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# GIPPSLAND BOWLS REGION PENNANT & COMPETITIONS CONDITIONS OF PLAY

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2023-24



GIPPSLAND BOWLS REGION INC  
[gbr.bowls.com.au](http://gbr.bowls.com.au)

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# Section 1

## Gippsland Bowls Region Pennant COP: Season 2023-24

### 1. Foreword

The Gippsland Region Pennant Competition will be conducted in accordance with:

- Gippsland Bowls Region (GBR) Inc Constitution and Regulations.
- Laws of the Sport of Bowls Crystal Mark 3rd edition Version 4.1 Bowls Australia (BA) Domestic Regulations,
- Bowls Victoria (BV) Pennant Competitions Conditions of Play & BV Regions Conditions of Play (excepting where Regions reserve the right to alter or amend the conditions of play as it considers necessary)
- GBR Pennant Conditions of Play.
- GBR reserves the right to amend the Conditions of Play (COP) for the successful conduct of the competition.
- No laws governing 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.

### 2. Eligibility of players

- 2.1. Clubs must ensure all players are registered BV players with playing rights on the BowlsLink database prior to the commencement of the match in question. A breach of this requirement will result in forfeiture of the game to the opponent.

### 3. Divisions

- 3.1. Clubs may enter a side or sides in Gippsland Bowls Region Pennant competitions in the section in which they are located (East or North). 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 Gippsland Bowls Region. Sides of a club will be graded numerically (1, 2, 3, 4 etc.) in descending order of ability, in each individual competition. This will determine eligibility for finals, including where clubs have multiple sides in a division.
- 3.2. For both midweek and weekend competitions, the normal composition of the competition will be as follows with 5 divisions available in each of the North and East playing areas:
  - 3.2.1. Division 1 - 12 players per side (3 teams)
  - 3.2.2. Division 2 - 12 players per side (3 teams)
  - 3.2.3. Division 3 - 8 players per side (2 teams)
  - 3.2.4. Division 4 - 8 players per side (2 teams)
  - 3.2.5. Division 5 - 6 players per side (2 teams)

- 3.3. For both midweek and weekend pennant the number of divisions, or teams in a division can be reduced or increased by the GBR Competitions Committee subject to teams available for each season.

#### **4. Number of ends**

- 4.1. Divisions 1,2,3 & 4 will play 21 live ends.
- 4.2. Six a Side will play 15 live ends.

#### **5. Points system**

Pennant games will be decided on the following points system:

- 5.1. Sides of 12 (3 teams): 2 points for a team win and 8 points for aggregate.
- 5.2. Sides of 8 (2 teams): 2 points for a team win and 6 points for aggregate.
- 5.3. Six a Side (2 teams): 2 points for a team win and 6 points for aggregate.
- 5.4. Tied team or tied games - the points are to be divided.
- 5.5. A bye – no points allocated.
- 5.6. Cancelled or abandoned round, points shared. However, the GBR Competitions Committee reserves the right to make up an abandoned round later in any season.
- 5.7. **Forfeit.** Unless permission has been granted by the GBR Competitions Committee, a side which has defaulted in any match shall incur a match point penalty with the total match points available for the game and 10 shots being awarded to the opponent of the offending side and 10 shots removed from the defaulting side.  
**Additional Penalty for Forfeit.** A club may incur a \$25.00 fine.  
A walkover or forfeit related to Covid-19 will not incur a penalty.
- 5.8. At the conclusion of sectional play points shall decide the position of the clubs. If points are equal, shots up shall decide the position and, if these are equal then percentage shall decide the position.

