

METROPOLITAN PENNANT COMPETITION - GENERAL CONDITIONS

Metropolitan Pennant Competition General Conditions should be read in conjunction with the specific Pennant Competition Conditions of Play.

Conditions of Play for Country Pennant Competitions are determined by the Country Leagues and where possible, should be consistent with the Metropolitan Pennant Competition General Conditions.

1. GENERAL CONDITIONS

Clubs entering a side or sides into the Metropolitan Pennant Competition acknowledge and agree to abide by these General Conditions and the specified Conditions of Play for each of the individual competitions which comprise the Metropolitan Pennant Competition. Clubs not abiding by these General Conditions or individual competition Conditions of Play shall incur a penalty, which may include but is not limited to; loss of points or a fine.

1.1 Integrity

- (i) Clubs and players shall respect the integrity of all graded pennant competitions conducted by Bowls WA.
- (ii) Clubs and players shall respect and support the integrity of the separate men's and women's pennant competitions.
- (iii) Clubs shall ensure that when nominating sides into specified gender competitions that they have sufficient active players of that gender to support the number of sides nominated for that gender.

2. ELIGIBILITY

2.1 Clubs

- (i) Only metropolitan clubs affiliated with Bowls WA may enter the Metropolitan Pennant Competition.
- (ii) A club when entering the Metropolitan Pennant Competition for the first time or applying for an additional side in that competition will generally only be eligible to enter the side into the lowest pennant division applicable; thereafter a clubs divisional entitlement will be determined by the annual promotion and demotion system.

2.2 Players

- (i) A player must have playing rights in the Bowls Link database of a club affiliated with Bowls WA.
- (ii) A player shall play in the Pennant Competition for their Home Club as defined in the Field of Play Rules (FOP).
- (iii) No player shall be permitted to play in any Pennant Competition who is under suspension or has been expelled by any State or Territory Authority or Bowls Australia.

2.3 Multiple Club Membership

Home Club is defined as the Primary Club to which the player is affiliated.

A Player who is a member of more than one club;

- (i) May only play in the Bowls WA Pennant Competition for their Home Club unless a player's Home Club does not enter a side into a Defined Bowls WA Pennant Competition on the same day. A player wishing to play in that Pennant Competition for another club of which they are a member; must complete the Multiple Club Pennant Application Form and forward to Bowls WA for permission to play.
- (ii) If a country player is eligible and is granted permission via the Multiple Club Pennant Application Form to play Men's Saturday or Women's Tuesday Metropolitan Pennant, they become ineligible to play Men's or Women's Countryweek.
- (iii) A Side will be forfeited to the opposition and may receive a fine if:
 - ▶ A club plays a player who is not shown to have Playing Rights in the Bowls Link Database or;
 - ▶ A club plays a player after the first pennant game who has not been transferred correctly.
 - ▶ A player competes who has an unresolved debt with Bowls WA or;
 - ▶ A player competes who is under suspension from Bowls WA or has been suspended or expelled by any State Authority or Bowls Australia.

3. NOMINATION OF A PENNANT SIDE

The nomination process for the Metropolitan Pennant Competitions is as follows:

- (i) Nomination forms detailing divisional/colour entitlements will be sent to each club prior to the commencement of each season.
- (ii) Clubs unable to meet the advised divisional entitlements shall at their first available opportunity inform Bowls WA, in writing, that they wish to decrease or relinquish specific entitlements.
- (iii) Applications for additional Pennant Sides shall be in accordance with 2.1(ii) of these General Conditions.
- (iv) Nominations for specified gender competitions shall be in accordance with 1.1(iii) of these General Conditions.
- (v) Clubs must nominate sides on the Pennant Entitlement Nomination Form and return completed nomination forms and applicable fees by the indicated due date.

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- (vi) Nominations are not a guarantee of placement into the specified division/colour.
- (vii) Bowls WA will assign nominated sides to divisions/colours and in the best interests of the competition be entitled to:
 - ▶ promote or demote a nominated side in order to fill a vacancy within or correct an anomaly in a pennant division/colour;
 - ▶ any such action shall be made based on the performance of a side in the previous season and;
 - ▶ A club shall be notified in writing when an adjustment occurs.
- (viii) Clubs with extra players but not enough to form a side may contact surrounding clubs during the off season to ask if they would like to enter a combined Pennant Side in the relevant Pennant Competition under the following restrictions
 - ▶ Clubs combining to form a new Pennant Side will only be able to enter in the lowest Pennant Division of the requested competition. Completion of an Amalgamation of Pennant Team Form must be made to Bowls WA from both clubs stating who the home club will be. Combined club teams will be able to wear their own club uniform.
 - ▶ If a club already has an allocated entitlement in a division that is the clubs lowest side but not the Defined Pennant Competitions lowest division, they may approach another club to join with them to continue in that division. Completion of an Amalgamation of Pennant Team Form must be made to Bowls WA from both clubs stating which of the clubs the home club will be. Combined club teams will be able to wear their own club uniform.

Note: Clubs shall ensure that when nominating sides into specified gender competitions that they have sufficient active players of that gender to support the number of sides nominated for that gender.

Clubs should not enter a team knowing they will require Cross Gender Substitutions for the whole season.

4. LATE ENTRY OF A PENNANT SIDE

4.1 Prior to the commencement of the Competition:

- (i) After the closing date for annual nomination and where a vacancy exists in a division/colour additional side(s) may be accepted into the competition.
- (ii) An application for late entry must be made in writing to Bowls WA, a nomination fee will apply.
- (iii) An amendment to the advertised Draw for the affected division/colour shall be placed on the Bowls WA Website and any club directly affected will be advised in writing.

