



Western District Playing Area

Region Pennant Conditions of Play

2025/26

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SECTION 1

Statewide Conditions of Play

APPLICABLE FOR ALL VICTORIAN PENNANT COMPETITIONS

Introduction

These Statewide Conditions of Play apply to all Pennant competitions in Victoria.

The Conditions of Play are reviewed annually by BV, with input and feedback from the Officiating and Laws Committee.

BV reserves the right to amend the Conditions of Play from season to season, or as required.

Victorian Pennant competitions are conducted in accordance with the:

- Laws of the Sport of Bowls, Crystal Mark 4th Edition, (including domestic regulations for Australia), April 2023 (revised May 2023).
- Bowls Australia (BA) Policies; and
- Bowls Victoria (BV) Constitution, BV Regulations, and BV Policies.
- No laws governing a sport can cope with every situation, and the Laws governing the sport of bowls are no exception. The Laws of the Sport of Bowls have been drawn up in the spirit of true sportsmanship. So, if a situation arises that is not covered by the Laws or these Conditions of Play, players and officials must use their common sense and a spirit of fair play to decide the appropriate course of action.

The infringement of any of the Laws, BA Domestic Regulations, BA Policies, BV Constitution, BV Regulations, BV Policies or BV Conditions of Play, may involve a monetary fine (not exceeding \$1,000) and/or disqualification, and/or game points penalty, and/or a replay or such other penalty as determined by the BV Disciplinary Committee, or Region Disciplinary Committee in respect of an affiliated player/club.

1. Structure of Competition

- 1.1. Clubs may enter a side or sides in the eligible Region and Metropolitan Pennant Competitions.
- 1.2. Sides will be assigned a division and/or section within each competition. The placement of sides will depend on the promotion and relegation provisions applicable from the previous season, unless otherwise determined by BV or the relevant Region Pennant Committee.
- 1.3. A club's sides shall be numbered in descending order of grading, in each individual competition. This will determine eligibility for finals, including where clubs have multiple sides in a section or division.
- 1.4. A new side entry in a pennant competition will be placed in a division as determined by BV or the relevant Region Pennant Committee. This may result in a side, or sides being relegated as necessary to accommodate the new side.

2. Insufficient Players to Enter a Side

- 2.1. Clubs may seek approval from BV or the Region Pennant Committee to enter a combined side.
- 2.2. One of the clubs must be nominated to enter sides and scores in BowlsLink, as provided for in Section 1, Clause 27.
- 2.3. If a combined side is approved, the players are permitted to wear their respective club uniform and cap. If bowls discs (adhesive labels) are used, all members of the combined side must use discs that are of the same colour and design.

3. Penalty for a Side Withdrawal after the Competition Draw is Published

- 3.1. In the 2025/26 Season, clubs may incur a financial penalty of up to \$600 for a 12-a-side, and up to \$300 for a 8-a-side if a side is withdrawn after the draw is published.
- 3.2. BV or the relevant Region Pennant Committee will determine the size of the fine within the amounts listed in Section 1, Clause 3.1 above.
- 3.3. The side withdrawn will be deemed to have finished in last position in the section and may be relegated to the next lower division at the end of the season.

4. Eligibility of Players

All players competing in any Victorian Pennant Competition must be member of a BV affiliated Club, registered on their Club BowlsLink data base as a full financial member and competition bowler prior to the commencement of the game. A breach of this requirement will result in forfeiture of the game under Law 39.2.1.

Note: Any participant in an organised event[^] at club level and above must be a registered financial member ****** of a BV Member club and recorded on the BowlsLink database as having playing rights.

[^] Organised club events include all regular competitions regardless of the value of the prize or prestige associated with the event. For the avoidance of doubt, this includes social competitions such as Thursday morning triples where the prize might be a frozen chook or a small amount of money, but does not include barefoot bowls or Christmas parties which are understood to serve as an important format to attract new members and a vital income stream for clubs.

****** A registered financial member is any club membership that includes playing rights of any kind

5. Pennant Permit

- 5.1. A Club may register up to three (3) players as pennant permit players per competition who may be used in any division/side for both Midweek and Weekend Pennant.
- 5.2. A player cannot permit to the same club to play in both Midweek and Weekend competitions.
- 5.3. A player can be approved to play in a Midweek or Weekend Pennant competition for a member club other than their nominated club by submitting a Pennant Permit request form to BV prior to round 1 of the pennant competition they wish to play in. No application will be considered after round 1. **This application must be endorsed by both the permit club and the primary club.**
- 5.4. In order to qualify for finals at a player's Permit Club, they must play a minimum of 1.5 times the amount of games required by a player who is playing for their Primary Club, rounded up to the nearest whole number. i.e. If finals qualification is a minimum of 3 matches, then the permit player must play a minimum of 5 matches to qualify. If finals qualification is a minimum of 4 matches, then the permit player must play a minimum of 6 matches to qualify.
Link to Pennant Permit form: http://bit.ly/PennantPermit_2025-26
- 5.5. If approved by BV, a permit remains in place until 30 June of the following year.
- 5.6. A player may apply for a clearance from their nominated club while a permit is in place. The permit will become null and void if the new Primary Club does not endorse the permit.
- 5.7. A player may apply for a permit for a maximum of one Weekend Pennant competition and one Midweek Pennant competition, noting Clause 5.2.
- 5.8. If the primary club and permit clubs' Midweek or Weekend competition rounds are scheduled on different days, a permit player is available to play in both competitions. This is applicable for both Weekend and Midweek competitions.
- 5.9. In Region or State Pennant Finals, players must represent the club where they play majority of their games, if both clubs have qualified. If the number of games played at each club are identical, then the player must play for their Primary Club.
- 5.10. BV reserves the right to approve a variation to permits under limited circumstances. These must be applied for, in writing, to BV.