#### **6. Match commencement time**

- 6.1. The normal commencement time will be 1.00pm for weekend pennant and 10.00am for midweek pennant. Commencement time can be brought forward by up to 30 minutes by agreement between side managers on the day of play without notifying GBR Competitions Committee. Play will conclude 4 hours 15 minutes after commencement of play.
- 6.2. The match commencement day and time may be altered by mutual agreement between the Sides concerned prior to the day of play. Weekend Pennant matches may be rescheduled to be played on a Friday, Saturday, or Sunday for Weekend Pennant (Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday for Midweek Pennant) at a time other than the normal match commencement time. The GBR Pennant Committee Chair shall be notified no less than 2 days prior to the match if the match commencement time is altered prior to the day of play. Matches may be played during the day or at night (provided artificial lighting is suitable). Once agreement is reached to reschedule a match to other than the scheduled Tuesday at 10.00am or Saturday at 1.00pm, the home side must contact the chair of the Competitions Committee to advise of the intended start time before the match commences.
- 6.3. There is no provision to commence or complete a rescheduled game on another day.

Where the match commencement time is altered prior to the day of play, the match must conclude 4 hours 15 minutes after the match commencement.

- 6.4. Side managers must note starting time on each scorecard prior to the commencement of play.

## **7. Scheduled break.**

- 7.1. No scheduled break will be taken during Midweek or Weekend Pennant matches. Please refer to law Section 2.2 Rule 32.1 & 32.2 when necessary.

## **8. Finals**

- 8.1. All finals are to commence at 1:00pm (weekend) or 10:00am (midweek) on the day programmed by the GBR Competitions Committee. Afternoon tea or lunch is to be taken as programmed by the GBR Competitions Committee.
- 8.2. Subject to the condition and availability of greens, semi-finals and preliminary finals post section matches are to be played at venues decided by the GBR Competitions Committee.
- 8.3. The section final for all divisions is to be played at one venue, if possible, located in the appropriate section to be selected by the GBR Competitions Committee.
- 8.4. GBR grand finals for a season are to be played at one venue to be selected by the GBR Competitions Committee. The venue is to be rotated between East and North sections where possible.
- 8.5. The side highest on the ladder at the end of the season will be deemed to be the home side.
- 8.6. In the Region pennant final, the side in its home **playing area** will be deemed the home club.

### **8.7. Section finals for divisions of 9 or more sides.**

The finals series will be conducted according to the McIntyre “Final Five” System:

- 8.7.1. Qualifying Final 2<sup>nd</sup> v 3<sup>rd</sup>
- 8.7.2. Elimination Final 4<sup>th</sup> v 5<sup>th</sup>
- 8.7.3. 1<sup>st</sup> Semi Final - Loser of Qualifying Final v Winner of Elimination Final.
- 8.7.4. 2<sup>nd</sup> Semi Final - 1<sup>st</sup> v Winner of Qualifying Final
- 8.7.5. Preliminary Final – Loser of 2<sup>nd</sup> Semi Final v Winner of 1<sup>st</sup> Semi Final
- 8.7.6. Grand Final – Winner of 2<sup>nd</sup> Semi Final v Winner of Preliminary Final.

### **8.8. Section finals in divisions of 7 or 8 sides.**

- 8.8.1. Qualifying Final: 1<sup>st</sup> v 2<sup>nd</sup>
- 8.8.2. Elimination Final: 3<sup>rd</sup> v 4<sup>th</sup>.
- 8.8.3. Preliminary Final: Winner of Elimination Final v Loser of Qualifying Final
- 8.8.4. Grand Final - Winner of Qualifying Final v Winner of Preliminary Final.

### **8.9. Section finals in divisions of 6 sides or less.**

- 8.9.1. The top side at the completion of the home and away season will progress directly to the Section Final.

8.9.2. Preliminary Finals will be played between 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> placed teams with the winner progressing to the Section Final.

8.10. In all final's games, should sides obtain equal number of shots at the completion of the game, an extra end or ends will be played by all rinks to decide the winners.

8.11. Time limits do not apply to finals (refer to BV COP 35.1 & 35.2)

## **9. Region Grand Finals**

9.1. Other than Region-wide Division 1 competitions, Section East division winners will play Section North division winners to decide the Region winner.

## **10. Finals Eligibility**

10.1. To be eligible to play finals, a player must comply with Clause 1 in the Conditions of Play (Eligibility of players) and must have played a minimum of 4 (four) games for the club in the Weekend Pennant and 3 (three) in Midweek Pennant competitions.

