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POLICY NAME

Greens Policy (Pennants)

DEFINITION

This policy applies to the assessment of greens at metropolitan clubs for the metropolitan pennant competition. Country Leagues may choose to adopt the policy for their pennant competitions.

AUTHORITY

BA Laws, Bowls WA Constitution, By-Laws and Field of Play Rules

RESPONSIBILITY

Greens and Infrastructure Committee
Bowls Management Committee
Chief Executive Officer

CONFIDENTIALITY

Not confidential

ATTACHMENTS

1. Greens Protest – Sub Standard Playing Surface
2. Extract from BA Laws of the Sport of Bowls Section 2 and Domestic Regulations Section 1

POLICY STATEMENT

Philosophy

The aim of the policy is to ensure clubs present greens that meet the required minimum standard for the metropolitan pennant competition and other Association Events.

This policy does not diminish the power of the Greens and Infrastructure Committee to inspect a club's green(s) as a part of a seasonal general inspection; in response to a complaint or protest against a club's green(s) or rinks thereon or prior to a club hosting an Association, State or National event or competition or the Metropolitan Pennant Finals series or by request of the club or otherwise as it sees fit.

General Conditions

The Greens and Infrastructure Committee has the power to inspect any green at any time during the season for the purpose of establishing whether the green or rinks thereon meet the required minimum standard for the playing of Metropolitan Pennants. Any green that does not meet the minimum standard shall be assessed as unsuitable for the playing of Metropolitan Pennants and or Association events.

The Greens and Infrastructure Committee shall issue the club with a Greens Inspection Report and an accompanying Greens Work Requirements Sheet. The Work Requirements Sheet shall detail the work required to the green surface, plinths, ditches, banks, shade areas or boundary pegs; the time frame in which the work is required to be completed and the approximate or agreed date for a subsequent inspection of the greens.

Clubs are required to contact the Greens and Infrastructure Committee to verify that their green(s) are suitable for play, PRIOR to a green being approved for pennant competition. Each green is required to be individually passed by the Greens and Infrastructure Committee.

Any Club may lodge a complaint or protest about the unsuitability of a green(s) or rinks thereon for the playing of pennant or association events to Bowls WA in the approved manner. If the complaint is found to be spurious or have no basis the complainant may be subject to a fine.*

*See Schedule of Administration Fees and Fines

Bowls WA Greens Standard

The Bowls WA Greens standard is governed by the BA Laws of the Sport of Bowls section 2 and Domestic Regulations section 1. In general terms the greens committee will look for the following minimum standards during a greens inspection.

The Green

- That the green be either rectangular or square
- That the length of the green in the direction of play should be between 31 metres and 40 metres
- That the green has a suitable level playing surface
- That the playing surface should be either vegetation or a synthetic surface approved by a National or State authority

Natural Turf Surface

- That there is a good grass cover over all (especially around the mat line) and the turf is of uniform colour and free of weeds.

Synthetic Surface

- That the surface is of uniform colour and is free of tears or other surface irregularities. Repairs may be effected to minor tears and rips, however, the material used in the repair should be consistent with the colour and type of surface being repaired. Repairs to meet the required standard of *Running of the Jack and Bowls*.

Where a club has both natural and artificial greens they will be judged equally.

Running of the Jack and Bowls

- That the jack on course runs smoothly without deviating from its line.
- That a bowl runs smoothly and draws uniformly.

Ditches, Plinths, Banks, Backboards and Boundary Pegs

That the ditches are of at least minimum width and depth as stated in BA Laws of the Sport of Bowls.

- That the ditch should have a holding surface which is free from obstacles and made of a material which will not damage the jack or the bowls.
- That the plinths do not protrude above the level of the green nor fall more than 10mm below the level.
- That the banks do not fall below the minimum height as stated in the BA Laws of the Sport of Bowls. That the rubber or other material on the backboards be securely affixed and capable of protecting a driven bowl.
- That bowls driven into the backboard, as in normal play, fall into the ditch and do not rebound onto the green.
- That the boundary pegs conform to the requirements stated in BA Laws of the Sport of Bowls and Domestic Regulations.
- All other regulations for greens as set out in the BA Laws of the Sport of Bowls Section 2, appendix B and Australian Domestic Regulations Section 1 are to be complied with.

