



**Gippsland Bowls Region Pennant
Conditions of Play**

2024/25

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SECTION 1

Statewide Conditions of Play

APPLICABLE FOR ALL VICTORIAN PENNANT COMPETITIONS

Introduction

These Conditions of Play apply to the conduct of the 2024-25 Midweek and Weekend Pennant competitions across all Regions and Metropolitan Pennant.

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

Bowls Victoria 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.
- 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.

BEFORE AND DURING PLAY

1. Eligibility of Member Clubs

- 1.1. Clubs may enter a side or sides in the eligible Regional 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 Bowls Victoria or the relevant Regional Pennant Committee.
- 1.3. 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.
- 1.4. A new side entry in a pennant competition will be placed in a division as determined by Bowls Victoria or the relevant Regional 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. A club may seek approval from Bowls Victoria or the relevant Regional Pennant Committee to combine with another club or clubs to enter a side.
- 2.2. One of the combined clubs must be nominated as being responsible for submitting the side and recording results 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 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 2024/25 Season, clubs will incur a financial penalty of up to \$600.00 for a 16-a-side and 12-a-side, and up to \$300.00 for an 8-a-side, 6-a-side and 7-a-side if a side is withdrawn after the draw is published.
- 3.2. Bowls Victoria or the relevant Regional Pennant Committee will determine the size of the fine within the amounts listed in clause 3.1.
- 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

- 4.1. Clubs must ensure all their players competing in any Victorian Pennant competition are registered BV Members with playing rights and recorded on the club's BowlsLink database 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. Up to four (4) players per club may be registered as pennant permit players per competition and may be used by a club for both midweek and weekend pennant, in any division.
- 5.2. 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.**

Link to Pennant Permit form: https://bit.ly/PennantPermit_2024-25

- 5.3. If approved by BV, a permit remains in place until 30 June of the following year.
- 5.4. A player may apply for a clearance from their nominated club while a permit is in place.
- 5.5. A player may only apply for one permit for a single pennant competition. BV reserve the right to approve multiple permits for multiple competitions (e.g., Midweek, Tuesday, and Thursday).
- 5.6. If the primary club and permit clubs' competition rounds are scheduled on different days, a permit is available to play in both competitions. This is applicable for both Weekend and Midweek competitions.
- 5.7. Players can only represent their primary club in Regional or State Pennant Finals, in the scenario the primary club and the permit club are competing in the same final's series.
- 5.7. BV reserves the right to approve a variation to permits under limited circumstances. These must be applied for, in writing, to Bowls Victoria.

Link to more information on Pennant Permits:

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

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

- 6.1. Up to three '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 club is entitled to have three marquee players for midweek pennant, and three marquee players for weekend pennant. Marquee players are not permitted in any other competitions.
- 6.3. 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.
- 6.4. The names of an interstate player or players must be submitted to Bowls Victoria and the relevant Regional Pennant Committee via e-mail 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 regional 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. 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 e-mail prior to the player playing.
- 6.8. Any player that falls into the international player definition but has had an affiliation prior to the full 2024/2025 season, is not counted as an international player.

Promotional Permit

- 6.9. Promotional permit can only be used once per club, per season.
- 6.10. A Promotional permit must be used before December 17th, 2024, or prior to the last 4 rounds of pennant if the pennant competition is scheduled to finish prior to December 17th, 2024.
- 6.11. Promotional permit player must fit within the 3-player marquee limit.
- 6.12. 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 to their non-primary club for weekend pennant **is not** eligible for a promotional permit for weekend pennant).
- 6.13. An eligible player can play on multiple promotional permits throughout the season.
- 6.14. The application form must be completed, and approved by BV, 14 days prior to promotional permit player representing the club.
- 6.15. Failure to comply will result in forfeiture of the game, under Law 39.2.1.
- 6.16. Promotional Permits to be applied for via the following link – <https://forms.office.com/r/wad0w3SwMN>
- 6.17. Complaints about the eligibility of marquee players must be lodged via the following form. Complaint Form: <https://bit.ly/BV-ComplaintForm>

7. Protected Events

- 7.1. BV Victorian Open.
 - 7.1.1. 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.
 - 7.1.2. No exemptions will be given for the conduct of region/club championships during this time.