10.2. A side may not include any player who, during the current season has played more than four games in any combination of higher graded sides unless the player has also played in four or more games in the side concerned and/or a lower graded side.

10.3. The provisions relating to the interchange of players between sides in finals also apply to players involved in combined sides formed under Clause 2 BV Regional Pennant COP

10.4. A club who has insufficient eligible players for any finals of a region pennant competition may apply to the region pennant Committee for approval to play other players from the club. If this approval is granted, then such players may play in any position other than skip.

## **11. Inclement weather (not including heat)**

11.1. To ensure player safety and protection of club assets, the conditions below will be applied during inclement weather. If a game is cancelled, the home side captain is to notify their opponents, the home club completes results entry on the website, the away club – confirm results on the website.

11.2. All section East pennant matches shall be abandoned when a Total Fire Ban has been declared for the East Gippsland Fire Ban district.

11.3. All section North pennant matches shall be abandoned on a day when a Total Fire Ban has been declared for the West and South Gippsland Fire Ban district.

11.4. All GBR Pennant matches shall be abandoned when a "Code Red" or "Catastrophic" emergency warning has been declared for the area in which a match is scheduled to be played. Any games in progress at the affected venue/s shall be stopped immediately.

11.5. If inclement weather is likely to impact on the condition of the green on a day of play, the home venue is to arrange for the club Greens Director or a Deputy to attend the venue no less than one hour prior to match commencement.

11.6. If a green is deemed to be unfit for play by the club Greens Director or their Deputy, every effort shall be made to notify the President and/or Secretary of the visiting club as soon as it becomes apparent that the green is unsuitable. Play will be transferred to the away side venue should rinks be available.

Should they not be available, an alternative venue should be sought. If an alternative venue is not available points will be allocated in accordance with 4.6

- 11.7. The club Greens Director or their Deputy at the venue where the match is scheduled to be played has the authority to determine whether the match will commence as scheduled or the start time delayed for up to one hour to allow the condition of the green to improve to a playable condition.
- 11.8. **If play cannot commence** at the scheduled commencement time of the match due to inclement weather, play may be suspended for up to 1 hour.
- 11.9. **If play has commenced**, and after 1 hour of play being suspended the match cannot re-commence, the match will be abandoned. Every effort must be made to complete any ends in progress prior to leaving the green.
- 11.10. The club Green Director or Deputy at the venue where the match is played has the authority to close the green during play if they consider play is causing damage to the green.
- 11.11. Pennant matches which have been interrupted shall be abandoned after 4 hours and 15 minutes from the scheduled start time.
- 11.12. Play should be immediately suspended when lightning is present within the vicinity of the venue. Players should go inside a sturdy building and stay inside until 30 minutes after the last sight of lightning. Bowlers' arms, bowls lifters and umbrellas should not be used or carried.
- 11.13. Extreme weather: Prior to 2.5 hours before the appointed time for commencing play the Competitions Committee will decide if all play will be abandoned in playing areas and will advise the clubs accordingly.

## 12. Inclement weather – Heat

- 12.1. The side managers of the highest numbered sides at a venue shall be responsible for carrying out the duties contained in this clause. Where an agreement cannot be made, the umpire shall be the sole judge and their decision is final.
- 12.2. **Play cannot commence if:**  
the temperature at the host club reaches 36 degrees Celsius at the scheduled commencement time of the match, play may be suspended for up to 1 hour. Should the temperature fall below 36 degrees Celsius within one hour of play being suspended, play shall resume.
- 12.3. the temperature fails to fall below 36 degrees Celsius within 1 hour of play being suspended, the match is abandoned.
- 12.4. **If play has already commenced:**  
Play will be suspended for up to 1 hour if the temperature at the host club reaches 36 degrees Celsius at any time after the start of play. If the temperature falls below 36 degrees Celsius within one hour of play being suspended, play shall resume.
- 12.5. The match will be abandoned if the temperature fails to fall below 36 degrees Celsius after play has been suspended for 1 hour.
- 12.6. Pennant matches which have been interrupted shall be abandoned after 4 hours and 15 minutes from the scheduled start time.
- 12.7. Every effort must be made to complete any ends in progress prior to leaving the green.
- 12.8. The host club is to provide a suitable temperature reading device. In the absence of a suitable temperature reading device the BOM reading for the location will apply.

