



Gippsland Bowls Region Inc.

Affiliated with Bowls Victoria

President: Jan Morton

0478 781 318

Secretary: Bronwyn Thwaites

0405 120 181

gippslandbowlsregion@gmail.com

1. Junior Development in the Gippsland Bowls Region.

Attn: Club Coaches, Presidents and bowlers

The Gippsland Bowls Region (GBR) Board is committed to developing, encouraging and assisting junior bowlers to take up our game. To facilitate this vision the Region has delegated a **Junior Development Committee (JDC)** to promote and oversee opportunities for young bowlers to participate.

The concept includes the formation of the **Gippsland Bowls Region Junior Development Squad (JDS)** that will involve Region Club coaches teaching the game to juniors and developing their skills to allow them to participate with their home club as well as junior tournaments and BV representative teams. We see this benefitting all participating clubs through increased membership.

The JDS will be linked with the Bowls Victoria junior development program, and we will have the benefit of their resources and help. The BV JDC has forwarded us a flyer for us to include in our marketing.

Activities for the JDS will include training within their club environment, skill development sessions and competition at the Region "hub" club, competition against other Junior Development Squads, provision of resources to encourage participation at BV events and trials for selection for higher level representative teams.

All juniors involved in the JDS will be asked and encouraged by the Region to participate as much as possible at their home club in club events, state events, pennant and any other forms of competition.

The success of this project depends on the enthusiastic participation of the Region Clubs and their coaches. The coaches will be asked to become involved by coaching and encouraging Juniors within their club facilities as well as becoming involved in the Region JDS events.

The dates and frequency of these events has not been confirmed at this stage but the JDC is working hard at developing a calendar to fit with all other events in the GBR. The JDC is intending the JDS skill sessions to be a regular occurrence at a Region hub Club in the North and East Sections. These "hub" clubs will become their section's centre for Junior Development.

There will be occasions through out the season when the Section hub squads will meet as the GBR Junior Development Squad for skill sessions and competition.

We are in the process of designing a uniform for the JDS that will be based on the new Region uniform participants will wear at all JDS events including representing the Region. Also in development is a dedicated JDS page on the GBR website, a Facebook page for access by parents and others, flyers, posters and other information circulating to schools and other community student groups and the TeamApp for maintain contact with the junior bowlers.

The Junior Development Committee is a group of committed bowlers who want to develop our game in Gippsland. We see junior development and competition flourishing in metro Melbourne and regional centres and believe it is possible to emulate their successes here. We certainly have the coaching expertise available.

We understand this will not be an easy project to get up and running but believe that with the Region's clubs support and the enthusiasm of committed coaches we can reap the benefit of junior bowlers (and their families) within a few seasons.

2. Accreditation and Reaccreditation as a Coach

The GBR is looking to encourage Region bowlers to become accredited coaches and is therefore offering them the opportunity of qualification at the Regions expense. The Region will pay the full amount for accreditation as a Club Coach.

It is important that all Clubs in the GBR have an accredited Coach. Accreditation provides the bowler with the tools and resources to teach constructively. The course for prospective coaches highlights methods of teaching not “how to bowl” but helping the coach to recognise the best method of providing the relevant information and relating to people of all ages.

For your club to be involved in the forementioned JDS, you need to have an accredited coach registered on your Bowslink membership list. Having , for example, a division 1 member teaching your new members is not enough. We all know that a great sportsman does not necessarily make a good coach....

To sign up for a course, bowlers need to go to the BV website at <https://www.bowlsvic.org.au/coaching-officiating/coaching/> (Home page – Club Assist – Coaching). If you have problems with this, please contact me for assistance. If you have previously registered for a course and have not heard anything from BV please let me know.

3. Meeting of Coaches

As you all know, Covid is causing havoc with schedules and planning! I have been intending to organise a meeting of coaches, club presidents and other interested bowlers to explain the Region’s intentions with junior development and provide the opportunity for questions but have been reluctant to set a date until we have more certainty on the lockdown situation.

I will hold the meeting in the evening to allow those of us who work attend. Please make the effort to attend as this needs to be a united effort. The fruits of its success will benefit us all!

I will announce the date and time of the meeting(s) in the near future.

Please don’t hesitate to contact (email, text, phone) me if you require any clarification re the information in this email.

Regards



Nigel Plunkett

Coaching Coordinator &
Junior Development Committee
Gippsland Bowls Region
0400 569 481
plunks991@bigpond.com