Link for more information on Pennant Permits:

https://www.bowlsvic.org.au/pennant/permits_transfers/

6. Interstate, International Players (Marquee Players) and Promotional Permits

- 6.1. Up to three (3) 'invited' interstate and/or international players, to be known as 'marquee players', may be used by a club for both Midweek and Weekend Pennant, in any division.
- 6.2. A 'marquee player' must be a registered member of the club and registered on the BowlsLink database prior to the first round of the applicable pennant competition.
- 6.3. A player may apply to be a marquee player for a maximum of one Weekend Pennant competition and one Midweek Pennant competition.
- 6.4. The names of any interstate player or players must be submitted to BV and the relevant Region Pennant Committee via email prior to the first round of the pennant competition. No additional or replacement interstate players can be added to a club's list after round 1.
- 6.5. Interstate players must submit a BA Interstate Pennant Permit Declaration Form through their state body. An Interstate clearance is not required.
- 6.6. An international player is defined as a player, that prior to playing in a metropolitan or Region pennant competition, has held no prior affiliation with a State Body within Australia, but has held affiliation with an overseas body and represented that body in an open national side in the last 2 years (from round 1 of Pennant season).
- 6.7. In addition to Section 1, Clause 6.5, an International marquee player is any player who does not permanently reside in Victoria (or a BV affiliated town) and shall be classified as a marquee player at the discretion of BV. Clubs are encouraged to seek approval from BV before designating their marquee players.
- 6.8. International players may be nominated at any stage during the season but remain part of the 3 marquee player limit. Names of an international player or players must be submitted to BV and the relevant region via email prior to the player playing.
- 6.9. In order to qualify for finals, a marquee player must play a minimum of 1.5 times the amount of games required by a player who is playing for their Primary Club, rounded up to the nearest whole number. i.e. If finals qualification in that competition is a minimum of 3 matches, then the marquee player must play a minimum of 5 matches to qualify.

Promotional Permit

- 6.10. Promotional permit can only be used once per club, per season.
- 6.11. A promotional permit must be used before December 22, 2025, or prior to the last 4 rounds of pennant, whichever comes first.
- 6.12. A promotional permit player must fit within the 3 player marquee limit.
- 6.13. A promotional permit player must not already be playing on a pennant permit for that season in that competition (e.g. a player on a weekend permit is not eligible for a promotional permit for Weekend Pennant in that competition).
- 6.14. An eligible player can play on multiple promotional permits throughout the season.
- 6.15. The application form must be completed, and approved by BV, 14 days prior to the promotional permit player representing the club.
- 6.16. Failure to comply will result in forfeiture of the game, under Law 39.2.1.

- 6.17. Promotional Permits to be applied for via the following link:
<https://forms.office.com/r/wad0w3SwMN>
- 6.18. Complaints about the eligibility of marquee players must be lodged via the Complaint Form:
<https://bit.ly/BV-ComplaintForm>

7. Protected Events

- 7.1. BV Victorian Open.
- The BV Victorian Open is a protected event. Pennant is not to be scheduled during the running of the event, and the scheduling/playing of rounds of region state championships and club championship events during the Victorian Open is prohibited.
 - No exemptions will be given for the conduct of region/club championships during this time.
 - The Nationals (Bowls Australia event) or an Australian representative team (capped event).
 - The Nationals and Australian representation are protected events for pennant under the following conditions. Where one player or BA appointed official from a pennant side is unavailable due to playing in The Nationals, then that side will play without any recourse.
 - Where 2 or more players or BA appointed officials are playing in The Nationals or an Australian representative team (capped event), the following shall occur:
 - By mutual agreement, sides can agree to play without those players affected;
 - Clubs are encouraged to find a suitable alternate date to avoid any clash;
 - Where a suitable alternative date cannot be agreed to, BV or the relevant Region pennant committee will nominate the suitable date.
 - If Clause 7.2.2.3 is invoked, the controlling body cannot choose a date during The Nationals.
 -
 - State and club championships can be conducted on the proviso that any player at The Nationals must have an equal opportunity to participate with no exception.
 - Pennant Competitions.
 - The scheduling/playing of rounds of region championships and club championship events on a day when Pennant rounds are scheduled is prohibited.
 - No exemptions will be given for the conduct of region or club championships during this time.

8. Controlling Body on Day of Play

The Controlling Body for matters arising on the day of play is the host club (except for finals). The club must nominate a person for this position. This person must not be the umpire or side manager of the day. For finals, BV or the relevant Region Pennant Committee is the controlling body on the day of play.

9. Side Manager on Day of Play

- 9.1. Wherever under a law, regulation, policy or the BV Conditions of Play, a side is given a right of decision or choice, it will be exercised by the side manager who will act on behalf of the side.
- 9.2. The side manager should not be the umpire or controlling body of the day for the game they are managing.

10. Umpires

- 10.1. The club that is designated as the home club must, if possible, appoint an accredited umpire to officiate.
- 10.2. If the home club does not have an accredited umpire available, then a visiting accredited umpire may be appointed to officiate. Alternatively, if no accredited umpire is available, then an accredited measurer must be appointed umpire.
- 10.3. If no accredited umpire or measurer is available, then a competent player from the home club must be appointed to act as umpire for that day.
- 10.4. An umpire's decision is final and cannot be contested, disregarded, or appealed, except for matters relating to the meaning or interpretation of a Law.
- 10.5. The umpire of the day must resolve any matter where the side managers cannot agree.
- 10.6. The umpire of the day must not be the side manager or coach or controlling body for the game they are umpiring.