7.2. The Nationals (Bowls Australia event).

- 7.2.1. The Nationals are a protected event for pennant under the following conditions. Where one player from a pennant side is unavailable due to playing in The Nationals, then that side will play without any recourse:
- 7.2.2. Where 2 or more players are playing in The Nationals, the following shall occur:
 - 7.2.2.1. By mutual agreement, sides can agree to play without players that are playing in The Nationals.
 - 7.2.2.2. Clubs are encouraged to find a suitable alternate date to avoid any clash.
 - 7.2.2.3. Where a suitable alternative date cannot be agreed to, Bowls Victoria or the relevant regional pennant committee will nominate the suitable date.
- 7.2.3. If Clause 7.2.2.3 is invoked, the controlling body cannot choose a date during The Nationals.
- 7.2.4. 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.

7.3. Pennant Competitions.

- 7.3.1. The scheduling/playing of rounds of region championships and club championship events on a day when Pennant rounds are scheduled is prohibited.
- 7.3.2. 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, Bowls Victoria or the relevant Regional 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 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 criteria for selection, as per Equal Opportunity Act 2010, and no restrictions allowed in Conditions of Play.
- 11.2. Subject to Section 1, Clause 13, sides will 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 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. If a club has insufficient players to fill all sides entered by the club, Bowls Victoria or relevant Regional Pennant Committee may approve an affiliated player to act as a substitute in the club's lowest graded side.
- 11.6. Only one substitute is permitted in each team (rink) and the substitute cannot skip. A player will not be named in more than one "side" in the same round of the same Pennant competition.
- 11.7. 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.
- 11.8. 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

14.1 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 Bowls Victoria or the relevant Regional Pennant Committee for resolution.

15.3. Where the home green is available, sides will be allocated to play at the home green in order of seniority of the Sides 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.

- 16.2. 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 Bowls Victoria and or relevant Regional 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 Bowls Victoria or Regional Pennant Committee, to use an alternative venue or forfeit the game(s) and may be subject to further action under Section 1, Clause 39.
- 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 following form is to be used:
Green Complaint Form: <https://bit.ly/BV-Green-Complaint>

17. Bowls Identification Discs

- 17.1. 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.
- 17.2. Where opponents use the same-coloured discs, the visiting side shall remove theirs or use another colour if available.
- 17.3. Bowls discs cannot cover the WB Stamp/Date, or the Serial Number of the bowl, and they should be cut or trimmed to comply.
- 17.4. 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.
- 17.5. 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 and 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 hatband, 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 39.
- 18.10. To register all uniform garments, the following Uniform Registration Form must be used: **Uniform Registration Form:** <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 39.

20. Photography, Video and Live Streaming

- 20.1. Bowls Victoria reserves the right to use any photographs, video, or live streaming footage taken during pennant for promotional purposes.
- 20.2. Bowls Victoria encourages third-party live streaming for all matches.
- 20.3. Third party live streaming requires prior approval from Bowls Victoria. Approval can be sought by e-mailing media@bowlsvic.org.au
- 20.4. Live streaming of Premier Division and Premier Reserve Division Grand Finals is restricted to Bowls Victoria transmission only.

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.
- 21.2.1. The visiting side must have access for 1 hour commencing ninety (90) minutes before the game is scheduled to start and concluding thirty (30) minutes before the commencement of play.
- 21.2.2. 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 x rink.
- 21.2.3. Practice for the home sides must also conclude thirty (30) minutes prior to the commencement of the game.

- 21.2.4. Nothing in this clause allows time outside of the allocated 1 hour.
- 21.3. 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.
- 21.4. 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 1 hour commencing ninety (90) minutes before the game is scheduled to start and concluding thirty (30) minutes before the commencement of play.
- 21.5. The controlling body is responsible for the management of any issues arising during the practice period.
- 21.6. The home club greens director or representative is responsible for any stoppages or green closures due to inclement weather during practice.
- 21.7. A breach may result in a fine or the deduction of four (4) competition points and/or action being taken under Section 1, Clause 39.

