BOWLS
NEW SOUTH WALES

2027 Season

Conditions of Play

Version	Prepared	Reviewed	Approved By	Date Approved
1.0	State Match Committee	CEO, Head of Sport	Board	September 3 2026

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1. General Conditions of Play

1.1 Introduction

All matches will be played in accordance with the Laws of the Sport and the Conditions of Play.

Situations may arise that are not specifically covered by the Conditions of Play. It is expected that in such circumstances any decision taken will reflect the spirit of these Conditions and embody the ideals of fair play and good sportsmanship supported by good common sense.

Amendments may occur to this document, as and when necessary, and will be published on the Bowls NSW website.

The State Match Committee reserves the right to make any changes to the Conditions of Play and/or the schedule of play as needed to bring events to a successful conclusion.

1.2 Interpretation

The following rules shall apply in the interpretation of these Conditions of Play:

(i) Headings are for convenience only and do not affect interpretation.

(ii) The singular includes the plural and vice versa.

(iii) Where a word or phrase is defined, its other grammatical forms have corresponding meanings.

(iv) A mention of anything after “include”, “includes” or “including” does not limit what else might be included.

1.3 Terms & Definitions

In these Conditions of Play the following capitalised terms and the following non-capitalised terms shall have the corresponding meanings unless otherwise stated.

In addition, capitalised terms used in these Conditions of Play which are defined in the Constitution of Bowls NSW shall have the same meaning when used in these Conditions of Play unless otherwise stated.

1.3.1 Affiliated Member

Means a player who is registered with a State or Territory Association as a member of a club affiliated with that State or Territory Association.

1.3.2 Affiliated Sub-Club

Means an unincorporated bowling sub-club of an incorporated entity, such as a licensed club, with such rights as set out in the Regulations as amended from time to time.

1.3.3 Appeals Tribunal

Means the Appeals Tribunal of Bowls NSW as established by the Board of Bowls NSW.

1.3.4 Association

Means Bowls NSW Ltd.

1.3.5 BA

Means Bowls Australia Incorporated.

1.3.6 Board

Means the Board of Bowls NSW Ltd.

1.3.7 Bowling Member

Means a natural person who has paid the appropriate membership fees, if any, to a Club for the current financial year and who is entitled to play bowls at that Club by virtue of their membership and is registered with Bowls NSW as a member of that club.

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1.3.15 Bowling Season

Means a period that commences 1 January and concludes the following 31 December. When referring to a previous season it may also mean a period that commences 1 July and concludes the following 30 June, or the period 1 July 2026 to 31 December 2026.

1.3.16 Bowls NSW

Means Bowls NSW Ltd.

1.3.17 Championship Events

Means events which are under the control of these Conditions of Play (refer clause 1.8).

1.3.18 Clearance and Registration Transfer Application

Means an application to Bowls NSW to transfer the registration of a player between Clubs.

1.3.19 Cleared

Means that a player's Clearance and Registration Transfer Application, including any required fee payment, has been lodged with and accepted by Bowls NSW, and recorded in Bowlslink.

1.3.20 Club and Sub-Club

Means both Member Clubs and Affiliated Sub-Clubs.

1.3.21 Competition

Means a specific bowls event under the control of these Conditions of Play, or under the control of Bowls NSW.

1.3.22 Completion Date

Means the last date on which play in a specific competition is scheduled.

1.3.23 *Conditions of Play*

Means the rules governing how a competition is played.

1.3.24 Constitution

Means the Constitution of Bowls NSW.

1.3.25 Controlling Body

Means the body with immediate control over the Conditions of Play for that competition.

Authority may be delegated under the Conditions of Play to the Controlling Body of the Region, which may in turn delegate to the host Club for the conduct of Championship Events.

1.3.26 Controlling Body Representative

Means the person(s) appointed to function as and represent the Controlling Body during play of a Championship Event.

1.3.27 Controlling Body Representative

Means the person(s) appointed to function as and represent the Controlling Body during play of a Championship Event.

1.3.28 Declared Club (Primary Club)

Means the Club with which a player shall play their Championship Events in a Bowling Season in accordance with these Conditions of Play. If the player is registered as a member of more than one club, this club shall be designated as their Declared (Primary) club on their registration record (Bowlslink).

1.3.29 Geographic Draws

Means a draw is established with consideration to geographical location of participants.

1.3.30 ***Host Venue***

Means the Club on whose green(s) matches within a competition are to be played.

1.3.31 International / Interstate Event

Means an event played between National representatives or State (or Territory) representatives, respectively.

1.3.32 Junior Bowler

Means a bowler who is under the age of 18 years as at the completion date of the competition.

1.3.33 Justifiable Cause

Means unforeseen or urgent circumstances which would cause serious detriment and disadvantage to participants in the absence of the postponement of the playing of a Championship Event under those circumstances.

1.3.34 Laws

Means the Laws of the Sport of Bowls Crystal Mark 4th Edition, April 2023 and including Domestic Regulations for play in Australia and as amended, modified or replaced from time to time.

1.3.35 Match and matches

Means a game or games of bowls played within a competition.

1.3.36 Match Committee

Means the Controlling Body of Bowls NSW, or of a Region, or of a Club, as the case may be.

1.3.37 Member Club

Means a club who is recognised as a member of Bowls NSW in accordance with the Constitution and Regulations.

1.3.38 National Umpire

Means a person who holds the current Bowls Australia accreditation as a Lawn Bowls umpire.

1.3.39 Open Reserve Bowler

Means a player whose Previous Season Open Pennant grading is Grade 5, Grade 6, or Grade 7, or who is ungraded in Open Pennant, as currently recorded on Bowlslink.

1.3.40 Order of Precedence

Means the priority for matches to be played in accordance with the Conditions of Play. (refer clause 1.35).

1.3.41 Player and players

Mean any Bowling Member(s) and/or any Junior Bowling Member(s) participating in a Championship Event.

1.3.42 ***Policy***

Means any policy of Bowls NSW and any relevant policy of Bowls Australia, and as amended, modified or replaced from time to time.

1.3.43 ***Previous Season Grading***

Means the grading of a player at the conclusion of their previous Pennant Season, as recorded on Bowlslink.

1.3.44 ***Region***

Means a Region Association as established under the Bowls NSW Constitution and Regulations.

1.3.45 ***Region Competition***

Means a competition where control of that competition is delegated under these Conditions of Play to the Region.

1.3.46 ***Regulations***

Means any Regulations of Bowls NSW.

1.3.47 ***Senior Bowler***

Means a bowler who is aged 60 years or over as at the date specified in the Conditions of Play for that Senior Event.

1.3.48 ***State***

Means New South Wales, Bowls NSW or other State or Territory Bowling Association.

1.3.49 ***State Match Committee***

Means the State Match Committee of Bowls NSW, which is the Controlling Body for all Championship Events.

1.3.50 ***State Pennant Finals Series***

Means the series of matches played between qualifiers to determine the winner of each State Pennant.

1.3.51 ***Umpires Committee or Panel***

Means the Committee that organises and/or controls the umpires within Bowls NSW, a Region, or a Club.

1.3.52 ***Uniform Policy***

Means the Bowls NSW Uniform Policy available on its website.

1.3.53 ***Unregistered Player***

Means a player who enters or plays in a Championship Event and who is not registered with Bowls NSW as a member of that club.

1.4 Club, Region and State Match Committee Responsibility

Regions and Clubs are delegated the responsibility of ensuring that Championship Events are conducted in accordance with the Conditions of Play.

The relevant Match Committee is responsible for the conduct of all Championship Events under its control.

In special or exceptional circumstances and following written permission from the Bowls NSW State Match Committee, the relevant Match Committee may change the number of ends to be played, change the days and times of play, change greens or venues for play, or make other changes as deemed necessary to conduct and complete an event.

The relevant Match Committee shall inquire into and settle disputes concerning Championship Events in accordance with agreed procedures set out in these Conditions of Play or otherwise.

Appeals and disputes arising from the application of these Conditions of Play shall be determined according to the protocol through Region and then State Match Committee. The only right of appeal from a decision of the State Match Committee is to the Appeals Tribunal in accordance with the Bowls NSW Appeals Tribunal Rules.

Any Match Committee member who is a party to a dispute must not take part in any discussion/resolution of the appeal or dispute.

1.5 Compliance with Bowls NSW & Bowls Australia Constitution, Regulations & Policies

All Players and officials in Championship Events shall be required to comply with the provisions of the Constitution, Regulations, Bowls NSW Policies, and Bowls Australia Policies.

1.6 Attire

Players are at all times required to be attired in accordance with the Uniform Policy.

1.7 Calendars and Schedules

Regions are required to submit their 2027 Bowling Season program to the State Match Committee no later than 1 October 2026.

If during the Bowling Season the Region amends it program, the updated version shall be submitted to the State Match Committee on each occasion.

Regions shall include the dates of play for all Championship Events being conducted by them in their Bowling Season program, including provisional dates for deferred matches. All dates of play must also be included on the entry form (hard copy or on Bowlslink) for each event.

A Championship Event may commence prior to 1 January of a Bowling Season but shall not conclude before 1 January in a Bowling Season.

Regions must complete Championship Events by the dates shown in the Bowls NSW calendar.

1.8 Championship Events

The following are Championship Events governed by these Bowls NSW Conditions of Play:

(i) State Pennants (Platinum Pennant, Open Pennant, Men's Pennant, Women's Pennant)
(ii) Club Major Singles, Pairs, Triples & Fours Championships
(iii) State Championships
(iv) State Senior Championships
(v) State Open Reserve Championships
(vi) State Junior Championships
(vii) State Para Championships
(viii) Inter-Region Sides Championships
(ix) Senior Inter-Region Sides Championship
(x) Junior Inter-Region Sides Championship
(xi) Champion of Club Champions Singles & Pairs
(xii) State Mixed Pairs
(xiii) State Rookies Singles and Pairs
(xiv) Australian Indoor Singles Championship (NSW Qualifying)
(xv) State Over 40s Pairs
(xvi) Women's State Carnival
(xvii) Such other events as may be declared Championship Events by Bowls NSW.

All other events are not required to be played under the Bowls NSW Conditions of Play. It is the responsibility of the Controlling Body for that event to determine the Conditions of Play.