11. Selection of Sides & the use of Substitutes

- 11.1. Gender cannot be used as criterion for selection, as per Equal Opportunity Act 2010, and no restrictions allowed in the Conditions of Play.
- 11.2. Subject to Section 1, Clause 1.3, sides must be filled by available players in descending order of ability.
- 11.3. If there are insufficient players available on a day of play to fill all sides entered by the club, the club's lowest graded side must be the side which concedes a walkover.
- 11.4. The club's lowest graded side can play with one or more teams playing ONE player short in accordance with Domestic Regulations (DR) 2.6.
- 11.5. An affiliated member can be used as a substitute in a club's lowest graded side. Only one substitute is permitted in each team (rink) and the substitute cannot skip.
- 11.6. The name of the substitute must be provided to the opposition manager at the time of the drawing of cards.
- 11.7. A player will not be named in more than one "side" in the same round of the same Pennant competition.
- 11.8. A player will not be named in more than one pennant "side" in a different pennant competition on the same day, unless it's considered reasonable that they could physically play both, at the discretion of BV or the relevant Region Pennant Committee
- 11.9. Failure to comply will result in forfeiture of the game, under Law 39.2.1.

12. Incomplete Team at Commencement of a Game

- 12.1. 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 or affiliated substitute is available or allowed, the game must continue in accordance with the provisions of DR 2.6.

- 12.2. A team with an absent player plays as though the second is the missing player. The opponents with a complete team will have their second play consecutive bowls in accordance with DR 2.6.
- 12.3. The skips of both teams will carry the scorecard and update the score at the completion of each end.
- 12.4. If the absent player arrives late, all players must take their original place in the team, at the completion of the end in progress.

13. Substitute After a Game has Commenced

- 13.1. If a player who has commenced the game cannot continue and there is no eligible or affiliated substitute available, the game must continue in accordance with the provisions of DR 2.6.
- 13.2. If a substitute is available, they must play in the same position as the player being substituted (excluding the skip). If the skip is required to be substituted, then the other members of the team must rearrange their positions as necessary. A substitute cannot skip.
- 13.3. If a substitute is not available, the skips of both teams will carry the scorecard and update the score at completion of each end.
- 13.4. A team with an absent player plays as though the second is the missing player. The opponents with a complete team will have their second play consecutive bowls in accordance with DR 2.6.
- 13.5. If a player arrives late or leaves the game and subsequently becomes available, they must re-join the team in their original place at the completion of the end in progress.
- 13.6. If a substitute player becomes available, the controlling body may allow them to enter the game at the completion of the end in progress.

14. Use of a Neutral Venue

By agreement, clubs may negotiate to play a game at a neutral venue.

15. Use of Alternative Venue for Home Games

- 15.1. When a club enters more sides than can be catered for at home, the club must nominate the side(s) to use the alternative venue prior to the commencement of the pennant season.
- 15.2. If during the pennant season it is necessary to transfer a home game to an alternative venue, the club must get agreement from the opposing side. If agreement cannot be reached between the clubs, it will be referred to BV or the relevant Region Pennant Committee for resolution.
- 15.3. Where the home green is available, sides will be allocated to play at the home green in descending order of grading drawn to play at home.

16. Condition of Green

- 16.1. BV recommends the speed for greens for the conduct of pennant competitions range between 13 and 17 seconds

A green must be suitable for play. When a club determines that its green(s) is not suitable for play, it must:

- 16.2.1 Inform visiting club(s) and BV and or relevant Region Pennant Committee immediately the determination is made;
- 16.2.2 Make a genuine attempt to find an alternative venue, including switching the home and away fixture.

16.3 If a satisfactory alternative green cannot be found, the club may be directed by BV or Region Pennant Committee, to use an alternative venue or forfeit the game(s) and may be subject to further action under Section 1, Clause 26.

16.4 After commencement of a game, the greens director or their deputy has the authority to close the green due to safety of players and/or damage to the green.

16.5 If a club wishes to lodge a complaint about a green, the Condition of Green Complaint Form is to be used: <https://bit.ly/BV-Green-Complaint>

17. Bowls Identification Discs

- Sides are not required to use bowls discs (adhesive labels). If they are used, then all players in the side must use a disc of the same colour and design.
- 17.1. Where opponents use the same coloured discs, the visiting side shall remove theirs or use another colour if available.
 - 17.2. Bowls discs must not cover the WB Stamp/Date, or the Serial Number of the bowl, and should be cut or trimmed to comply.
 - 17.3. Only a single layer of disc is permitted on a bowl. All bowls must have discs on both sides of the bowl. Law 52.1.8.
 - 17.4. The dot from the set of discs may be placed over the insignia on the bias side of the bowl in lieu of the small ring, provided it is from the same set of discs used by the side.

18. Rules for Attire

- 18.1. It is the responsibility of the president of the player's club to ensure a player is attired in accordance with the BV Rules for Attire when playing in a pennant competition.
- 18.2. All attire must comply with Bowls Australia National Merchandise Program (NMP) Logo Policy as it relates to upper and lower body attire.
- 18.3. Players must be attired in the same BV registered shirts/tops, and lower body wear (colour/image), except for a combined side as provided for in Section 1, Clause 2.3.
- 18.4. All lower body attire and outer wear must include the NMP logo, with placement of logo conforming to the Bowls Australia NMP guidelines.
- 18.5. For information about approved footwear, refer to the following Bowls Australia information. All footwear must comply with the Laws of the Sport of Bowls, Appendix A.2. <https://www.bowls.com.au/get-involved/attire-equipment/footwear/>
- 18.6. The NMP Logo must appear on the front or side of all headwear, except on hats with a club hat-band, where a logo is not required.

- 18.7. An affiliated member approved as a substitute must comply with the BA National Merchandise Program (NMP) Logo Policy and is permitted to wear their respective club uniform and cap.
- 18.8. Complaints must be lodged via the following form: <https://bit.ly/BV-ComplaintForm>
- 18.9. Failure to comply will result in a warning on the first occasion. A subsequent breach(s) may result in a fine of \$100 and/or action being taken under Section 1, Clause 26.
- 18.10. To register all uniform garments, the following Uniform Registration Form must be used: <https://bit.ly/BV Uniform Registration>

19. Playing of Music

- 19.1. If music is played during a pennant game, it should be appropriate in content, not impact on the conduct of the game and be at a level acceptable to side managers. If side managers cannot agree, the umpire of the day will make the final decision.
- 19.2. Any breach of this clause may result in action being taken under Section 1, Clause 26.