4.2 After the commencement of the Competition:

- (i) In the best interests of the competition Bowls WA may accept a late entry into the competition.
- (ii) No late entry will be accepted after the half way point of the specific Pennant Competition.
- (iii) Application for late entry and advice of amendments to the draw shall be in accordance with 4.1(ii) & (iii) above.
- (iv) Allocation of seasonal points for sides affected by the late entry of a side into a division/colour shall be as follows:
 - ▶ An average of shots for and against and match points earned up to the half way point of the specific Pennant Competition shall be allocated to any side that was drawn to a bye prior to the late entry of a side.
 - ▶ An average of shots for and against and match points earned up to the half way point of the specific Pennant Competition shall be allocated to any side that has been accepted as a late entry into the competition.
 - ▶ The adjustment of points shall be made by Bowls WA at the half way point of the specific Pennant Competition.

5. WITHDRAWAL OF A PENNANT SIDE

5.1 Withdrawal

- (i) A club that withdraws a side after the draw has been published and up to and including the third (3rd) round of competition may be liable for an administration fee.
- (ii) A side which is withdrawn after the commencement of the competition and up to and including the third (3rd) round of the competition will be considered not to have entered the competition; and any points and shots earned by the withdrawing side or their opposition shall not count and the position previously held by the withdrawing side in a draw may be replaced with a BYE. Or;
- (iii) May be replaced by a side which is a late entry into the competition as in 4.2.
- (iv) Notice of the withdrawal of a side and an amendment to the draw shall be posted on the Bowls WA Website and clubs directly affected notified.

5.2 Subsequent Withdrawal of a Pennant Side

- (i) A club that withdraws a side after the third (3rd) round of the competition will be liable for an administration fee.
- (ii) Opposition sides drawn to play a side withdrawn after the third (3rd) round of the competition shall be awarded a forfeit.

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- (iii) Notice of subsequent withdrawal of a side shall be posted on the Bowls WA Website and clubs directly affected notified.

Note: Written notice of intent to withdraw a side must be made to Bowls WA.

6. SELECTION RULES FOR A GRADED PENNANT COMPETITION INCLUDING FINALS

The Metropolitan Pennant Competition General Conditions will apply for the entire Pennant Season, including finals. Clubs will be held responsible in ensuring that selection decisions are consistent with the concept of a graded competition and be mindful at all times of the importance of the integrity of the competition in those decisions.

The Integrity Rule is in question when:

1. A player(s) is selected to play in a Lower Division when they should otherwise be playing in a Higher Division, if the objective of this selection is to strengthen the Lower Division to gain an advantage.
2. A player(s) of the opposite gender is selected to play in an Open Gender Side or as a Cross Gender Substitute if the objective of this selection is to strengthen a Division to gain an advantage.

Examples of strengthening a Lower Division to gain an advantage include:

1. Trying to win promotion to a higher division.
2. Trying to qualify to play in finals.
3. Avoiding demotion.

There may be cases where a perceived advantage may be gained by dropping a player(s) from a Higher Division to a Lower Division, but it is NOT considered a breach of the Integrity Rule. For example, where a pennant fixture for a particular game is re-scheduled so that it is not at its usual time or on its usual day. In this case, if a player(s) is not able to play in this re-scheduled game due to a legitimate reason such as work, study, family etc, then they should be allowed to play in a Lower Division without breaching the Integrity Rule. The key in this example is that the objective of the selection is NOT to gain an advantage, but to allow a player(s) to still play pennants in a Lower Grade due to legitimate circumstances that prevents them from playing in their usual division.

Note that the Integrity Rule is NOT intended to prevent players from being dropped due to a lack of form or for a side to forfeit due to lack of players.

Open Gender Divisions Selection

All eligible players (see rule 12 in these conditions of play for eligibility) should be considered on an equal basis when selecting Open Gender Pennant Sides and be chosen on a skill level basis and not on gender.

Clubs should be prepared to defend their Selectors' decisions. As such, the onus will be on the Club to mount a defence, rather than on the relevant Committee to prove that the Integrity Rule has been breached.

6.1 Selection Restrictions for all Pennant Finals

- (i) A player must have played a minimum of four (4) pennant games in that colour and/or division to be eligible for finals.
- (ii) Where a club has two or more teams in the same colour a player must have played a minimum of four (4) pennant games in that side to be eligible for finals. If it is the clubs lowest division or no eligible players are available, permission may be sought in writing to play someone from the same division but a different colour in finals.
- (iii) Cross Gender Substitutes will not be permitted to play finals.
- (iv) A club may promote a player to play finals in a colour and/or division higher than their regular colour and/or division if they have played a minimum of four (4) pennant games in a lower division.
- (v) A player who has played in a final in a lower division/colour is eligible to play in a subsequent final in a higher division/colour.
- (vi) When a pennant competition has divisions with less than eighteen (18) rounds, the Bowls WA Game Development Committee reserves the right to adjust the qualifying number of games for finals to a number less than four (4) pennant games.
- (vii) A club may apply to Bowls WA in writing to demote a player to play finals in a colour and/or division lower than their regular colour and/or division if they have not played a minimum of four (4) pennant games in the lower division only if not enough eligible players for that division are available or there are not enough players available from a lower division to be promoted.

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Note: Any club that believes a violation of the Graded Pennant Competition has occurred should put in writing their concerns to Bowls WA via their club secretary.

Alternatively, if Bowls WA believe a violation of the Graded Pennant Competition has occurred, they have the ability to investigate without a written complaint from a club.

Bowls WA have the grounds to declare a forfeit against the team of a Club where Bowls WA deems that the Club, without a satisfactory explanation to Bowls WA, is deemed to have played a number of regular players from a higher ranked team in a lower ranked team at any time during the pennant season, in a manner likely to gain an unfair advantage or to distort the rankings of the lower ranked grade.