1.9 Deferment of Matches

A Championship Event shall not be postponed except for inclement weather or other unforeseen, justifiable cause, or by mutual agreement as per clause 1.13.2.(ii).

If two events fall on the same date the one with the higher precedence will be played (refer clause 1.35).

A postponed match shall be played on the next available playing date (on day(s)/date(s) when matches in that competition would normally have been scheduled).

1.10 Disqualification

If a player or team is disqualified for any reason (through application of the Laws of the Sport and/or of these Conditions of Play) the following actions shall be taken:

1.10.1 Sectional / Round Robin Play

Refer clause 1.36.1 Determining Winners in Sectional Play (as per forfeit).

For penalties in Pennant play refer to the relevant Pennant competition section.

1.10.2 Knockout Play

The player, team or side last defeated by the disqualified player, team, or side, shall take the place of the player, team or side disqualified.

1.11 Entries

Nominations for an event showing the player(s) name(s), National Identity Number(s) (NIN), and their declared Club, must be made to Bowls NSW, the Region, or Club, using the method specified by the relevant Controlling Body.

Any entry fee payable must accompany the entry unless alternative arrangements are made with the relevant Controlling Body.

The Controlling Body may accept late entries to fill a vacant position in the draw caused by:

(i) A bye, up until the time the draw is published; or

(ii) A withdrawal, from the time the draw is published up until 24 hours prior to the scheduled commencement of Round 1.

1.12 Eligibility

1.12.1 Player(s) eligibility to enter Championship Events

To enter and play a Championship Event with a Club, a player shall:

(i) Be registered with Bowls NSW as a Bowling Member of that Club.

(ii) Have that club registered as their Declared (Primary) Club on Bowlslink, with a membership category that permits Competition playing rights.

(iii) Be registered, and listed on Bowlslink, with their respective Region Association.

(iv) Be cleared to play at that club (if required).

(v) **Satisfy all other eligibility requirements for that event.**

NOTE: The above criteria is required for each player at the time of their individual/team entry into the Championship Event.

1.12.2 'Same Club' Requirements

For events conducted at Region or State level with requirements for players forming a team or side to be from the same club, the affiliated sub-clubs of a club (invoiced club) shall be regarded as being the 'same club'.

This does not apply to Club Major Pairs Championships where teams must be formed by players from the same Club/sub-Club.

1.12.3 Player Changing Club

(i) A player changing Club with which they are registered with Bowls NSW requires a Clearance & Registration Transfer (with the appropriate fee) to be submitted to Bowls NSW via Bowlslink, and appropriate payment form.

(ii) Once a Clearance and Registration Transfer Application is approved by Bowls NSW, the player shall cease to be eligible to enter, play, or continue to play in any Championship Event in the current Bowling Season with their former club (except as provided for below – refer clause 1.12.4) and shall become eligible to enter and play with their new Club in any Championship Event in which they have not already become constituted during the current Bowling Season.

(iii) A player changing club who has already played in a Pennant Match with their former club is ineligible to play in that Pennant Competition (Open/Men/Women/Platinum) with their new club.

1.12.4 Winners / Qualifiers

Notwithstanding the foregoing, any Club or Region Champion always remains eligible to continue to compete in that specific Championship Event during the season, irrespective of any change of declared Club membership, provided they are registered with Bowls NSW.

This does not apply to State Pennants (Platinum, Open, Men's or Women's Pennant), where a player is required to be registered as a Primary (Declared) Member with that club at the time any match is played.

1.12.5 Players denied entry to a Host Club

All players are eligible to play in Championship Events unless suspended for a bowls-related matter, as determined by Bowls NSW and/or Bowls Australia following an investigation under the National Integrity Framework.

A player's ability to enter a host club may be limited by any disciplinary action in place by that host club.

Should a club hosting a Region or State Championship Event decline to allow a player entry to their club & greens:

(i) The Controlling Body shall allow a substitute or replacement player in a team game in line with the relevant Conditions of Play and Domestic Regulations.

(ii) A Singles player shall forfeit that match.

(iii) In a sides match, that player shall not be eligible to play, and the player's club shall select another player to play in that match.

All players suspended or de-registered under Bowls NSW regulations are ineligible to participate in Championship Events.

1.12.6 Penalty for eligibility breaches

(i) For Pennant matches, the penalty applies only to the round(s) in which an ineligible player played.

(ii) In all other Championship Events, the player or team will be disqualified from the event.

1.13 Withdrawals and Forfeits

1.13.1 Withdrawal

A team or any of its intended players may withdraw before becoming constituted in that Championship Event.

Any player withdrawing is regarded as having not entered the Championship Event and is eligible to act as a substitute or replacement player in that Championship Event.

A team withdrawing shall notify the Controlling Body (Club, Region, or Bowls NSW) a minimum of twenty-four (24) hours before their first scheduled match. Notification after this time shall constitute a forfeit.

1.13.2 Forfeit

If a player or team drawn to play cannot do so, and has not withdrawn from the event under clause 1.13.1 or been given dispensation by the Controlling Body under clause 1.35, a forfeit will apply unless:

(i) A Substitute or Replacement Player is permitted under the Bowls Australia Domestic Regulations or clause 1.33; or

(ii) The opponents, by mutual arrangement and with the consent of the Controlling Body, play the match prior to the commencement of the next scheduled round.

Notification of a forfeit is binding and may not be revoked. Should play not commence on the date originally scheduled for the forfeited match, the forfeit shall remain in force.

Note: the Controlling Body may determine in their event Conditions of Play that match(es) must be played on or before the scheduled date of play). If the match is then not able to be completed as agreed before the next scheduled round (or scheduled date of play, if the Controlling Body has set that condition), the player or team that was originally unable to play on the scheduled date shall be deemed to forfeit that match.

1.13.3 Penalty for Withdrawals and Forfeits Breaches

Failure by a player/team to notify the Controlling Body of their intention to forfeit prior to the match start time may result in:

(i) a fine up to $110 per player and/or

(ii) the player(s) entry declined for any Championship event for up to twelve months.

Any penalty levied must have endorsement from the State Match Committee.

1.14 Championship Draws

(i) Clubs and Regions must conduct an open draw for Championship Events (i.e. draws cannot be seeded).

(ii) At least six (6) days' notice shall be given to all players prior to each match.

(iii) The draw for each Championship Event shall include the names of all intended players/teams/sides.

(iv) Region Associations and Bowls NSW may conduct geographic draws.

(v) A draw for a Championship Event shall not be added to, amended, altered, or in any way interfered with by any player. *Penalty:* Disqualification from the Championship Event.

(vi) The appropriate Controlling Body shall make any permitted changes.

1.15 Starting Times

Match starting times shall be determined by the relevant Controlling Body.

The Controlling Body shall also advise players/teams/sides of the commencement time of trial ends.

1.16 Meal Break

When there are two or more scheduled matches to be played in a day, one thirty (30) minute meal break will be allocated during the day by the Controlling Body.

1.17 Late Arrivals

If, 30 minutes after the scheduled start time for a Championship match, one or more players are absent from a team and no substitute is available and/or permitted by the Controlling Body, that team shall forfeit the match to their opponents.

The Controlling Body may allow additional time for late arrivals in a singles or team event, where players are delayed by extenuating circumstances beyond their control (for example, traffic delays caused by an accident).

For a Sides match, refer clause 1.33.7.

1.18 Trial Ends

A singles player, team or side shall be allowed two (2) trial ends for each match (unless specified otherwise in the event Conditions of Play), playing the number of bowls to be used in the event on each end. Trial ends shall be completed prior to the scheduled starting time.

The rink on which a player or team is to play shall be announced and made available for trial ends not later than twenty (20) minutes prior to the scheduled starting time.

1.19 Practice

Players may practice up to thirty (30) minutes prior to the scheduled start time of the match, providing that rink space is available, and the Controlling Body approves.

Players shall not practice on the rink on which their match is drawn to be played.

1.20 Controlling Body / Umpires

The Controlling Body Representative for a Championship Event shall not, unless unavoidable, be a contestant in the Championship Event in that playing session.

The Controlling Body shall appoint a person currently accredited as a National Umpire to attend all Championship Events. The National Umpire so appointed shall not, unless unavoidable, be a contestant in the Championship Event in that playing session.

If there is no currently accredited National Umpire available, a person currently accredited as a Measurer should be appointed to officiate.

If no accredited National Umpire or Measurer is available, the Controlling Body of the day shall appoint a suitable person to officiate.

See also: Duties of Controlling Body.

1.21 Requirements for stamps on bowls

Bowls NSW does not require bowls to be re-tested and re-stamped every 10 years for Championship Events. The World Bowls stamp is required on bowls used in Championship Events but is not required to be of a current or future year.

If a player qualifies for an event under the control of Bowls Australia, Bowls Australia may require bowls to carry a stamp of a specified date or later, and shall specify the required date.

1.22 Bowls Stickers / Adhesive Markings

A Controlling Body may supply and require identifying bowls stickers (adhesive markings) to be used on bowls and stipulate the occasions on which they may or must be used.

If used, stickers must be applied on both sides of the bowl.

Worn or faded stickers shall be removed or replaced.

Each bowl shall have only one layer of sticker on each side at any time.

Bowls stickers may cover the distinctive engraving on the bias side of the bowl (small engraving).

Stickers used by a team or side must be of the same colour scheme and design but may be of varied sizes to accommodate larger engravings on bowls. (Stickers may be in more than one part, but only one layer).

If opposing sides, teams or players have the same design or colour of markings and an alternative is not available, players in the side listed second in the draw must remove their markings.

Refer Law 52.1.8 and DR 4.7.

1.23 Markers

1.23.1 A marker shall be appointed for each singles match:

(i) A marker shall be a registered Bowling Member of a Club affiliated with a State or Territory of Australia and/or a National Lawn Bowls Association of a nation other than Australia.

(ii) A player defeated must mark in the next round scheduled on that day, if required by the Controlling Body.

(iii) A singles player drawn in sectional play must mark in any round of that sectional play, if required by the Controlling Body.

(iv) A player who has drawn a bye in knockout play must mark that round if it is played on the same day they are drawn to play, if required by the Controlling Body.

(v) A player defeated in Club Singles must mark a match in the subsequent round, if required by the Club Controlling Body.

(vi) If more markers are available than required, names shall be drawn by lot before the first match.