20. Photography, Video and Live Streaming

- 20.1. BV reserves the right to use any photographs, video, or live streaming footage taken during pennant for promotional purposes.
- 20.2. BV encourages third-party live streaming for all matches.

21. Pre-Game Pennant Practice

- 21.1. Provisions relating to Pre-Game Practice for both the home and visiting sides is subject to the Greenkeeper/Greens Director of the venue club declaring the greens available for practice. This must be the same for both the home and away side.
- 21.2. Practice is allowed on the day of play including on the rinks the game is to be played on, for both the home and visiting side.
- 21.3. Subject to Clause 21.1, both sides must have access for a minimum of 1 hour, commencing no later than ninety (90) minutes before the game is scheduled to start and concluding thirty (30) minutes before the commencement of play.
- 21.4. If required, the visiting side must have access to half the rinks the game is to be played on, and these should be consecutive rinks. In a 3-rink game, this will require sharing of 1 rink.
- 21.5. Subject to Clause 21.1, these rules apply for all sectional games, plus all finals not played at a neutral venue. For finals at a neutral venue, both sides must have access for a minimum of 1 hour, commencing no later than ninety (90) minutes before the game is scheduled to start and concluding thirty (30) minutes before the commencement of play.
- 21.6. If the allocated rinks for the game are in use for another pennant competition prior to the start of the game, an equivalent number of rinks must be made available on that green or greens, of a similar surface if available, at the club.
- 21.7. The controlling body is responsible for the management of any issues arising during the practice period.
- 21.8. The home club greens director or representative is responsible for any stoppages or green closures due to inclement weather during practice.
- 21.9. A breach may result in a fine or the deduction of four (4) competition points and/or action being taken under Section 1, Clause 26.

22. Draw for Rinks

- 22.1. The rink draw will be conducted by the Side Managers after the completion of pre-game practice and prior to the commencement of the game.

- 22.2. The cards must be shuffled and exchanged with the cards of one side being placed name face down by one manager then the other manager will place a card face down on each card. Please refer to Section 2, Clause 3 for those competitions that are using the Shuffle Button function in BowlsLink.
- 22.3. Rink draws may be conducted, from time to time, by BV or the relevant Region Pennant Committee and will be communicated to all clubs involved. This can be done in the days prior to the game being played. This includes the draws for rinks for livestreamed games.

23. Allocation of Rinks

- 23.1. Rinks must be consecutively numbered. A side will play on consecutively numbered rinks, preferably on the same green.
- 23.2. The separation of teams that are part of a side is not permitted on the same green.
- 23.3. Where more than one green is required, a side will play on those rinks which have been consecutively numbered for both greens.
- 23.4. For matches where the Shuffle Button is being used, teams must play on the allocated rinks, in numerical order. e.g. If the allocated rink numbers for that match are rinks 4 to 7, then Team 1 v Team 1 must play on the lowest allocated rink number, being Rink 4 in this example.

24. Trial Ends

- 24.1. One trial end in each direction must be played prior to the commencement of each game in accordance with Law 5.1. Trial ends must be completed prior to the scheduled start time for the game.

25. Results by Round

- 25.1. The ranking of sides in each section will be determined by the total points gained.
- 25.2. If two or more sides have the same number of points, their order will be determined by the net margin of shots 'for' minus shots 'against' each side.
- 25.3. If net margins are equal, the order will be determined by the higher proportion of 'total shots for' divided by 'total shots against'.
- 25.4. If there is still a tie for a position to qualify for finals play, the results of the home and away games between the sides will be used to determine their ranking.

26. Additional Penalty for a Side Forfeit or Walkover

- 26.1. As well as the loss of shots and points specified in Section 2, Clause 9, a club that has had a side forfeit/walkover may incur a financial penalty of up to \$50 for a 12-a-side and \$30 for a 8 a- side.
- 26.2. A club conceding a walkover must notify their opponent via phone as soon as possible, but no later than two hours before the scheduled starting time.
- 26.3. When a walkover has been conceded, it cannot be withdrawn.

27. Submission of Team Results

- 27.1. Both the home and away sides are responsible for entering full teams on BowlsLink prior to the commencement of a game. A failure to submit team(s) may result in a penalty of either a \$100 fine or the deduction of competition points for the club/side concerned. The penalty is at the discretion of BV or the relevant Region Pennant Committee.
- 27.2. Results must be finalised by the home club by midnight on the day of play.

- 27.3. If the home club fails to confirm the results in accordance with the provisions of Section 1, Clause 27.2, a penalty of either a \$100 fine or the deduction of competition points may apply to the club/side concerned. The penalty is at the discretion of BV or the relevant Region Pennant Committee.
- 27.4. If a side receives a walkover/forfeit or a bye, they must submit the names of the selected players for finals eligibility purposes in accordance with Section 1, Clause 27.1. If a side gives a walkover/forfeit no player from that side will have the game counted for eligibility of Finals.
- 27.5. Clubs may seek a correction to the result entered in BowlsLink. The request must be submitted to BV or the relevant Region Pennant Committee within 48 hours of the game being completed via the BowlsLink Pennant Match Review Request Form: [https://bit.ly/BV BowlsLink Match Review](https://bit.ly/BV_BowlsLink_Match_Review)
- 27.6. All clubs will keep scorecards for the duration of the season.
- 27.7. For those divisions not using scorecards, the dispute will be handled by the controlling body which must be on the day the game was played.

28. Game Abandoned by Side Manager Agreement

- 28.1. Matches can only be abandoned by agreement under the following conditions:
- 28.2. Weather/heat as per Section 2, Clause 10;
- 28.3. Safety of the players and/or officials;
- 28.4. Death of a player as per Section 1, Clause 38;
- 28.5. Weather other than heat i.e. rain, including lightning, Section 2, Clause 10.
- 28.6. Government restrictions;
- 28.7. At the time of abandonment points will be awarded as per Section 2, Clauses 9 and 12. Any breach of this clause may result in action being taken under Section 1, Clause 26.

