles player drawn in 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 if it is played on the same day they are drawn to play, if required by the Controlling Body.

(v) A player defeated in Clubs Singles must mark a match in the subsequent round, if required by the Club Controlling Body.

(vi) If more markers are available than required, names shall be drawn by lot before the first match.

(vii) A substitute marker may mark.

#### *1.24.2 Penalty*

Failure to mark if required may result in:

(i) a fine up to $110 per player and/or

(ii) the player(s) entry declined for any Championship event for up to twelve months.

Any penalty levied must have endorsement from the State Match Committee.

### *1.25 Inclement Weather*

Any decision to suspend or abandon play should be made in line with the Bowls NSW Extreme Weather Guidelines.

A host Club may have its own policy under which play is suspended because of extreme weather.

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 singles player(s), team(s) or side(s) making that appeal.

The health and safety of players should be the primary consideration in determining whether play should be suspended or abandoned.

### *1.26 Appeals and Disputes*

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

If an immediate match result is required, any decision taken by a Controlling Body shall be binding.

If an immediate result is not required, an appeal may be made to the next highest authority:

(i) Club, then
(ii) Region, then
(iii) State Match Committee, then
(iv) Bowls NSW Board/Appeals Tribunal.

Appeals must be accompanied by all relevant information.

An appeal may be made on the grounds that:

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

### *1.27 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 not be used for communication other than in an emergency.

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

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

### *1.28 Player Damaging Green*

The appointed Controlling Body may 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.

### *1.29 Wheelchairs & Walking Frames*

Wheelchairs and walking frames should be used in accordance with the Bowls Australia Artificial Devices Policy.

### *1.30 Coaching*

The coach of a player, team or side can give advice to the player(s) 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 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 clause has been broken the umpire must ask the coach concerned to stay within the clause. If they do not stay within the clause, the umpire must ask the Controlling Body to take immediate action to make sure that the offender stops breaking the clause.

### *1.31 Working with Children / Junior Bowlers*

A coach of any Junior bowler and/or any individuals coaching at any Junior event must have a valid Working with Children Check certification recorded on Bowlslink.

### *1.32 Restricting Movement of Players*

#### *1.32.1 General*

(i) At any time, if the Skip needs to leave the green, they may appoint a team member to direct the head until they return to the green.

(ii) Any allowance for a player's movement to the head "after delivery of" a particular bowl includes movement immediately before playing their following bowl, while in possession of the rink.

(iii) There is no restriction on the movement of Skips, Seconds in Triples, and Thirds in Fours when their team is in possession of the rink, provided they observe the Laws of the Sport regarding Position of Players on the Green (Law 12), and also clause 1.32.5, Delaying Play.

#### *1.32.2 At the Start of an End*

Before the jack is delivered to start each end, Singles players, leads in all formats, and Seconds in a Fours game shall be at the mat end of the rink.
Skips, Seconds in Triples, and Thirds in Fours may be at the head end of the rink.

### *1.32.3 During the End*

Singles players, leads in all formats, and Seconds in a Fours game may only move from the mat end to the head end of the rink as follows:

(i) **Singles players**
After delivery of their third and fourth bowls. A Singles player is not permitted to ask the marker for permission to move to the head before they have delivered three bowls.

(ii) **Leads**

| | |
|---|---|
| **4-bowl Pairs (2-2-2-2)** | After delivery of their second, third and fourth bowls. |
| **3-bowl Pairs** | After delivery of their third bowl. |
| **Triples (2-bowl)** | After delivery of their second bowl. |
| **Fours** | After delivery of their second bowl. |

(iii) **Seconds in a Fours game** After delivery of their second bowl.

### *1.32.4 Players transferring from Head to Mat End*

(i) Leads in 4-bowl Pairs must cross to the mat end at the same time, when it is their turn to play their third bowl(s).

(ii) Skips, Seconds in Triples, and Thirds in Fours may remain at the head until it is their turn to play their own bowl.

### *1.32.5 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.

## *1.33 Substitutes and Replacements*

### *1.33.1 Definitions*

(i) **Eligible member**
A player who satisfies the eligibility criteria, as stated in the Conditions of Play for that event.

(ii) **Affiliated member**
A player who is registered with a State or Territory Association as a member of an affiliated club.

(iii) **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.

(iv) **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.

### *1.33.2 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.

### *1.33.3 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 (i.e., did not withdraw – refer clause 1.14.1) 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.

### *1.33.4 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 side's 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 Australian National, State or Regional Representative side.

***1.33.5 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.

***1.33.6 Substitutes and Replacements in State Open/Men's/Women's Pennant***

Substitutes are permitted in State Pennant Matches.

Replacement Players are permitted to be used in State Pennant Matches only where:

(i) the match has been commenced but not been completed and is then resumed on a subsequent date.

(ii) 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.

***1.33.7 Absentee players in a side game.***

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:

(i) A team with an absent player plays as though the second is the missing player.

(ii) Each player must use the number of bowls specified in the Conditions of Play for that event.

(iii) The order of play shall be maintained by the second of the complete team playing consecutive bowls.

(iv) If a player is unable to continue the game and no substitute or replacement player is available or allowed, play will continue as with one playing missing as per clause 1.33.7 (i), (ii) and (iii).

(v) There is no adjustment to match scores at the conclusion of the game due to a side having a missing player(s).

(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.

***1.34 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.

### *1.35 Concurrent Events and Order of Precedence.*

#### *1.35.1 Players*

Where a player is scheduled to play in a championship event and is not able to do so because of selection for New South Wales or Australia at an event scheduled to be played at the same time, reasonable time being allowed for travel, the Controlling Body should reschedule the championship round(s) if possible.

The above also applies to participation for selection trials for New South Wales or Australian representation.

Any player requesting that an event be rescheduled must apply a minimum of seven (7) days in advance. If the event cannot be rescheduled, the player must decide which event to contest.

#### *1.35.2 Officials*

Where a player who is scheduled to play in a championship event is appointed as Coach or Manager for a Region or Bowls NSW Junior Side scheduled to play at the same time, they may apply to the Controlling Body for the championship event to be rescheduled.

This does not apply to other Region or State officials.

#### *1.35.3 Priority Events*

Players 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.

(i) **Category 1**
Australian National Representation, State Representation, Australian Open, Bowls Australia Nationals, BPL, BPL Cup National Finals.

(ii) **Category 2**
Bowls NSW Championships Event State Finals, Bowls NSW Inter-Region Championships, BPL Cup State Finals.

(iii) **Category 3**
Region qualifying events for State Championships.

### *1.36 Determining Section Winners / Standings*

#### *1.36.1 Drawn matches in sectional play*

In the event of a drawn game in a three player/team/side section where the winner of Round 1 is to progress to the third round and the loser of Round 1 to the second round, the player/team/side on the left/top of the draw will be the player/team/side who progresses to Round 3.

#### *1.36.2 Singles / Team Games*

(i) **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)

(ii) **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 involving the forfeiting team shall be declared a forfeit, with no results recorded for the player/team receiving the forfeit.

(iii) **Sectional Standings**
The winner of the sectional series of matches shall be determined as follows:

- The player or team scoring the highest number of points shall be declared the winner.
- 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.
- If there is still a tie, the player or team with the lowest 'total shots against' shall be the winner.
- If two players or teams remain tied, the winner of the match between those teams/players shall be declared the winner.
- 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.
- If there is still a tie in singles, the player to have conceded the least number of ends shall be the winner.
- If two players or teams remain tied, there will be a drawing of lots by the Controlling Body to determine final section placings.

### *1.36.3 Sides Matches*

(i) **Determining Section Rankings**

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

- The side scoring the highest number of points.
- The side with the largest difference between 'total shots for' and 'total shots against'.
- The lowest 'total shots against'.
- The aggregate results from matches played between the equal sides using (i.), (ii.), (iii.) above (in that order).
- The drawing of lots by the Controlling Body.

(ii) **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.

### *1.37 Artificial Light*

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

### *1.38 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.

### *1.38.1 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 four bowls per player in the order lead two bowls, skip two bowls and repeat. All matches are to be played as eighteen ends.