7. SCHEDULING AND RESCHEDULING OF FIXTURES

- (i) All games shall be played in accordance with the most recently published fixtures and conditions of play.
- (ii) Fixtures may be rescheduled for player protection according to conditions outlined in **Metropolitan Pennant General Conditions Rule. Player Protection.**
- (iii) **After the season's pennant fixtures have been finalised but before the first pennant fixture date is played, all clubs in all divisions, may apply on the "Alteration to Pennant Fixture" form to reschedule a published pennant fixture.**
- (iv) After the pennant season has begun all clubs in all divisions may apply on the "Alteration to Pennant Fixture" form to reschedule a pennant fixture for promotional reasons under the following conditions:
 - ▶ **Women's Tuesday, Friday and Men's Midweek Pennant:** If a pennant side wishes to change the date/time of a pennant fixture, it may only change the fixture date up to one (1) day forward or one (1) day back.
 - ▶ **Men's and Women's Saturday Pennant:** Due to the commitment of results to the Sunday Times newspaper any change of date/time of Men's and Women's Saturday pennant must see the fixture completed no later than 6.15pm on the original Saturday Pennant date.
 - ▶ All changes must be agreed upon by both sides involved with the promotional reasons noted on the "Alteration to Pennant Fixture" form and must be approved by Bowls WA.
 - ▶ If regular players in that division/colour will be unavailable for the rescheduled match and will be required to play in a lower division for that round, those names will need to be noted on the "Alteration to Pennant Fixture" form.
 - ▶ No Pennant fixture venue may be changed at any time due to inclement weather at the scheduled home venue
 - ▶ No Pennant fixture change will be approved for the last round of any Specific Pennant Competition.

Note: Bowls WA reserves the right to reschedule a Pennant Fixture for promotional reasons.

8. ABANDONMENT

Note: **For the rules governing Individual Abandonment due to Extreme Heat, refer to the Individual Pennant Competition Conditions of Play**

8.1 General Abandonment of a Metropolitan Pennant Fixture by Bowls WA

- 8.1.1 Equal points shall be awarded for the General Abandonment of a fixture
- 8.1.2 Abandonment due to Extreme Weather conditions;
 - (i) In the case of extreme weather conditions or other extreme circumstances the Bowls WA Game Development Committee may cancel all games scheduled prior to the scheduled starting time.
 - (ii) Should the abandonment of a fixture be on the day of play, notification of the General Abandonment of a fixture shall be posted on the Bowls WA Website and through social media wherever possible.

8.2 Individual Abandonment, Delayed or Interrupted Games

When no general abandonment of a fixture has been made by Bowls WA and a club is experiencing extreme weather or other extreme conditions at their location.

8.2.1 If host clubs green or greens have been closed for the day before the start of play due to the inclement conditions;

- (i) The game is abandoned and the allocated points are equally shared.
- (ii) The Bowls WA Umpire of the Day Cancellation of Play Report must be completed by the Umpire of the Day and forwarded to Bowls WA.
- (iii) Home Clubs are required to inform visiting clubs as soon as possible.

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8.2.2 If the game is delayed at or after the scheduled start of play:

- (i) Whether the game has commenced at the scheduled start time or has been delayed, the game may not be abandoned until sixty (60) minutes cumulative time has elapsed unless extreme conditions continue to interrupt play and it is highly unlikely play will be able to continue. The Umpire of the Day shall consult with all Team Managers, and as sole arbiter, make the decision to abandon or continue play for all sides at the venue. If a manager disagrees with the decision not to continue before the required 60 minutes has elapsed, this needs to be noted on the Umpires report, in case of a protest, and forwarded to Bowls WA.
- (ii) If trial ends cannot be played or completed before the scheduled start time then all remaining trial ends will be considered completed and the start of the game is to commence as soon as the Umpire of the Day decides.
- (iii) If after the full sixty (60) minutes cumulative time is reached and play has not commenced or recommenced or is again delayed, the game must be abandoned by the Umpire of the Day.
- (iv) If the prescribed number of ends has been played to constitute a game prior to the abandonment of play, the game shall be considered as completed.
- (v) If the prescribed number of ends have NOT been played to constitute a game prior to the abandonment of play it is an incomplete game and points shall be shared equally.
- (vi) The Bowls WA Umpire of Day Cancellation of Play Report must be completed by the Umpire of the Day, noting any objections and forwarded to Bowls WA headquarters within 48 hours of the abandonment.

8.2.3 In the case of a Club having one or more greens closed at the start of play due to inclement weather, but also have one or more Greens open, the following conditions will apply:

- (i) The Club MUST use the Open Green/s if fit for Pennant and ALL teams at home on the day be able to be accommodated on the available green/s at the start of play.
- (ii) The Club may NOT use the Open Green/s if all teams at home on the day are NOT able to be accommodated on the available green/s at the start of play.

8.2.4 In the case of a Club having one or more greens closed after the start of play but also have one or more Greens open, the following condition will apply:

- (i) If green/s are closed by the Umpire of the Day during the course of the game due to a green becoming unplayable or dangerous e.g. flooding, then only games on those green/s are abandoned. If other green/s at the same venue are still safe and playable and the games are not abandoned by the Umpire of the Day under rule 8.2.2 play may continue on those green/s.

Note: When the host club permanently closes their green/s for the day prior to the Umpire of the Day being called upon to make a decision under rules 8.2.1, the club may be later asked to justify that decision if visiting teams see fit to protest the clubs decision to close their greens.

8.2.5 Clubs with Covered Greens

- (i) If a club is only playing on a covered green on a Pennant Day, the club's thermometer should be placed in a position to determine the temperature on that particular green only.
- (ii) If a club is playing on both covered and uncovered greens on a Pennant Day, the club's thermometer should be placed in the prescribed area to determine the temperature on the uncovered green. That temperature determines if play continues on all greens, covered or uncovered.