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.
- 22.3. Rink draws may be conducted, from time to time, by BV or the relevant Regional 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.
- 22.4. In the case of Metropolitan Premier Division, Premier Reserve, Division 1 and Region Division 1 the draw for rinks is to be conducted by using by 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, therefore please ensure all teams have been entered correctly by both sides prior to shuffling the teams.

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. For example, 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 order 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 between the two sides concerned from sectional play, will be used to determine the winner.

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 6, a club that has had a side forfeit/walkover will incur a financial penalty of \$50.00 for a 16-a-side and 12-a-side and \$30.00 for a 7-a-side and 6-a-side. A forfeit or walkover directly related to COVID-19 will not attract a penalty.

26.2. When a walkover has been conceded, it cannot be withdrawn.

27. Result and Team Submission to Bowls Victoria or Relevant Regional Pennant Committee

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 Bowls Victoria or the relevant Regional Pennant Committee.

27.2. Results must be finalised by the home club by 6pm the day after the game was played (weekend pennant), by 3pm the day after the game was played (midweek pennant).

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 Bowls Victoria or the relevant Regional 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 Regional Pennant Committee via the following form: [https://bit.ly/BV BowlsLink Match Review](https://bit.ly/BV_BowlsLink_Match_Review) within 48 hours of the game being completed.

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. Games in Pennant can only be abandoned by agreement under the following conditions:

28.1.1. Weather/heat as per Section 2, Clause 6.

28.1.2. Safety of the players and/or officials.

28.1.3. Death of a player Section 1, Clause 38.

28.1.4. Weather other than heat ie: rain, including lightning, Section 2, Clause 6.2

28.2. At the time of abandonment points will be awarded as per Section 2, Clauses 5.6 & 9

Any breach of this clause may result in action being taken under Section 1, Clause 39.

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.

BA Instantaneous Penalty Report: <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 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 39) and/or referring the matter to the BV 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.
- 31.5. Scorecards are to be electronic for Metropolitan Premier Division, Premier Reserve Division and Division 1 competitions. All other divisions have the choice between using electronic or paper scorecards.

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 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:
 - 33.1.1. Act in an abusive, threatening, or intimidating manner.
 - 33.1.2. Use of obscene, offensive, abusive, threatening, or intimidating language including racial and gender-diverse discriminatory language.
 - 33.1.3. Act in an unsportsmanlike manner.
 - 33.1.4. Threaten any person with physical violence or assault.
 - 33.1.5. Assault any person.
 - 33.1.6. Act in a manner likely to bring the sport of bowls into disrepute; or
 - 33.1.7. Act in a manner likely to bring Bowls Victoria into disrepute.

- 33.1.8. 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 Disciplinary Committee.

34. Delaying Play

- 34.1. If an 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 an 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 Disciplinary Committee and action taken under Section 1, Clause 39.
- 37.5. If a bowling arm is rendered unplayable, 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 5.6 and 9.
- 38.3. Final games abandoned for this reason will be resumed under such conditions as Bowls Victoria 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.

39. Infringements

The infringement of any of the Laws, BA Domestic Regulations, BA Policies, BV Constitution, BV Regulations, BV Policies or BV Condition of Play, shall 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, in respect of an affiliated player/

SECTION 2

Regional Pennant Conditions of Play

1. Competition Format

- 1.1 For each of the North and East Playing Areas within the Gippsland Bowls Region there will normally be up to five divisions in both midweek and weekend pennant competitions numbered from Division One to Division Five.
- 1.2 The number of Divisions and sections will depend on the number of entries received.
- 1.3 For the 2024/25 season only, Weekend Pennant Division One will comprise a 14 side Region-wide Division identical to season 2023/24.
- 1.4 For the 2024/25 season, Midweek Pennant Division One will comprise an 8 Side Region-wide Division.
- 1.5 Except for Midweek and Weekend Pennant Division One, the winner of each Playing Area Final in all other Divisions will qualify to compete in the Gippsland Bowls Region Grand Finals. Grand Finals will be conducted for each of the Midweek and Weekend Pennant competitions with each Divisional winner being declared as the GBR Pennant Premiers for season 2024/25.
- 1.6 The GBR Competitions Committee will allocate the numbering of all sides including where there is more than one side in any Division.