#### *2.1.3 Triples*

Two bowls per player, twenty-five ends, or unless otherwise set in Club Conditions of Play.

#### *2.1.4 Fours*

Two bowls per player, twenty-one ends or unless otherwise set in Club Conditions of Play.

### *2.2 Eligibility*

Players are eligible as per clause 1.13.
A player may enter 1 (one) only Association Championship Club Singles in a season (Men's / Women's or Open Singles).
A player may enter 1 (one) only Association Championship Club Pairs in a 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).

#### *2.2.1 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.

#### *2.2.2 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 maximising participation in these events and must be clearly displayed on the event entry form.

#### *2.2.3 Dates of Play*

Clubs must conduct their 2025/26 Singles and Pairs Championships after 1 July 2025 and concluding before the closure of Champion Club Champions Singles and Pairs.
If a Club does not comply with this clause, their winner(s) shall not be eligible to participate in the 2025/26 Champion of Champions.

#### *2.2.4 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:

(i) State Men's Championships
(ii) State Women's Championships
(iii) Senior Men's Championships
(iv) Senior Women's Championships
(v) Open Reserve Championships

Qualifying shall be conducted in each discipline within Region Boundaries.

Region Winners shall qualify for State Finals

### *3.2 Players Eligibility*

Players must satisfy eligibility requirements as set out in General Conditions of Play (refer clause 1.13).

**In addition:**

#### *3.2.1 Gender Requirements*

(i) **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.

(ii) **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.

(iii) **Open Reserve Championships**

There are no gender requirements for Open Reserve Championships.

#### *3.2.2 Additional Event Eligibility Requirements:*

(i) **Senior Championships**
To enter a Senior State Championship the player must be aged 60 years or over on 1 July 2025.

(ii) **Open Reserve Championships**
To enter and play in a Reserve State Championship a player must have a previous season Open Pennant grading of Grade 5, Grade 6 or Grade 7 or be ungraded in Open Pennant.

(iii) **One Entry per discipline**
A player is eligible to enter each discipline in one event category only.

- A player may enter only one of State Singles, Senior Singles or Reserve Singles
- A player may enter only one of State Pairs, Senior Pairs or Reserve Pairs
- A player may enter only one of State Triples, Senior Triples or Reserve Triples
- 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, providing the player meets all eligibility requirements for that category.

(iv) **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).

### *3.3 Format*

#### *3.3.1 Qualifying*

Region may play sectional, knockout or a combination of both as required.
If sectional play is used, only section winners shall progress to the next stage of the competition.

#### *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 sectional play is played in one day, as listed in this clause.

Sectional play may be conducted in sections of 3 or 4 teams/players, or 2 teams/players when there has been withdrawals or forfeits in a section following the release of the draw.

The amount of ends, or shots up in Singles, shall be consistent across all sections regardless of the number of entries.

(i) **Singles**

All matches four bowls per player

| | |
|---|---|
| State Men's | 25 shots up or three sectional rounds per day of 21 up |
| State Women's | 25 shots up or three sectional rounds per day of 21 up |
| Open Reserve | 25 shots up or three sectional rounds per day of 21 up |
| Senior Men's | 25 shots up or three sectional rounds per day of 21 up |
| Senior Women's | 25 shots up or three sectional rounds per day of 21 up |

(ii) **Pairs**

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

| | |
|---|---|
| State Men's | 18 ends or three sectional rounds per day of 12 ends |
| State Women's | 18 ends or three sectional rounds per day of 12 ends |
| Open Reserve | 18 ends or three sectional rounds per day of 12 ends |
| Senior Men's | 18 ends or three sectional rounds per day of 12 ends |
| Senior Women's | 21 ends or three sectional rounds per day of 14 ends |

(iii) **Triples**

All matches two bowls per player

| | |
|---|---|
| State Men's | 25 ends or three sectional rounds per day of 17 ends |
| State Women's | 25 ends or three sectional rounds per day of 17 ends |
| Open Reserve | 25 ends or three sectional rounds per day of 17 ends |
| Senior Men's | 25 ends or three sectional rounds per day of 17 ends |
| Senior Women's | 21 ends or three sectional rounds per day of 14 ends |

(iv) **Fours**

All matches two bowls per player

| | |
|---|---|
| State Men's | 21 ends or three sectional rounds per day of 14 ends |
| State Women's | 21 ends or three sectional rounds per day of 14 ends |
| Open Reserve | 21 ends or three sectional rounds per day of 14 ends |
| Senior Men's | 21 ends or three sectional rounds per day of 14 ends |
| Senior Women's | 18 ends or three sectional rounds per day of 12 ends |

### *3.4 Entry Fee*

#### *3.4.1 Qualifying*

As determined by the Region.

#### *3.4.2 State Finals*

As determined by the Board of Bowls NSW.

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

# 4. NSW State Mixed Pairs

### *4.1 Match Format*

Played as three (3) bowls per player, in the order lead three bowls, skip three bowls. Each match shall be played over seventeen ends.

#### *4.1.1 Time Limit*

2 hours, 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.

#### *4.1.2 Re-spotting the jack*

If a jack in motion passes completely outside the boundaries of the rink of play or rebounds to a distance of less than 18 metres from the mat line, the end should not be declared dead. Instead, the jack should be placed with the nearest point of the jack to the mat line at a spot on the rink which is two metres from the front ditch and on the centre line, and play should continue.

If the spot mentioned in paragraph one is partly or completely covered by a bowl, the jack should be placed as close as possible to the covered spot, in line with that spot and the corresponding spot at the opposite end of the rink, without touching a bowl.

#### *4.1.3 Trial Ends*

One trial end shall be permitted before each match.

### *4.2 Eligibility*

#### *4.2.1 Player Eligibility*

Players must satisfy membership affiliation requirements as set out in General Conditions of Play (refer clause 1.13).

#### *4.2.2 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.

### *4.3 Attire*

Composite pairs teams are not required to be similarly attired.

Players shall wear their own club uniform.

### *4.4 Qualifying Play*

Qualifying play shall be conducted at local qualifying venues.

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

### *4.5 Entry Fees*

As determined by the Board of Bowls NSW.

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

### *4.6 State Finals*

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

Thirty-two teams will qualify for State Finals.

A minimum of one team 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:

(i) Men's Champion of Club Champions Singles
(ii) Men's Champion of Club Champions Pairs
(iii) Women's Champion of Club Champions Singles
(iv) Women's Champion of Club Champions Pairs

***5.2 Format & Duration***

***5.2.1 Singles:***

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

***5.2.2 Pairs***

Four bowls per player in the order lead two bowls, skip two bowls and repeat.

Matches shall be played over eighteen ends.

Where three sectional matches are played in a day, matches shall be played over twelve 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 their Declared Club is an affiliated club of Bowls NSW.

***5.3.3 Attire***

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

***5.3.4 Where a Club conducts single gender championships***

(i) The Club Men's Singles Champion is eligible to enter the Men's Champion of Club Champions Singles.
(ii) The Club Women's Singles Champion is eligible to enter the Women's Champion of Champions Singles.
(iii) The Club Men's Pairs Champion is eligible to enter the Men's Champion of Club Champions Pairs.
(iv) The Club Women's Pairs Champion is eligible to enter the Women's Champion of Champions Pairs.

***5.3.5 Where a Club conducts only open gender championships***

(i) The winner of the Singles Championship is eligible to enter their respective gender Champion of Champions Event.

(ii) 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.

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

(i) The Single Gender Champion is eligible to enter Champion of Club Champions.

(ii) 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.

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

***5.7 State Finals***

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

# 6. NSW Over 40s Pairs

### *6.1 Match Format*

Played as three bowls per player, in the order lead three bowls, skip three bowls.
Each match shall be played over seventeen ends.

#### *6.1.1 Time Limit*

2 hours, not including trial end before each match.

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.

#### *6.1.2 Respotting the jack*

If a jack in motion passes completely outside the boundaries of the rink of play or rebounds to a distance of less than 18 metres from the mat line, the end should not be declared dead. Instead, the jack should be placed with the nearest point of the jack to the mat line at a spot on the rink which is two metres from the front ditch and on the centre line, and play should continue.