29. Instantaneous Penalties

- 29.1. During a game, if an umpire, by observation or on an appeal by the controlling body, a side manager, a skip, or an opponent decides that a player or coach is non-compliant, then the end shall be immediately regarded as completed and the opponent of the offender shall be awarded as many shots as there are bowls in use by the opponents.
- 29.2. If the umpire forms the opinion on a second occasion that the same player or coach is non-compliant, the player or coach will be excluded from taking any further part in the game. A substitute will not be permitted.
- 29.3. An instantaneous penalty applied to one player in a team shall be considered as an instantaneous penalty to all players in that team. If another player within the same team also receives an instantaneous penalty, the side will be forfeited.
- 29.4. Any of the above umpire-imposed penalties are final and cannot be appealed.
- 29.5. The umpire shall also complete a BA Instantaneous Penalty Report and forward it to both BA & BV within five (5) days of the incident: <https://bit.ly/BA-Penalty-Form>

30. Smoking

- 30.1. Smoking on the green (defined as having a lit cigarette, pipe, cigar, electronic nicotine delivery system (ENDS), including e-cigs, e-cigarettes, vapes, shisha and any other form of smoking device) by a player on the green is not permitted.
- 30.2. A failure to comply can result in the umpire applying an Instantaneous Penalty (Section 1, Clause 29) and/or referring the matter to the BV or Region Disciplinary Committee.
- 30.3. Smoking is only permitted in the designated area as determined by the host club.

31. Personal Electronic/Communication Devices

- 31.1. The use of mobile phones/MP3 players/iPods/iPads/pagers/communication devices and/or other similar sound/communication devices on the green by a player is not permitted.
- 31.2. Should a player have a legitimate reason (personal emergency or medical or emergency services personnel) to answer a mobile phone, they must have permission from the umpire of the day prior to play. If approved, the device can be carried on the player but must be on silent/vibrating (only) and responded to on the bank away from play.
- 31.3. A failure to comply can result in the umpire applying an Instantaneous Penalty (Section 1, Clause 29) and/or referring the matter to the BV or Region Disciplinary Committee.
- 31.4. Exemptions will be provided for scoreboard control devices/applications and/or approved BV electronic scorecard devices/applications, requiring the use of an electronic device/application.

32. Consumption of Alcohol

- 32.1. The consumption of alcohol on the green by a player whilst a game is in progress is not permitted.
- 32.2. A failure to comply can result in the umpire applying an Instantaneous Penalty (Section 1, Clause 29) and/or referring the matter to the BV or Region Disciplinary Committee.

33. Player, Coach and Officials Conduct & Behaviour

- 33.1. All players, coaches, and officials are required to conduct themselves in a polite and sportsmanlike manner. The following behaviours are not acceptable when participating or officiating in any pennant competition:
- 33.2. Act in an abusive, threatening, or intimidating manner;
- 33.3. Use of obscene, offensive, abusive, threatening, or intimidating language including racial and gender-diverse discriminatory language;
- 33.4. Act in an unsportsmanlike manner;
- 33.5. Threaten any person with physical violence or assault;
- 33.6. Assault any person;
- 33.7. Act in a manner likely to bring the sport of bowls into disrepute;
- 33.8. Act in a manner likely to bring BV into disrepute;
- 33.9. Deliberate cheating; or
- 33.10. Abuse of an official.
- 33.11. A failure to comply can result in the umpire applying an Instantaneous Penalty (Section 1, Clause 29) and/or the matter being referred to the BV or Region Disciplinary Committee.

34. Delaying Play

- 34.1. If the umpire, by their own observation or on appeal by a side manager, decides a player is deliberately delaying the delivery of their bowl, or a skip is acting or issuing instructions designed to delay play, a warning will be issued to the skip, and the side manager must be advised.
- 34.2. If an umpire forms the opinion that the player or skip has repeated the same offence a second time, the end will be regarded as completed, and their opponent will be awarded as many shots as there are bowls in use by their opponent.

35. Damage to Green - Delivery of a Jack or Bowl

- 35.1. If the umpire, by observation or on appeal by a greens director or their deputy decides a player is causing damage to the green when delivering the jack or a bowl, a warning will be issued to the player and their skip and/or side manager advised.

- 35.2. If the umpire forms the opinion that the player has repeated the same offence a second time, the umpire will direct that the player must use a "dump mat" if available.
- 35.3. If the offending player refuses to use a "dump mat", they will be a defaulting player and be removed from the game as per Laws Definition C2.
- 35.4. If a "dump mat" is not available and the offending player refuses to leave the game, the game will be forfeited to the opposing side.
- 35.5. If a "dump mat" is not available and the offending player agrees to leave the game as directed by the umpire, a substitute is then permitted in accordance with DR 2.4.
- 35.6. A "dump mat" may only be used for an individual player(s) to address an identified issue as defined above.

36. Damage to Green - Use of a Wheelchair, Walking Frame or other Approved Artificial Device

- 36.1. If the umpire, by observation or on appeal by the Greens Director or their deputy, decides a player using a wheelchair, walking frame or other approved artificial device is causing damage to the green, a warning will be issued to the player and their skip and/or side manager advised.
- 36.2. If the umpire forms the opinion on a second occasion that the player has caused further damage to the green, the umpire will direct that the player retires from the game.
- 36.3. If a player retires from the game a substitute player is permitted.
- 36.4. If a player refuses to leave the green, they will be a defaulting player, and the game forfeited to the opposing side.

37. Bowler's Arm

- 37.1. When a player commences using a bowler's arm in a game, then the arm must be used for the remainder of the game. This does not apply to the delivery of the jack, which can be delivered either by hand or by a bowler's arm.
- 37.2. If an umpire, by observation or on appeal by a side manager or a skip, decides that a player is non-compliant then they will warn the player and advise the skip and side manager.
- 37.3. If the umpire forms the opinion on a second occasion that the same player is non-compliant, the player will be excluded from taking any further part in the game and a substitute will not be permitted.
- 37.4. Failure to comply may also result in the matter being referred to the BV or Region Disciplinary Committee and action taken under Section 1, Clause 26.
- 37.5. If a bowler's arm is rendered unplayable or deemed modified, then the player may change to another approved brand or style, on approval of the umpire or controlling body.

