



DOMESTIC REGULATION 2 – GAME ANOMALIES

SUBSTITUTES AND REPLACEMENT PLAYERS

Introduction

This document explains the laws and regulations related to substitutes and replacement players in bowls. It clarifies the definitions of these laws.

Laws Relating to Substitutes and Replacement Players

The primary laws for substitutes in the Crystal Mark 4th Edition of the Laws of the Sport of Bowls are:

- Law 32 (Leaving the Green During the Course of Play and Substitutes) and
- Law 33 (Game Stoppages)

- Law 39 addresses absent players and substitutes in defaulting teams.
- Law 39.2.3 allows Member National Authorities to approve regulations different from Law 39.2.2.

*NOTE: Bowls Australia cannot approve regulations for 'Absentee players in a **Team** game'.*

Domestic Regulation 2 overrides Law 39.2.2 and parts of Laws 32 and 33 in Crystal Mark 4th edition regarding substitutes and replacement players.

Umpires officiating in all domestic events in Australia must follow Domestic Regulation 2, while those officiating at international events in Australia must follow Law 39.2.2.

Laws 55.1.6, 55.2.7 and 55.3.3 allows the Controlling Body the power to include regulations for introducing substitutes which are different from those described in Laws 32 and 33 **but only if that Controlling Body considers it essential to successfully carry out its Championship.**

The Controlling Body can also decide on regulations for introducing reserve or replacement players to take the place of players who cannot play in any round after the first round.

NOTE: Replacement players can only be introduced into a team AFTER the first round of a competition.

The 'Controlling Body' approves substitutes and replacement players, and in their absence, the Umpire of the Day takes on this responsibility

Definitions

- **A - Controlling Body**

The body with immediate control over the Conditions of Play under which a game is played.

This could be 'Bowls Australia' for national events, 'Bowls WA' for state events and metro pennant competitions, 'Country Leagues' for country pennant competitions and league events or 'Club Match Committees' for their Club Championship events.

The Controlling Body of any competition, whether it be a side competition (e.g. pennant, Metro Pennant, Country Pennant) or a team competition (e.g., State Events or Club Championships) decides on the approval of substitutes and replacement players. The Controlling Body should include details for substitutes and replacement players in the Conditions of Play for each event they are responsible for.

The skips or Managers of a team or side requiring a substitute or replacement player should always seek approval from the Controlling Body. The approval is given only if the Controlling Body accepts the reason for the substitute, which must align with the Laws of Bowls and Bowls Australia Domestic Regulations.

Skips are responsible for ensuring the validity of their substitute requests. If a skip requests a substitute for an invalid reason, the Controlling Body can forfeit the game to the opponent.

(e.g. a skip tells the Controlling Body that a substitute is required for a player who is unwell. It is later found that the player who was substituted played in another competition on that day. This is not allowed, and the CB is within its power to invoke a forfeit.)

- **B1 - Side game**

Any agreed number of teams or Singles players (or a combination of teams or Singles players) whose combined score decides the result of a game.

A pennant game is a side game. A pennant game usually consists of 2, 3, or 4 teams whose combined scores determine the game's outcome.

- **B3 - Team game**

A Pair, a Triple or a Four

Championship pairs, triples, and fours are all team games.

DR2 often refers to players in a 'side' game or players in a 'team' game.

When deciding on substitutes and replacement players, differentiate between team games and side games. The reasons for allowing substitutes and replacements differ for each type of competition.

- DR 2.1.1 - Eligible member – refer below
- DR 2.1.2 - Affiliated member– refer below
- DR 2.1.3 – Substitutes – refer below
- DR 2.1.4 - Replacement players – refer below

DR 2 - Substitutes and Replacement Players

2.1 Definitions

2.1.1 Eligible Member – a player who satisfies the eligibility criteria, as stated in the Conditions of Play set down by the Controlling Body for that event.

Eligibility criteria must be clearly stated in the Conditions of Play set by the Controlling Body for the competition.

Examples of eligibility criteria

- Those who nominate for a club championship must be financial members of the club. – (i.e. If they haven't paid their subscriptions, they are ineligible to play).
- U18 competitions- players must be Under 18 before the first playing date of the competition
- Metro pennant – substitutes or replacement players must be members of the club they are substituting for. (Metro pennant does not allow any affiliated player to act as a substitute for a team)
- Country pennant –may be different to Metro pennant and allow substitutes from the opposition clubs. This often allows a game to proceed.