2. Eligibility to Play in Finals

2.1 To be eligible to play finals, a player must:

- comply with Clause 4 in the Conditions of Play (Eligibility of Players).
- have played a minimum of four games for the club in that competition, and
- Meet the requirements set out in Section 2 Clause 2.2

2.2 Weekend and Midweek Pennant.

2.2.1 A player must have played four or more games in the side concerned or lower graded sides.

2.2.2 In each competition, a side must not include any player who, during the current season, has played four or more games in higher graded sides, unless the player has played four or more games in the side concerned, or lower graded sides.

2.3 If a club has insufficient players for their lowest side, they may apply to the GBR Competitions Committee for approval to include a player from their next lowest side, who has not met the above requirements.

2.4 All exemption requests must be made via the following link, 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.

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

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

3. Interchanging of Players Between Sides Prior to Finals

- 3.1 Prior to the last three rounds of a GBR Pennant Competition there will be no restrictions on the interchange of players between the sides of a club.
- 3.2 For the last three rounds of a GBR Pennant Competition no side will include more than three players who have played a majority of their games in any combination of higher graded Sides.
- 3.3 If Section 2, clause 3.2 cannot be met in the lowest side only, they may apply to GBR Competitions Committee 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 following link, 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.
Exemption Request form: <https://bit.ly/BV-Exemption-Request>
- 3.4 The BowlsLink competition management system shall be used as the official record of the number of games played by a player.
- 3.5 Failure to comply will result in forfeiture of the game, under Law 39.2.1.

4. Rescheduling of Games

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.

5. Points Allocated for a Game

- 5.1 Points for a win, tie or bye

Side win	8 Points
Side tie	4 Points
Team win	2 points
Team tie	1 point
Bye	No points

- 5.2 Points for a side receiving a walkover*

12 players per side	14 points, plus 12 shots
8 players per side	12 points, plus 8 shots

*Note: A Walkover results from a clubs' 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.

- 5.3 Penalty for a side giving a walkover**

12 players per side	0 points, minus 12 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.

- 5.4 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	14 points, plus 12 shots
8 players per side	12 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.

5.5 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 12 shots
8 players per side	0 points, minus 8 shots

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

5.6 Points for an abandoned game****

12 players per side	7 points, no shots
8 players per side	6 points, no shots

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

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

6.1 Due to heat - clubs must use the official Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) App and select the relevant BOM weather station location as per the postcode of the address of the club the game is taking place at.

The official BOM app can be found here: www.bom.gov.au/app

6.1.2 Where play cannot commence:

6.1.2.1 If the temperature at the club's Designated BOM 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.

6.1.2.2 If the temperature fails to fall below 36 degrees Celsius within 1 hour of play being suspended, the game is abandoned.

6.1.2.3 The GBR Competitions Committee reserves the right to abandon all games in a scheduled round the day before commencement in circumstances such as a declared Total Fire Ban or any other occurrence that may impact on the viability of games proceeding as scheduled.

6.1.3 Where play has commenced:

6.1.3.1 If the temperature at the club's Designated BOM weather station has reached 36 degrees Celsius or above at any time after play commences, play will be suspended for up to 1 hour. It is the responsibility of the side managers to record the time that play is suspended.

6.1.3.2 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.

6.1.3.3 If the temperature fails to fall below 36 degrees Celsius after play has been suspended for 1 hour, the game will be abandoned.

6.1.3.4 Every effort must be made to complete any ends in progress prior to leaving the green.

6.1.3.5 Midweek and weekend pennant games that are interrupted, will be abandoned after 4 hours and 15 minutes from the scheduled start time.

6.2 Inclement weather other than heat

6.2.1 Where play cannot commence:

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

6.2.2 Where play has commenced:

- 6.2.2.1 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.
- 6.2.2.2 Every effort must be made to complete any ends in progress prior to leaving the green.
- 6.2.2.3 Midweek and weekend pennant games that are interrupted, will be abandoned after 4 hours and 15 minutes from the scheduled start time.