38. Death of a Player

- 38.1. If a game has commenced and a participating player passes away, all games in progress at the club will be abandoned.
- 38.2. Points for a game other than a final abandoned because of the death of a player will be awarded as per Section 2, Clauses 9 and 12.
- 38.3. Final games abandoned for this reason will be resumed under such conditions as BV or Region decides, with the scores carried forward as they were when play was abandoned, unless the scores are such that one side must win the game if all the remaining ends were played.

SECTION 2

Western District Playing Area Pennant Conditions of Play

1. Competition Format

- 1.1. Each Region Pennant Competition within the Western District Playing Area has divisions and within each division, there will be sections, except for Premier Division and Premier Reserve division in Weekend Pennant.
- 1.2. If a club has more than one side in a division, the club should indicate, 7 days prior to the finality of the draw, which numbered side is placed in each section, otherwise BV or the relevant Region Pennant Committee will place the sides.
- 1.3. The number of divisions and sections will depend on the number of entries received.

2. Draw for rinks

- 2.1 In the case of Western District Playing Area that is live scoring the draw for rinks is to be conducted by using the Shuffle Button feature in BowlsLink. This is to be done by the home side on the day of the scheduled match, in conjunction with a representative of the visiting side, prior to the commencement of play.

Note: BowlsLink will only allow this button to be clicked once. It also keeps a record of the BowlsLink ID that was used, and the time the shuffle button was pressed. Once this button has been clicked, you cannot alter any players within any of the teams. Please ensure all teams have been entered correctly by both sides prior to shuffling the teams.

3. Eligibility to Play in Finals

- 3.1. To be eligible to play finals, a player must:
 - 3.1.1. Comply with Section 1, Clause 4 in the Conditions of Play (Eligibility of Players);
 - 3.1.2. Have played a minimum of 4 games for the club in that competition.
- 3.2 Weekend and Midweek Pennant.
 - 3.2.1 A player must have played 4 or more games in the side concerned or lower graded sides combined.
 - 3.2.2. In each competition, a side must not include any player who, during the current season, has played 8 or more games in higher graded sides, For permit and marquee players, refer to Section 1 Clauses 5.4 and 6.8 for eligibility.
- 3.3. If a club has insufficient players for their lowest side, they may apply to BV or your Region pennant committee for approval to include a player from their next lowest side who's played the majority of games in that side but has not met the above requirements. All exemption requests must be made via the BV Exemption Request Form, and both sides involved in the relevant fixture will be advised of the outcome. All requests must be made no later than 72 hours prior to the fixtured game.

BV Exemption Request Form: <https://bit.ly/BV-Exemption-Request>

- 3.4. A player who has been given an exemption to play, cannot skip.
- 3.5. BV reserves the right to provide an exemption in a side other than a club's lowest side, if deemed appropriate.

3.6. Failure to comply will result in forfeiture of the game, under Law 39.2.1.

4. Interchanging of Players Between Sides Prior to Finals

- 4.2. Prior to the last three rounds of a Western District Playing Area pennant competition, there will be no restrictions on the interchange of players between the sides of a club.
- 4.3. For the last three rounds of a Western District Playing Area pennant competition, no side will include more than three (3) players who have played a majority (51% or more) of their games in any combination of higher graded Sides.
- 4.4. If Section 2, clause 5.2 cannot be met in the lowest side only, the club may apply to Western District Playing Area for approval to include a player from their next lowest side, who has not met the above requirements. All exemption requests must be made via the BV Exemption Form and both sides involved in the relevant fixture will be advised of the outcome. All requests must be made no later than 72 hours prior to the fixtured game.

BV Exemption Request Form: <https://bit.ly/BV-Exemption-Request>

- 4.5. The BowlsLink competition management system shall be used as the official record of the number of games played by a player.
- 4.6. Failure to comply will result in forfeiture of the game, under Law 39.2.1.

5. Advice of Abandonment of Play or change to scheduled start time

- 5.1 Updates will be provided on the Western District Playing Area Website and the Western District Playing Area Facebook page.
- 5.2 The club giving the forfeit must advise the Western District Playing Area Competitions Committee as soon as possible.

6. Rescheduling of Games

- 6.1 Except for the final round of sectional play in all competitions, clubs may negotiate to play a game at a time or day other than the scheduled time, prior to the next round's scheduled match, unless approved by the Western District Playing Area Competitions Committee.

7. Scorecards

- 7.1 All other divisions have the choice between using the BA Scoring App or paper scorecards.

8. Points Allocated for a Game

12 player Side win	6 points
Side tie	3 points
Team win	2 points
Team tie	1 point
Bye	No points
Uneven number of byes	12 points

8 Player Side win	4 points
Side tie	2 points
Team win	2 points
Bye	No points
Uneven number of byes	8 points

8.2 Points for a side receiving a walkover*

12 players per side	12 points, plus 15 shots
8 players per side	8 points, plus 8 shots

*Note: A walkover results from a club's inability to meet its commitment to field a side. This includes a walkover resulting from a side withdrawal after the competition has commenced. Available players in sides giving a walkover will not have the game counted as part of eligibility for finals qualification purposes.

8.3 Penalty for a side giving a walkover**

12 players per side	0 points, minus 15 shots
8 players per side	0 points, minus 8 shots

**Note: This includes a walkover resulting from a side withdrawal after the competition has commenced.

8.4 Points for a side receiving a forfeit are below, unless the score at the time of forfeiture is greater than the below table, then the higher score shall be recorded.***

12 players per side	12 points, plus 15 shots
8 players per side	8 points, plus 8 shots

***Note: A forfeit is a penalty for an infringement of any of the Laws, BA Domestic Regulations, BA Policies, BV Constitution, BV Regulations, BV Policies or BV Condition of Play.