If the spot mentioned in paragraph one is partly or completely covered by a bowl, the jack should be placed as close as possible to the covered spot, in line with that spot and the corresponding spot at the opposite end of the rink, without touching a bowl.

#### *6.1.3 Trial End*

One trial end is permitted before each match.

### *6.2 Player Eligibility*

#### *6.2.1 Age Restrictions*

Players must be aged:

(i) 40 years and over on 1 July 2025 **and**

(ii) 59 years or under at the scheduled completion of the Championship, December 7, 2025.

#### *6.2.2 Teams*

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 NSW.

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

### *6.5 NSW State Finals*

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

32 Teams of Pairs will qualify for State Finals.

A minimum of one team 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 Disciplines & 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 three bowls, skip three bowls.

Each match shall be played over eleven ends.

#### *7.1.3 Trial End*

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 of play or rebounds to a distance of less than 18 metres from the mat line, the end should not be declared dead. Instead, the jack should be placed with the nearest point of the jack to the mat line at a spot on the rink which is two metres from the front ditch and on the centre line, and play should continue.

If the spot mentioned in paragraph one is partly or completely covered by a bowl, the jack should be placed as close as possible to the covered spot, in line with that spot and the corresponding spot at the opposite end of the rink, without touching a bowl.

### *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 2023, and
(iv) Must not have previously played in more than one season in any discipline (Singles or Pairs) of Rookies Competitions. (i.e., may have played in one season only of Rookies in 2023/24 or 2024/25).
(v) Previous State Rookies winners are ineligible to enter in that discipline.

#### *7.2.2 Teams*

Teams are required to be from clubs within the same Region.

Players are not required to be from the same club.

#### *7.2.3 Attire*

Composite 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

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

#### *7.4.2 Pairs*

As determined by the Board of Bowls NSW

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

### *7.5 State Finals*

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

A minimum of one player/team 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.

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, April 17, 2026.

(iv) Under the age of 15 years as at the scheduled completion of the Championships for Under 15 years event, April 17, 2026.

(v) 12 years or under as at the scheduled completion of the Championships for the 12 years and under event, April 17, 2026.

#### *8.1.2 Teams*

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

### *8.2 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.

### *8.3 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.

### *8.4 Attire*

Teams are not required to be similarly attired.

Players shall wear their own club uniform.

### *8.5 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:

(i) Boys Under 18 Years Singles (Restricted to male players)

(ii) Girls Under 18 Years Singles (Restricted to female players)

(iii) Boys Under 15 Years Singles (Restricted to male players)

(iv) Girls Under 15 Years Singles (Restricted to female players)

(v) 12 and Under Singles (open to male and female players)

(vi) Girls Pairs (Restricted to female players)
(vii) Boys Pairs (Restricted to male players)
(viii) Fours (open to male and female players)

NOTE: Should there be insufficient entries to successfully conduct a singles event within a category (12 and under, under 15 &/or Under 18) Bowls NSW reserve the right to combine categories.

### *8.6 Match Formats & Durations*

#### *8.6.1 Singles*

Four bowls per player.

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

#### *8.6.2 Pairs*

Three bowls per player, in the order lead three bowls, skip three bowls.

Each match shall be played over eighteen ends.

#### *8.6.3 Fours*

Two bowls per player.

Each match shall be played over fifteen ends.

#### *8.6.4 Trial Ends*

One trial end shall be permitted before each match.

#### *8.6.5 Time Limits*

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

Fours – 2 hours, 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.

#### *8.6.6 Format Alterations*

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

### *8.7 Re-spotting the Jack*

If a jack in motion passes completely outside the boundaries of the rink of play or rebounds to a distance of less than 18 metres from the mat line, the end should not be declared dead. Instead, the jack should be placed with the nearest point of the jack to the mat line at a spot on the rink which is two metres from the front ditch and on the centre line, and play should continue.

If the spot mentioned in paragraph one is partly or completely covered by a bowl, the jack should be placed as close as possible to the covered spot, in line with that spot and the corresponding spot at the opposite end of the rink, without touching a bowl.

### *8.8 Entry Fee*

As determined by the Board of Bowls NSW.

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

# 9. Australian Indoor Singles (NSW Qualifying)

### *9.1 Event Format*

Sets Play.

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

### *9.2 Match Duration*

Matches shall comprise of two sets of nine ends, with a 3-end tie breaker if required (shots count in tie-break).

Refer 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 to draw or win the set, given the number of ends left.

### *9.3 First to play*

#### *9.3.1 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.

#### *9.3.2 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.

### *9.4 Re-spotting the jack*

If a jack in motion passes completely outside the boundaries of the rink of play or rebounds to a distance of less than 18 metres from the mat line, the end should not be declared dead. Instead, the jack should be placed with the nearest point of the jack to the mat line at a spot on the rink which is two metres from the front ditch and on the centre line, and play should continue.

If the spot mentioned in paragraph one is partly or completely covered by a bowl, the jack should be placed as close as possible to the covered spot, in line with that spot and the corresponding spot at the opposite end of the rink, without touching a bowl.

### *9.5 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.

### *9.6 Eligibility*

#### *9.6.1 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).

#### *9.6.2 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).

### *9.7 Entry Fee*

As determined by the Board of Bowls NSW.

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

### *9.8 Determining Section Winners*

The winner of the sectional series of matches shall be determined as follows:

- The player with the highest number of game points scored.
- If game points are equal, the player with the highest number of sets won.
- If game points and sets won are equal, the player with the highest net total of set points over all games in the section.
- If game points, sets won and net totals of set points are equal, the player with the highest net total of shots over all games in the section (not including tie-breaker ends).
- If game points, sets won, net totals of set points and net totals of shots are equal, the player or team that won the game between the players that are equal.

# 10. Bowls NSW Women's State Carnival

### *10.1 Eligibility*

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

Players may be registered with any State or Territory Association recognised by Bowls Australia, or with a Member National Authority of World Bowls.

### *10.2 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.

### *10.3 Substitutes*

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

### *10.4 Attire*

Teams are not required to be similarly attired.

Players may wear their approved club uniform or any clothing bearing the Bowls Australia logo.

### *10.5 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 State Match Committee reserves the right to replace any team in a draw in the event of an approved withdrawal.

### *10.6 Entry Fee*

As determined by the Board of Bowls NSW.

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

#### *10.6.1 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.

### *10.7 Competition Format*

#### *10.7.1 Re-spotting the Jack*

If a jack in motion passes completely outside the boundaries of the rink of play or rebounds to a distance of less than 18 metres from the mat line, the end should not be declared

dead. Instead, the jack should be placed with the nearest point of the jack to the mat line at a spot on the rink which is two metres from the front ditch and on the centre line, and play should continue.

If the spot mentioned in paragraph one is partly or completely covered by a bowl, the jack should be placed as close as possible to the covered spot, in line with that spot and the corresponding spot at the opposite end of the rink, without touching a bowl.

***10.7.2 Trial end***

One trial end is permitted prior to each match.

***10.7.3 Sectional Matches:***

Will be played over eighteen ends per match, with two matches per day.

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

All ends in sectional matches must be played.

***10.7.4 Determining Section Winners***

Refer General Conditions of Play clause 1.40.

***10.7.5 Byes***

Where a bye occurs in sectional play, the team receiving the bye will be allocated three points and +7 shots.

***10.7.6 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 by Bowls NSW.

***10.8 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, third place playoff and Final will be played over eighteen ends.

***10.9 Daily Schedule***

Morning Tea will be available from 8.30am each day.

Call of cards each day of play will be at 9:15am, 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.

### *10.10 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. General information for all Pennant competitions

### *11.1 Administration*

NSW Open State Pennant (including Platinum), Men's Pennant, and Women's Pennant Competitions shall be conducted under the control of the 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.

### *11.2 Entry Fees*

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

Bowls NSW may charge a State Finals entry fee.

### *11.3 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 during the season.

The State Match Committee must receive all Region Open Pennant Submissions no later than 28 November 2025.