8.3 Completed Game

A prescribed number of ends are required to be completed in competitions between sides to constitute a game. The required number of completed ends is dependent on the number of teams which make up the side. Refer to the individual Pennant Competition Conditions of Play.

8.4 Incomplete Game

A game which has commenced but play has been abandoned prior to the prescribed number of ends that constitute a game have been played.

8.5 Games re-scheduled due to Player Protection

- (i) In the case of General Abandonment, games that have been rescheduled from that round due to player protection will also be treated as abandoned.
- (ii) Rescheduled games that are individually abandoned may not be rescheduled again and will be treated as a draw.

8.6 Pennant Games scheduled to be played on a day other than the regular Pennant Day

When a General Abandonment is called for a round of Pennant, all games attached to that round regardless as to whether they have been scheduled for a day in the future or have already been played, will be considered abandoned and the points shared.

9. FORFEIT

- (i) A Club is required to forfeit their lowest side first unless extenuating circumstances occur as approved by Bowls WA.

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- (ii) A side forfeiting a game is required to notify the opposition side concerned as early as possible so as to avoid any inconvenience to that club.
- (iii) The home side is responsible for entering a forfeit into the Bowls Link website.
- (iv) A side that receives a forfeit shall be awarded all points, and the average shots for and against (percentage) from the round. If the awarded percentage has a negative effect on the sides current percentage, then no percentage will be awarded.
- (v) A player whose name appears on the Pennant Result Sheet may not have played in another game in that round.

Penalty:

- ▶ A side that forfeits will be fined for each offence.
- ▶ A side that forfeits a game during the Finals and Promotion Play-Off series shall be disqualified from further participation in the series.
- ▶ The second game that a player plays in the same round will be considered a forfeit.

10. BYE

- 10.1 In the event of a bye, no points shall be awarded.

10.2 Inequality of byes within colours during the Home and Away Rounds

- (i) If in a colour within a division there is inequality of byes Bowls WA may redraw the fixture in the best interest of the competition.
- (ii) All changes to the draw shall be displayed on the Bowls WA website.
- (iii) If it is not possible or practical to re-draw the colour, Bowls WA will determine the points and percentage allocation at the completion of the first round of Home and Away fixtures.
- (iv) If an inequality of byes occurs during the second round of Home and Away fixtures, Bowls WA will determine the points and percentage allocation at the end of the Home and Away season taking into account only the second round of fixtures.
- (v) The points and percentage allocation will be determined using the following formula:

Points – the average number of points gained per week by the relevant team over the course of the home and away round will be added to the team's total points. If more than one bye needs to be compensated for, the average number of points added to the final total will be multiplied by the number of byes.

Percentage – the average percentage gained or lost per week over the course of the home and away round.

10.3 Inequality of byes between colours when determining rankings for Pennant Finals

- 10.3.1 2nd Division and below that take part in Pennant Finals

- (i) If one or more colours have byes during the home and away season meaning they play less games than other colours in the division, Bowls WA will determine the points and percentage allocation to the effected teams to bring them in line with the amount of games played in other colours at the end of the home and away season, these points and percentage will be added or subtracted to the clubs total.
- (ii) The points and percentage allocation will be determined using the following formula:
Points – the average number of points gained per week by the relevant team over the course of the home and away season will be added to the team's total points. If more than one bye needs to be compensated for, the average number of points added to the final total will be multiplied by the number of byes.
Percentage – the average percentage gained or lost per week over the course of the home and away season will be added or subtracted to the clubs total.

11. LATE APPEARANCE

- (i) 30 minutes is allowed beyond the scheduled starting time.
- (ii) If at the end of 30 minutes, and no extenuation circumstances exist, a player is not present for one or more teams play should commence in accordance with BA Laws of the Sport of Bowls.
- (iii) If at the end of 30 minutes, and no extenuating circumstances exist, a side or sufficient players from the side are not present the opposing side will be awarded a forfeit. Laws of the Sport of Bowls.
- (iv) In the case of extenuating circumstances (e.g. Major freeway hold-up), every effort should be made to notify the host club and the Controlling Body.

12. OPEN GENDER PENNANT IN SPECIFIC METROPOLITAN COMPETITIONS AND DIVISIONS

Please Note: to be read in conjunction with Cross Gender Substitution Rules and Selection Rules for Graded Pennant Competitions

Explanation: A Club may play both men and women in Eligible Pennant sides without the restrictions previously associated with Cross Gender Substitution Rules within the Bowls WA Metropolitan Pennant Conditions of Play.

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Open Gender Rules are accessible to any Club whose Pennant Side/s are in any of the following Pennant Competitions:

- ▶ Women's Tuesday Pennant 3rd Division and Below
- ▶ Men's Thursday Pennant 4th Division and Below
- ▶ Men's Saturday Pennant 2nd Division and Below
- ▶ Women's Saturday Pennant 3rd Division Only

Where clubs have multiple sides within eligible divisions, they are eligible to play as Open Gender Pennant Sides.