(vii) A substitute marker may mark, provided that they meet the conditions outlined above in 1.23.1(i).

1.23.2 Penalty

Failure to mark if required may result in:

(i) a fine up to $110 per player and/or

(ii) the player(s) entry declined for any Championship event for up to twelve months.

Any penalty levied must have endorsement from the State Match Committee.

1.24 Inclement Weather

Any decision to suspend or abandon play due to inclement weather should be made in line with the Bowls NSW Extreme Weather Guidelines.

A host Club may have its own policy under which play is suspended because of inclement weather.

The Controlling Body may decide to cancel a match prior to its commencement, or during play, if they believe that the weather is not likely to be suitable for play to commence or continue.

Players may appeal to the Controlling Body / Umpire for play to be suspended or abandoned. In a team match, such appeal must be made by the Skip (players may request their Skip to make the appeal). In a side match, such appeal must be made by the Side Manager (players may request their Side Manager to make the appeal).

Appeals may apply only to the matches being played by the singles player(s), team(s) or side(s) making that appeal.

The health and safety of players should be the primary consideration in determining whether play should be suspended or abandoned.

1.25 Appeals and Disputes

Disputes or appeals arising out of the application of these Conditions of Play should be resolved by the relevant Controlling Body.

If an immediate match result is required, any decision taken by a Controlling Body shall be binding.

If an immediate result is not required, an appeal may be made to the next highest authority:

(i) Club, then

(ii) Region, then

(iii) State Match Committee, then

(iv) Bowls NSW Board/Bowls NSW Appeals Tribunal.

Appeals must be accompanied by all relevant information. An appeal may be made on the grounds that:

(i) there was an error of application of the Conditions of Play, an error of application of the Laws of the Sport, or a denial of natural justice.

(i) the decision was unreasonable or insupportable having regard to the evidence presented at the time that the decision being appealed against was made.

(ii) new evidence is available which was not available to the Appellant at the time the decision being appealed against was made; or

(iii) the decision being appealed against was manifestly excessive or manifestly unfair to the Appellant.

1.26 Personal Electronic Devices

As defined in the Bowls Australia Personal Electronic Device Policy.

Devices may be used for electronic scoring if specified by the Controlling Body.

Penalty: as per the Bowls Australia Personal Electronic Device Policy.

Note: Devices may be carried or worn by the player but must be in silent mode and not be used for communication other than in an emergency.

1.27 Player Damaging Green

The appointed Controlling Body may warn a player if in their opinion they are causing damage to the green.

Following the warning, if the player continues to cause damage to the green, the Controlling Body may request the player to retire from the green and take no further part in the match. Refer Bowls Australia Greens Protection Policy.

1.28 Wheelchairs, Scooters, Walking Frames and Mobility Aids

Wheelchairs (including powered wheelchairs), scooters, walking frames and mobility aids should be used in accordance with the Bowls Australia Artificial Devices Policy.

1.29 Walking Sticks, Bowler's Arms and Bowls Lifters

Walking sticks, Bowler's Arms and Bowls Lifters should be used in accordance with the Bowls Australia Artificial Devices Policy.

1.30 Coaching

The coach of a player, team or side can give advice to the player(s) during play provided that:

(i) The coach is currently accredited as a Bowls Australia Community Coach or Bowls Australia Performance Coach, and their current accreditation is recorded on Bowlslink.

(ii) The Controlling Body is given the name of the coach before the game starts. (The Controlling Body shall advise the umpire(s) of the nominated coach.)

(iii) Only one person is present at the rink to give advice at any one time.

(iv) The person giving advice does so when their player or team is in possession of the rink; and

(v) The person giving the advice does so from outside the boundaries of the green.

If, in the umpire's opinion, this clause has been broken the umpire must ask the coach concerned to stay within the clause. If they do not stay within the clause, the umpire must ask the Controlling Body to take immediate action to make sure that the offender stops breaking the clause.

1.31 Working with Children / Junior Bowlers

A coach of any Junior bowler and/or any individuals coaching at any Junior event must have a valid Working with Children Check certification recorded on Bowlslink.

1.32 Restricting Movement of Players

1.32.1 General

(i) At any time, if the Skip needs to leave the green, they may appoint a team member to direct the head until they return to the green.

(ii) Any allowance for a player's movement to the head "after delivery of" a particular bowl includes movement immediately before playing their following bowl, while in possession of the rink.

(iii) There is no restriction on the movement of Skips, Seconds in Triples, and Thirds in Fours when their team is in possession of the rink, provided they observe the Laws of the Sport regarding Position of Players on the Green (Law 12), and also clause 1.32.5, Delaying Play.

1.32.2 At the Start of an End

Before the jack is delivered to start each end, Singles players, leads in all formats, and Seconds in a Fours game shall be at the mat end of the rink.

Skips, Seconds in Triples, and Thirds in Fours may be at the head end of the rink.

1.32.3 During the End

Singles players, leads in all formats, and Seconds in a Fours game may only move from the mat end to the head end of the rink as follows:

(i) **Singles players**
After delivery of their third and fourth bowls.

> **Note:** A Singles player is not permitted to ask the marker for permission to move to the head before they have delivered three bowls.

(ii) **Leads**

4-bowl Pairs (2-2-2-2)	After delivery of their second, third and fourth bowls.
3-bowl Pairs	After delivery of their third bowl.
Triples (2-bowl)	After delivery of their second bowl.
Fours	After delivery of their second bowl.

(iii) **Seconds in a Fours game** — After delivery of their second bowl.

1.32.4 Players transferring from Head to Mat End

(i) Leads in 4-bowl Pairs (2-2-2-2) must cross to the mat end at the same time, when it is their turn to play their third bowl(s).

(ii) Skips, Seconds in Triples, and Thirds in Fours may remain at the head until it is their turn to play their own bowl.

1.32.5 Delaying Play

If the Umpire, either by their own observation, or on appeal from one of the Skips (or the opponent in singles), decides that a player is deliberately or unnecessarily delaying play, or is in breach of the above conditions:

(i) The umpire will warn the player on the first occasion.

(ii) If the player delays play a second time, the end will be regarded as completed and the opponents of the offender will be awarded as many shots as there are bowls in use by the opponent.

(iii) If the player delays play or is in breach of the above conditions a third time the match will be forfeited to the opponent.

1.33 Substitutes and Replacements

1.33.1 Definitions

(i) **Eligible member**
A player who satisfies the eligibility criteria, as stated in both clause 1.12.1, and the Conditions of Play for that event.

(ii) **Affiliated member**
A player who is registered with a State or Territory Association as a member of an affiliated club.

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

(iv) **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.

1.33.2 Team Nominations

(i) The players nominated to form a team entered in a competition may be changed before their first round in that competition, however each team must contain at least one of the nominated players in its new team. If not, the team shall be withdrawn.

(ii) 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.

(iii) In approving changes, the Controlling Body must be satisfied that all players meet the eligibility criteria for that competition.

1.33.3 Constitution of Teams

(i) A team shall become constituted when the jack is rolled in the first end of the first match to be played by that team.

(ii) Players in a team forfeiting (i.e., did not withdraw – refer clause 1.13.1) or receiving a forfeit shall be constituted and cannot act as a substitute or replacement player in any other team in that competition.

(iii) If a player in a team becomes unavailable or is incapable of playing, the Controlling Body may authorise the use of one substitute player at any time (including the first end of any game) and/or one replacement player.

1.33.4 Substitute

(i) Only one substitute will be allowed in a team at any one time.

(ii) A substitute shall be chosen from Eligible Members who have not been constituted in that competition and are not nominated as a player in a team yet to be constituted.

(iii) If there are no eligible players available, the Controlling Body can approve an affiliated member to act as a substitute.

(iv) 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.

(v) Substitutes introduced after the game has commenced must play in the same position as the player being substituted, except if it is skip. If a substitute is required for a skip, then the other members of the team must rearrange their positions, as necessary. In subsequent games in the same competition the position of players may be rearranged (unless otherwise specified in the Conditions of Play for that event) however a substitute must not play in the position of skip.

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

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

(viii) If a replacement player is used in a pairs team, then a substitute is only permitted to the place of the replacement player and the original team member must skip, otherwise a substitute shall not be permitted.

(ix) Substitutes are not permitted for a singles player who is not part of a sides competition.

(x) 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.

(xi) A substitute must be permitted for a player who is unavailable to play because of their selection in a recognised Australian National, State or Regional Representative side.

1.33.5 Replacement Player

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

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

(iii) Constituted players are ineligible to act as replacement players.

(iv) Players nominated to be a part of a team that is not yet constituted are ineligible to act as replacement players.

1.33.6 Substitutes and Replacements in State Open/Men's/Women's Pennant

Once a match has commenced Substitutes are permitted in State Pennant Matches

Replacement Players are permitted to be used in State Pennant Matches only where:

(i) the match has been commenced but not been completed and is then resumed on a subsequent date.

(ii) a substitute has already been used in the team in which the replacement player is required.

(iii) The original players shall remain those recorded as the constituted players, and the replacement player is also a constituted player.
The match may be used as a factor for an application to waive post-sectional eligibility for the original player, and the substitute/replacement player.

1.33.7 Absentee players in a side game

If, 30 minutes after the scheduled start time for a game, 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:

(i) A team with an absent player plays as though the second is the missing player.

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

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

(iv) If a player is unable to continue the game and no substitute or replacement player is available or allowed, play will continue as with one playing missing as per clause 1.33.7 (i), (ii) and (iii).

(v) There is no adjustment to match scores at the conclusion of the game due to a side having a missing player(s).

(vi) 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.

(vii) 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.

1.34 Instantaneous Penalties

If the Umpire, on appeal by the Controlling Body, a Side Manager, a Skip, or an opponent, or by observation, in their opinion decides that a breach of any Law or Rule or any action by a player/s, (where there is no penalty specified in that Law or Rule) has taken place, including without limitation:

- Acting in an abusive, threatening, or intimidating manner towards any person,
- Using obscene, offensive, abusive, threatening, or intimidating language towards any person,
- Threatening any person with physical violence or assault,
- Assaulting any person,
- Deliberate cheating,
- Acting in a manner likely to bring the sport of bowls into disrepute,

- Acting in a manner likely to bring Bowls NSW or any affiliated body into disrepute,
- Repeatedly breaching the Bowls NSW Smoke Free Greens Policy.
- Drinking on the green or in unauthorised areas.

