Quick Guide for Important 2025-2026 Season Information and Rules Changes

GENERAL PENNANT INFORMATION

Saturday Pennant Doubleheader Start Time

This season there is a Pennant doubleheader weekend on Saturday 1st November and Sunday 2nd November.

The Sunday Fixture has an official start time of 10.00am.

However, competing clubs can agree to change that start time to anytime during the day. If clubs cannot agree then they will play at the scheduled start time 10.00am.

2025-2026 Saturday/Thursday/Tuesday Pennant Promotions and Relegations

Due to the 2026-2027 Pennant season going to a 14-week season, there are significant changes to which ladder positions qualify for Promotion Finals and Challenge Finals as well automatic Promotion and Relegation.

All these changes are in the Specific Pennant conditions of play in the 2025-2026 Officials Handbook.

Bowls WA is also distributing to clubs a quick guide document that explains what happens to all ladder positions in every division. Please ensure all pennant players are aware of this document.

Player Protection for Bowls Australia Nationals in November

This year the Nationals are being played in Tasmania during November. This will cause some concern for clubs losing multiple players for Pennant Fixtures.

The following rules will apply as per the 2025-2026 Officials Handbook Metropolitan Pennant General Conditions

- If a Side has two (2) or more players involved in an event they are entitled to protection for Open Gender Saturday and Tuesday Pennant.
- Players are not entitled to protection for Thursday or Women's Saturday Pennant.
- Players must be in the same Side, and it only includes the Pennant fixture being played while they are competing. If a player chooses to go early for their event or stay after their event has finished, they are not entitled to any protection for that extended period.

- Rescheduled Fixtures must be played before round 10 in that particular Pennant competition. If clubs cannot agree on a day and time, Bowls WA will consider both clubs requests and make a final decision when the fixture will be played.

- If a Club only has one (1) player requiring protection, they should contact their opposition for that fixture. Opposition Clubs are not obligated to move the fixture, but Bowls WA would ask that clubs seriously consider the request and try to help where possible. If a resolution cannot be found, the fixture will be played on the originally scheduled date.

BOWLSLINK

Pennant Administrators adding Players to Pennant Sides Information

When Club Pennant Sides are carried over from the previous Pennant seasons, all players that have played in that Division are also carried over. This means over the past few years, many Sides have long player lists and include players that are no longer involved with the club.

To create a cleaner area to input and select players into 2025-2026 Pennant Sides, every Metropolitan Pennant Competition has been newly created.

Therefore, when Pennant Administrators go to put names into their Pennant Sides, they will have to add the players before putting them into the Side. While that does create some extra work at the beginning of the new season, it is going to make things much easier for Pennant Administrators to add players to Sides during the season

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Bowls WA General Conditions

Novice Player Definition

The wording of what Bowls WA considers a Novice Player for entry into the end of season Champion of Champion Novice Singles has been clarified

Intent: It does not matter at what part of the playing season a player is added to a club's database, once they are added it counts as the players' first season e.g. a player is added in February 2025 then the 2024-2025 season is their first season.

Definition: A player who has been an active member of an affiliated club in the Bowls WA Database for no more than two (2) seasons (full or part of).

Smoking and the Consumption of Alcohol Penalty

Bowls Australia has updated the Instantaneous Penalties Policy to include Smoking or drinking on the green or in unauthorised areas.

Penalties will now apply as per Bowls Australia Instantaneous Penalties Policy.

Bowls WA Event Information

State Event Entries

There will no longer be paper entry forms sent to clubs or provided on the Bowls WA Website

Entry for Bowls WA events shall be via BowlsLink/BowlsLink App. Events will be opened at least one month prior to the event and close approximately 10 days prior to the event. The Bowls WA website will provide appropriate links.

METROPOLITAN PENNANT COMPETITION GENERAL CONDITIONS

Scheduling and Rescheduling of Fixtures

A condition has been added to allow clubs to agree to change the time of a Fixture when the playing day is predicted to be over 35 degrees

Clubs may reschedule a fixture due to extreme heat under the following conditions:

Thursday Pennant

- Forecast temperature is 35 degrees or above on the Monday (4.30pm Perth BOM forecast), before the upcoming Thursday afternoon fixture;
- Clubs have between Monday and Wednesday (5.00pm) to contact other clubs and finalise a change in time.
- Clubs do not have to complete a form but must email Bowls WA (pieter@bowlswa.com.au) of the change by 5.30pm Wednesday. Both clubs' emails must be noted as receiving the email.
- Clubs can choose any time on Thursday but cannot change the day.

Saturday Pennant

- Forecast temperature is 35 degrees or above on the Wednesday (4.30pm Perth BOM forecast), before the upcoming Saturday afternoon fixture.
- Clubs have between Wednesday and Friday (5.00pm) to contact clubs and finalise a change in time, or a move to Friday evening.
- Clubs do not have to complete a form but must email Bowls WA (pieter@bowlswa.com.au) of the change by 5.30pm Friday. Both clubs' emails must be noted as receiving the email.
- Clubs may choose any time on Friday evening, or on Saturday (before 3.30pm) and cannot change to the Sunday. This is to respect the Sunday Times newspaper results deadline.

NOTE: Should a club not wish to change the time of a fixture, then the scheduled start time will remain unchanged

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Selection Rules for all Pennant Finals

Selection rule 26.1 (vi) has been re-worded to allow clubs to apply for dispensation to allow a player who has not played the minimum four (4) games in a colour and/or division to play finals.

Intent: If a player misses a lengthy part of the season through no fault of their own e.g. health reasons, and is required to play in a club's division, one lower than when they left, the club will be able to apply for them to play finals for that lower division.

This rule is not intended to give selectors the opportunity to drop a player to a lower division, just before finals start, when they have played the whole season in a higher division

(vi) 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.

Open Gender Pennant in Specific Metropolitan Competitions and Divisions

Thursday Pennant has lifted the Open Gender Divisions to include 2nd Division

- Women's Tuesday Pennant 2nd Division and Below
- Men's Thursday Pennant 2nd Division and Below
- Open Gender Saturday Pennant

Thursday Pennant Open Gender Rules and Eligibility

Eligibility for women playing Thursday Pennant has been adjusted as per the bolded items below

While Tuesday 1st Division Women are still not eligible to play Thursday Pennant, all women in Tuesday 2nd Division and Below are now eligible to play all Thursday 2nd Division and below and should be selected in the division their ability dictates (integrity Rule).

If a club only has Tuesday 1st Division, a club may request eligibility to play Thursday pennant.

- Women playing 1st Division in Tuesday Pennant are not permitted to play Thursday Open Gender Pennant
- **Women playing 2nd, 3rd or 4th Division in Tuesday Pennant may play any Thursday Open Gender Division**
- Women who only play Open Gender Saturday Pennant may be selected if they qualify under Selection Rules for a Graded Pennant Competition (Integrity Rule). Clubs should send an email to Bowls WA with the Player Name and Division selected in to confirm eligibility
- **If a club's lowest Tuesday Division is 1st Division, a club may request, in writing, permission to play women in Thursday Open Gender Pennant.**