Provision of Shade & Shelter

For the play of pennant and above competitions:

- That appropriate shade from direct sunlight and shelter in the case of rain are provided at each of the ends of play. It is to be noted that such shade and shelter is not required to be a “hard cover” but may be of a “shade cloth” type material.

Extendible/Retractable green shades and covers

If a club has extendible/retractable full green shades fitted to cover a green or greens the following conditions must be complied with:

- If at the start of play of any game, the shade is in the retracted position, it cannot during the course of that game be extended to cover the green.
- If at the start of play of any game, the shade is in the extended position, it cannot during the course of the game be retracted.

Exception: Where a game has commenced with the shade extended across the green and unexpected extreme weather, strong winds or gusts occur which may have a detrimental effect on the shade structure, the Umpire of the Day may decide to:

- Retract the shade
- Suspend the game for a period
- Abandon the game

Direction of Play

- All pennant games and association competitions or events are to be played in North – South, South-North direction.
- Any club who is unable to comply with this direction of play due to greens maintenance or any other reason must seek permission in writing from the Greens Committee to play in an East – West, West – East direction.

Split Rinks

Any club which is unable to play an entire pennant side on one green and must split the side across greens (“split rinks”) must comply with the following:

- The greens and rinks must be adjacent; either side by side or end to end or,
- In extenuating circumstances (lack of rinks due to closure of rinks or fully utilized rinks/greens) they may be on a green adjacent but not side by side and on a green adjacent but behind the other rinks. In all circumstances they must provide easy visual access to the scoreboards by a short walk of the Team Manager/Nominated Player.
- No other configuration is permitted,
- Splitting of rinks is NOT allowed during the Metropolitan Pennant finals series.

Assessment of Green Speed

Clubs may display the speed of the green as a matter of courtesy; however there is no requirement to do so. Should clubs wish to measure the speed of the green, the following process should be adopted.

- All metropolitan clubs are required to have a Green Speed Timing Ramp.
- The assessment of green speed (timing of the greens) at a club must be carried out prior to the commencement of the trial ends.
- At least two members of the home club will assess the speed of the green.
- One member will roll the sphere down the ramp and the other will assess the speed of the green.

- The method of assessment will be twice up and twice back, three rinks apart.
- The distance of each roll will be added together and then divided by four (4) to give the average length of roll, the average will be compared with the distance/timing chart to assess the speed of the green. (Some clubs have tapes which are already annotated with distance/timing information and may be used as a ready reference).

Sub Standard Playing Surface

- Before noon on the first working day following the affected pennant match, the visiting club may protest that the condition of the green did not meet the minimum BWA approved standard
- Protests must be submitted in writing on the Greens Protest Form (Attachment 1)

Protest Assessment

When a protest is received the following procedure will be followed:

- The Chairman of the Greens and Infrastructure Committee will contact the club against which the protest has been laid, to arrange a time for the Committee to investigate the complaint.
- At least two (2) members of the Committee will attend the club to investigate the complaint.
- The Committee members will inspect and test the green(s) in accordance with BWA procedures and advise the Chairman of the Greens and Infrastructure Committee of their decision to uphold or dismiss the protest.
- When the protest is upheld, the club shall be issued with a Greens Work Requirements Sheet.
- Both clubs will be advised in writing of the decision by the Chairman of the Greens and Infrastructure Committee.
- When a protest is upheld; the Chairman of the Greens and Infrastructure Committee will advise the appropriate Match Committee so that any necessary adjustment to points will be made.

Once a written protest has been lodged, the Committee reserves the right to examine all greens **currently in commission** at the club visited to ensure that the Bowls WA minimum standard for greens has been met.

Finals Series

- The Committee may elect to inspect all or any greens to be used for the Metropolitan Pennant finals series.

- When a club(s) have insufficient compliant greens to host all finals to which they are entitled the appropriate match committee shall arrange alternative venues.
- Splitting of rinks is **NOT** allowed during the Metropolitan Pennant finals series.