Then, after consultation with the controlling body (in their absence the team/side managers), the end shall be immediately regarded as completed and the following shall occur:

(i) The opponent of the offender shall be awarded as many shots as there are bowls in use by the opponent in singles, or opposing team in a team game, or team in a sides game.

(i) Upon a second such offence by the same player in the same game, the Umpire shall award the game to the opponent(s) according to Laws C2 and C10.

(ii) Should this penalty be applied, no replacement or substitute player will be allowed for their team.

(iii) In a team game the defaulting team will forfeit the game to their opponent.

(iv) In a Side game BA Domestic Regulations 2.6 (Absentee Players in a Side Game) will apply.

(v) A Replacement player is not permitted for a singles player.

Any incident involving an instantaneous penalty requires the Umpire to complete the Instantaneous Penalty Report Form.
This form must be returned to the Controlling Body and Bowls NSW within seven (7) days of the incident.

1.35 Concurrent Events and Order of Precedence.

1.35.1 Players

Where a player is scheduled to play in a championship event, and is not able to do so because of selection for New South Wales or Australia at an event scheduled to be played at the same time, reasonable time being allowed for travel, the Controlling Body should reschedule the championship round(s) if possible.

The above also applies to participation for selection trials for New South Wales or Australian representation.

Any player requesting that an event be rescheduled must apply a minimum of seven (7) days in advance. If the event cannot be rescheduled, the player must decide which event to contest.

Note: The provisions of rescheduling matches in this clause will not apply to events where Bowls Australia or World Bowls have made alterations or additions to their programs after 1 October 2026.

1.35.2 Officials

Where a player who is scheduled to play in a championship event is appointed as Coach or Manager for a Region junior side or Bowls NSW Junior Side scheduled to play at the same time, they may apply to the Controlling Body for the championship event to be rescheduled.

This does not apply to other Region or State officials.

1.35.3 Priority Events

Players participating in priority events will be granted dispensation from playing events in lower category priority.

Controlling Bodies should avoid scheduling events where players may be involved in higher category priority events.

(i) **Category 1**
Australian National Representation, State Representation, Australian Open, Bowls Australia Nationals, BPL, BPL Cup National Finals.

(ii) **Category 2**

Bowls NSW Championships Event State Finals, Bowls NSW Inter-Region Championships, BPL Cup State Finals.

(iii) **Category 3**

Region qualifying events for State Championships, as well as State Mixed Pairs, State Rookies and State Over 40s Pairs.

1.36 Determining Section Winners / Standings

1.36.1 Drawn matches in sectional play

In the event of a drawn game in a three player/team/side section where the winner of Round 1 is to progress to the third round and the loser of Round 1 to the second round, the player/team/side on the left/top of the draw will be the player/team/side who progresses to Round 3.

1.36.2 Singles / Team Games

(i) **Allocation of Points**

In each match of sectional play points shall be awarded as follows:

- Win 3 Points (player/team scoring the highest number of shots)
- Tie (Draw) 1 Point (both players/teams score equal number of shots)
- Loss 0 Points (player/team scoring the lesser number of shots)

(ii) **Allocation of Points for Forfeited Matches**

A team/player receiving a forfeit shall be credited with a win (3 points).

If a player/team forfeits a match in sectional play, all matches in that section involving the forfeiting team shall be declared a forfeit, with no results recorded for the player/team receiving the forfeit.

(iii) **Sectional Standings**

The winner of the sectional series of matches shall be determined as follows:

- The player or team scoring the highest number of points shall be declared the winner.
- If two or more players or teams are equal on points, the player or team with the largest difference between 'total shots for' and 'total shots against' shall be the winner.
- If there is still a tie, the player or team with the lowest 'total shots against' shall be the winner.
- If two players or teams remain tied, the winner of the match between those teams/players shall be declared the winner.
- If there is still a tie the team with the higher number of ends won (does not apply to singles player) shall be declared the winner.
- If there is still a tie in singles, the player to have conceded the least number of ends shall be the winner.
- If two players or teams remain tied, there will be a drawing of lots by the Controlling Body to determine final section placings.

1.36.3 Sides Matches

(i) **Determining Section Rankings**

Sides shall be ranked within their section by the following criteria:

- The side scoring the highest number of points.
- The side with the largest difference between 'total shots for' and 'total shots against'.
- The lowest 'total shots against'.
- The aggregate results from matches played between the equal sides using the three points above (in that order).
- The drawing of lots by the Controlling Body.

(ii) **Knockout Matches**

If scores are tied at the completion of the scheduled number of ends in a knockout sides match, all teams in that side shall play an extra end to determine the result.

If scores are tied at the completion of those extra ends, all teams shall play further extra ends to determine a winner.

1.37 Artificial Light

Artificial light is permitted to be used during play in Championship Events.

1.38 Live Streaming, Broadcast or Recording of Matches

Matches may be live streamed, broadcast or recorded at the discretion of the relevant Controlling Body.

Note: Where livestreaming is to be used for Bowls NSW Championship Events the Broadcast Service Agreement Form must be completed, and authorisation provided by Bowls NSW prior to the commencement of any broadcast.

Players do not have the option to refuse to be live streamed, broadcast or recorded.

1.38.1 Equipment & Personnel for Livestream

(i) The person(s) involved in streaming must not be on the green whilst an end is being played and are encouraged to not interact with players whilst they are playing.

(ii) They are entitled, as part of the streaming as an official, to be behind the head, on the bank, and should not move in any way to distract the players.

(iii) If the Controlling Body streaming a match does not have equipment for both ends of a green, the person streaming may move to be at the 'head end' of the green. They should:

- if possible, move to the other end of the green before the jack is rolled or
- walk down the space between the rink and the side ditch (match on ditch rink), or
- walk down a vacant rink beside the rink of play, or
- walk near the boundary line of the rink of play so that they do not encroach on a rink in use.

2. Club Major Championships

2.1 Match Formats

Clubs may conduct Championships as sectional, knockout, or a combination of both as required. If sectional play is used, only section winners shall progress to the next stage of the competition.

Number of ends and bowls used:

2.1.1 Singles

Matches are to be played four bowls per player, 25 shots up (shots in excess of 25 do not count).

If sectional play is utilised and requires three (3) matches to be completed in one day, then matches are to be played four bowls per player, 21 shots up (shots in excess of 21 do not count).

2.1.2 Pairs

Matches are to be played as four bowls per player in the order lead two bowls, skip two bowls and repeat, over 18 ends.

If sectional play is utilised and requires three (3) to be completed in one day, then matches are to be played as four bowls per player in the order lead two bowls, skip two bowls and repeat, over 12 ends.

2.1.3 Triples

Matches are to be played as two bowls per player, twenty-five (25) ends, or unless otherwise set in Club Conditions of Play.

2.1.4 Fours

Matches are to be played as two bowls per player, twenty-one (21) ends or unless otherwise set in Club Conditions of Play.

2.2 Eligibility

To enter and play a Championship Event with a Club, a player shall:

(i) Be registered with Bowls NSW as a Bowling Member of that Club.

(ii) Have that club registered as their Declared (Primary) Club on Bowlslink, with a membership category that permits Competition playing rights.

(iii) Be registered, and listed on Bowlslink, with their respective Region Association.

(iv) Be cleared to play at that club (if required).

(v) Satisfy all other eligibility requirements for that event.

NOTE: Players are only permitted to enter and play Championship Events (ie, Club Major Championships) for their Primary/Declared club as listed on Bowlslink.

Note – If a Club conducts a Men's Championship and a Women's Championship, an Open Gender event is not an Association Championship (this is applicable for each of Singles and Pairs).

2.2.2 Singles & Pairs

A player may enter 1 (one) only Association Championship Club Singles in a season (Men's / Women's or Open Singles).

A player may enter 1 (one) only Association Championship Club Pairs in a season (Men's / Women's or Open Pairs).

Club Championships Singles and Pairs must be played in line with the State Championships formats for players to qualify for Champion of Club Champions Singles and Pairs.

Clubs must complete their Club Singles and Pairs by the date shown in the Bowls NSW Calendar for the Club Champions to enter Champion of Club Champions.

Note: further information regarding Champion of Champions Singles and Pairs can be found in Section 5.

2.2.3 Triples & Fours

Clubs may determine their own Conditions of Play to conduct Triples & Fours Championships. Any Conditions put in place for Club Triples and Fours should be aimed at maximising participation in these events and must be clearly displayed on the event entry form.

NOTE: During the bowling season an individual member is eligible to enter and participate in only one (1) Club Major Triples Championship, and one (1) Club Major Fours Championship.

2.2.4 Dates of Play

Clubs must conduct their 2027 Singles and Pairs Championships to ensure conclusion before the closure of Champion Club Champions Singles and Pairs – 13 October 2027.

If a Club does not comply with this clause, their winner(s) shall not be eligible to participate in the 2027 Champion of Champions.

2.2.5 Eligibility for Champion of Club Champions

(i) Clubs must administer their Major Singles Championship(s) & Major Pairs Championship(s) on Bowlslink:

NOTE: entries can be taken through Bowlslink and/or entered into the Bowlslink competition prior to the draw being conducted.

(ii) Further eligibility clauses for Champion of Club Champions eligibility are contained in Condition 5.3

2.2.6 Constitution of Teams

(i) A team shall become constituted when the jack is rolled in the first end of the first match to be played by that team.

(ii) Players in a team forfeiting (i.e., did not withdraw – refer clause 1.13.1) or receiving a forfeit shall be constituted and cannot act as a substitute or replacement player in any other team in that competition.

(iii) If a player in a team becomes unavailable or is incapable of playing, the Controlling Body may authorise the use of one substitute player at any time (including the first end of any game) and/or one replacement player.

3. State Championships

3.1 State Championships Categories

There shall be five categories of State Championships:

(i) State Men's Championships
(ii) State Women's Championships
(iii) Senior Men's Championships
(iv) Senior Women's Championships
(v) Open Reserve Championships

Qualifying shall be conducted in each discipline within Region Boundaries. Region Winners shall qualify for State Finals.