2.1.2 Affiliated Member – A player who is registered with a state or territory association as a member of an affiliated club.

Controlling Bodies may allow affiliated members to act as substitutes or replacement players. Again, this must be clearly stated in the Conditions of Play for the competition.

Eligible members, who could have been included in an original team at the close of entries, differ from affiliated members who belong to a club elsewhere at the closing time of entries, or join the club after the closing date.

It is usually stated in the Conditions of Play that Affiliated members can act as approved substitutes only when the umpire or the Controlling Body compares their playing ability with that of the missing players and finds a reasonable

similarity in standard or lower but not higher. An affiliated first division pennant player can't act for a new player, novice, or third division player.

An affiliated player can only be approved when there's no eligible player at the venue available (regardless of their ability), who is willing to play.

Note:

When approving 'eligible members' as substitutes, their playing ability isn't considered.

If the Controlling Body approves an 'affiliated member' as a substitute, their playing ability should be taken into account.

'Affiliated members' aren't allowed as substitutes in Bowls WA Pennant competition.

States should check their Conditions of Play for Pennant regarding player's eligibility

2.1.3 Substitute - A player who is appointed to take the place of a team member who is unavailable to play at any time (including the first end of any game), for a reason accepted by the Controlling Body.

Skips can't decide on substitutes for their team without permission from the Controlling Body. The reason must be valid for the Controlling Body to allow a substitute.

Umpires can't investigate reasons for substitutes or check their eligibility. So, the umpire should ask the skip requesting approval the following questions:

- Is the player for whom the substitute is required unavailable or physically incapable?
- Is the player unavailable because he/she has entered another competition scheduled to be played at the same time?
- Is the player who is to play as substitute, eligible to be a substitute in this event?

Upon receiving satisfactory answers to these questions (yes, no, yes) the umpire should approve the substitute.

The umpire should be re-assured by the skip requesting the substitute that the substitute is eligible.

If the answers given are erroneous, the Controlling Body may take action against the team, including disqualification.

2.1.4 Replacement Player - A player who is appointed to take the place of a constituted player who is physically incapable or otherwise prevented from taking further part in any end (after the first round), for a reason accepted by the Controlling Body. The replacement player becomes a constituted member of the team.

Players in a team game become constituted players when the jack is rolled in the first end of their first game in the competition.

If during the course of a game or competition a constituted player in a team becomes physically incapable (e.g, fractures a leg, suffers a stroke) or otherwise prevented from continuing in the competition, (e.g. becomes ineligible by resignation, suspension, expulsion, or disqualification, unexpected family drama), the position shall be declared vacant and permission must be sought from the Controlling Body for the introduction of a replacement player.

The Controlling Body can approve an eligible member as a replacement player, making them a constituted team member. Only one player may be replaced in a team under this provision.

If the incident occurs during the first round, the incoming player must be a substitute in that first round game as a team cannot have a replacement player until after the first round.

Substitute laws apply until the first game is completed. The substitute must play in the same position as the player being substituted and can't be skip. In subsequent games, the substitute can become a replacement player, and therefore a constituted team member who can play any position, including skip.

If the competition spans a few days or weeks and the retiring player could possibly return, the Controlling Body approves a substitute instead of a replacement player. If the Controlling Body approves a replacement player, the original player is no longer considered a member of the team and can never resume their place in the team.

The Controlling Body makes the final decision as to whether the player is a substitute or a replacement player.

A substitute is not a constituted member of the team and would not be eligible for the final trophy unless it was stipulated otherwise in the Conditions of Play by the Controlling Body for that event, or in the club's By-Laws.

A replacement player is a constituted member of the team and would be eligible for the final trophy.

2.2 Team Nominations

2.2.1 If approved by the Controlling Body, the players nominated to form a team entered in a competition may be changed before their first round in that competition.

Teams become constituted when the jack is rolled in the first end of their first game. Changes to team members before the first round must be approved by the Controlling Body.

The new player nominated is NOT a replacement player as a team cannot have a replacement player until after the first round. The new player is now considered a member of the original nominated team!

2.2.2 Any player withdrawn before the first round shall be regarded as not having entered the competition and can act as a substitute or replacement player in that competition.

Withdrawals can take place only before the team moves to the next status of being 'constituted'- as soon as the jack is delivered in their first game. Players cannot be considered as 'withdrawn players' after the commencement of their first game in the competition.