Region Match Committees must send their Men's & Women's Pennant submissions to the State Match Committee for approval a minimum of eight (8) weeks prior to the commencement of their competition.

All Region Pennant Submissions must be on the Bowls NSW prescribed documents and in the prescribed format.

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, or the addition or deletion of sides) after approval by the State Match Committee must be submitted to State Match Committee for consideration.

### *11.4 Geographic Draws*

Geographic draws may be used.

### *11.5 Multi-Grade or Multi-Division Competitions.*

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

Where there are small 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.

In a Multi-Grade or Multi-Division competition, there must be at least two sides competing in the lowest Grade or Division in that competition.

#### *11.5.1 Qualification for Post-Sectional Play (Multi Grade/Division)*

(i) Where there are two or more sides from a Grade or Division, the highest-placed of those sides 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 only one side from a Grade or Division, that side must finish above all sides from any lower Grade/Division to qualify for post-sectional play.

### *11.6 Multi-Region Competitions*

Regions with a small number of entries in a Grade or Division are encouraged (as practical) to combine that Grade or Division with a neighbouring Region(s) 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 the State Match Committee.

### *11.7 Clubs with two 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, 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 two (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, or if geographic draws are used, those sides must be drawn to play each other in round one and any corresponding round. This also applies to Clubs that are part of a composite entry.

(iv) Where a Club has more than one side in the Region or State playoff in the same Grade or Division they shall play each other in the first post-sectional match, irrespective of whether it is sectional play or knockout.

### *11.8 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 or 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 or Divisions.

If a Side is withdrawn without satisfactory explanation, the Club may be penalised with:
(i) a fine of up to $400 and/or
(ii) the Club's entry for any Pennant competition being declined for up to twelve months.

Any penalty levied must have endorsement from the State Match Committee.

### *11.9 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) Name s of the clubs forming the composite side.
(ii) The playing uniform to be worn by the composite side. This may be the individual club uniform of each player, or a neutral uniform.
(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, receiving any winning flags, entering match information in Bowlslink, and keeping of player participation records.

### *11.10 Match & Season Participation Records:*

#### *11.10.1 Bowlslink*

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

Please refer to Bowlslink training manuals & tutorials for assistance.

(i) Clubs must submit their sides in Bowlslink no later than 8:00pm on the day prior to the match being played.
(ii) Clubs must confirm their results from each match in Bowlslink no later than six (6) hours after each match.
(iii) Clubs are encouraged to maintain their own participation sheet to assist them with player grading records.

### *11.11 Penalties for fielding an ineligible player*

Using an ineligible player (as set out in the Conditions of Play for that Pennant competition) will result in that side forfeiting the match to their opponents.

(i) The infringing side shall be awarded zero points and be credited with a margin of -5 shots per team in the side, or the margin by which they lost, whichever is the greater.
(ii) The non-infringing side shall be awarded maximum points (10 points Open & Men's, 7 points Women's) and credited with a margin of +5 shots per team in the side or the margin by which they won, whichever is the greater.
(iii) If scores need to be recalculated to achieve the margin(s) described above:

- the infringing side shall retain the number of shots they scored in the match, and
- the non-infringing side shall have as many additional shots added to their score as is necessary to create a 5-shot-per-team margin over their opponent.

### *11.12 Forfeits*

#### *11.12.1 Forfeit During Sectional Play*

(i) Any forfeit must be from the Club's lowest grade/division scheduled to play on that day.
(ii) The side receiving a forfeit shall be awarded maximum points (10 points Open & Men's, 7 points Women's) and be credited with a margin of +5 shots per team in each side.
(iii) The side forfeiting shall be awarded zero points and be credited with a margin of -5 shots per team in each side.
(iv) A side forfeiting shall notify the:

- Region
- opponent
- host venue

at least 24 hours prior to the scheduled start time of any match.

**Penalty** Failure to notify all three above at least 24 hours prior may result in:

- a fine up to $400 for any one offence and/or
- the Club's entry to any other Championship Event for up to twelve months.

Any penalty levied must have endorsement from the State Match Committee.

#### *11.12.2 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.

The side receiving the forfeit shall be credited with the higher of:

(i) its score at the time of the forfeit, increased in proportion to account for the number of ends remaining, or

(ii) its score at the time of forfeit plus an additional five shots per team in the side.

The forfeiting side shall be awarded zero points and a similar negative margin.

### *11.13 Play Not Commenced*

(i) The home club must advise the Region of any play not commenced and the reason.

(ii) Matches not commenced shall be played at a later date set down by the Region in its season calendar, as all matches may have a bearing on the Pennant Grades/Divisions allocated to clubs in the following bowling season.

The Region shall notify all participating clubs of the allocated date as soon as possible.

### *11.14 Play Not Completed*

If a match is stopped due to inclement weather, the Controlling Body can allow a period of up to 60 minutes to determine whether play can be re-commenced.

If a match is stopped and unable to be resumed the match shall be either:

(i) deemed to be complete if, on that day

- Fifty-four or more ends have been completed (Open / Men's)
- Thirty-six or more ends have been completed (Women's), **or**

(ii) resumed at a later date if 54/36 ends (as above) have not been completed.

(iii) If a match is not completed and cannot be resumed the same day, any score cards used must be signed by both teams noting the time of stoppage and handed to the controlling body. Upon any resumption of play on a later date, teams are allowed two (2) trial ends each, with the match resuming from the end last played.

(iv) The host club must notify the Region of any match not able to be completed on the day of play, together with the reason for the stoppage.

(v) Matches not completed shall be completed at a later date set down by the Region in its season calendar, as all matches may have a bearing on the Pennant Grades/Divisions allocated to clubs in the following bowling season.

The Region shall notify all participating clubs of the allocated date as soon as possible.

### *11.15 Players in a resumed match*

The players listed on Bowlslink as being in the side for the date on which the match was originally scheduled to be played shall remain eligible to play.

Where the side needs to make one player change on any rink, the incoming player will be a substitute.

Where a side is making two player changes on any rink, one substitute and one replacement player may be used.

Matches shall be counted as "matches played" for grading and eligibility for post-section purposes for all players except substitutes.

***11.16 Games unplayed***

(i) In exceptional cases where the number of rescheduled rounds exceeds the provisional dates allocated in the Region's season calendar, the Region may seek approval from the State Match Committee for game(s) to remain unplayed. Any such match may count towards a player's grading and eligibility for post-sectional play.

(ii) Byes do not count as a match played.

***11.17 Side Officials***

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.

All side officials should be nominated to the Controlling Body at each venue.

***11.17.1 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 the first end as well as any extra end, bowls discs and score board magnets.

***11.17.2 Coaches***

(i) If any player in the side is under the age of 18 years, the coach must also have a current and valid Working with Children Check number filed with Bowls NSW (on Bowlslink). Refer clause 1.31.

# 12. Platinum Pennant

### *12.1 Match Format*

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

Each match shall consist of sixty-three ends in total (21 ends per rink).

Competition shall be played in line with the Bowls NSW Open State Pennant Conditions of Play (refer Section 13), except as provided for in this section.

### *12.2 Entries*

Previously entered Platinum Pennant clubs will be given first preference to nominate a side in Platinum Pennant.

Expressions of Interest will also be considered from other NSW member Clubs.

Should there be more than 12 clubs seeking, clubs that placed 11th and 12th in the previous season may be relegated (refer clause 12.9).

### *12.2.1 Entry Fee*

As determined by the Board of Bowls NSW.

Once Bowls NSW has released the competition draw, any club withdrawing its Platinum Pennant side will forfeit its entry fee.

### *12.2.2 Club Requirements*

Clubs entering Platinum Pennant are required to have at least one green with lighting adequate to play evening/night matches or have access to a green with lighting for its home matches.

The competition draw will outline the starting time and date of each match. These dates and times can be rescheduled by clubs, with mutual agreement of both participating clubs by submitting the Match Start Variation Application to Bowls NSW.

**Note:** Application for rescheduling of matches must be approved by Bowls NSW, who will amend the competition draw following its approval.

