



## **POLICY STATEMENT**

### **GREENS POLICY**

**(Metropolitan Pennants)**

<b>Approval Date:</b>	<b>8<sup>th</sup> September 2003</b>
<b>Amended:</b>	<b>14<sup>th</sup> August 2023 (v10)</b>
<b>Reviewed:</b>	<b>22<sup>nd</sup> December 2023</b>

## **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**

Game Development Committee  
Greens and Infrastructure Committee  
Chief Executive Officer

## **CONFIDENTIALITY**

Not confidential

## **ATTACHMENTS**

1. Greens Protest – Sub Standard Playing Surface
2. Notice Of Concern of A Sub-Standard Playing Surface

## **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 (this may be sent electronically) 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, boundary pegs or placement of the club thermometer; 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 4 and Domestic Regulations for Australia. 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 affected 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.

### **Placement of Thermometer**

Bowls WA Greens and Infrastructure Committee members will inspect where the club places their thermometer to determine the club is using best practice principles.

The best and appropriate way to achieve the correct and desired result is for clubs to invest in or have manufactured a Stevenson Box. The Stevenson Box is the acknowledged (BOM) way to measure the correct air temperature. The Stevenson Box should be placed in a location out in the open and not be under shade.

If an outdoor Thermometer is being used without a Stevenson Box it should be positioned

- Between 1.2 metres and 1.8 metres off the ground
- Free from radiating heat e.g., a wall or steel post so it can measure the ambient air temperature directly
- Not placed in direct sunlight

### **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 – Not a requirement**

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 may use 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**

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**Signature of protesting club manager** \_\_\_\_\_

Forward the completed form to Bowls WA

**Attention: Chairman Greens and Infrastructure Committee**

**Fax**  
08 9340 0880

**Email**  
enquiries@bowlswa.com.au

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



ATTACHMENT 2



**NOTICE OF CONCERN OF A SUB-STANDARD PLAYING SURFACE**

The \_\_\_\_\_ Bowling Club **have concerns regarding the playing surface of the**

\_\_\_\_\_ Bowling Club

**Details**

Green Type                      Grass [ ]                      Synthetic [ ]

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

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

**Reason/s for concern**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

We understand that this is not a protest form and no pennant points will be changed upon lodging this Notice of Concern

**Signature of reporting club manager** \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Manager Name \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Number \_\_\_\_\_

**Forward the completed form to Bowls WA**

**Attention: Chairman Greens and Infrastructure Committee**

**Fax**  
08 9340 0880

**Email**  
pieter@bowlswa.com.au