8.5 Points for a side giving a forfeit are below, unless the score at the time of forfeiture is greater than the below table, then the higher score shall be recorded.

12 players per side	0 points, minus 15 shots
8 players per side	0 points, minus 8 shots

8.6 Points for an abandoned game****

(Refer criteria for abandoned game Section 1, Clauses 28, 29, 38 and Section 2, Clause 10)

12 players per side	6 points, no shots
8 players per side	4 points, no shots

**** Unless the scores are such that a side must win the game if all remaining ends were played.

8.7 Points for an abandoned round in all divisions **** refer section 2 9.4.1

No points are awarded

8.7 Points for an abandoned round in one division **** refer section 2 9.5
38.4.

12 players per side	6 points, no shots
8 players per side	4 points, no shots

9. Inclement Weather, Play Commencement, and Interruption to Play

9.2. **Inclement weather - Heat (on the day of play)** - It is the responsibility of the umpires to monitor and record the time the temperature is taken and any suspension or interruption to play. Clubs must use a thermometer in a Stevenson's screenbox placed in an open position beside or above the green. .

9.2.2. Play cannot commence:

- 9.2.2.1. If the temperature at the club's designated weather station has reached 36 degrees Celsius or above at the scheduled commencement time of the game, play will be suspended for up to 1 hour. If at any stage after play has been suspended the temperature falls to below 36 degrees Celsius play must be commenced.
- 9.2.2.2. If the temperature fails to fall below 36 degrees Celsius within 1 hour of play being suspended, the game is abandoned.

9.2.3. Play has commenced:

- 9.2.3.1. If the temperature at the club's weather station has reached 36 degrees Celsius or above at any time after play commences, play will be immediately suspended for up to 1 hour. It is the responsibility of the side managers to record the time that play is suspended.
- 9.2.3.2. If at any stage after play has been suspended the temperature falls below 36 degrees Celsius play must resume immediately, with no time given for side or team meetings.
- 9.2.3.3. If the temperature fails to fall below 36 degrees Celsius after play has been suspended for 1 hour, the game will be abandoned.
- 9.2.3.4. Midweek and Weekend Pennant games that are interrupted, will be abandoned after five (5) hours from the scheduled start time.

9.3. Inclement weather other than heat:

9.3.2. It is the responsibility of the side managers to monitor and record the time of any suspension or interruption to play. Play cannot commence:

- 9.3.2.1. If play cannot commence at the scheduled commencement time of the game, play may be suspended for up to 1 hour.
- 9.3.2.2. If after 1 hour of play being suspended the game cannot commence, the game will be abandoned..

9.3.3. Play has commenced:

- 9.3.3.1. If after 1 hour of play being suspended the game cannot continue, the game will be abandoned. It is the responsibility of the side managers to record the time that play is suspended.
- 9.3.3.2. Every effort must be made to complete any ends in progress prior to leaving the green.

9.3.3.3. Midweek and Weekend Pennant games that are interrupted, will be abandoned after five (5) hours from the scheduled start time.

9.4. If lightning is present:

9.4.2. It is the responsibility of the side managers to monitor and record the provisions relating to lightning. Play should be immediately suspended if the time between seeing a lightning flash and hearing a thunderclap is less than 30 seconds, which indicates the thunderstorm is within 10km of the venue. This includes outdoor covered greens.

Only venues that are completely closed in can continue play while there is lightning present. Players should go inside an enclosed building and stay inside until 30 minutes after the last sight of lightning.

9.4.3. Bowlers' arms, bowls lifters and umbrellas should not be handled when lightning is present.

9.5. 'Total Fire Ban fire rating scheduled on day of play:

9.5.2. If a Total Fire Ban is announced for the South West Fire District on a day of play, by the Bureau of Meteorology, all pennant competitions will be abandoned, and no results will be required to be submitted.

9.5.3. If a club is facing extreme or catastrophic threat from fire, the Western District Playing Area Competitions Committee and opposing club should be notified immediately. Matches will be abandoned and points shared.

9.6. Leaving the green, interruption to play and stoppage:

9.6.2. No player can leave the green without permission of their opponent, in accordance with Law 32.1. If an opponent refuses permission the player can appeal to the umpire.

9.6.3. After 10 minutes has elapsed from commencement of an interruption to play as determined by the side managers agreement, or the umpire of the day or greenkeeper, the interruption becomes a stoppage as per Law 33.

9.6.4. After a stoppage of play has been declared and if all bowls have not been played or the number of shots not agreed to, the end must be declared dead, in accordance with Law 33.

9.6.5. If the game stoppage exceeds one hour the game will be abandoned (Refer Section 1, Clause 28).

9.7. Teams are not to be altered on BowlsLink after a match has been declared a washout or heat out.

10. Final Series Game Abandoned due to Weather

10.2. Every effort must be made to complete a finals series game on the scheduled day.

10.3. If a finals series game is abandoned, it will be rescheduled and completed under such conditions as the Western District Playing Area Competitions Committee decides, unless the scores are such that one side must win the game if all remaining ends were played.

11. Awarding of Points for Abandoned Games

11.2. If play is abandoned by Western District Playing Area Competitions Committee for all games in a round, the points will be allocated as per an abandoned game, as provided in Section 2, Clause 9.

11.3. When play has commenced, and the game is subsequently abandoned under Section 1, Clause 28 (Game Abandoned by Side Manager Agreement) or Section 1, Clause 29 (Inclement Weather, Play Commencing and Interruption to Play), or Section 1, Clause 38 (Death of a Player), and the following minimum number of ends in total have been completed;

- 45 ends being completed for a 12-player game;
- 30 ends being completed for a 8-player game;

then the game will be awarded to the side that has the higher number of total shots at the time the game is abandoned, and points shall be allocated in accordance with the provisions of Section 2, Clause 9.1.