If players do not arrive at the venue for an event before the scheduled starting time plus a 30minute grace period as described in 39.1.2, the defaulting team forfeits the game to their opponent. In this case, the players are considered constituted and cannot act as substitutes or replacement players in the same competition. This situation is not considered as a team withdrawal!

A nominated team may need to withdraw before the start of the competition e.g. one or two members are now unable to play **for a reason accepted** by the Controlling Body.

In this instance the players in that team can now, with the approval of the Controlling Body, act as substitutes or replacement players in other teams. They have not been constituted in that competition.

2.3 Constitution Of Teams

2.3.1 A team shall become constituted when the jack is rolled in the first end of the first game to be played by that team.

As soon as the jack is rolled in the first game to be played by a team, all team members are constituted.

A team may have a bye in the first round. If so, the team does not become constituted until they have rolled the jack in their first game – probably the next round.

2.3.2 Players in a team forfeiting or receiving a forfeit shall be constituted and cannot act as a substitute or replacement player in any other team in that competition.

The situation of players forfeiting is different to the situation where players withdraw. The Controlling Body will consider and make a decision on the reasons for a team withdrawing and a team forfeiting.

If a team forfeits, the players in that team are constituted and cannot act as substitutes or replacement players in any other team in the same competition.

e.g. A situation may occur where a team wishes to withdraw before the first round of a competition because they consider the weather to be too hot for their players. The Controlling Body may consider that the players in this team can act as substitutes or replacement players in the competition.

2.3.3 If a player in a team becomes unavailable or is incapable of playing, the Controlling Body may authorise the use of one substitute player and/or one replacement player.

A triples or fours team can have one substitute and one replacement player.

A Pairs team can only have either a substitute or a replacement player. If a pairs team is using a replacement player and a substitute is required, the substitute must only take the place of the replacement player. There must always be an original member of the team playing and the original member in this situation, must play as skip.

NOTE: The Controlling Body decides if the team can have a substitute and/or replacement player.

2.4 Substitutes (See Definition 2.1.3)

Only Controlling Bodies (or Umpires in the absence of the Controlling Body) can approve substitutes. A substitute is a proxy for a player in a team but the reason for the introduction of a substitute into a team is determined by a series of questions to the skip making the request.

- “Is the player being substituted playing in another event at this time”?
- “Is the player being substituted physically incapable of playing?” or “Why is the player unavailable?”

The grounds for substitution are covered by these questions.

If the player is ‘unavailable’, the reason must be approved by the Controlling Body unless ---- the team member is playing in another competition.

In this case no substitute is allowed, the position is declared vacant by the Controlling Body, and a ‘replacement’ player may be allowed.

If the member of the team is ‘physically incapable’ for any reason, the Controlling Body or Umpire cannot pass a medical opinion, and the substitution is approved.

Should the original team member, the constituted player, appear at the venue, where the substitute was allowed on the basis of ‘unavailability’, then that player must go onto the rink in the correct place in the team at the conclusion of the current end of play. If not, that team is now using an ineligible player, a substitute for whom approval is withdrawn, and the game is forfeited to the opponent forthwith.

If the original team member appears at the venue where the substitute was approved on the grounds of ‘physical incapability’, then the Umpire must be assured that this condition still applies and must accept the player’s word. Controlling Bodies or Umpires should never insist that a ‘sick’ player plays. The result could be serious litigation. We are not doctors.

Who may act as a substitute?

- An eligible member - that is, one who could have been in the original team. They satisfy the eligibility criteria.
- The player being considered to act as a substitute must not have taken any part in the event except if they played as a substitute in another team in an earlier round or in the same round.

A substitute can act as a substitute in multiple teams in the same competition.

If no eligible member is available, then an affiliated player may be nominated if provided in the Conditions of Play for that event. The Umpire or Controlling Body must ensure that:

- no ‘eligible player’ is available
- the playing ability of the affiliated player is equal to or less than the ability of the intended or constituted player as stated in the Conditions of Play.

No substitute may play in a team without the approval of the Controlling Body (or the ‘Umpire of the Day’ in the absence of the Controlling Body). If a substitute is required mid-game, then after approval the substitute is introduced into the team at the completion of the end in progress.

Substitutes can be requested immediately before play starts and can take their place during the first round.

Note: An approved substitute, cannot act as skip in a team in any situation.

2.4.1 Only **one** substitute will be allowed in a team at any one time.

The Controlling Body can authorise the use of one substitute player and one replacement player.