6.3 If lightning is present:

- 6.3.1 Play should be immediately suspended when lightning is present. 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 lightning is no longer in the vicinity of the venue.
- 6.3.2 Bowlers' arms, bowls lifters and umbrellas should not be handled when lightning is present.

6.4 'Code Red' or Total Fire Ban Day scheduled on day of play:

- 6.4.1 If a 'Code Red' or Total Fire Ban Day is announced for the East Gippsland Fire District on a day of play, by the Bureau of Meteorology, all Section East pennant competitions will be abandoned, and no results will be required to be submitted.
- 6.4.2 If a 'Code Red' or Total Fire Ban Day is announced for the West and South Gippsland Fire District on a day of play, by the Bureau of Meteorology, all Section North games will be abandoned, and no results will be required to be submitted.

6.5 Leaving the green, interruption to play and stoppage:

- 6.5.1 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.
- 6.5.2 After 10 minutes has elapsed from commencement of an interruption to play as determined by the side manager's agreement, or the umpire of the day or greenkeeper, the interruption becomes a stoppage as per Law 33...
- 6.5.3 If the interruption to play exceeds ten minutes, then the interruption becomes a stoppage and Law 33 applies. After a stoppage of play 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.
- 6.5.4 If the game stoppage exceeds one hour the game becomes abandoned, Law 55.3.4. (Refer Clause 28).

7. Post-Sectional game was abandoned due to weather.

7.1 Every effort must be made to complete a post-sectional (knockout) game on the scheduled day.

7.2 If a post sectional game is abandoned, it will be rescheduled and completed under such conditions as the GBR Competitions Committee decides unless the scores are such that one side must win the game if all remaining ends were played.

8. Abandonment of Weekend Pennant Division One Region Sectional Home and Away Games due to weather (Special Provision)

8.1 Any individual Weekend Pennant Regional Division One home and away game for season 2024/25 that is abandoned due to weather will be rescheduled for replay on another suitable day as soon as possible and prior to the Final Series by the GBR Competitions Committee (NB: This does not apply to a 'whole of round' abandonment for the same competition.

9. Awarding of Points for Abandoned Games

9.1 When play is abandoned by Bowls Victoria or the relevant Regional Pennant Committee for all games in a round, the points will be shared as per an abandoned game.

9.2 When a game is abandoned after play has commenced in line with any valid reason as outlined in these Conditions of Play and the following minimum number of ends in total have been completed;

- 48 ends being completed for a 12-player side
- 32 ends being completed for a 8-player side

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 5

9.3 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.

9.4 In the event of government imposed COVID constraints impacting on the competition or individual clubs, BV and/or the GBR Competitions Committee will take the necessary action which may include abandonment of games.

9.5 If games are abandoned by BV due to Government restrictions, points will be shared equally as for an abandoned game.

SECTION 3

MIDWEEK PENNANT FORMAT

1. Format of Play

Midweek Pennant competitions:

Midweek 12-a-side (Tuesday morning) Divisions 1,2, 3 and 4

1.1. Region Division 1

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

Sectional (East and North Playing Areas) Division 2, 3 and 4

- Division 2 North Section (Playing Area) eight (8) sides or seven (7) sides (plus bye) or 6 sides.
- Division 2 East Section (Playing Area) eight (8) sides or seven (7) sides (plus bye), 14 Rounds to be played (Home and Away), 12 players per side, 4 players per team, 2 bowls per player, 21 ends
- Division 2 North Section (Playing Area) six (6) sides, 15 Rounds to be played (Home and Away) 12 Players per side, 4 players per team, 2 bowls per player, 21 ends.
- Division 3 & 4 North & East Sections (Playing Areas) eight (8) sides or seven (7) sides (plus bye) 14 Rounds to be played (Home and Away), 8 Players per side, 4 players per team, 2 bowls per player, 21 ends

2. Scheduling of Games for Sectional Play

- 2.1. Play is scheduled for the following start times, with two trial ends to be completed after pregame practice has finished and before the scheduled start time:

Midweek (Tuesday) 10.00 am

- 2.2. With the agreement of the opposing club, there is limited opportunity for individual sectional games in all divisions to be rescheduled to another day or a Tuesday at other than the scheduled 10.00 am start time. The home side must notify Bowls Victoria or the relevant Regional Pennant 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

No scheduled break will be taken during Midweek Pennant games. Refer to Laws of the Sport of Bowls, Section 2.2 Factors Affecting Play, Rule 32.1, 32.2.