If the game is abandoned prior to the above number of ends being completed, the maximum available points will be shared equally as for an abandoned game (Section 2, Clause 9.6).

11.3. In the event of government-imposed constraints impacting on the competition or individual clubs, Western District Playing Area Competitions Committee will take the necessary action which may include abandonment of games.

11.4 If games are abandoned by Western District Playing Area Competitions Committee due to Government restrictions, points will be shared equally as for an abandoned game (Section 1, Clause 28).

11.5 If half or more than half of the pennant matches of a Western District Playing Area pennant division are abandoned because of inclement weather, points for that division will be shared.

SECTION 3 – MIDWEEK PENNANT FORMAT

1. Format of Play

- 1.1 Division 1
 - Division of seven (7) sides
 - 14 rounds to be played (Home and Away)
 - 12 players per side, 4 players per team, 2 bowls per player, 21 ends

- 1.2 Division 2
 - Division of ten (10) sides
 - 14 rounds to be played (Home and Away)
 - 12 players per side, 4 players per team, 2 bowls per player, 21 ends

- 1.3 Divisions 3 and 4
 - Division of 8 sides, with flexibility in division 4
 - 14 rounds to be played (Home and Away)
 - 8 players per side, 4 players per team, 2 bowls per player, 21 ends

1.4 Finals

Semi Final

1 v 2 at a venue decided by the Western District Competitions Committee

Elimination Final

3 v 4 at a venue decided by the Western District Competitions Committee

Preliminary Final

Loser of section semi-final v winner of elimination final at a venue decided by the Western District Competitions Committee

Grand Final

Winner of section semi-final v winner of section preliminary final at a venue as per the rotation of venues in the Western District Playing Area.

2. Scheduling of Midweek Games for Sectional Play

- 2.1 Play is scheduled for the following start times, with two trial ends to be completed before the below times:

Tuesday – Roll up 9.30 am with play to commence by 9.45 am Pre match practice to conclude by 9.15 am

- 2.2 With the agreement of the opposing club, sectional games in all divisions can be rescheduled . These games can take place at any time after the previous round of fixtures

bt must be completed by the next scheduled round. The home side must notify the Western District Playing Area Competitions Committee of any change.

2.3 There is no provision to commence or complete a rescheduled game on another day.

2.4 There is no provision for clubs to reschedule the final round of games of Sectional Play in any competition.

3. Scheduled Breaks

Subject to any variation in the start time, or playing conditions, a scheduled break may be taken by agreement between the side managers. If not subject to deteriorating playing conditions, and a scheduled break is to be taken during the match, side managers must agree prior to the match.

4. Scheduling of Games for Finals

All finals will be scheduled by Western District Playing Area Competitions Committee on a Tuesday with a back up on the following day, Wednesday.

5. State Pennant Championship Representation

The winner of the Midweek Division 1 championship will be the Western District Playing Area representative in the West Coast Bowls Region Pennant Finals.

6. Promotion & Relegation

Promotion and relegation will not apply for the 2025-26 season.

SECTION 4 – WEEKEND PENNANT FORMAT

1. Format of Play

1.1 Division 1

- Division of twelve (12) sides
- rounds to be played (Home and Away)
- 12 players per side, 4 players per team, 2 bowls per player, 21 ends

1.2 Division 2

- Division of ten (10) sides
- rounds to be played (Home and Away)
- 12 players per side, 4 players per team, 2 bowls per player, 21 ends

1.3 Division 3

- Division of nine (9) sides,
- rounds to be played (Home and Away)
- 12 players per side, 4 players per team, 2 bowls per player, 21 ends All

1.4 Division 4

- Division of eight (8) sides
- rounds to be played (Home and Away)
- 8 players per side, 4 players per team, 2 bowls per player, 21 ends

1.5 Division 5

- Division of seven(7) sides
- rounds to be played (Home and Away)
- 8 players per side, 4 players per team, 2 bowls per player, 21 ends

1.6 Finals

Semi Final

1 v 2 at a venue decided by the Western District Playing Area Competitiopns Committee

Elimination Final

3 v 4 at a venue decided by the Western District Playing Area Competitiopns Committee

Preliminary Final

Loser of section semi-final v winner of elimination final at a venue decided by the Western District Playing Area Competitiopns Committee

Grand Final

Winner of section semi-final v winner of section prelim final at a venue as per the rotation of venues in the Western District Playing Area.

2. Scheduling of Games for Sectional Play

2.1 Play is scheduled for Saturdays with the a starting time of 1.15 pm with two trial ends to be completed after pregame practice has finished and before the scheduled start time:

2.2 With the agreement of the opposing club, sectional games in all divisions can be rescheduled. These games can take place at any time after the previous round of fixtures but must be completed by the next round of fixtures. The home side must notify BV or the relevant Region pennant committee of any change.

2.3 A rescheduled game that has NOT commenced CAN again be rescheduled provided it is concluded before the scheduled start time of the following round of the competition.

2.4 Rescheduled games that have commenced and are abandoned cannot be rescheduled for any other day and will have the points shared as per an abandoned game, as provided for in Section 1, Clause 33.

2.5 Points for a game not rescheduled under Clause 3.3 will be shared as per an abandoned game, under Section 1, Clause 30.6.

2.6 Points for a game rescheduled under Clause 3.3 where play has commenced, and the game is subsequently abandoned will be allocated under Section 1, Clause 33.2.

3. Scheduled Breaks

Subject to any variation in the start time, or playing conditions, a scheduled break may be taken by agreement between the side managers. If not subject to deteriorating playing conditions, and a scheduled break is to be taken during the match, side managers must agree prior to the match.

4. Scheduling of Games for Finals

All finals will be scheduled by The Western District Playing Area Competitions Committee for Saturdays with a back up on the following day, Sunday.

5. State Pennant Representation

The winner of Division 1 will be represent the Western District Playing Area in the West Coast Bowls Region Pennant final.

6. Promotion & Relegation

No promotion or relegation wil apply in th 2025-26 seasn.