12.1 Open Gender Divisions Selection Eligibility for Players who play Men's Saturday and Women's Tuesday Pennant

- (i) Men's Saturday Pennant Divisions are to be used to assess a male's eligibility to play Women's Tuesday and Women's Saturday Open Gender Pennant Divisions.
- (ii) Women's Tuesday Pennant Divisions are to be used to assess a female's eligibility to play Men's Saturday and Midweek Open Gender Pennant Divisions.
- (iii) All eligible players should be considered on an equal basis when selecting Open Gender Pennant Sides and chosen on a skill level basis and not on gender. If a player is considered to be at a significantly higher skill level than Open Gender Division selection allows, they should not be selected.
- (iv) **Eligibility Rules**
 - Men playing 2nd Division or higher in Men's Saturday Pennant are not permitted to play Tuesday 3rd Division or 4th Division Open Gender Pennant
 - Men playing 3rd Division and below in Men's Saturday Pennant may only play Tuesday 3rd Division Open Gender Pennant
 - Men playing 4th Division and below in Men's Saturday Pennant may play Tuesday 3rd Division and below Open Gender Pennant
 - Women playing 1st Division White or Premier League in Tuesday Pennant are not permitted to play Men's Saturday 2nd Division and below Open Gender Pennant
 - Women playing 1st Division Green and below in Tuesday Pennant may play Men's Saturday 2nd and 3rd Division Open Gender Pennant
 - Women playing 2nd Division and below in Tuesday Pennant may play Men's Saturday 2nd Division and below in Open Gender Pennant
 - Women playing 2nd Division or above in Tuesday Pennant may not play Open Gender Midweek Pennant
 - Women playing 3rd Division or below in Tuesday Pennant may play Open Gender Midweek Pennant

12.2 Open Gender Divisions Selection Eligibility for Players who do not play Men's Saturday and Women's Tuesday Pennant

- 12.2.1 If a male player only plays Midweek Pennant, the following rules apply:
 - Men playing 2nd Division or higher in Midweek Pennant are not permitted to play Tuesday Open Gender Pennant
 - Men playing 3rd Division or lower are permitted to play Tuesday 3rd/4th Division Open Gender Pennant.
- 12.2.2 If a male does not play either Men's Saturday or Men's Midweek Pennant in the 2023-24 season, where they played the majority of the last two (2) seasons will be used to calculate eligibility.
- 12.2.3 If a male has not played in either Men's Saturday or Midweek Pennant Competition in the past two seasons they will be treated as being eligible for all Open Gender Pennant Divisions in Women's Tuesday and Women's Saturday Pennant.
- 12.2.4 If a female does not play either Women's Tuesday or Women's Saturday Pennant in the 2023-24 season, where they played the majority of the last two (2) seasons will be used to calculate eligibility.
- 12.2.5 If a female has not played in either Women's Tuesday or Women's Saturday Pennant Competitions in the past two seasons they will be treated as being eligible for all Open Gender Pennant Divisions in Men's Saturday and Men's Midweek Pennant.
- 12.3 **Eligible Players of both genders** must be chosen under the guidance of **SELECTION RULES FOR GRADED PENNANT COMPETITIONS** located within these Metropolitan Pennant Conditions of Play.
- 12.4 All Players who play any Pennant Competition under Open Gender Rules must do so under the following General Conditions:
 - (i) Must conform to the rules for side dress in accordance with Bowls WA Field of Play Rules.
 - (ii) Must play under the Specific Pennant Conditions of Play e.g. Extreme Weather Rules.
- 12.5 Any club that believes a violation of the Graded Pennant Competition has occurred a club should put in writing their concerns to the Bowls WA Game Development Committee via their club secretary. Alternatively, if the Bowls WA Game Development Committee believe a violation of the Graded Pennant Competition has occurred, they have the ability to investigate without a written complaint from a club.
- 12.6 **PENALTY:** When Open Gender Pennant rules are contravened, the opposing team will be awarded a forfeit.

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13. CROSS GENDER SUBSTITUTION

Note: To be read in conjunction with Open Gender Substitution Rules and Selection Rules for Graded Pennant Competitions.

Cross Gender Rules are accessible to any Club whose lowest Pennant Side/s is in one of the following Pennant Competitions:

- Women's Tuesday Pennant 2nd Division and Above
- Men's Thursday Pennant 3rd Division and Above
- Men's Saturday Pennant 1st Division
- Women's Saturday Pennant 2nd Division and Above
- Women's Friday Night Pennant

All Players who play any Pennant Competition under Cross Gender Rules must do so under the following General Conditions:

- (i) Must conform to the rules for side dress in accordance with Bowls WA Field of Play Rules.
- (ii) Must play under the Specific Pennant Conditions of Play e.g. Extreme Weather Rules.
- (iii) Cross Gender Substitutes will not be permitted to play finals.

13.1 Women substituting in Men's Saturday Pennant Competition 1st Division and Above and Men's Midweek Pennant 3rd Division and Above

Players must be chosen under the guidance of SELECTION RULES FOR GRADED PENNANT COMPETITIONS that can be located within these Metropolitan Conditions of Play.

Women may play in the Men's pennant competition with the following conditions:

- (i) Cannot be selected if eligible players of the opposite gender are available.
- (ii) Are regarded as substitutes and therefore can play in any position except Skip. Laws of the Sport of Bowls.
- (iii) Only one (1) substitute is allowed per rink. Laws of the Sport of Bowls.

13.2 Men substituting in Women's Pennant Competition 2nd Division and Above

Players must be chosen under the guidance of SELECTION RULES FOR GRADED PENNANT COMPETITIONS that can be located within these Metropolitan Conditions of Play.

Men may play in the Women's pennant competition with the following conditions:

- (i) Cannot be selected if eligible players of the opposite gender are available.
- (ii) Are regarded as substitutes and therefore can play in any position except Skip. Laws of the Sport of Bowls.
- (iii) Only one (1) substitute is allowed per rink. Laws of the Sport of Bowls.

13.3 A club with less than 10 Female Members

Where a bowling club does not have a ladies pennant side and the number of female members with playing rights in the Bowls Link Database is less than ten (10) then those members, following pre-season notification to the Bowls WA CEO by the Club, may play in their Home Club's designated Men's pennant competition without restriction and in whatever division their skills merit, as deemed by the club's selectors.

13.4 In extenuating circumstances clubs may seek dispensation by contacting the Bowls WA Chief Executive Officer.

13.5 Any club that believes a violation of the Graded Pennant Competition has occurred should put in writing their concerns to the Bowls WA Game Development Committee via their club secretary. Alternatively, if Bowls WA believe a violation of the Graded Pennant Competition has occurred, they have the ability to investigate without a written complaint from a club.

