BOWLS
NEW SOUTH WALES

2026

Conditions of Play

Version	Prepared	Reviewed	Approved By	Date Approved
1.0	State Match Committee	CEO, Head of Sport	Board	February 18, 2026

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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 the period that commences 1 July, 2026 and concludes 31 December, 2026. Bowls NSW may hold State Finals of events for the current Bowling Season outside of the above dates at its discretion. The 2026 Conditions of Play shall apply to a 2026 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 Order of Precedence

Means the priority for matches to be played in accordance with the Conditions of Play. (refer clause 1.34).

1.3.32 Player and players

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

1.3.33 *Policy*

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

1.3.34 *Region*

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

1.3.35 *Regulations*

Means any Regulations of Bowls NSW.

1.3.36 *State*

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

1.3.37 *State Match Committee*

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

1.3.38 *Umpires Committee or Panel*

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

1.3.39 *Uniform Policy*

Means the Bowls NSW Uniform Policy available on its website.

1.3.40 *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

There is no requirement for Regions to submit their 2026 Bowling Season program to State Match Committee.

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

1.8 Championship Events

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

(i) Club Major Singles, Pairs, Triples & Fours Championships
(ii) Nationals Qualifiers
(iii) Champion of Club Champions Singles
(iv) State Mixed Pairs
(v) State Rookies Singles and Pairs
(vi) State Over 40s Pairs
(vii) 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 1.34).

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 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:

1.10.1 Sectional / Round Robin Play

Refer clause 1.35.2 Determining Winners in Sectional Play (as per forfeit).

1.10.2 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.

1.11 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.

1.12 Eligibility

1.12.1 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.

1.12.2 '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'.

1.12.3 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 1.12.4) 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.

1.12.4 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.

1.12.5 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 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.

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

1.12.6 Penalty for eligibility breaches

(i) In all Championship Events, the player or team will be disqualified from the event.

1.13 Withdrawals and Forfeits

1.13.1 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.

1.13.2 Forfeit

If a player or team drawn to play cannot do so, and has not withdrawn from the event under clause 1.13.1 or been given dispensation by the Controlling Body under clause 1.34, a forfeit will apply unless:

(i) A Substitute or Replacement Player is permitted under the Bowls Australia Domestic Regulations or clause 1.32; 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.

1.13.3 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.

1.14 Championship Draws

(i) Clubs 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) 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.

1.15 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.

1.16 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.

1.17 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).

1.18 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.

1.19 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.

1.20 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.

1.21 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.

1.22 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 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.

1.23 Markers

1.23.1 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 Club 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.

1.23.2 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.

1.24 Inclement Weather

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

A host Club, or Region, 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).

Appeals may apply only to the matches being played by the singles player(s), or team(s) making that appeal.

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

1.25 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.

1.26 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.

1.27 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.

1.28 Wheelchairs & Walking Frames

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

1.29 Coaching

The coach of a player or team 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.

1.30 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.

1.31 Restricting Movement of Players

1.31.1 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 1.31.5, Delaying Play.

1.31.2 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.

1.31.3 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.

1.31.4 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.

1.31.5 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.

1.32 Substitutes and Replacements

1.32.1 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.

1.32.2 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.

1.32.3 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 1.13.1) 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.

1.32.4 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.

1.32.5 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 Instantaneous Penalties

If the Umpire, on appeal by the Controlling Body, , 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), 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,

(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) 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.

1.34 Concurrent Events and Order of Precedence.

1.34.1 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.

1.34.2 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.

1.34.3 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, Nationals Qualifiers, , BPL Cup State Finals.

(iii) **Category 3**

Region qualifying events for Bowls NSW Championship Events.

1.35 Determining Section Winners / Standings

1.35.1 Drawn matches in sectional play

In the event of a drawn game in a three, or four, player/team 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 on the left/top of the draw will be the player/team who progresses to Round 3.

1.35.2 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 Artificial Light

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

1.37 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.

1.37.1 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 four bowls per player, and 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, or unless otherwise set in Club Conditions of Play.

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 1.12.
A player may enter 1 (one) only Association Championship Club Singles in a season (Men's / Women's or Open Singles).
Note – If a Club conducts a Men's Championship and a Women's Championship, an Open Gender event is not an Association Championship (applicable to Singles only).

2.2.1 Singles

Club Championship Singles must be played in line with the format outlined above for players to qualify for Champion of Club Champions Singles. Clubs must complete their Club Singles by the date shown in the Bowls NSW Calendar for the Club Champion to enter Champion of Club Champions.

2.2.2 Pairs, Triples & Fours

Clubs may determine their own Conditions of Play to conduct Pairs, Triples & Fours Championships. Any Conditions put in place for Club Pairs, 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

If clubs choose to conduct 2026 championships, these must commence after 30 June 2026 and conclude before 1 January 2027.

2.3 State Qualification

Bowls NSW will only conduct Champion of Club Champions Singles in the 2026 season.

There will be no Champion of Club Champions Pairs held in the 2026 season.

3. Champion of Club Champions

3.1 Competitions

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

(i) Men's Champion of Club Champions Singles

(ii) Women's Champion of Club Champions Singles

3.2 Format and Duration

3.2.1 Singles

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

3.3 Eligibility

3.3.1 Current Season

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

3.3.2 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.

3.3.3 Attire

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

3.3.4 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 Club Champions Singles.

3.3.5 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.

3.3.6 Where a Club conducts only one Single Gender (male or female) and an Open Gender championship

(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.

3.4 Entry

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

3.5 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.