ATTACHMENT 1

GREENS PROTEST

SUB-STANDARD PLAYING SURFACE

The _____ Bowling Club
 protests against the condition of the playing surface for the Pennant game played on
 the _____ at the
 _____ Bowling Club

Details

Pennant Division _____ Colour _____

Green Type Grass [] Synthetic []

Green Designation **A B C D E** (Circle)

Rink **1 2 3 4 5 6** (Circle)

Reason for protest

Signature of protesting club manager _____

Forward the completed form to Bowls WA

Attention: Chairman Greens and Infrastructure Committee

Mail	Fax	Email
Bowls WA	08 9340 0880	enquiries@bowlswa.com.au
PO Box 123		
OSBORNE PARK WA 6917		

THIS PROTEST MUST BE LODGED WITH BOWLS WA BEFORE NOON ON THE NEXT WORKING DAY FOLLOWING THE PENNANT MATCH IN QUESTION

Bowls WA Greens Standard

To assist club committees and insure a uniform standard is met by all greens presented as suitable to be used for the Metropolitan Pennant Competition, reprinted below are extracts from the: BA Laws of the Sport of Bowls Section 2 and Domestic Regulation 1.

Section 2 – The green, ditch and banks

2 The green

- 2.1 The green should be either rectangular or square.
- 2.2 The length of the green in the direction of play should be between 31 metres and 40 metres.
- 2.3 The green should have a suitable level playing surface.
- 2.4 The playing surface should be either vegetation or a synthetic surface approved by a Member National Authority.
- 2.5 For domestic play, Member National Authorities can decide the standards for greens constructed in line with previous editions of this law.

3 The ditch

- 3.1 The green should be surrounded by a ditch.
- 3.2 The ditch should be:
 - 3.2.1 between 200 millimetres and 380 millimetres wide; and
 - 3.2.2 between 50 millimetres and 200 millimetres deep.
- 3.3 The ditch should have a holding surface which is free from obstacles and made of a material which will not damage the jack or the bowls.
- 3.4 For indoor greens, only the end ditches in the direction of play should meet the standards mentioned in laws 3.2 and 3.3.

4 The bank

- 4.1 The ditch should have a bank against its outer edge.
- 4.2 The top of the bank should be at least 230 millimetres above the surface level of the green.
- 4.3 The bank should be vertical and set at a right angle (90°) to the surface of the green, or sloped at an angle of not more than 35° from the vertical (see diagrams B.1.1, B.1.2 and B.1.3 in appendix B.1).
- 4.4 The surface of the face of the bank should be made of, or be covered with, a material which will not damage the jack or the bowls.
- 4.5 There should be no steps that could interfere with play either cut into or positioned against the face of the bank.
- 4.6 If advertising banners are fixed to the face of the bank, they should be made of a material which will not damage the jack or the bowls. Also, they should be fixed in a way that makes sure the specifications for the ditch and the bank, as described in laws 3 and 4, still apply. The banners will be considered to be part of the face of the bank for all purposes within the laws.

5 Division of the green

The green should be divided into sections called rinks.

- 5.1 The rinks should be:
 - 5.1.1 between 4.3 metres and 5.8 metres wide for outdoor play; and
 - 5.1.2 between 4.6 metres and 5.8 metres wide for indoor play.Wherever possible, all rinks on a green should be the same width. For domestic play, Member National Authorities can decide the standard for the minimum width of a rink.
- 5.2 The rinks should be numbered in order, with the centre of each rink being marked on the bank at each end by a peg, disc or other suitable device that has the rink number on it and is fixed vertically:

- 5.2.1 to the face of the bank and flat against it; or
- 5.2.2 on the top of the bank not more than 100 millimetres back from its face;
or
- 5.2.2 on the wall behind the bank (for indoor play only).
- 5.3 The four corners of the rinks should be marked by white or brightly coloured boundary pegs that are fixed vertically:
 - 5.3.1 to the face of the bank and flat against it; or
 - 5.3.2 on the top of the bank not more than 100 millimetres back from its face.
- 5.4 The boundary pegs should be:
 - 5.4.1 not more than 50 millimetres wide and not more than 430 millimetres high if they are fixed to the face of the bank of an outdoor green; or
 - 5.4.2 not more than 25 millimetres wide and not less than 600 millimetres high if they are fixed on the top of the bank of either an outdoor or an indoor green (although this height limitation does not apply to flexible boundary pegs containing a spring or similar mechanism in their base that allows them to bend on contact with an object or person); or
 - 5.4.3 not more than 25 millimetres wide and the centre of the peg should be clearly marked by a thin black vertical line if they are fixed to the face of the bank of an indoor green.
- 5.5 For domestic play, Member National Authorities can decide:
 - 5.5.1 the standards for boundary pegs made in line with previous editions of this law; and
 - 5.5.2 the requirements for thin black vertical lines marking the centres of boundary pegs that are fixed to the face of the bank of an outdoor green or fixed on the top of the bank of either an outdoor or an indoor green.
- 5.6 The boundary pegs of an outside rink should be:
 - 5.6.1 at least 600 millimetres from the side ditch for outdoor play; and
 - 5.6.2 at least 460 millimetres from the side ditch for indoor play.
- 5.7 If a boundary peg is not vertical, it should be put so before a player or the umpire decides whether or not a jack or a bowl is within the boundary.
- 5.8 If a player or the umpire finds a boundary peg in the wrong position, they should not move it until the end has been completed on any rinks affected. The peg should then be correctly positioned by the umpire or by agreement between the skips or opponents in Singles on the rinks affected.
- 5.9 For outdoor play, the side boundary of the rink of play can be marked by connecting the boundary pegs with a green thread drawn tightly along the surface of the green, leaving enough loose thread to reach the corresponding pegs on the face or on the top of the bank. For domestic outdoor play, Member National Authorities can decide not to use boundary threads.
- 5.10 The boundary thread (see law 5.9) should not be lifted or held down when the jack or a bowl is in its original course or in motion.
- 5.11 Pegs, discs and other types of markers used to mark the centre and corners of the rinks should be made of a material which will not damage the jack or bowls.
- 5.12 White or brightly coloured pegs or discs should be fixed vertically against the face of the side banks or on top of the side banks in the direction of play to mark distances of 2 metres and 25 metres from the end ditches (see diagram B.4.1 in appendix B.4). Wherever possible, these should be the only pegs or discs visible on the side banks. (*Note: Domestic regulation (3.2) – In Australia, the jack will be improperly delivered if it comes to rest less than 21 metres from the mat line after the jack has been centred (see Law 23.5)*)
- 5.13 The centre line of each rink can be marked along the surface of the green starting 2 metres from each end ditch and finishing at any point up to, but not less than, 25 metres from the opposite end ditch (see diagram B.2.1 in appendix B.2).

- 5.14 The centre line of the rink can be marked at a distance of 2 metres from each end ditch (see diagram B.2.2 in appendix B.2). The mark can be:
- 5.14.1 lines drawn in the form of a 'T'; or
 - 5.14.2 a small piece of suitable material inserted immediately below the surface of the green (for outdoor play only).
- 5.15 If part of the green is used for spectators, side ditches do not have to be used, but the distance markers on the side banks should be brought forward and fixed appropriately. They should be clearly visible to the players.
- 5.16 While there is temporary seating on the green, there should be a completely unrestricted area of the green that is at least 900 millimetres wide between the seated area and the outside boundary of the nearest rink.

Domestic regulations for Australia

1. Greens

1.1. Use of synthetic greens (Law 2.4)

- Both vegetation and synthetic surfaces are approved as a playing surface for playing Bowls.
- The Controlling Body may decide to conduct an event on either or both types of surface, but must advise this decision to the players in the Conditions of Play.

1.4 Boundary Pegs (Law 5.5)

- Bowls Australia has noted that there is no change in the standard for boundary pegs on outdoor greens other than they must be fixed to the bank in accordance with Law 5.5

1.5 Centre of boundary pegs (see Law 5.5)

- For boundary pegs fixed on top of the bank, no thin black vertical line is required to mark the centre of the peg.
- For boundary pegs fixed to the face of the bank, the centre of the boundary peg should be marked with a thin vertical line.

Bowls Australia Laws of the Sport of Bowls Appendix B provides information on the layout and marking of greens diagrammatically.