### **13. Points when play is abandoned by agreement and a result is possible.**

- 13.1. Points will be allocated as if the match has been completed using the scores at the time the match was abandoned.
- 13.2. If play has commenced and the match is subsequently abandoned by mutual agreement between the side managers and the following minimum number of ends have been completed
  - 12 player side - 48 ends
  - 8 player side - 32 ends
  - 6 player side - 22 endsthe game will be awarded to the side which has the higher number of shots at the time the game is abandoned, and the points allocated according to condition 4 of the GBR Pennant competition COP.

### **14. Points when less than 50% of matches are completed.**

- 14.1. Points will be shared by sides when all matches scheduled for that day are abandoned or less than 50% of matches in that division are completed.
- 14.2. A forfeit or walkover will count as a completed match.

### **15. Condition of green**

- 15.1. GBR recommends the speed for greens for the conduct of region pennant competitions range between 13 and 17 seconds.
- 15.2. A green must be suitable for play. If a green is found to be unsuitable, a club may be directed to make alternative arrangements. If a satisfactory alternative green cannot be found, the club may be directed by the Competitions Committee to forfeit games.

### **16. Complaints regarding greens**

The following procedure is to be followed where teams have a complaint regarding the condition of greens:

- Any complaint must be made in writing to the Gippsland Bowls Region Secretary.
- The President or the Secretary of the club concerned is to be informed and provided with a written copy of the complaint by the GBR Secretary.
- GBR Competitions Committee Chair is to arrange for an inspection of the subject green with a club representative present.
- The Competitions Committee Chair is to provide a report with recommendations to the Competitions Committee and the committee is to consider the report and take any action as deemed necessary.

### **17. Death of a player**

- 17.1. If a match including a final has commenced and a participating player passes away, all games in progress at the club will be abandoned.
- 17.2. Matches other than a final abandoned because of a death of a player will count as a tie unless the scores are such that one side will win the match if all the remaining ends were played. In that case, the side will be awarded the match with the scores as at the abandonment.
- 17.3. Finals matches abandoned because of a death of a participating player will be resumed under such conditions as the Competitions Committee decides, with



the scores carried forward as they were when play was abandoned unless the scores are such that one side will win the match if all the remaining ends were played.

## **18. Entering teams and entering results**

- 18.1. BowlsLink Competition Module on the website is to be used for administering Pennant. All teams and results are to be entered, by participating clubs, through the Region's website. The following procedures are to be followed:
- 18.2. Clubs are to enter all teams on the website (including sides with a bye) prior to commencement of each round of pennant. The procedure for entering teams will be provided by the Competitions Committee.
- 18.3. Results of each round of pennant are to be posted to the website by the home club and confirmed by the away club within 3 hours after completion of the game. The procedure for entering the results will be provided by the Competitions Committee. The responsibilities of each club are as follows:
  - 18.3.1. Home side manager enters the results to BowlsLink in the presence of the away side manager.
  - 18.3.2. Away side manager confirms that the correct results have been input to BowlsLink by the home side and align teams in the presence of the home side manager.
  - 18.3.3. Home side manager confirms the results in BowlsLink.
- 18.4. If a side receives a forfeit/walkover they must submit the names of the selected players for finals eligibility.
- 18.5. Penalties may apply for clubs not complying with the Pennant Administrative requirements. The penalty is at the discretion of GBR. A club will be penalised a loss of 2 points for breaches listed as follows:
- 18.6. Both the home and away clubs are responsible for entering full sides on BowlsLink prior to the commencement of the game. A failure to submit teams may result in a penalty.
- 18.7. If the home club fails to enter results and the away club fails to confirm results a penalty may be applied.
- 18.8. The GBR Competitions Committee in conjunction with the GBR pennant recorder is responsible for maintaining and publishing the official Region Pennant Ladder and confirming the eligibility of players.
- 18.9. Clubs may seek a correction to BowlsLink if an alteration is received in writing which has been endorsed by both clubs within 5 days of the match being completed. This application must be sent to the Region Secretary and notified to the GBR pennant recorder. Any alteration to records contained on BowlsLink will be amended by the GBR pennant recorder with notification to the GBR Secretary.
- 18.10. In the event of a disputed result, it is expected that all clubs will keep scorecards for the duration of the season.