13.6 **PENALTY:** When Cross Gender Substitution rules are contravened, the opposing team will be awarded a forfeit.

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14. PLAYER PROTECTION

A club having two (2) or more pennant players from the same side competing or officiating in an official BA Interstate, National or International competition as selected, as an invited player, as a direct entry or via Western Australian Qualifying Events, and the player's club has a simultaneous pennant fixture that the players would normally play in, the fixture may be rescheduled as follows and under the following circumstances:

- (i) The players requiring protection must be regular players in the same pennant side.
- (ii) If Bowls WA feels it is impractical to reschedule one (1) or more pennant games to accommodate the missing players, player protection may not be allowed.
- (iii) Men's Saturday and Women's Tuesday Pennant Competitions; all games affected by the absence of players may be rescheduled to an alternative date by Bowls WA. Requests for re-scheduled games shall be made on the Alterations to Fixture Form to the Bowls WA Game Development Committee.
- (iv) The rescheduling of fixtures Metropolitan Pennant Competition General Conditions will apply.

15. INTERSTATE PENNANT DECLARATION

Using the Bowls Australia "Interstate Pennant Declaration" form metropolitan clubs may select players who have interstate home club status, to play Metropolitan Pennant under the following conditions:

- (i) The Interstate Pennant Declaration form is completed and submitted to Bowls WA for approval
- (ii) Each club may only play a maximum of one (1) interstate player per Pennant Fixture
- (iii) A player may play a maximum of three (3) pennant fixtures per defined Pennant Competition before being required to submit an "Interstate Clearance" form to change Home Club status

16. ATTIRE FOR PENNANT SIDES

Attire for pennant sides is in accordance with Field of Play Rules.

17. GREENS

Bowls WA Greens and Infrastructure Policy will apply.

- 17.1 Procedures for Requesting Green Inspections outside of Bowls WA Annual Inspection dates
The following procedures cover inspections arranged by Clubs after or before annual inspections have taken place
- (i) Clubs may make arrangements with the Bowls WA Greens Inspection Team at the time of the Annual Green Inspections to return at a later organised date/time to inspect greens not approved for pennant.
- (ii) If previous arrangements are not made, Clubs will make contact via phone or email with the Designated Green Inspector or the Bowls WA Competitions Manager to request a Greens Inspection for green/s not approved for pennant or for greens that have been renovated (grass) or modified (synthetic) since the Annual Inspections.
- (iii) Clubs are required to give 72 hours notice when nominating a date for a green/s inspection.
- (iv) When less than 72 hours notice for a preferred green/s inspection date is requested by a Club, there is no guarantee a Bowls WA Volunteer Greens Inspector will be available.
- (v) All greens that have been requested to be inspected by the Club must be prepared and ready for inspection when the Greens Inspector/s arrives.

Note: If a Club requests green/s to be inspected and the green/s are not prepared and ready for inspection at the designated time, the green/s may not be inspected and the club may be invoiced by Bowls WA for the Green Inspector/s travel costs.

18. PRACTICE

No practice by any player engaged in any pennant game on that day, with the exception of trial ends, shall be permitted on the green to be used 30 minutes prior to the commencement of the Trial Ends.

Penalty: Any infringement may incur a fine.

19. BOWLS STICKERS

19.1 Home Games

The Bowls WA nominated sponsor's stickers when applicable must be used by the home side. Bowls WA will advise clubs annually of the requirement to use BWA sponsor's stickers.

19.2 Club and Club Sponsored Stickers

If there is no recognised sponsor for the Metropolitan Pennant Competition; clubs may use club or club sponsors stickers for their home games.

19.3 Finals and Promotional and Challenge Play Off series

In each Finals Fixture, the team that finished higher on the Home and Away ladder will use stickers. Where teams competing are coming from different colours, Bowls WA will predetermine which side will use stickers.

METROPOLITAN PENNANT COMPETITION - GENERAL CONDITIONS

20. RINK DRAW

- (i) The draw for the rinks and opponents of each team shall be decided jointly by the Side Managers, who shall exchange cards and then shuffle them. The cards of one side shall be placed (separately) name downwards by one manager and the cards of the other side placed one on each. The draw for the rink on which the teams shall play will be made by the Side Managers and placed on the cards as drawn.
- (ii) If the visiting side's cards are not available 15 minutes prior to the commencement of the game, the Home Side Manager may arrange for the Umpire of the Day to conduct the rink draw in order for trial ends to commence.

21. SUBSTITUTES AND PLAYING SHORT

- (i) If during a game a player is unable to continue an eligible player may be used as a substitute with the permission of the Umpire of the Day.
- (ii) If a substitute is not available, the team must play with three (3) players with the order of play maintained by the second of the complete team playing consecutive bowls.

Team	1st bowl	2nd bowl	3rd bowl	4th bowl	5th bowl	6th bowl	7th bowl	8th bowl
A	Lead	Lead	Second	Second	Third	Third	Skip	Skip
B	Lead	Lead			Third	Third	Skip	Skip

- (iii) If a team with a substitute already playing has another player withdraw, the team may play with three (3) players. As in 21(ii) above.
- (iv) If a team of three (3) players with a substitute already playing has another player withdraw, that team, as well as the side must forfeit.
- (v) No team may play with less than three (3) players; if no substitute is available and one of the three players can not continue the side must forfeit.