3.2 Player Eligibility

To enter and play a Championship Event with a Club, a player shall:

(i) Be registered with Bowls NSW as a Bowling Member of that Club.
(ii) Have that club registered as their Declared (Primary) Club on Bowlslink, with a membership category that permits Competition playing rights.
(iii) Be registered, and listed on Bowlslink, with their respective Region Association.
(iv) Be cleared to play at that club (if required).
(v) Satisfy all other eligibility requirements for that event.

In addition:

3.2.2 Gender Requirements

(i) **Men's State Championships and Senior Championships**
To enter a Men's State Championship or Men's Senior Championship, the player must be a male member.

(ii) **Women's State Championships and Senior Championships**
To enter a Women's State Championship or Women's Senior Championship, the player must be a female member.

(iii) **Open Reserve Championships**
There are no gender requirements for Open Reserve Championships.

3.2.3 Additional Event Eligibility Requirements:

(i) **Senior Championships**
To enter a Senior State Championship the player must be aged 60 years or over on 1 January 2027.

(ii) **Open Reserve Championships**
To enter and play in a Reserve State Championship a player must have a previous season Open Pennant grading of Grade 5, Grade 6 or Grade 7 or be ungraded in Open Pennant., as listed on Bowlslink.

(iii) **One Entry per discipline**
A player is eligible to enter each discipline in one event category only.

- A player may enter only one of State Singles, Senior Singles or Reserve Singles
- A player may enter only one of State Pairs, Senior Pairs or Reserve Pairs
- A player may enter only one of State Triples, Senior Triples or Reserve Triples
- A player may enter only one of State Fours, Senior Fours or Reserve Fours

A player is eligible to enter different disciplines in different event categories, providing the player meets all eligibility requirements for that category.

(iv) **Teams**
All members of a team are required to be from the same Club.

3.3 Format

3.3.1 Qualifying

Region Associations may play sectional, knockout or a combination of both as required.

If sectional play is used, only section winners shall progress to the next stage of the competition.

3.3.2 Dates of Play

Regions must schedule State Women's Championship matches and State Men's Championship matches on weekends.

3.3.3 State Finals

State Finals will be conducted as a combination of sectional play and knockout.

3.3.4 Sectional Draws

Sectional play may be conducted in sections of 3 or 4 teams/players, or 2 teams/players when there have been withdrawals or forfeits in a section following the release of the draw.

NOTE: Prior to the commencement of sectional play players/teams may be moved into different sections to balance numbers left by withdrawals – the determination of which players/teams to move is at the discretion of the direct Controlling Body (Region or State).

3.3.5 Duration of Matches

Reduced durations of matches may be used where sectional play is played in one day, as listed in this clause.

The number of ends, or shots up in Singles, shall be consistent across all sections regardless of the number of entries.

(i) **Singles**

All matches four bowls per player.

State Men's	25 shots up or three sectional rounds per day of 21 up.
State Women's	25 shots up or three sectional rounds per day of 21 up
Open Reserve	25 shots up or three sectional rounds per day of 21 up
Senior Men's	25 shots up or three sectional rounds per day of 21 up
Senior Women's	25 shots up or three sectional rounds per day of 21 up

NOTE: Shots scored above the required number to win the match do not count.

(ii) **Pairs**

Pairs played as 2x2x2x2 except Senior Women's Pairs which is three bowls per player.

State Men's	18 ends or three sectional rounds per day of 12 ends
State Women's	18 ends or three sectional rounds per day of 12 ends
Open Reserve	18 ends or three sectional rounds per day of 12 ends
Senior Men's	18 ends or three sectional rounds per day of 12 ends
Senior Women's	21 ends or three sectional rounds per day of 14 ends

(iii) **Triples**

All matches two bowls per player

State Men's	25 ends or three sectional rounds per day of 17 ends
State Women's	25 ends or three sectional rounds per day of 17 ends
Open Reserve	25 ends or three sectional rounds per day of 17 ends
Senior Men's	25 ends or three sectional rounds per day of 17 ends
Senior Women's	21 ends or three sectional rounds per day of 14 ends

(iv) **Fours**

All matches two bowls per player

State Men's	21 ends or three sectional rounds per day of 14 ends
State Women's	21 ends or three sectional rounds per day of 14 ends
Open Reserve	21 ends or three sectional rounds per day of 14 ends
Senior Men's	21 ends or three sectional rounds per day of 14 ends
Senior Women's	18 ends or three sectional rounds per day of 12 ends

3.4 Substitute Players

Refer clause 1.33.4.

Note: Any Substitute player must have been eligible to enter the Region Championship for that club and not have been constituted in that discipline during the current bowling season.

3.5 Replacement Players

Refer clause 1.33.5.

Note: Any Replacement player must have been eligible to enter the Region Championship for that club and not have been constituted in that discipline during the current bowling season.

3.6 Entry Fee

3.6.1 Qualifying

As determined by the Region Association.

If a player or team withdraws after the closing date of entries for the competition, the entry fee will be forfeited.

3.6.2 State Finals

As determined by the Board of Bowls NSW.

If a player or team withdraws after the closing date of entries for the competition, the entry fee will be forfeited.

3.7 Uniform

3.7.1 Region Championships

Players shall wear their current Club uniform.

3.7.2 State Championships

Players shall wear the club uniform of the club with which they won the Region championship to qualify.

Note: Players are at all times required to be attired in accordance with the Uniform Policy.

4. NSW State Mixed Pairs

4.1 Match Format & Duration

Played as three (3) bowls per player, in the order lead three bowls, skip three bowls.

Each match shall be played over seventeen (17) ends.

4.1.1 Re-spotting the jack

If a jack in motion passes completely outside the boundaries of the rink of play or rebounds to a distance of less than 18 metres from the mat line, the end should not be declared dead. Instead, the jack should be placed with the nearest point of the jack to the mat line at a spot on the rink which is two metres from the front ditch and on the centre line, and play should continue.

If the spot mentioned in paragraph one is partly or completely covered by a bowl, the jack should be placed as close as possible to the covered spot, in line with that spot and the corresponding spot at the opposite end of the rink, without touching a bowl.

4.1.2 Trial Ends

One trial end shall be permitted before each match.

4.2 Eligibility

4.2.1 Player Eligibility

To enter and play a Championship Event with a Club, a player shall:

(i) Be registered with Bowls NSW as a Bowling Member of that Club.

(ii) Have that club registered as their Declared (Primary) Club on Bowlslink, with a membership category that permits Competition playing rights.

(iii) Be registered, and listed on Bowlslink, with their respective Region Association.

(iv) Be cleared to play at that club (if required).

(v) Satisfy all other eligibility requirements for that event.

NOTE: If an individual in a team enters the competition, and subsequently changes their individual Primary/Declared club to a club from a different Region Association they are no longer permitted to continue with Region qualifying in this competition.

4.2.2 Teams

Pairs Teams are required to be from Clubs within the same Region. Players are not required to be from the same club.

Teams must comprise of one female player and one male player.

4.3 Attire

Composite pairs teams are not required to be similarly attired.

Players shall wear their own current club uniform.

Note: Players are at all times required to be attired in accordance with the Uniform Policy.

4.4 Qualifying Play

Qualifying play shall be conducted at Host Venues within each Region Association.

Qualifying play shall be conducted as a combination of sectional and knockout play.

4.4.1 Sectional Draws

Sectional play may be conducted in sections of 3 or 4 teams/players, or 2 teams/players when there have been withdrawals or forfeits in a section following the release of the draw.

NOTE: Prior to the commencement of sectional play players/teams may be moved into different sections to balance numbers left by withdrawals – the determination of which players/teams to move is at the discretion of the direct Controlling Body (Region or State).

4.5 Substitute Players

Refer clause 1.33.4.

Note: Any Substitute player must have been eligible to enter the Region qualifying and not have been constituted in this event during the current bowling season.

4.6 Replacement Players

Refer clause 1.33.5.

Note: Any Replacement player must have been eligible to enter the Region qualifying and not have been constituted in this event during the current bowling season.

4.7 Entry Fees

As determined by the Board of Bowls NSW.

If a team withdraws after the closing date of entries for the competition, the entry fee will be forfeited.

4.8 State Finals

State Finals will be conducted as a combination of sectional and knockout play.

Thirty-two (32) teams will qualify for State Finals.

A minimum of one (1) team from each Region will qualify for the State Finals.

NOTE: Once the initial 16 qualifying places have been allocated (1 per Region Association) – the remaining 16 qualifying places are determined based on the total number of entries received with Regions with higher entry numbers receiving additional qualifying places.

5. Champion of Club Champions

5.1 Competitions

Bowls NSW Champion of Club Champions shall be conducted as single gender competitions:

(i) Men's Champion of Club Champions Singles
(ii) Men's Champion of Club Champions Pairs
(iii) Women's Champion of Club Champions Singles
(iv) Women's Champion of Club Champions Pairs

5.2 Format & Duration

5.2.1 Singles:

State finals may be played as sectional, knockout or a combination of both as required.
If sectional play is used, only section winners shall progress to the next stage of the competition.

Matches are to be played four bowls per player, 25 shots up (shots in excess of 25 do not count).

If sectional play is utilised and requires three (3) matches to be completed in one day, then matches are to be played four bowls per player, 21 shots up (shots in excess of 21 do not count).

5.2.2 Pairs

State finals may be played as sectional, knockout or a combination of both as required.
If sectional play is used, only section winners shall progress to the next stage of the competition.

Matches are to be played as four bowls per player in the order lead two bowls, skip two bowls and repeat, over 18 ends.
If sectional play is utilised and requires three (3) to be completed in one day, then matches are to be played as four bowls per player in the order lead two bowls, skip two bowls and repeat, over 12 ends.

5.3 Eligibility

5.3.1 Current Season

The current season Club Champion is eligible to enter the Champion of Club Champions.

5.3.2 Eligibility for Champion of Club Champions

Clubs must administer their Major Singles Championship(s) & Major Pairs Championship(s) on Bowlslink for their winners to be eligible to contest the State Champion of Champions event(s).

5.3.3 Change of Club

Any current season Club Championship winner remains eligible to play in the Champion of Club Champions (as the winner of that club championship) irrespective of any change of Primary/Declared club after they win that Championship, provided that their Primary/Declared Club is an affiliated club of Bowls NSW.