4. Scheduling of Games for Finals

All finals will be scheduled by the GBR Competitions Committee for play on a Tuesday.

5. State Pennant Championship Representation

The winner of Midweek Region Division 1 will be the Gippsland Bowls Region representative in the Champion of State Pennant event.

6. Promotion & Relegation

6.1 There will be no promotion from Midweek Region Division 1.

6.2 Promotion and relegation will form the basis of all GBR Pennant Competitions. The GBR Competitions Committee reserves the right to make changes to the composition of sides in any Pennant Divisions to balance the competition. This will include a discretion to promote or relegate sides or for any other valid reasons that the Committee sees fit.

SECTION 4

WEEKEND PENNANT FORMAT

1. Format of Play

Weekend Gippsland Bowls Region Pennant competitions.

Division 1 Region and Sectional (East and North Playing areas) Divisions 2, 3 and 4.

1.1. Region Division One (1)

- One (1) section of 14 sides.
- 13 rounds to be played in a Round Robin Format Home or Away (but not both).
- 12 players per side, 4 players per team, 2 bowls per player, 21 ends.

1.1.1. Region Division 1 Finals

Section Qualifying Final (2 v 3)

Section Elimination Final (4 v 5)

Region Semi Finals

Qualifying Semi: Top of Ladder Side 1 v winner of Section Qualifying Final

Elimination Semi: Winner of Section Elimination Final v loser of Section Qualifying Semi

Region Prelim Final

Loser of Qualifying Semi Final vs winner of Elimination Semi Final

Region Grand Final

Winner of Region Prelim Final v Winner of Region Qualifying Semi Final

1.1.2. **East & North Playing Areas - Division 2,3 and 4**

- Division 2; 2 sections (East and North Playing Areas) of eight (8) sides or seven (7) sides plus bye, 14 rounds to be played (Home and Away), 12 players per side, 4 players per team, 2 bowls per player, 21 ends.
- Division 3 & 4; 2 sections (East and North Playing Areas) of eight (8) sides or seven (7) sides plus bye or 6 sides, 14 rounds to be played (Home and Away), 15 Rounds to be played for six (6) side Section, 8 players per side, 4 players per team, 2 bowls per player, 21 ends.

1.1.3. **Division 2,3 and 4 Finals**

The finals format for any six (6) side sections will vary slightly from the usual format for the eight (8) and seven (7) side competitions. The full finals schedule will be published and distributed to all clubs prior to the commencement dates for all competitions.

2. Scheduling of Games for Sectional Play

- 2.1. Play is scheduled for the following start times, with two trial ends to be completed after pregame practice has finished and before the scheduled start time:

Weekend (Saturday) 1.00 pm

- 2.2. With the agreement of the opposing club, sectional games in any divisions can be rescheduled subject to the following further provisions. 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 the GBR Competitions 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 these conditions of play.

3. Scheduled Breaks

No scheduled break will be taken during any GBR Saturday Pennant games. Refer to Laws of the Sport of Bowls, Section 2.2 Factors Affecting Play, Rule 32.1, 32.2.

4. State Pennant Representation

The winner of Division One (1) Region will be the Gippsland Bowls Region representative in the Champion of State Pennant event

5. Promotion & Relegation

There will be no promotion from Weekend Region Pennant Division 1.

Promotion and relegation will form the basis of all GBR Pennant Competitions. The GBR Competitions Committee reserves the right to make changes to the composition of sides in any Pennant Divisions to balance the competition. This will include a discretion to promote or relegate sides or for any other valid reasons that the Committee sees fit.