A Controlling Body can define circumstances, which it will not accept as a valid reason for a player's unavailability.

The Controlling Body should only approve the introduction of a substitute after being satisfied of the circumstances governing the request.

2.4.2 Substitutes shall be chosen from ‘Eligible Members’ who have not been constituted in that competition.

The criteria for eligibility of players should always be included in the Conditions of Play for an event.

No member may act as a substitute, and no change of substitute may be made unless the Controlling Body, on request, grants permission after being satisfied regarding the eligibility of the proposed substitute.

When considering the 'Eligibility Members' available to act as substitutes, their playing ability should not be taken into account.

2.4.3 If there are no 'Eligible Members' available, the Controlling Body can approve an 'Affiliated Member' to act as a substitute.

If an 'Affiliated Member' is allowed as a substitute, the Controlling Body will indicate the requirements in the Conditions of Play.

These requirements could include the fact that the affiliated member's playing ability should not be better than the playing ability of the original player in the team.

2.4.4 A player acting as a substitute, may with the approval of the Controlling Body, be changed at the completion of any end during a game or between succeeding games in the same competition.

Substitutes can never be introduced into a game during an end. A substitute can only be introduced into a game at the conclusion of an end.

An end is **never** replayed if after the end has commenced, a player is forced to withdraw and is unable to deliver their bowls for that end.

If a player is unable to continue during an end, they lose their right to play their bowls and the end continues.

If the player unable to continue is a second, the second of the opposing team will play two consecutive bowls to get back to the proper order of play.

If the player unable to continue happens to be the skip, the opposing skip will deliver their final two bowls in succession to complete the end.

If the substitute is approved between games, the players can rearrange their positions before the start of the next game, but the substitute cannot play as a skip.

2.4.5 Substitutes must play in the same position as the player being substituted, except if it is the skip. If a substitute is required for a skip, then the other members of the team must rearrange their positions as necessary.

If a game has commenced, and a substitute is required for a player who is forced to withdraw for a reason approved by the Controlling Body, the substitute must play in the same position as the player being substituted for that game, except if they are the skip.

If the player substituted was the skip, then when the skip returns he/she will take their original place in the team as skip and the rest of the team will rearrange their positions accordingly.

In subsequent games though, the order of play can always be altered, and the substitute can play in another position, but the substitute can't play as a skip.

NOTE: A substitute player can never play as a skip.

2.4.6 A player for whom a substitute is obtained, will, if they become available and are physically capable, rejoin the team in the player's original position at the start of the next end and the others must revert to their original positions.

If the substitute takes a place in the team at the beginning of the game, and the constituted player becomes available midgame, at the completion of the end in progress, the players shall move to whatever positions in the team they would have occupied had the substitution not been necessary. As the substitute could not have acted as skip, there could legitimately be major alterations before the game continues.

If, during a game, a substitute is approved because of a constituted player's illness, or if the player is called away for a reason accepted by the Controlling Body, as soon as that player returns, and is again physically capable, the substitute must complete that end in progress and then the constituted player must return to their original position in the team.

If a substitute is required for a player who is unable to complete a game because of a previous appointment, they must play until they are required to leave for the appointment and the substitute can be introduced into the game at that time.

If a player for whom a substitute is allowed is available and physically capable at any time, they must immediately resume their place in the team at the conclusion of the end.

Note: This should be enforced by the Controlling Body for the event.

2.4.7 A player who has played as a substitute, is eligible to again play as a substitute in that team or another team in that competition.

If a substitute is no longer required in a team because the original player has resumed their place in the team, that substitute can act as a substitute in another team in that same competition even if it is in the same round.

2.4.8 Substitutes are not permitted for a singles player who is not part of a 'sides' competition.

A side competition could consist of 5 a side – a fours game and a singles game. In this instance a substitute would be allowed for a singles player as the singles game is part of a 'sides' competition.

2.4.9 If a replacement player is used in a pairs team, then a substitute is only permitted to take the place of the replacement player, and the original team member must be skip. Otherwise, a substitute cannot be permitted.

In a Pairs game, there can be a substitute **or** a replacement player. There must always be an original member of the team playing.

A substitute can take the place of a replacement player, and the original member of the team must play, and play as a skip.

2.4.10 A substitute is not to be approved for a player who is unavailable because of a commitment to play bowls in another event they have entered.

