



BOWLS
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

POLICY STATEMENT

INTEGRITY OF GRADED PENNANTS

Approval Date: 13 September 2004

Reviewed: 22nd December 2023

Philosophy

The aim of the integrity of graded pennants policy is to explain how the pennant grading Field of Play Rules and Metropolitan Pennant Competition General Conditions regarding integrity in selection will be administered. The general intent of this Policy will apply to both the country and metropolitan pennant competitions however some of the references in this document are specific to the metropolitan competitions.

Player Grading Guidelines

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 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*, then the Integrity Rule is deemed to have been breached.

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.

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.

Reporting Procedure

Within reason, any bowler, club or Bowls WA official may report to the relevant Committee a situation, where they believe an infringement of the Integrity of Graded Pennants Policy Rule has taken place.

Investigation Procedure

The relevant Committee shall investigate the alleged breach and, if in their opinion there has been a breach, they shall issue the club a “please explain” letter. The club will be required to provide a written explanation within a determined timeframe.

The Committee will consider the club’s response and make its decision. The club will be so advised and will be given 48 hours in which to lodge an appeal in writing (Bowls WA General Conditions – Appeals Process) to be heard by the Bowls WA Protests & Disputes Committee.

Penalty

The Penalties available to the relevant Committee for a breach of these conditions include loss of points and/or a fine.