



Gippsland Region Board summary

The Gippsland Region Board (GBR) met on Monday 12 December 2022 at Paynesville Bowls Club. The following is a summary of matters discussed and decisions made.

Alcohol policy

The Board noted that under Clause 15 of the Bowls Victoria (BV) Conditions of Play for State Events, consumption of alcohol by a player is not permitted while a game is in progress. Failure to comply can result in the umpire calling an Instantaneous Penalty (Clause 18) and/or referring the matter to the BV Disciplinary Committee (Clause 19). All BV Under 18 events are to be alcohol free.

While an alcohol policy for pennant remains a club responsibility, the Board encourages clubs to take a stronger position on disallowing consumption during play, particularly now that more juniors are becoming involved in Weekend Pennant.

Pennant

The Board noted that:

- Heyfield and West Sale remain concerned about the resumption date of 7 January
- some clubs have expressed a preference for a shorter season next year.

These and other pennant-related matters will be considered after the season, with input sought from clubs.

Pennant attire

The Board has written to all Club Presidents reminding them of their responsibility to ensure players wear appropriate bowls attire when playing pennant. This follows incidents of inappropriate clothing being worn by bowlers, for example hats without the BA logo, denim shorts, and black and coloured above ankle socks without the BA logo.

Refer to Clause 17 Rules for Attire

[BV-Regional-Pennant-Conditions-of-Play-22-23-V2-051022.pdf \(bowlsvic.org.au\)](https://www.bowlsvic.org.au/BV-Regional-Pennant-Conditions-of-Play-22-23-V2-051022.pdf)

Region Sides

The Board noted that Bowls Victoria will hold a briefing via Zoom for all Regions at which the plans for the 2023 Region Sides competition will be outlined, including event structure, selection guidelines and playing schedule.

At the closing date, a total of 53 (32 men and 21 women) have submitted an Expression of Interest for inclusion in the Gippsland squad. A full practice match against the Strezlecki men's and women's sides will be held at Traralgon on 13 May next year, two weeks before the Sides championships in Moama.

Junior development

Nigel Plunkett provided an update on the junior development program, noting that:

- Macy McCausland, a junior from West Sale, played against Sale in Weekend Pennant with excellent support and encouragement
- Paynesville juniors are regular Weekend Pennant players in Division 4
- Stratford, Maffra, Heyfield and Howitt Park are coming on board
- he is continuing to work with School Sports Victoria and Bowls Victoria to get a date for a north playing area competition in 2023; the east competition is on 10 March
- there is a possibility a provincial junior championship could be held in Gippsland in January 2024.

Greens Panel

The Board has established a panel of accredited greens inspectors from both playing areas to ensure greens across the Region are inspected in a timely manner before and throughout the bowls season. Under the direction of the Board, the panel's role is to:

- inspect greens and pass them fit for pennant and championship events
- inspect greens before the pennant finals and report findings to the GBR Competitions Committee
- conduct ad hoc inspections during the season on request from clubs.

Members are Mick Ketchen, John Budge, Ivan Thompson, Nev Irish, Neil Gore, Des Phillips, Jan Morton and Pam Carter (if required).

Information session

The next information session for delegates will be at the Maffra Bowling Club on Monday 20 February 2023, to be followed by a Board meeting.

Bronwyn Thwaites
GBR Secretary