5.3.4 Where a Club conducts single gender championships

(i) The Club Men's Singles Champion is eligible to enter the Men's Champion of Club Champions Singles.
(ii) The Club Women's Singles Champion is eligible to enter the Women's Champion of Champions Singles.
(iii) The Club Men's Pairs Champion is eligible to enter the Men's Champion of Club Champions Pairs.

(iv) The Club Women's Pairs Champion is eligible to enter the Women's Champion of Champions Pairs.

5.3.5 Where a Club conducts only open gender championships

(i) The winner of the Singles Championship is eligible to enter their respective gender Champion of Champions Event.

(ii) If the winner of the Pairs Championship is a mixed team, they are ineligible to enter Champion of Champions.
Winning teams who are the same gender are eligible to enter their respective Champion of Champions Pairs event.

5.3.6 Where a Club conducts only one Single Gender (male or Female) and an Open Gender championships

(i) The Single Gender Champion is eligible to enter Champion of Club Champions.

(ii) The Open Gender winner is only eligible if the winner is a different Gender to the winner of the Single Gender event.

5.4 Entry

Club Champions will enter directly to State Finals with Bowls NSW.

5.5 Substitutes & Replacement Players

5.5.1 Replacement Players

Replacement players are not permitted.

5.5.2 Substitutes

A Substitute player will be permitted in Pairs.

Refer clause 1.33.4.

Note: Any Substitute player must have been eligible to enter the Club Pairs championship and not have been constituted in another Club Pairs championship during the current bowling season.

5.6 Entry Fee

As determined by the Board of Bowls NSW.

If a player or team withdraws after the closing date of entries for the competition, the entry fee will be forfeited.

5.7 State Finals

Competition will be conducted as a combination of sectional play and knockout.

5.8 Attire

Players shall wear the club uniform of the club with which they won the Region championship to qualify.

Note: Players are at all times required to be attired in accordance with the Uniform Policy.

6. NSW Over 40s Pairs

6.1 Match Format

Played as three (3) bowls per player, in the order lead three bowls, skip three bowls.

Each match shall be played over seventeen (17) ends.

6.1.1 Respotting the jack

If a jack in motion passes completely outside the boundaries of the rink of play or rebounds to a distance of less than 18 metres from the mat line, the end should not be declared dead. Instead, the jack should be placed with the nearest point of the jack to the mat line at a spot on the rink which is two metres from the front ditch and on the centre line, and play should continue.

If the spot mentioned in paragraph one is partly or completely covered by a bowl, the jack should be placed as close as possible to the covered spot, in line with that spot and the corresponding spot at the opposite end of the rink, without touching a bowl.

6.1.2 Trial End

One trial end is permitted before each match.

6.2 Player Eligibility

6.2.1 Age Restrictions

Players must be aged:

(i) 40 years and over on 1 January 2027 and

(ii) 59 years or under at the scheduled completion of the Championship, November 14, 2027.

Additionally:

(iii) Be registered with Bowls NSW as a Bowling Member of that Club.

(iv) Have that club registered as their Declared (Primary) Club on Bowlslink, with a membership category that permits Competition playing rights.

(v) Be registered, and listed on Bowlslink, with their respective Region Association.

(vi) Be cleared to play at that club (if required).

(vii) Satisfy all other eligibility requirements for that event.

6.2.2 Teams

Pairs Teams are required to be from Clubs within the same Region. Players are not required to be from the same club.

NOTE: If an individual in a team enters the competition, and subsequently changes their individual Primary/Declared club to a club from a different Region Association they are no longer permitted to continue with Region qualifying in this competition.

6.2.3 Gender Requirement

There are no gender requirements for the State Over 40's Pairs.

6.3 Qualifying Play

Qualifying play shall be conducted at Host Venues within each Region Association.

Qualifying play shall be conducted as a combination of sectional and knockout play.

6.3.1 Sectional Draws

Sectional play may be conducted in sections of 3 or 4 teams/players, or 2 teams/players when there have been withdrawals or forfeits in a section following the release of the draw.

NOTE: Prior to the commencement of sectional play players/teams may be moved into different sections to balance numbers left by withdrawals – the determination of which players/teams to move is at the discretion of the direct Controlling Body (Region or State).

6.4 Attire

Composite pairs teams are not required to be similarly attired.
Players shall wear their own current club uniform.

Note: Players are at all times required to be attired in accordance with the Uniform Policy.

6.5 Entry Fees

As determined by the Board of Bowls NSW.
If a team withdraws after the closing date of entries for the competition, the entry fee will be forfeited.

6.6 State Finals

State Finals will be conducted as a combination of sectional and knockout play.
Thirty-two (32) teams will qualify for State Finals.
A minimum of one (1) team from each Region will qualify for the State Finals.

NOTE: Once the initial 16 qualifying places have been allocated (1 per Region Association) – the remaining 16 qualifying places are determined based on the total number of entries received with Regions with higher entry numbers receiving additional qualifying places.

If following Region qualifying a team withdraws, or is found to be ineligible for the competition, their place at the State Finals will be offered to the last defeated opponent (or next best qualifier if only sectional play).
The final determination of places at the State Finals is at the discretion of Bowls NSW.

7. NSW Rookies Championships

7.1 Disciplines & Formats

There shall be two disciplines of NSW Rookies played:

7.1.1 Singles

Matches are to be played four bowls per player, 17 shots up (shots in excess of 17 do not count).

7.1.2 Pairs

Played as three (3) bowls per player, in the order lead three bowls, skip three bowls.

Each match shall be played over eleven (11) ends.

7.1.3 Trial End

One trial end shall be permitted before each match.

7.1.4 Re-spotting the jack

If a jack in motion passes completely outside the boundaries of the rink of play or rebounds to a distance of less than 18 metres from the mat line, the end should not be declared dead. Instead, the jack should be placed with the nearest point of the jack to the mat line at a spot on the rink which is two metres from the front ditch and on the centre line, and play should continue.

If the spot mentioned in paragraph one is partly or completely covered by a bowl, the jack should be placed as close as possible to the covered spot, in line with that spot and the corresponding spot at the opposite end of the rink, without touching a bowl.

7.2 Eligibility

7.2.1 Players Eligibility

Players must:

(i) Be registered with Bowls NSW as a Bowling Member of that Club.

(ii) Have that club registered as their Declared (Primary) Club on Bowlslink, with a membership category that permits Competition playing rights.

(iii) Be registered, and listed on Bowlslink, with their respective Region Association.

(iv) Be cleared to play at that club (if required).

Additionally:

(v) There are no gender requirements for NSW Rookies championships.

(vi) Players must not have been a bowling member of a club (anywhere in the World) before 1 April 2025, and

(vii) Must not have previously played in more than one season in any discipline (Singles or Pairs) of NSW Rookies Championships. (i.e., may have played in one season only of Rookies in 2024/25 or 2025/26).

(viii) Previous NSW Rookies Championships winners are ineligible to enter in that discipline.

NOTE: If a Singles player, or an individual in a Pairs team enters the competition, and subsequently changes their individual Primary/Declared club to a club from a different Region Association they are no longer permitted to continue with Region qualifying in this competition.

7.2.2 Teams

Pairs Teams are required to be from Clubs within the same Region. Players are not required to be from the same club.

7.3 Attire

Composite pairs teams are not required to be similarly attired.

Players shall wear their own current club uniform.

Note: Players are at all times required to be attired in accordance with the Uniform Policy.

7.4 Qualifying Play

Qualifying play shall be conducted at Host Venues within each Region Association.

Qualifying play shall be conducted as a combination of sectional and knockout play.

7.4.1 Sectional Draws

Sectional play may be conducted in sections of 3 or 4 teams/players, or 2 teams/players when there have been withdrawals or forfeits in a section following the release of the draw.

NOTE: Prior to the commencement of sectional play players/teams may be moved into different sections to balance numbers left by withdrawals – the determination of which players/teams to move is at the discretion of the direct Controlling Body (Region or State).

7.5 Entry Fees

7.5.1 Singles & Pairs

As determined by the Board of Bowls NSW

If a player/team withdraws after the closing date of entries for the competition, the entry fee will be forfeited.

7.6 State Finals

State Finals will be conducted as a combination of sectional and knockout play.

Thirty-two (32) Singles players and thirty-two (32) Pairs teams will qualify for State Finals.

A minimum of one (1) player/team from each Region will qualify for the State Finals.

NOTE: Once the initial 16 qualifying places have been allocated (1 per Region Association) – the remaining 16 qualifying places are determined based on the total number of entries received with Regions with higher entry numbers receiving additional qualifying places.

If following Region qualifying a team withdraws, or is found to be ineligible for the competition, their place at the State Finals will be offered to the last defeated opponent (or next best qualifier if only sectional play).

The final determination of places at the State Finals is at the discretion of Bowls NSW.

8. NSW State Junior Championships

8.1 Eligibility

8.1.1 Players

To enter and play in NSW State Junior Championships a player must:

(i) Be registered with Bowls NSW as a Bowling Member of that Club.

(ii) Have that club registered as their Declared (Primary) Club on Bowlslink, with a membership category that permits Competition playing rights.

(iii) Be registered, and listed on Bowlslink, with their respective Region Association.

(iv) Be cleared to play at that club (if required).

(v) Satisfy all other eligibility requirements for that event.

(vi) Under the age of 18 years as at the scheduled completion date of the Championship, April 23, 2027.

(vii) Under the age of 15 years as at the scheduled completion of the Championships for Under 15 years event, April 23, 2027.

(viii) Under the age of 13 as at the scheduled completion of the Championships for the Under 13 years event, April 23, 2027.

8.1.2 Teams

Members of Teams are not required to be from the same Club.

8.2 Team Entries for Team Events

Entries for team events may be submitted as nominated teams.

Members of teams are required to have their Declared (Primary) Club within the same Region boundaries.

8.3 Single Entries for Team Events

Entries for team events may be submitted as single entries.

Entries submitted in this way will be formed into teams (as possible) by Bowls NSW.

Players in teams formed in this way may be from any club & are not required to be from within the same Region.

8.4 Attire

Composite teams are not required to be similarly attired.

Players shall wear their own current club (or current Region Association) uniform.

Note: Players are at all times required to be attired in accordance with the Uniform Policy.

8.5 Event Format

Players shall enter direct to Bowls NSW.

Each Championship shall be combination of sectional play and knockout, as required.