### *12.3 Player Eligibility*

### *12.3.1 Squad Nomination*

Clubs must nominate a squad of at least twelve players by the date provided by Bowls NSW.

A minimum of ten of whom must be affiliated members who:

(i) have that Club as their Primary/Declared Club, and
(ii) are eligible to play in Bowls NSW State Championship events, and
(iii) whose most recent Championship or State-administered event (or equivalent) participation was:

* Bowls NSW Championship event, as defined in Section 1.8; as a member of the nominating Club.

Note: Any player who has not played their most recent Championship or State-administered event (or equivalent) event for their nominated Platinum club the Squad Nomination date will be treated as a Marquee player.

Note: All players in this category are required to have the club as their Primary/Declared Club from the squad submission date until the conclusion of the 2025/26 Platinum Pennant competition.

Players nominated in the squad are ineligible to play Bowls NSW Open State Pennants Grades 1-7 prior to the commencement of Platinum Pennant.

### *12.3.2 Transferring During the Season*

Players who have transferred their Primary/Declared Club within the current season but have played their most recent Region Championship or Bowls NSW State event with another Club shall be regarded as a Marquee player.

Clubs can apply to the Bowls NSW State Match Committee for any variation to this clause.

### *12.3.3 Marquee Players*

A maximum of two (2) Marquee players may play in any match.

Club Squads may include more than two (2) Marquee players in their squad, however the maximum of two per match shall still apply.

The Marquee players may be either:

***(i) Players who have a Primary/Declared Club outside of New South Wales***

A State and Territory Pennant Declaration must be approved by the player's nominated State (as per the Bowls Australia Affiliation and Eligibility to Play Policy), and must be received by Bowls NSW prior to the player participating in Platinum Pennant.

All players are required to be registered with the Club they are participating for in Platinum Pennant (process to be completed on Bowlslink).

***(ii) Players who have a Primary/Declared Club within New South Wales***

Players who have a Primary/Declared club within NSW must have written approval from their Primary/Declared Club which is submitted to Bowls NSW prior to the player participating in Platinum Pennant.

**Note**: Players in this category **MAY** be from a Club that has a side entered in Platinum Pennant, however these player(s) will be ineligible to compete in any match in the Bowls NSW Open Pennant Grades 1-7.

Although ineligible to play Open Pennant Grade 1-7, these players remain eligible to play Club and Region Championships for their own NSW Primary/Declared club and to represent their Region in representative fixtures.

### *12.4 Qualifying Play*

Each side will be drawn to play all other sides in the competition once during the regular season.

The top five sides on the competition ladder at the conclusion of the regular season will qualify for the finals series.

### *12.5 Finals Play*

#### *12.5.1 Elimination Final*

4th Place vs 5th Place

#### *12.5.2 Qualifying Final*

2nd Place vs 3rd Place

#### *12.5.3 Major Semi-Final*

1st Place vs Winner of Qualifying Final

#### *12.5.4 Minor Semi-Final*

Loser of Qualifying Final vs Winner of Elimination Final

#### *12.5.5 Preliminary Final*

Loser of Major Semi-Final vs Winner of Minor Semi-Final

#### *12.5.6 Grand Final*

Winner of Major Semi-Final vs Winner of Preliminary Final

### *12.6 Player Eligibility*

#### *12.6.1 Eligibility During Season*

All players may only compete for a maximum of one (1) Club side during each season of Platinum Pennant.

#### *12.6.2 Restriction During Season*

(i) Once a player has played six (6) sectional matches in the Platinum Pennant season, they become ineligible to play in Open Pennant Grades 1-7 for the remainder of the season, including any Grades 1-7 Region or State finals matches.

(ii) **Participation in Platinum Pennant from outside the nominated squad**
Clubs are permitted to use players from outside the nominated squad to participate in Platinum Pennant. The restrictions listed in clause 12.6.2 will apply to these players.

(iii) **Participation in Platinum Pennant and Open Pennant Grades 1-7 on the same day/round**
A player is eligible to participate in more than one match in any Round (Platinum to Grade 7), including if the matches are scheduled on the same day, provided that they play in the lower grade match first, and are graded equal to or lower than the second match to be played in the same round**.**

### *12.6.3 State Finals Eligibility*

Any player participating in Platinum Pennant finals must have played a minimum of four (4) matches for that Club, in either Platinum Pennant, Open Pennant Grades 1-7, or a combination of both.

Any player competing in more than one (1) match of Platinum Pennant Finals is ineligible to participate any further in the Open Pennant Grades 1-7 in that season (including Region and State Finals).

Additionally, any player who participates in the Platinum Pennant grand final is ineligible to participate any further in the Open Pennant Grades 1-7 in that season (including Region and State Finals).

## *12.7 Nomination of Sides*

Playing positions and rink nominations for each Round must be submitted by each Club to Bowls NSW on the prescribed form prior to the nominated date and time.

Any changes required following the submission of the side for a Round must be advised in writing to Bowls NSW prior to the scheduled starting date and time for that match.

## *12.8 Washouts and Re-Scheduled matches*

### *12.8.1 Sectional Rounds*

Should matches be unable to be completed each side will be awarded five points each, and zero shots margin.

### *12.8.2 Round 11*

Should matches be unable to be completed each side will be awarded five points each, and zero shots margin.

## *12.9 Promotion/Relegation of Sides for Future Seasons*

Platinum Pennant is limited to twelve participating clubs.

Should there be more than twelve clubs seeking entry to Platinum Pennant Season 3 from among previous participating clubs, as well as other clubs on submission of an Expression of Interest, the two (2) lowest-placed sides from the previous season may be relegated to Open Pennant Grade 1.

If ten (10) or more previous-season Platinum Pennant clubs seek entry into the following season and suitable Expressions of Interest for elevation to Platinum Pennant are received from other clubs, Bowls NSW will approve a maximum of two (2) new clubs to participate and the clubs finishing in 12$^{th}$ and/or 11$^{th}$ position on the previous season ladder will be regressed to Open Pennant Grade 1 for the following season.

If there are fewer previous Platinum Pennant clubs seeking re-entry for Season 4, or if Bowls NSW determines there are fewer than two (2) suitable Expressions of Interest for elevation to Platinum Pennant, then no sides will be relegated from the competition.

### *12.10 Pre-Match Practice*

#### *12.10.1 Home Side*

The Home Side is permitted to practice between 90 minutes and 60 minutes of the match starting time.

#### *12.10.2 Away Side*

The Away Side is permitted to practice between 60 minutes and 30 minutes of the match starting time.

Either side is permitted to practice prior to these times, following permission from the Host venue.

### *12.11 Player Movement*

#### *12.11.1 Rink Changes*

Player positions within a rink may be changed once during the match, with notification to the opposing team before the commencement of the next end.

# 13. Open Pennant

### *13.1 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.

Any player transferring from a Club outside of New South Wales after the State Match Committee has allocated grades to their new Declared Club for the 2025/26 season will not have a further Interstate Clearance issued until after 30 June 2025.

### *13.2 Competition Grades*

#### *13.2.1 Number of Grades*

(i) The Bowls NSW Open State Pennant competition comprises Platinum Pennant and seven grades.

(ii) Platinum is a higher grade than Grade 1 Pennant and is covered under a separate Conditions of Play. (Refer Section 12)

(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.

***13.2.2 Sides***

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

***13.2.3 Entries***

(i) For 2025/26 Open Pennant, clubs shall be allocated to grades based on the performance of their sides in the 2024/25 Bowls NSW Open State Pennant competition.

(ii) Clubs may enter additional sides based on the number of eligible players available.

(iii) Clubs may apply for the preferred grades for those additional sides; however, allocation to a grade will be determined by the Region within their pennant submission, based on creating equitable competitions throughout all grades, for final approval by State Match Committee.

***13.2.4 Elevation of Sides***

(i) All 2024/25 Region and State Winners of Open Pennant 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 within a grade in a Region's Open Pennant competitions may also be elevated, irrespective of whether that Club has a side already entered in that higher grade.