3.6 State Finals

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

4. Nationals Qualifiers

4.1 Nationals Qualifiers Categories

There shall be two categories of Nationals Qualifiers:

(i) Men's Nationals Qualifiers

(ii) Women's Nationals Qualifiers

4.2 Players Eligibility

Players must satisfy eligibility requirements as set out in General Conditions of Play (refer clause 1.12).

In addition:

4.2.1 Gender Requirements

(i) **Men's Nationals Qualifiers**
To enter a Men's Nationals Qualifier, the player must be a male member.

(ii) **Women's Nationals Qualifiers**
To enter a Women's Nationals Qualifier, the player must be a female member.

(iii) **Teams**
Teams (in Pairs, Triples & Fours) are required to be from Clubs within the same Region. Players are not required to be from the same club.

4.3 Attire

Composite pairs teams are not required to be similarly attired.

Players shall wear their own club uniform.

4.4 Format

4.4.1 Match Play

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

4.4.2 Duration of Matches

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

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

4.5 Singles

4.5.1 *Match Format*

All matches shall be four bowls per player:

Men's event	21 shots up
Women's event	21 shots up

4.5.2 Time Limits

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.

4.5.3 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.

4.5.4 Trial End

One trial end is permitted before each match.

4.5.5 Player Movement

(i) Before the jack is delivered to start each end, Singles players shall be at the mat end of the rink.

(ii) During the end Singles players may only move from the mat end to the head end of the rink after delivery of their third and fourth bowls.

(iii) A singles player is not permitted to ask the marker for permission to move to the head end before they have delivered three bowls.

4.5.6 Delaying Play

If the Umpire, either by their own observation, or on appeal from the singles opponent, 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.

4.6 Pairs

4.6.1 Match Format

All matches shall be four bowls per player, played as 2 x 2 x 2 x 2*:*

Men's event	13 ends
Women's event	13 ends

4.6.2 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.

4.6.3 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.

4.6.4 Trial End

One trial end is permitted before each match.

4.6.5 Player Movement

(i) Before the jack is delivered to start each end, Leads shall be at the mat end of the rink. Skips may be at the head end of the rink.

(ii) During the end Leads are permitted to move to the head end of the rink only after delivery of their second and fourth bowls.

(iii) Both Leads must cross to the mat end of the rink at the same time, when it is their turn to play their third bowl(s).

(iv) During the end Skips are permitted to move to the head end of the rink only after delivery of their second and fourth bowls.

(v) Both Skips must cross to the mat end of the rink at the same time, when it is their turn to play their first bowl(s).

(vi) Both Skips must cross to the mat end of the rink at the same time, when it is their turn to play their third bowl(s).

4.6.6 Delaying Play

If the Umpire, either by their own observation, or on appeal from one of the Skips, 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.

4.7 Triples

4.7.1 Match Format

All matches shall be two bowls per player:

Men's event	17 ends
Women's event	17 ends

4.7.2 Time Limit

1 hour and 45 minutes, 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.

4.7.3 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.

4.7.4 Trial End

One trial end is permitted before each match.

4.7.5 Player Movement

(i) Before the jack is delivered to start each end, Leads and Seconds shall be at the mat end of the rink. Skips may be at the head end of the rink.

(ii) During the end Leads are permitted to move to the head end of the rink only after delivery of their second bowl.

(iii) During the end Seconds are permitted to move to the head end of the rink only after delivery of their second bowl.

(iv) During the end Skips are permitted to move to the head end of the rink only after delivery of their second bowl.

(v) Both Skips must cross to the mat end of the rink at the same time, when it is their turn to play their first bowl(s).

4.7.6 Delaying Play

If the Umpire, either by their own observation, or on appeal from one of the Skips, 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.

4.8 Fours

4.8.1 Match Format

All matches shall be two bowls per player:

Men's event	13 ends
Women's event	13 ends

4.8.2 Time Limit

1 hour and 45 minutes, 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.

4.8.3 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.

4.8.4 Trial End

One trial end is permitted before each match.

4.8.5 Player Movement

(i) Before the jack is delivered to start each end, Leads, Seconds and Thirds shall be at the mat end of the rink. Skips may be at the head end of the rink.

(ii) During the end Leads are permitted to move to the head end of the rink only after delivery of their second bowl.

(iii) During the end Seconds are permitted to move to the head end of the rink only after delivery of their second bowl.

(iv) During the end Thirds are permitted to move to the head end of the rink only after delivery of their second bowl.

(v) During the end Skips are permitted to move to the head end of the rink only after delivery of their second bowl.

(vi) Both Skips must cross to the mat end of the rink at the same time, when it is their turn to play their first bowl(s).

4.8.6 Delaying Play

If the Umpire, either by their own observation, or on appeal from one of the Skips, 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.

4.9 Entry Fee

4.9.1 Nationals Qualifiers

As determined by the Board of Bowls NSW

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

5. NSW State Mixed Pairs

5.1 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.

5.1.1 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.

5.1.2 Trial Ends

One trial end shall be permitted before each match.

5.2 Eligibility

5.2.1 Player Eligibility

Players must satisfy membership affiliation requirements as set out in General Conditions of Play (refer clause 1.12).

5.2.2 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.

5.3 Attire

Composite pairs teams are not required to be similarly attired.

Players shall wear their own club uniform.

5.4 Qualifying Play

Qualifying play shall be conducted at local qualifying venues.

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

5.5 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.

5.6 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.

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 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.

6.1.2 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 2026 **and**
(ii) 59 years or under at the scheduled completion of the Championship, November 15, 2026.

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 2024, 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 2024/25 or 2025/26).
(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.