A championship event could be held on a Sunday and a team may ask for a substitute because one of the players is travelling to another event they have entered, which is due to commence on the Monday.

The Controlling body would not allow a substitute on these grounds because the player is absent because of the **commitment** to play in another event they have entered.

2.4.11 A substitute must be permitted for a player who is unavailable to play because of their selection as a player in a recognised National, State or Divisional/Regional Representative Side.

Players selected in a recognised National, State or Divisional/Regional Side are eligible for substitutes and substitutes should be allowed for these players.

State Police sides, State RSL sides etc. are not considered recognised State sides and players selected in these sides are not eligible for substitutes.

2.5 Replacement Players (See Definition 2.1.4)

2.5.1 Only one replacement player will be allowed in a team and when approved by the Controlling Body, becomes a constituted player.

When a Controlling Body approves the introduction of a replacement player, the Controlling Body must be sure that the player is not going to be available for the remainder of the competition because of their physical incapability (e.g. heart condition, broken wrist etc) or are prevented from returning (e.g. a sudden death, family incident, suspension etc)

A player for whom a replacement player was approved, cannot resume their original place in the team in subsequent games.

Note: Umpires cannot authorise replacement players, only Controlling Bodies, knowing the circumstances.

2.5.2 Replacement players must be chosen from available, 'Eligible Members' and when approved by the Controlling Body can play in any position including skip.

The Controlling Body approves the eligibility of each substitute and replacement player. The approval for a substitute is requested by the skip of the team who must confirm their eligibility with the Controlling Body.

Law 39.1.1 and 39.2.1 state that if a team or side introduces an ineligible player, the team or side will forfeit the game to their opponent.

If the player was later found to be ineligible the defaulting team would forfeit the game to the opponents.

A replacement player becomes a constituted player in a team so can play in any position including skip.

2.5.3 Constituted players are ineligible to act as replacement players or substitutes.

If a player has already played (been constituted as a member of a team) in a competition, they cannot be a replacement player or a substitute in any other team in that same competition.

If a team is defeated in an earlier round of a knockout competition, the players in that team cannot act as substitutes or replacement players in subsequent rounds of the same competition. They are already constituted players in that competition.

2.6 Absentee Players In A Side Game

2.6.1 If, 30 minutes after the scheduled start time for a game, or sooner if the Controlling Body decides, one player is absent from one or more teams in a side and no eligible substitute is available or allowed, the game must continue, however:

2.6.1.1 A team with an absent player plays as though the second is the missing player.

2.6.1.2 The order of play shall be maintained by the second of the complete team playing consecutive bowls.

2.6.1.3 Each player must use the number of bowls specified in the Conditions of Play for that event.

In a side game, one player can be absent from each team making up the side. If a team loses two players, and there are no substitutes available or allowed, the defaulting team forfeits and therefore the whole side forfeits.

2.6.2 If a player has commenced the game, however, is unable to continue the game and no eligible substitute or replacement player is available or allowed, play will continue as if one player is absent as per 2.6.1.

If an eligible substitute becomes available later in the game, they can enter the game at the completion of the end in progress with the approval of the Controlling Body or the Umpire of the Day.

2.6.3 If an absent player arrives late, they must take their original place in the team when they arrive and enter the game at the completion of the end in progress.

If the absent player was nominated as the skip of the team, then this player must resume their place in the team as skip and the other players in the team must rearrange their positions accordingly.

The absent player's original playing position was skip.

2.6.4 If an eligible substitute or replacement player becomes available and is permitted by the Controlling Body, they may be introduced to the game at the completion of the end in progress.

In pennant competitions, the Controlling body is not always present. In these cases, the Umpire of the Day is the representative of the Controlling Body and is therefore responsible for the approval or non-approval, of the introduction of substitutes.

A team in a pennant side can commence the game with three players and if a substitute becomes available during the game, and is approved by the Controlling Body, they are able to take their place in the team during the game and at the completion of the end in progress.

The substitute must play in the same position as the player being substituted except if they are skip.

Conclusion

The Controlling Body must ensure that a substitute or replacement player meets the eligibility requirements for the event. The Controlling Body is responsible for approving, or not approving the reason given for a request for a substitute or replacement player.

*If the Controlling Body is not present, the 'Umpire of the Day' makes the decision on behalf of the Controlling Body. Substitutes and replacement players must be introduced into a game at the **completion** of the end in progress or between succeeding games in the same competition. They cannot be introduced during an end.*