Championships shall be conducted in:

(i)	Boys Under 18 Years Singles	(restricted to male players)
(ii)	Girls Under 18 Years Singles	(restricted to female players)
(iii)	Boys Under 15 Years Singles	(restricted to male players)
(iv)	Girls Under 15 Years Singles	(restricted to female players)
(v)	Under 13 Singles	(open to male and female players)
(vi)	Girls Pairs	(restricted to female players)

(vii)	Boys Pairs	(restricted to male players)
(viii)	Fours	(open to male and female players)

NOTE: Should there be insufficient entries to successfully conduct a singles event within a category (under 13, under 15 &/or Under 18) Bowls NSW reserve the right to combine categories.

8.6 Match Formats & Durations

8.6.1 Singles

Matches are to be played four bowls per player, 21 shots up (shots in excess of 21 do not count).

8.6.2 Pairs

Played as three (3) bowls per player, in the order lead three bowls, skip three bowls.

Each match shall be played over eighteen (18) ends.

8.6.3 Fours

Played as two (2) bowls per player.
Each match shall be played over fifteen (15) ends.

8.6.4 Trial Ends

One trial end shall be permitted before each match.

8.6.5 Time Limits

Singles	1 hour and 45 minutes, not including trial end.
Pairs	1 hour and 45 minutes, not including trial end.
Fours	2 hours, not including trial end.

The Controlling Body will signal for matches to commence.
When the time limit is reached a signal will be given that the time limit has been reached.
At the conclusion of the time limit any end in progress shall be completed, but no further ends commenced.

8.6.6 Format Alterations

Bowls NSW reserves the right to alter match formats or durations as required to successfully conduct or complete the event.

8.7 Coaching

The coach of a player, team or side can give advice to the player(s) during play provided that:

(i) The coach is currently accredited as a Bowls Australia Community Coach or Bowls Australia Performance Coach, and their current accreditation is recorded on Bowlslink.

(ii) The Controlling Body is given the name of the coach before the game starts. (The Controlling Body shall advise the umpire(s) of the nominated coach.)

(iii) Only one person is present at the rink to give advice at any one time.

(iv) The person giving advice does so when their player or team is in possession of the rink; and

(v) The person giving the advice does so from outside the boundaries of the green.

If, in the umpire's opinion, this clause has been broken the umpire must ask the coach concerned to stay within the clause. If they do not stay within the clause, the umpire must ask the Controlling Body to take immediate action to make sure that the offender stops breaking the clause.

8.8 Working with Children / Junior Bowlers

A coach of any Junior bowler and/or any individuals coaching at any Junior event must have a valid Working with Children Check certification recorded on Bowlslink.

8.9 Re-spotting the Jack

If a jack in motion passes completely outside the boundaries of the rink of play or rebounds to a distance of less than 18 metres from the mat line, the end should not be declared dead. Instead, the jack should be placed with the nearest point of the jack to the mat line at a spot on the rink which is two metres from the front ditch and on the centre line, and play should continue.

If the spot mentioned in paragraph one is partly or completely covered by a bowl, the jack should be placed as close as possible to the covered spot, in line with that spot and the corresponding spot at the opposite end of the rink, without touching a bowl.

8.10 Entry Fee

As determined by the Board of Bowls NSW.

If a player or team withdraws after the closing date of entries for the competition, the entry fee will be forfeited.

9. Australian Indoor Singles (NSW Qualifying)

9.1 Event Format

Qualifying will be conducted as a combination of sectional play and knockout, as required.

9.2 Match Duration

Matches shall comprise of two sets of nine ends, with a 3-end tie breaker if required (shots count in tie-break).

Refer Law 56 (Laws of the Sport of Bowls, Crystal Mark 4th edition, 2023).

All ends in sectional play must be completed.

During knockout play, there must be no further play in a set if, at any point, it becomes impossible for one player to draw or win the set, given the number of ends left.

9.3 First to play

9.3.1 First Set & Tie Break

The players shall toss a coin – the winner of the toss shall choose whether to roll the jack and play first on the first end.

9.3.2 Second Set

The winner of the first set shall roll the jack and play first on the first end of the second set. If the first set is tied, the winner of the last end of the first set shall roll the jack and play first on the first end of the second set.

9.4 Re-spotting the jack

If a jack in motion passes completely outside the boundaries of the rink of play or rebounds to a distance of less than 18 metres from the mat line, the end should not be declared dead. Instead, the jack should be placed with the nearest point of the jack to the mat line at a spot on the rink which is two metres from the front ditch and on the centre line, and play should continue.

If the spot mentioned in paragraph one is partly or completely covered by a bowl, the jack should be placed as close as possible to the covered spot, in line with that spot and the corresponding spot at the opposite end of the rink, without touching a bowl.

9.5 Competition Structure

Competition will be conducted in groups/sections as determined to find the number of qualifiers to represent NSW as determined by Bowls Australia.

9.6 Eligibility

9.6.1 Australian Indoor Singles (NSW Qualifying) Men

Open to any male registered with Bowls NSW as an Individual Member who has a declared club in NSW as per the Bowls Australia Affiliation and Eligibility to Play Policy (that is, eligible to play State Championships in NSW).

9.6.2 Australian Indoor Singles (NSW Qualifying) Women

Open to any female registered with Bowls NSW as an Individual Member who has a declared club in NSW as per the Bowls Australia Affiliation and Eligibility to Play Policy (that is, eligible to play State Championships in NSW).

9.7 Venue and Surface

Where possible, the qualifying event should be run at either an indoor or a completely covered facility with an artificial surface.

If this cannot be achieved, the qualifying event must be run at an outdoor facility with an artificial surface.

9.8 Entry Fee

As determined by the Board of Bowls NSW.

If a player withdraws after the closing date of entries for the competition, the entry fee will be forfeited.

9.9 Determining Section Winners

The winner of the sectional series of matches shall be determined as follows:

(i) The player with the highest number of game points scored.

(ii) If game points are equal, the player with the highest number of sets won.

(iii) If game points and sets won are equal, the player with the highest net total of set points over all games in the section.

(iv) If game points, sets won and net totals of set points are equal, the player with the highest net total of shots over all games in the section (not including tiebreaker ends).

(v) If game points, sets won, net totals of set points, and net totals of shots are equal, the player that won the game between the players that are equal.

(vi) If two players or more remain tied, there will be a drawing of lots by the Controlling Body to determine final section placings.

10. Bowls NSW Women's State Carnival

10.1 Eligibility

Players must:

(i) Be registered with any State or Territory Association recognised by Bowls Australia, or with a Member National Authority of World Bowls as a Bowling Member of that Club.

(ii) Have that club registered as their Declared (Primary) Club on Bowlslink, with a membership category that permits Competition playing rights.

(iii) Be registered, and listed on Bowlslink, with their respective Region/District/Zone/National Association.

(iv) Be cleared to play at that club (if required).

Additionally:

Only female registered bowlers will be eligible to enter the NSW Women's State Carnival.

10.2 Teams

Teams for the Women's State Carnival shall comprise of four players.

Composite teams are allowed, players do not need to be from same Primary (Declared) club.

Teams may alter positions prior to each match played.

10.3 Substitute Players

Substitutes may be permitted by the Controlling Body in line with the Bowls NSW General Conditions of Play and Bowls Australia Domestic Regulations.

10.4 Replacement Players

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.

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

(ii) Replacement players must be chosen from available eligible members and when approved by the Controlling Body can play in any position including skip.

(iii) Constituted players are ineligible to act as replacement players.

(iv) Players nominated to be a part of a team that is not yet constituted are ineligible to act as replacement players.

10.5 Attire

Teams are not required to be similarly attired.

Players may wear their approved club uniform or any clothing that is compliant with the National Merchandise Program.

10.6 Entries

Entries must be submitted by the prescribed format and be accompanied with payment of entry fee prior to the nominated closing date and time.

The State Match Committee reserves the right to replace any team in a draw in the event of an approved withdrawal.

10.7 Entry Fee

As determined by the Board of Bowls NSW.

If a team withdraws after the closing date of entries for the competition, the entry fee will be forfeited.

10.7.1 Daily Fees

A daily fee shall be paid to the host club each day.

This fee will include any morning tea, lunch, and green fees applicable for each day of play.

A team not paying the daily fee may have a fine or disciplinary action taken by Bowls NSW.

10.8 Competition Format

10.8.1 Re-spotting the Jack

If a jack in motion passes completely outside the boundaries of the rink of play or rebounds to a distance of less than 18 metres from the mat line, the end should not be declared dead. Instead, the jack should be placed with the nearest point of the jack to the mat line at a spot on the rink which is two metres from the front ditch and on the centre line, and play should continue.

If the spot mentioned in paragraph one is partly or completely covered by a bowl, the jack should be placed as close as possible to the covered spot, in line with that spot and the corresponding spot at the opposite end of the rink, without touching a bowl.

10.8.2 Trial end

One trial end is permitted prior to each match.

10.8.3 Sectional Matches:

Will be played over eighteen (18) ends per match, with two matches per day.

Drawn matches are allowed – there will be no extra end played.

All ends in sectional matches must be played.

10.8.4 Determining Section Winners

The winner of the sectional series of matches shall be determined as follows:

(i) The player or team scoring the highest number of points shall be declared the winner.

(ii) If two or more players or teams are equal on points, the player or team with the largest difference between 'total shots for' and 'total shots against' shall be the winner.

(iii) If there is still a tie, the player or team with the lowest 'total shots against' shall be the winner.

(iv) If two players or teams remain tied, the winner of the match between those teams/players shall be declared the winner.

(v) If there is still a tie the team with the higher number of ends won (does not apply to singles player) shall be declared the winner.

(vi) If there is still a tie in singles, the player to have conceded the least number of ends shall be the winner.

(vii) If two players or teams remain tied, there will be a drawing of lots by the Controlling Body to determine final section placings.

10.8.5 Byes

Where a bye occurs in sectional play, the team receiving the bye will be allocated three (3) points and +7 shots.

10.8.6 Forfeits

A team forfeiting will be required to pay the daily fee to the host Club.

A team not paying the daily fee may have a fine or disciplinary action taken by Bowls NSW.

10.9 Post Sectional Matches

A draw involving all section winners & required number of best performed second placed sides from sections will be made and all matches will be knockout.