## **19. Promotion and relegation**

- 19.1. Promotion and relegation will form the basis of the pennant competition. The GBR Pennant Committee reserves the right to make changes to the composition of sections to balance the competition. The GBR Pennant Committee will have the discretion to promote or relegate sides to fill divisions or for other reasons as they see fit.
- 19.2. Sides should be promoted to the next higher division should they win their respective Grand Final.

- 19.3. Sides should be relegated should they finish last on the ladder at the end of the regular season.
- 19.4. Relegation shall not apply to sides in the lowest section in each playing section.

## **20. Government mandated lockdowns & restrictions**

- 20.1. Where finals matches are impacted by government mandated lockdown or restrictions the GBR Competitions Committee shall make all efforts to facilitate the playing of finals matches before 30<sup>th</sup> June 2024. Should finals matches not be concluded prior to this date all matches will be abandoned and the winner of each competition will be declared as follows:
  - 20.2. In Divisions of eight (8) sides (including byes) – Where at least seven (7) matches have been completed in the season the side which finished the home and away season on top of the ladder will be declared the winner of that section.
  - 20.6. Where less than seven (7) games have been completed in a season the Division winner will be left vacant.
  - 20.7. In Divisions of less than eight (8) sides not including byes – where at least five (5) matches have been completed the side which finished the home and away season on top of the ladder will be declared the winner.
  - 20.8. Where less than 5 matches have been completed in Divisions with less than eight (8) sides not including byes the Division winner will be left vacant.
  - 20.9. If the Region Pennant final cannot be completed by June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024, the Region premiership will be left vacant.

## **21. Pre-Game Pennant Practice**

- 21.2. Practice is permitted on the day of play on the rinks allocated for the match, for both the home and away sides.
- 21.3. Two rinks allocated for the match (one rink for 8 player sides) are to be made available for practice for the away side while one of the rinks is to be made available for the home side.
- 21.4. There is no restriction on how many or what rinks are used for practice outside of those rinks allocated for the match, so long as such use of other rinks does not limit the practice opportunity of other sides at the venue.
- 21.5. Practice for all sides must conclude thirty (30) minutes prior to the agreed commencement time of the game.
- 21.6. Provisions relating to the following shall apply from the commencement of practice:
  - 21.9.1. Player, coach, and officials conduct and behaviour, smoking,
  - 21.9.2. personal electronic/communication devices and alcohol consumption.
  - 21.9.6. Damage to green.
- 21.10. The host venue Greens Director or their deputy may suspend practice by closing of the green due to inclement weather during the practice period.
- 21.11. The Controlling Body is responsible for the management of any issues arising during the practice period.

## Section 2

# Gippsland Bowls Region & State Events COP

- The GBR will conduct and be the controlling body for the following events.
- Pennant midweek & weekend in East & North sections.
- State events in the Region
- Region Challenge matches in conjunction with other Regions.
- GBR Champion Pairs & Fours in the Region,
- All events will be conducted by the GBR Competitions Committee according to BV & GBR pennant, state and GBR events Conditions of Play (COP).

### 1. Player eligibility

- 1.1. All players must be affiliated with BV, a registered full financial member of a BV affiliated club with playing rights and recorded on the club's BowlsLink database.
- 1.2. Club pairs and fours Champions are eligible to be entered in the GBR Champion Pairs and Fours. All teams must have played a minimum of 1 game.