***13.2.5 Regression of Sides***

(i) Clubs finishing last in grades 1 to 6 in the 2024/25 season within a Region may be regressed, irrespective of whether that Club has a side already entered in that lower grade.

(ii) Clubs finishing last in a section of grades 1 to 6 in the 2024/25 season may also be regressed, irrespective of whether that Club has a side already entered in that lower grade.

***13.2.6 Request for Elevation, Regression or Withdrawal***

A club may submit a written request for sides to be elevated from a grade, regressed from a grade, retained in a grade, or withdrawn from a grade in variation of the allocation they have been given.

Any such application shall be based on an increase or decrease of the number of players eligible for those grades (Bowlslink transfers), or by providing a list of unavailable players.

Where a club's application to regress or withdraw a side is based on players being unavailable for Open Pennant in the 2025/26 season, the application must include a list of unavailable players and their previous season gradings. In assessing the application, the State Match Committee may restrict any or all of the nominated players from participating in any lower-grade Open Pennant match during the season.

***13.3 Competition Format***

Regions must detail the number of sectional rounds of each grade's competition and the format of any post sectional play within their Region Pennant Submission.

***13.3.1 Duration of Matches***

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

***13.3.2 Playing Days***

(i) Regions must not start their 2025/26 Bowls NSW Open State pennant competition prior to 1 February 2026 unless approved by State Match Committee.

(ii) Region competitions must be completed no later than 31 May 2026.

(iii) Regions must list dates of play, including all dates provisionally set aside to be used for any deferred games, on the entry form.

(iv) Regions must schedule all rounds of play on weekend dates.

(v) Dates and/or start times can be re-scheduled with mutual agreement between both participating clubs, by submitting a Match Start Variation Application to the Region Match Committee.

***13.4 Method of Scoring.***

***13.4.1 Allocation of Points***

All NSW Open State pennant sectional and/or round robin matches will be:

| | |
|---|---|
| Side Win: | 7 points (the side scoring the greatest aggregate of shots) |
| Side Tie (Draw): | 3.5 points (both sides scoring the same shots aggregate) |
| Side Loss: | 0 points (the side scoring the least aggregate of shots) |
| Team Win: | 1 point (one point for each team that wins – i.e. rink win) |
| Team Tie (Draw): | 0.5 points (0.5 points for each team that has a drawn rink) |
| Team Loss: | 0 points |
| Total points per match: | 10 points |

***13.4.2 Byes***

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

***13.5 Player Eligibility***

Any player who does not have an "N" grading (refer clause 13.5.2) is eligible to play in sectional matches during the season in any grade, regardless of their previous season grading, except as provided within this clause.

A player is eligible to participate in more than one match in any round (Platinum to grade 7), including if the matches are scheduled on the same day, provided that they play in the lower grade match first, and are graded equal to or lower than the second match to be played in the same round**.**

Any player who plays the required number of Platinum Pennant matches to be graded in the previous season, with hold an N1 grading for the 2025/26 season.

***13.5.1 Players changing declared club***

A maximum of three (3) players who change their declared club after the State Match Committee has allocated grades to their new declared club for the 2025/26 season will be

eligible to play more than two grades below their previous season grading in their new club's next highest grade.

***13.5.2 Previous Season Winners - 'N' graded players***

Any player graded in a side winning a State Pennant in grades 2-7 in 2024/25 shall be graded as 'N_' one grade higher than the grade they won. State winners of grade 1 shall be recorded as N1.

Any player graded in a side winning a Region pennant in 2024/25 shall be graded as "N_" in that Grade.

Players with a "N_" grading are not eligible to play in any grade lower than that grading, unless provided in the clauses below:

(i) A club may select a maximum of three (3) "N_" graded players to play in their club's next-lowest grade during the entire 2025/26 season, without submitting a player regrade application. This applies to each of the club's Region or State winning sides from the 2024/25 season.

(ii) In exceptional circumstances, Bowls NSW may grant applications for a higher number of N-variations of eligibility. Such applications must be made using the Application for Player Regrade form, which must be sent to the Region for endorsement prior to being sent to State Match Committee for approval.

(iii) Any player granted a regrade will have an 'R_' reference ID certification added in Bowlslink for the 2025/26 season.

(iv) Applications for variation of N-graded players' eligibility may not be granted for clubs with an excess of players graded higher than the regrade being sought and could result in the club being elevated to an appropriate grade.

***13.5.3 Eligibility for Post Sectional***

(i) When a side qualifies for post sectional rounds (at Region or State level), any player whose previous season grading is in that grade or lower will be eligible for post-sectional play.

(ii) A player with a higher previous season grading will only be eligible to play in a post-sectional match if they played more than 50% of this season's matches in that grade, or a lower grade.

***13.5.4 Penalties for using an Ineligible Player***

A side fielding an ineligible player shall forfeit the match to their opponents (refer clause 11.11).

***13.6 Graded at end of Sectional Play***

Players who play more than 50% of total available sectional matches (across all grades) will become graded at the end of the sectional rounds according to the grade in which they played the most matches. The calculation of the 50% threshold is taken from the grade the player participated in that has the most sectional matches.

If a player has played an equal number of matches in multiple grades, they will be graded in the highest of those grades.

Any player who does not play more than 50% of matches during the current season will retain their previous season grading.

Byes do not count towards a player's grading.

### *13.7 Recording Player's Gradings.*

Each player's previous season grade shall be recorded on Bowlslink as a certification.

The certification states the grade in which the player was graded at the conclusion of their previous Open Pennant season.

In addition, any previous season winner (N_ grading) or player with a regrade restriction (R_ grading) will have a reference ID recorded in Bowlslink to show their "N_" or "R_" grade status.

Bowls NSW updates gradings and certifications on Bowlslink at the end of each pennant season.

### *13.8 State Finals*

The Bowls NSW State Open Pennant Finals are scheduled to be played 21-23 August 2026.

#### *13.8.1 State Pennant Qualifiers*

Region winners shall qualify for State Finals in Grades 1-7.

Should a Region not have a winner in any Grade, the State Match Committee will offer additional places (to ensure sixteen sides competing) to Regions in preference order based on the percentage of sides in that grade per number of clubs in that Region.

#### *13.8.2 State Finals Draw*

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

(ii) Clubs will be required to enter their teams into Bowlslink by the date provided in the Bowls NSW season calendar. Bowls NSW will then utilise the Team Shuffle function to determine the team opponents for each round.

(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.

#### *13.8.3 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.

#### *13.8.4 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

# 14. Women's Pennant

***14.1 Eligibility***

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

***14.2 Competition Divisions***

***14.2.1 Number of Divisions:***

The NSW Women's pennant competition comprises four (4) divisions.

***14.2.2 Sides***

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

***14.2.3 Entries***

(i) For 2025/26 women's pennant, clubs shall be allocated to divisions based on the performance of their sides in the 2024/25 Bowls NSW women's pennant competition.

(ii) Clubs may enter additional sides based on the number of eligible players available.

(iii) Clubs may apply for the preferred divisions for those additional sides; however, allocation to a division will be determined by the Region within their pennant submission, based on creating equitable competitions throughout all divisions, for final approval by the State Match Committee.

***14.2.4 Elevation of Sides***

(i) All 2024/25 Region winners of women's pennant divisions 2 to 4 shall be elevated to the next highest division, irrespective of whether that club has a side already entered in that higher division.

(ii) Clubs winning sections within a division in a Region women's pennant competition may also be elevated, irrespective of whether that club has a side already entered in that higher division.

### *14.2.5 Regression of Sides*

(i) Clubs finishing last in divisions 1 to 3 within a Region may be regressed, irrespective of whether that club has a side already entered in that lower division.

(ii) Clubs finishing last in a section of divisions 1 to 3 within a Region may also be regressed, irrespective of whether that club has a side already entered in that lower division.

### *14.2.6 Request for Elevation, Regression or Withdrawal*

A club may submit a written request for sides to be elevated from a division, regressed from a division, retained in a division, or withdrawn from a division in variation of the allocation they have been given.

Any such application shall be based on an increase or decrease of the number of players eligible for those divisions (Bowlslink transfers), or by providing a list of unavailable players.