22. COMPLETION OF PENNANT RETURNS AND INPUTTING RESULTS

22.1 Home and Away Pennant Returns

- (i) There is no requirement for the Home Side to forward the Pennant Result Sheet to Bowls WA.
- (ii) The Home Side is responsible for holding onto the Pennant Result Sheet in case final results need to be confirmed at a later date.
- (iii) Sides Managers are to complete the Pennant Result Sheet in full, showing the names of the players who were selected for their sides.
Note: Players names must be as per the Bowls Link Database, no nicknames or abbreviated surnames are to be used.
- (iv) If the selected player/s is/are unable to play and substitutes are not available, a notation "DID NOT PLAY" is to be marked beside the player/s name.
- (v) Any substitute used must have the word "SUB" marked next to their name.
- (vi) Cross Gender substitutes are to be clearly identified with an "M" or "F" circled next to the player's name.
- (vii) The Home Side Manager must ensure that the name of the Umpire of the Day is entered on the form
- (viii) At the completion of the game the Sides Managers are responsible for recording and totalling individual rink (team) scores and aggregate points and recording the name of the winning side. Once agreement has been reached that the scores and points are correct the form shall be signed by both Managers.

22.2 Inputting Results into Bowls Link

- (i) The Home Side is responsible for inputting the final scores into Bowls Link.
- (ii) The Away Side is responsible for checking the final scores in Bowls Link.
- (iii) A Club Representative is responsible for inputting team names into Bowls Link.

22.3 Byes, Forfeits, Rescheduled and Abandoned Games

- (i) A Pennant Result Sheet is not required to be lodged for a BYE
- (ii) A Pennant Result Sheet is not required to be completed in the case of a General Abandonment of a Fixture by Bowls WA
- (iii) The Home Side Manager is responsible for completing the Pennant Result Sheet and the accompanying Umpire of the Day Cancellation of Play Report for individually abandoned games

22.4 Finals and Promotion and Challenge Play Off Series

- (i) It is the responsibility of the hosting venue to coordinate with visiting teams to ensure all results are inputted into the Bowls Link Website.
- (ii) It is the responsibility of the club named in the home team position in the fixtures to ensure the final scores are inputted into the Bowls Link Website.
- (iii) It is the responsibility of the club named in the visiting team position in the fixtures to ensure the final scores are checked in the Bowls Link Website.

METROPOLITAN PENNANT COMPETITION - GENERAL CONDITIONS

23. SIDE MANAGER

23.1 Appointment

Clubs are responsible when appointing a Side Manager for each of their Pennant Sides, to ensure the Managers are aware of their duties and the importance of accuracy when completing the Pennant Result Sheet and other related forms.

23.2 Roles and Responsibilities

- (i) Each Side Manager is required to have a copy of these General Conditions and the Conditions of Play for the relevant Pennant competition.
- (ii) To record the players names, date, division, colour and rink numbers on the score cards before the game. (iii)
- (iii) To prepare the Pennant Results Sheet in accordance with Rule 22 of these General Conditions.
- (iv) To effect the rink draw in accordance with Rule 20 of these General Conditions.
- (v) To ensure Pennant Results are inputted into the Bowls Link (Home Team).
- (vi) To ensure Pennant Results are checked in Bowls Link (Away Team).

24. PROTEST PROCEDURE FOR BOWLS WA PENNANT COMPETITIONS

24.1 The following procedures cover protests where a side wishes to lodge an appeal against an umpire's or club official's decision at the conclusion of a fixture.

- (i) At the end of the fixture the manager making the protest is to tick the appropriate box on the Pennant Return Sheet.
- (ii) Both managers are required to sign the Pennant Result sheets acknowledging the provisional result and that a protest against the result has been made.
- (iii) The Home club is to fax or email the Pennant Result sheet to Bowls WA as soon as possible.
- (iv) The protesting club has until midday the following work day to submit the official protest in writing explaining the exact nature and circumstances of the protest and to deposit the \$50 protest fee to Bowls WA.
- (v) The Bowls WA Game Development Committee will investigate the circumstances and make a decision when both clubs will be informed of the decision in writing.
- (vi) The Bowls WA Game Development Committee will make any change to the provisional result that is required.

24.2 Appealing a Bowls WA Operational Committee Decision or fine or administration fee

Any administration decision by a Bowls WA Operational Committee, fine or administration fee imposed, may be appealed through the following process:

- (i) A written appeal with an explanation and listing all mitigating circumstances is to be lodged with the Bowls WA CEO within 48 hours of the written notification of the decision.
- (ii) If the CEO believes the appeal has merit the Bowls WA Protests and Disputes Committee will consider the appeal, and provide the lodger with a written copy of their findings.
- (iii) The decision of the Bowls WA Protests and Disputes Committee is final.

24.3 Protest Procedure Against a Sub Standard Surface in Bowls WA Pennant Competitions

- (i) The protesting club has until midday the following work day to submit an official protest on the Greens Protest Form found on the Bowls WA Website under Club Assistance/Forms and Documents/Pennant Forms and to also deposit the \$50 protest fee to Bowls WA.
- (ii) The Bowls WA Greens Inspection Team will investigate the circumstances and make a decision when both clubs will be informed of the decision in writing.
- (iii) The Bowls WA Game Development Committee will be informed of the decision and make any change to the provisional result that is required.

Note: If the written protest or \$50 protest fee is not received by Bowls WA by midday the following work day, the protest will be considered as not having been made and the result will be considered final.

If at the end of the process the protest is seen as a valid concern, whether the protest is successful or not, the \$50 protest fee will be returned to the protesting club.

If at the end of the process the protest is seen as spurious or having no basis the \$50 protest fee will be forfeited.

25. UMPIRE OF THE DAY APPOINTMENT

- (i) Venue Clubs are to appoint an accredited Umpire where available to act as the Umpire of the Day.
- (ii) It is strongly recommended that a Pennant Side Manager is not named Umpire of the Day due to a conflict of duties.
- (iii) If the venue club does not have an accredited Umpire a visiting accredited Umpire may be appointed to officiate and act as the Umpire of the Day.