### 2. Entries for all GBR/State events

- 2.1. Entries for all GBR/BV events will be made by the due date via BowlsLink.
- 2.2. The GBR will not accept late entries for any BV championship event.
- 2.3. Teams will be constituted in accordance with DR 2.3.
- 2.4. If, after the closing date for entries and before the date of the first round a player gets a clearance to:
  - 2.4.1. a club within the section is issued, the player will remain eligible to play in the singles event as a player identified with their new club.
  - 2.4.2. a club other than in the section, eligibility to play in the singles events will be forfeited.
- 2.5. For team events, another eligible player, if necessary, can take the place of the member transferred. The player receiving a clearance is eligible to join a team from their new club/playing area if a vacancy occurs.
- 2.6. Approval of the controlling body must be obtained if a nominated player is changed before the first round of the competition.

### 3. Availability for Play

- 3.1. A player or team not available for play within 30 minutes (or sooner if the Controlling Body decides) of the appointed time for commencing of a game will automatically forfeit the match.
- 3.2. Games may be played under artificial lighting, at an alternative location or at an agreed alternative time.

#### **4. Replacement players**

- 4.1. In team games, substitute and replacement players are permitted in accordance with Law 32 and DR 2.1.3 and DR 2.1.4 and 2.4 and 2.5.
- 4.2. For the purposes of replacement players, the first game at GBR level is the beginning of that competition.
- 4.3. In the GBR Champion Pairs & Fours all players in a team including replacements and substitutes must be registered bowlers from the same club.

#### **5. Non-appearance and Penalty**

- 5.1. The GBR Competitions Committee has the power to apply a penalty to a player who has nominated for a state event but fails to appear at the appointed time without advising the Controlling Body at least 24 hours prior to the start of the event.
- 5.2. The onus is on the player to provide satisfactory reason for their non-appearance. Such penalty shall be \$50 for each occasion, payable within 21 days from the date of the event. Failure to make payment within this time will result in the person being ineligible to participate in further state events for a period of 12 months from the date of the offence.

#### **6. Draw**

- 6.1. The draw for all GBR/BV championship events will be an open draw. Seeding of entries is not permitted.

#### **7. Venues**

- 7.1. Venues will be allocated by the Competitions Committee.
- 7.2. All clubs will be invited to submit expressions of interest (EOI) to host playing section and GBR events.
- 7.3. Where possible GBR events will be rotated through East and North sections
- 7.4. The host venue for all GBR & State events will supply umpire(s) and markers for singles events.
- 7.5. Expression of Interest (EOI) will be invited for the following events:
  - 7.5.1. State events.
  - 7.5.2. Playing section and region finals.
  - 7.5.3. GBR pairs and fours.
  - 7.5.4. Any other event as decided by GBR Competitions Committee.

#### **8. Equal Opportunity/Scheduling of play**

- 8.1. All single gender championship events must be conducted concurrently where possible. If this is not possible due to facility limitations, events must be conducted in a manner that affords both genders equal opportunity. If one gender is given the opportunity to play on a weekend, the same opportunity must be afforded to the opposite gender if circumstances require. Flexibility and understanding are required by all members. (Refer BV Regulations 8.1 (c).

#### **9. Arrangement for practice**

- 9.1. Players will be able to practice on the day before the event pending availability of greens. This is to be arranged with the host venue. Practice on the day of play in accordance with Law 4.

## **10. Inclement weather**

- 10.1. The BV championship events are governed by the Bowls Victoria Weather Policy and pennant inclement weather provisions of the GBR in the playing area which the event is conducted.

## **11. GBR Champion Pairs and Fours**

- 11.1. The GBR Champion Fours will be conducted over 15 live ends.
- 11.2. The GBR Champion Pairs will be conducted over 15 live ends.

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# Amendments and Revisions

Draft: For review August 16 2024

Revised: September 22 2024 V 1:1