Where a club's application to regress or withdraw a side is based on players being unavailable for women's pennant in the 2025/26 season, the application must include a list of unavailable players and their previous season grading. In assessing the application, the State Match Committee may restrict any or all of the nominated players from participating in any lower-division women's pennant match during the season.

### *14.3 Competition Format*

Regions must detail the number of sectional rounds of each division competition and the format of any post sectional play format within their pennant submission.

### *14.3.1 Duration of Matches*

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

### *14.3.2 Playing Days*

(i) Region competitions must be completed no later than 31 May 2026.

(ii) Regions must list dates of play, including all dates provisionally set aside to be used for any deferred games, on the entry form.

(iii) Regions shall nominate default day(s) and time(s) for all matches.

(iv) Days and/or start times can be re-scheduled with mutual agreement between both participating clubs, by submitting a Match Start Variation Application to the Region Match Committee.

### *14.4 Method of Scoring.*

### *14.4.1 Allocation of Points*

All NSW women's pennant sectional and/or round robin matches will be:

| | |
|---|---|
| Side Win: | 5 points (the side scoring the greatest aggregate of shots) |
| Side Tie (Draw): | 2.5 points (both sides scoring the same shots aggregate) |
| Side Loss: | 0 points (the side scoring the least aggregate of shots) |
| Team Win: | 1 point (one point for each team that wins – i.e. rink win) |
| Team Tie (Draw): | 0.5 points (0.5 points for each team that has a drawn rink) |
| Team Loss: | 0 points |
| Total points per match: | 7 points |

***14.4.2 Byes***

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

***14.5 Grading at end of Sectional Play***

(i) Players who play more than 50% of total available matches (across all divisions) will become graded at the end of the sectional rounds according to the division in which they played the most matches. The calculation of the 50% threshold is taken from the division the player participated in that has the most sectional matches.

(ii) If a player has played an equal number of matches in multiple divisions, they will be graded in the highest of those divisions.

(iii) Any player who does not play more than 50% of matches during the current season will retain their previous season grading.

(iv) Byes do not count towards a player's grading.

***14.6 Player Eligibility***

Any player is eligible to play in sectional matches during the season in any division, regardless of their previous season grading, except as provided within this clause.

***14.6.1 Players changing declared club***

A maximum of two players who change their declared club after the State Match Committee has allocated divisions to their new declared club for the 2025/26 season will be eligible to play more than one division below their previous season grading in their new club's next highest division.

***14.6.2 Players from Outside NSW***

Players who have a Declared (Primary) club outside of NSW are not eligible to participate in this competition.

Interstate Pennant Declarations will not be accepted for this competition.

***14.6.3 Eligibility for Post Sectional***

(i) When a side qualifies for post sectional rounds (at Region or State level), any player with a previous season grading in that division or lower will be eligible for post sectional play.

(ii) A player with a higher previous season grading will only be eligible to play in a post sectional match if they played at least 50% of this season's matches in that division or a lower division.

***14.6.4 Penalties for using an Ineligible Player***

A side fielding an ineligible player shall forfeit the match to their opponents (refer clause 11.11).

***14.7 Recording Player's Gradings.***

Each player's previous season grade shall be recorded on Bowlslink as a certification.

The certification states the division in which the player was graded at the conclusion of their previous women's pennant season.

Bowls NSW updates gradings and certifications on Bowlslink at the end of each pennant season.

### *14.8 State Finals*

The NSW Women's State pennant finals are scheduled to be played 4-6 August 2026.

#### *14.8.1 State Pennant Qualifiers*

There is no compulsion for any Region to have a women's pennant competition in every division.

#### *14.8.2 State Finals Draw*

(i) NSW Women's State Pennant finals draws for each division will be based on number of sides competing.

(ii) State Finals will be sectional play followed by knockout finals.

(iii) Clubs will be required to enter their teams into Bowlslink by the date provided in the Bowls NSW season calendar. Bowls NSW will then utilise the Team Shuffle function to determine the team opponents for each round.

(iv) 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.

#### *14.8.3 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.

#### *14.8.4 Bowls NSW Women's State Pennant Flags*

Division 1: Royal Blue with Gold letters
Division 2: Gold with Royal Blue letters
Division 3: Green with Gold letters
Division 4: Pale Blue with Crimson letters

# 15. Men's Pennant

***15.1 Eligibility***

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

***15.2 Competition Divisions***

***15.2.1 Number of Divisions:***

The NSW Men's Pennant competition comprises four divisions.

(i) ***Division 1:*** Open to all eligible players.

(ii) ***Division 2:*** Open to all eligible players whose previous Open State Pennant grading is Grade 2 or below, or are ungraded.

(iii) ***Division 3***: Open to all eligible players whose previous Open State Pennant grading is Grade 4 or below, or are ungraded.

(iv) ***Division 4:*** Open to all eligible players whose previous Open State Pennant grading is Grade 6 or below, or are ungraded.

***15.2.2 Sides***

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

***15.2.3 Entries***

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

***15.3 Competition Format***

Regions must detail the number of sectional rounds of each division competition and the format of any post sectional play format within their pennant submission.

***15.3.1 Duration of Matches***

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

***15.3.2 Playing Days***

(i) Region competitions must be completed no later than 31 May 2026.

(ii) Regions must list dates of play, including all dates provisionally set aside to be used for any deferred games, on the entry form.

(iii) Regions shall nominate default day(s) and time(s) for all matches.

(iv) Days and/or start times can be re-scheduled with mutual agreement between both participating clubs, by submitting a Match Start Variation Application to the Region Match Committee.

***15.4 Method of Scoring.***

***15.4.1 Allocation of Points***

All NSW Men's Pennant sectional and/or round robin matches will be:

| | |
|---|---|
| Side Win: | 7 points (the side scoring the greatest aggregate of shots) |
| Side Tie (Draw): | 3.5 points (both sides scoring the same shots aggregate) |
| Side Loss: | 0 points (the side scoring the least aggregate of shots) |

| | |
|---|---|
| Team Win: | 1 point (one point for each team that wins – i.e. rink win) |
| Team Tie (Draw): | 0.5 points (0.5 points for each team that has a drawn rink) |
| Team Loss: | 0 points |
| Total points per match: | 10 points |

***15.4.2 Byes***

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

***15.5 Player Eligibility:***

A player's eligibility is determined by their previous season Open State Pennant grading.

***15.5.1 Additional Players***

(i) A maximum of two players per side in any sectional match are eligible to play one division lower than their previous season grading would otherwise permit. (Note: this may be different players in each match).

(ii) No player can play in a division which is more than one (1) division below their previous season grading.

(iii) There will be no player regrades or variations to eligibility for men's pennant.

***15.5.2 Players from Outside NSW:***

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

Interstate Pennant Declarations will not be accepted for this competition.

***15.5.3 Eligibility for Post Sectional***

(i) When a side qualifies for post sectional rounds (at Region or State level), any player with a previous season grading who would be permitted to play in that division or lower will be eligible for post-sectional play.

(ii) A player with a higher previous season grading will only be eligible to play in a post-sectional match if they played at least 50% of this season's matches in that division.

***15.5.4 Penalties for using an Ineligible Player***

A side fielding an ineligible player shall forfeit the match to their opponents (refer clause 11.11).

***15.6 Grading at the end of Sectional Play***

Matches in men's pennant will not alter a player's open pennant grading from their previous season.

***15.7 State Finals***

The Bowls NSW Men's State Pennant finals are scheduled to be played 4-6 August 2026.

***15.7.1 State Pennant Qualifiers***

There is no compulsion for any Region to have a men's pennant competition in every division.

### *15.7.2 State Finals Draw*

(i) Bowls NSW Men's State Pennant finals draws for each division will be based on the number of sides qualified.

(ii) State Finals will be sectional play followed by knockout finals.

(iii) Clubs will be required to enter their teams into Bowlslink by the date provided in the Bowls NSW season calendar. Bowls NSW will then utilise the Team Shuffle function to determine the team opponents for each round.

(iv) 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.