METROPOLITAN PENNANT COMPETITION - GENERAL CONDITIONS

- (iv) If no Umpire is available then a competent player from the home side should be appointed to act as Umpire of the Day.
- (v) The appointed umpire of the day may not act as a nominated coach on the same day

26. UMPIRE EQUIPMENT RESTRICTIONS

Bowls WA allows suitably trained Nationally Accredited Umpires, carrying out their official measuring duties in all Bowls WA Events Pennant and Above to only use the approved *Bowlslane Leice laser measure* that measures to four (4) decimal places.

Competing players in all Bowls WA Events Pennant and Above are not permitted to use any form of laser measure.

27. SMOKING, CONSUMPTION OF ALCOHOL

Any lit or unlit smoking implement, electronic cigarettes and alcoholic beverages are not permitted on the greens during any Bowls WA Competition or Event.

Bowling Clubs are permitted to have their own rules regarding smoking and non-smoking areas as permitted under Government Legislation.

Bowls WA strongly encourages clubs to define a smoking area well away from the playing surfaces.

Penalty:

- (i) For the first offence on that day, the player shall be warned by the Umpire of the Day.
 - (ii) A player committing the same offence for the second time on the same day, shall be disqualified from the game and no substitute shall be permitted
- The Side will be allowed to play a player short and continue playing according to General Pennant Condition 20. Substitutes and Playing Short.

28. USE OF MOBILE PHONES AND ELECTRONIC DEVICES

All mobile phones must be turned to silent (or vibrate) whilst play is in progress.

- 28.1 In the case of a pending emergency, permission to set a mobile phone to an audible tone must be given by the Umpire of the Day.
- 28.2 Mobiles phone may not be used on the greens at any time whilst play is in progress on any rink.
- 28.3 Mobile phones may be used away from the greens as long as play is not disrupted or held up.
- 28.4 Electronic Devices are not permitted e.g. Ipods or Radios
- 28.5 Players who require the use of any Electronic Device for medical reasons should notify the Umpire of the Day before the start of play.
- 28.6 Devices required for inputting scores to an electronic scoreboard are permitted.
- 28.7 Clubs are permitted to play music during a pennant fixture. However, clubs are required to use common sense when considering the volume across the whole green.
- 28.8 Only the home club may determine whether or not music can be played

Penalty:

Any Player that is seen by the Umpire of the Day or is reported to the Umpire of the Day to be disrupting or holding up play by using a mobile phone.

- For the first offence on that day, the player shall be warned by the Umpire of the Day.
- For the second offence a fine will be applied and thereafter a fine for each and every continuing offence

29. FINALS AND PROMOTION PLAY OFFS

29.1 Ladder Position Determination during the Home and Away Season

During the Home and Away season a sides ladder position within their colour will be determined in the following order:

- Overall Pennant Points
- Percentage
- Shots Up

29.2 Determining a Winner

- (i) For all games during the Finals and Promotion and Challenge Play Offs, the winner shall be determined by the side with the highest aggregate.
- (ii) In the event of a tied aggregate, one extra end shall be played on all rinks.
- (iii) The extra end shall be played from where the previous end was completed.
- (iv) Sides Managers shall toss for the mat in the extra end.
- (v) If a tie remains after the completion of the extra end, additional extra ends shall be played until a winner is decided, with Sides Managers tossing for the mat for each and every extra end (Laws of the Sport of Bowls).

METROPOLITAN PENNANT COMPETITION - GENERAL CONDITIONS

29.3 Determining Preliminary Final Green

- (i) When played on the same day as Semi Finals, the Preliminary Final Green shall be chosen by the Club with the higher points scored over the home and away season.
- (ii) If the chosen green is rolled between finals, both teams will be entitled to two (2) trial ends.
- (iii) If the chosen green is synthetic and watered between finals, both teams will be entitled to two (2) trial ends.
- (iv) If the chosen green is not rolled or watered between finals, only the team changing greens will be entitled to two (2) trial ends.

29.4 Determining Grand Final Green

- (i) When played on the same day as Semi Finals, the Grand Final Green shall be chosen by the Competing Club with the higher points scored over the home and away season.
- (ii) If the chosen green is rolled between finals, both teams will be entitled to two (2) trial ends.
- (iii) If the chosen green is not rolled or watered between finals, only the team changing greens will be entitled to two (2) trial ends.

30. DEATH AT THE VENUE OR IN TRANSIT

30.1 Death in transit

Should a Players Death occur in transit, the match in question is immediately abandoned.

30.2 Death at the venue

- 30.2.1 Should there be a death of a player immediately prior to or during the match that match will be abandoned.
- 30.2.2 Should there be a death of a player, official, spectator, employee or any other person not directly involved in an individual match, the commencement or continuation of that match will require the joint agreement of the respective team managers. Should agreement not be reached, the match will be abandoned.

30.3 Finals

In the case of a finals fixture and the required number of ends to constitute a game has not been completed:

- (i) If occurs in a semi or preliminary final the highest placed team at the end of the home and away fixtures shall be declared the winner and advance to the next final.
- (ii) If occurs in a Grand Final the match shall be declared a draw and both teams will be considered equal Pennant winners.

31. PRIZES

Clubs winning the Grand Final in each Pennant Division shall be presented with:

- A Pennant Flag
- A Pennant Plaque

Players playing in the winning side in the Grand Final shall be presented with a Pennant Badge*.

*Clubs may order and purchase at cost extra Pennant Badges for players that did not play in the Grand Final, but were part of the side throughout the season

32. STANDARD FORMS

The following Standard Forms are available from the Bowls WA Website www.bowlswa.com.au

- Multiple Club Pennant Application
- Umpire of the Day – Cancellation of Play Report
- Umpires Infringement Notice
- Amalgamation of Pennant Team Form
- Instantaneous Penalty Form
- Alterations to Pennant Fixture Form