### *15.7.3 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.

### *15.7.4 Bowls NSW Men's State Pennant Flags*

Division 1: Royal Blue with Light Blue letters
Division 2: Gold with Black letters
Division 3: Green with White letters
Division 4: Pale Blue with Dark Blue letters

# 16. Inter-Region Sides Championship

### *16.1 Composition of Sides*

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

Regions will be required to enter their teams into Bowlslink by the date provided in the Bowls NSW season calendar. Bowls NSW will then utilise the Team Shuffle function to determine the team opponents for each round.

Players may not be changed between teams without prior approval from the Controlling Body.

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.

### *16.2 Player Eligibility*

#### *16.2.1 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 (3) players who shall be eligible to be selected to represent NSW at the National Sides Championship and not eligible to be selected in the National Senior Sides Championship (i.e., aged under 60 years of age as at October 10, 2026).

(iii) Each side shall contain a minimum of three (3) players who shall be eligible to be selected to represent NSW at the National Senior Sides Championship (i.e., aged 60 years or over as at October 10, 2026).

(iv) A reserve player(s) may be used, however the requirements of three (3) players (senior & under 60) as above must be maintained in each match.

#### *16.2.2 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.

#### *16.2.3 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 (i.e., aged 60 years or over as at October 10, 2026).

#### *16.2.4 Eligibility*

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

### *16.3 Attire*

Sides shall be attired in Region uniform.

### *16.4 Duration of Matches*

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

Dead ends shall be replayed.

### *16.5 Trial Ends*

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

### *16.6 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.

### *16.7 Determination of Section Winners*

#### *16.7.1 Allocation of Points*

The method of scoring for all sectional matches shall be:

| | |
|---|---|
| Side Win: | 7 points (the side scoring the greatest aggregate of shots) |
| Side Tie (Draw): | 3.5 points (both sides scoring the same shots aggregate) |
| Side Loss: | 0 points (the side scoring the least aggregate of shots) |
| Team Win: | 1 point (one point for each team that wins – i.e. rink win) |
| Team Tie (Draw): | 0.5 points (0.5 points for each team that has a drawn rink) |
| Team Loss: | 0 points |
| Total points per match: | 10 points |

#### *16.7.2 Determining Section Rankings*

Refer clause 1.36.2.

### *16.8 Post Sectional Play*

The top two 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.

### *16.9 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.

# 17. Junior Inter-Region 7-A-Side Championship

### *17.1 Player Eligibility*

#### *17.1.1 Gender Requirements*

There are no gender requirements for the Junior Inter-Region 7-a-side championship.

#### *17.1.2 Age Requirements*

Players shall be under the age of 18 years as at the scheduled completion date of the championship (July 12, 2026).

#### *17.1.3 Eligibility to represent Region*

Players shall be registered as an Individual member of a Club with the relevant Region.

If a Region is unable to enter a complete side, reserve players from other Regions may be permitted to be used to play in another Region, upon application to the Bowls NSW State Junior Committee.

### *17.2 Composition of Sides*

Each side shall comprise of seven players:
One singles player,
One pairs team and
One fours team.

#### *17.2.1 Interchange of Players*

Players within pairs and fours teams may be interchanged before each match, or reserve players may be used.

Singles players may only be interchanged at the conclusion of sectional play.

Singles players or pairs/fours teams who qualify for the medal play-offs are unable to change disciplines, however pairs and fours players can alter positions within their team.

### *17.3 Event Format*

Each discipline shall play sectional play.

Singles players and teams shall progress to post-sectional play based on their ranking within their section.

Overall side rankings shall be determined based on the performance of each discipline.

### *17.4 Format & Duration of Matches*

#### *17.4.1 Singles*

Four bowls per player. 21 shots up. Shots in excess of 21 do not count.

#### *17.4.2 Pairs*

Three bowls per player. Eighteen ends

***17.4.3 Fours***

Two bowls per player. Fifteen ends

***17.5 Trial Ends***

One (1) trial end shall be permitted at the commencement of each match.

***17.6 Re-spotting the Jack***

If a jack in motion passes completely outside the boundaries of the rink of play or rebounds to a distance of less than 18 metres from the mat line, the end should not be declared dead. Instead, the jack should be placed with the nearest point of the jack to the mat line at a spot on the rink which is two metres from the front ditch and on the centre line, and play should continue.

If the spot mentioned in paragraph one is partly or completely covered by a bowl, the jack should be placed as close as possible to the covered spot, in line with that spot and the corresponding spot at the opposite end of the rink, without touching a bowl.

***17.7 Determination of Section Winners***

Refer clause 1.36.1.

***17.8 Post Sectional Play***

The highest placed player/team in each section shall play off for Gold, Silver & Bronze Medals.

The second placed player/team in each section shall play-off for 5th-8th place.

The third placed player/team in each section shall play-off for 9th-12th place.

The fourth placed player/team in each section shall play-off for 13th-16th place.

In each discipline play-off the draw shall be:

Semi-Final A – Section 1 v Section 2

Semi-Final B – Section 3 v Section 4

Final – Winner Semi-Final A v Winner Semi-Final B

3rd Place play-off – Loser Semi-Final A v Loser Semi-Final B

***17.9 Policy On Alcohol & Smoking***

It is a condition of participation that all players and reserve players involved in the Junior Inter-Region 7-a-side championship shall be required to be alcohol free and smoke free.

Side Managers shall ensure that this condition is adhered to throughout the event.

***17.9.1 Penalty:***

The player, team, or side shall be disqualified from the event.

### *17.10 Determination of Best Performed Side*

Points shall be awarded based on performance in each discipline. The side scoring the greatest number of points shall be declared the best performed side.

Points shall be awarded as follows to each discipline:

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1st – 20 points | 5th – 12 points | 9th – 8 points | 13th – 4 points |
| 2nd – 18 points | 6th – 11 points | 10th – 7 points | 14th – 3 points |
| 3rd – 16 points | 7th – 10 points | 11th – 6 points | 15th – 2 points |
| 4th – 14 points | 8th – 9 points | 12th – 5 points | 16th – 1 point |

### *17.11 Awards*

#### *17.11.1 Discipline*

Gold, Silver & Bronze medals shall be awarded in Singles, Pairs and Fours disciplines.

#### *17.11.2 Side*

Gold & Silver medals shall be awarded to the best performed side and second best performed side, respectively.

### *17.12 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 if any variations to these Conditions of Play are required.

The decision of the Controlling Body shall be final.

# 18. NSW All Abilities State Championships

### *18.1 Eligibility*

#### *18.1.1 Players*

To enter and play in NSW All Abilities State 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) Have a current Parasport classification approved by International Bowls for the Disabled recorded on Bowlslink.

### *18.2 Team Entries for Team Events*

Entries for team events may be submitted as nominated teams.

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

### *18.3 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.

### *18.4 Attire*

Teams are not required to be similarly attired.

Players shall wear their own club uniform.

### *18.5 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:

(i) Open Singles

(ii) Reserve Singles

(iii) Open Pairs

### *18.6 Match Formats & Durations*

#### *18.6.1 Singles*

Four bowls per player.

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

#### *18.6.2 Pairs*

Three bowls per player, in the order lead three bowls, skip three bowls.

Each match shall be played over fourteen ends.

***18.6.3 Trial Ends***

One trial end shall be permitted before each match.

***18.6.4 Time Limits***

Singles – 2 hours and 15 minutes, not including trial end.

Pairs – 2 hours, 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.

***18.6.5 Format Alterations***

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

***18.7 Re-spotting the Jack***

If a jack in motion passes completely outside the boundaries of the rink of play or rebounds to a distance of less than 18 metres from the mat line, the end should not be declared dead. Instead, the jack should be placed with the nearest point of the jack to the mat line at a spot on the rink which is two metres from the front ditch and on the centre line, and play should continue.

If the spot mentioned in paragraph one is partly or completely covered by a bowl, the jack should be placed as close as possible to the covered spot, in line with that spot and the corresponding spot at the opposite end of the rink, without touching a bowl.

***18.8 Entry Fee***

As determined by the Board of Bowls NSW.

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