The duration of knockout matches will be determined as required and will be declared at time of release of draws.

Semi Finals, third place playoff and Final will be played over eighteen (18) ends.

10.10 Daily Schedule

Morning Tea will be available from 8.30am each day.

Call of cards each day of play will be at 9:15am, followed by trial end and start of play.

A minimum of 30 minutes will be taken for lunch, with all afternoons matches scheduled to commence no later than 1.00pm.

10.11 Prizes

All daily prizes, section winners, playoffs and winners & runner up prizes will be determined upon number of entries and will be declared at time of release of draws.

10.12 Variations to Conditions of Play

The Controlling Body shall have the authority to vary Conditions of Play to bring the Championship to a successful conclusion. The Controlling Body shall advise the Side Managers of the participating sides.

The decision of the Controlling Body shall be final.

11. Platinum Pennant

11.1 Administration

NSW Platinum Pennant Competitions shall be conducted under the control of the State Match Committee, in line with these Conditions of Play.

11.2 Match Format

A side shall comprise three (3) teams of four (4) players. A total of twelve (12) players per side.

Each match shall consist of sixty-three ends in total (21 ends per rink).

Competition shall be played in line with the Bowls NSW Open State Pennant Conditions of Play (refer Section 12), except as provided for in this section.

11.3 Entries

Season III Platinum Pennant clubs will be given first preference to nominate a side in Platinum Pennant Season IV.

Expressions of Interest will also be considered from other NSW member Clubs.

Should there be more than 12 clubs seeking entry into Season IV, clubs that placed 11th and 12th in the previous season may be relegated (refer clause 11.13).

11.3.1 Entry Fee

As determined by the Board of Bowls NSW.

Once Bowls NSW has released the competition draw, any club withdrawing its Platinum Pennant side will forfeit its entry fee.

11.3.2 Club Requirements

Clubs entering Platinum Pennant are required to have at least one green with lighting adequate to play evening and/or night matches or have access to a green with lighting for its home matches.

The competition draw will outline the starting time and date of each match.

These dates and times can be rescheduled by clubs, with mutual agreement of both participating clubs by submitting the Match Start Variation Application to Bowls NSW.

Note: Application for rescheduling of matches must be submitted to Bowls NSW by the nominated date and approved by Bowls NSW, who will amend the competition draw following its approval.

11.4 Composite Sides

Clubs may combine to enter composite side.

Clubs wishing to enter a composite side shall forward a written application, which shall be endorsed by the Region and sent to State Match Committee with the Region Pennant submission for approval.

A composite side is required to have players from more than one club participating in each match.

Such application shall detail:

(i) Names of the clubs forming the composite side.

(ii) The playing uniform to be worn by the composite side. This may be the individual club uniform of each player, or a neutral uniform.

(iii) Which club shall host allocated home matches, or the number of home matches to be hosted by each club.

(iv) Which club is responsible for payment of entry fees and any issued fines, receiving any winning flags, entering match information in Bowlslink, and keeping of player participation records.

11.5 Player Eligibility

11.5.1 Squad Nomination

Clubs must nominate a squad of at least twelve players by the date provided by Bowls NSW.

A minimum of ten of whom must be affiliated members who:

(i) have that Club as their Primary/Declared Club, and

(ii) are eligible to play in Bowls NSW State Championship events, and

(iii) whose most recent Championship or State-administered event (or equivalent) participation was a Club Major Championship; or Region Championship event; as a member of the nominating Club.

Note: Any player who has not played their most recent Championship or State-administered event (or equivalent) event for their nominated Platinum club by the Squad Nomination date will be treated as a Marquee player.

Note: All players in this category are required to have the club as their Primary/Declared Club from the squad submission date until at least 1 September 2027.

Players nominated in the squad are ineligible to play Bowls NSW Open State Pennants Grades 1-7 prior to the commencement of Platinum Pennant.

11.5.2 Transferring During the Season

Players who have transferred their Primary/Declared Club within the current season but have played their most recent Region Championship or Bowls NSW State event with another Club shall be regarded as a Marquee player.

Clubs can apply to the Bowls NSW State Match Committee for any variation to this clause.

11.5.3 Marquee Players

A maximum of two (2) Marquee players may play in any match.

Club Squads may include more than two (2) Marquee players in their squad, however the maximum of two per match shall still apply.

The Marquee players may be either:

(i) Players who have a Primary/Declared Club outside of New South Wales

A State and Territory Pennant Declaration must be approved by the player's nominated State (as per the Bowls Australia Affiliation and Eligibility to Play Policy), and must be received by Bowls NSW prior to the player participating in Platinum Pennant.

All players are required to be registered (in Bowlslink) with the Club they are participating for in Platinum Pennant.

(ii) Players who have a Primary/Declared Club within New South Wales

Players who have a Primary/Declared club within NSW must have written approval from their Primary/Declared Club which is submitted to Bowls NSW prior to the player participating in Platinum Pennant.

Note: Players in this category MAY be from a Club that has a side entered in Platinum Pennant, however these player(s) will be ineligible to compete in any match in the Bowls NSW Open Pennant Grades 1-7.

Although ineligible to play Open Pennant Grade 1-7, these players remain eligible to play Club and Region Championships for their own NSW Primary/Declared club and to represent their Region in representative fixtures.

11.6 Penalties for fielding an ineligible player

Using an ineligible player will result in that side forfeiting the match to their opponents.

(i) The infringing side shall be awarded zero points and be credited with a margin of -15 shots, or the margin by which they lost, whichever is the greater.

(ii) The non-infringing side shall be awarded ten (10) points and credited with a margin of +15 shots, or the margin by which they won, whichever is the greater.

(iii) If scores need to be recalculated to achieve the margin(s) described above:

- the infringing side shall retain the number of shots they scored in the match, and
- the non-infringing side shall have as many additional shots added to their score as is necessary to create a 15-shot margin over their opponent.

NOTE: It is the sole responsibility of the Club to select players that meet all eligibility requirements for each Pennant match.

11.7 Forfeits

11.7.1 Forfeit During Sectional Play

(i) Any forfeit must be from the Club's lowest Division scheduled to play on that day/round.

(ii) The side receiving a forfeit shall be awarded ten (10) points and be credited with a margin of +15 shots.

(iii) The side forfeiting shall be awarded zero points and be credited with a margin of -15 shots.

(iv) A side forfeiting shall notify the:

- Region Association
- Opposition Club(s)
- Host Venue

at least 24 hours prior to the scheduled start time of any match.

Penalty

(1) The Club of a Pennant side that forfeits a match, with notification to all three parties as listed above, shall be penalised with a $400 fine, payable to the direct Controlling Body (Region Association or Bowls NSW), to be distributed to the scheduled host venue.

(2) The Club of a Pennant side that forfeits a match, without notification to all three parties as listed above, and by the required time as listed above, shall be penalised with a $1,000 fine, payable to the direct Controlling Body (Region Association or Bowls NSW), to be distributed to the scheduled host venue.

11.7.2 Forfeit of a Match in Progress

If a side forfeits a match in progress, the Controlling Body shall award ten (10) points to the side receiving the forfeit and shall adjust the scores of the match.

The side receiving the forfeit shall be credited with the higher of:

(i) its score at the time of the forfeit, increased in proportion to account for the number of ends remaining, or

(ii) its score at the time of forfeit plus an additional five shots per team in the side, i.e., fifteen (15) total shots).

The forfeiting side shall be awarded zero points and a similar negative margin.

Penalty

The Club of a Pennant side that forfeits a match in progress shall be penalised with a $400 fine, payable to the direct Controlling Body (Region Association or Bowls NSW), to be distributed to the scheduled host venue.

11.8 Qualifying Play

Each side will be drawn to play all other sides in the competition once during the regular season.

The top five sides on the competition ladder at the conclusion of the regular season will qualify for the finals series.

11.9 Finals

11.9.1 Elimination Final

4th Place vs 5th Place

11.9.2 Qualifying Final

2nd Place vs 3rd Place

11.9.3 Major Semi-Final

1st Place vs Winner of Qualifying Final

11.9.4 Minor Semi-Final

Loser of Qualifying Final vs Winner of Elimination Final

11.9.5 Preliminary Final

Loser of Major Semi-Final vs Winner of Minor Semi-Final

11.9.6 Grand Final

Winner of Major Semi-Final vs Winner of Preliminary Final

11.10 Player Eligibility

11.10.1 Eligibility During Season

All players may only compete for a maximum of one (1) Club side during each season of Platinum Pennant.

11.10.2 Restriction During Season

(i) Once a player has played six (6) sectional matches in the Platinum Pennant season, they become ineligible to play in Open Pennant Grades 1-7 for the remainder of the season, including any Grades 1-7 Region or State finals post-sectional matches.

(ii) Participation in Platinum Pennant from outside the nominated squad

Clubs are permitted to use players from outside the nominated squad to participate in Platinum Pennant. The restrictions listed in clause 11.10.2 will also apply to these players.

11.10.3 Participation in Platinum Pennant and Open Pennant Grades 1-7 on the same day/round

A player is eligible to participate in more than one match in any Round (Platinum to Grade 7), including if the matches are scheduled on the same day, provided that they play in the lower grade match first, and are graded equal to or lower than the second match to be played in the same round.

11.10.4 State Finals Eligibility

Any player participating in Platinum Pennant finals must have played a minimum of four (4) matches for that Club, in either Platinum Pennant, Open Pennant Grades 1-7, or a combination of both.

Any player competing in more than one (1) match of Platinum Pennant Finals is ineligible to participate any further in the Open Pennant Grades 1-7 in that season (including Region and State Finals).

Additionally, any player who participates in the Platinum Pennant grand final is ineligible to participate any further in the Open Pennant Grades 1-7 in that season (including Region and State Finals).

11.11 Nomination of Sides

Playing positions and rink nominations for each Round must be submitted by each Club to Bowls NSW on the prescribed form prior to the nominated date and time.

Any changes required following the submission of the side for a Round must be advised in writing to Bowls NSW prior to the scheduled starting date and time for that match.

11.12 Washouts and Re-Scheduled matches

11.12.1 Sectional Rounds

Should matches be unable to be commenced or completed each side will be awarded five points each, and zero shots margin.

11.12.2 Re-Scheduling

All sectional round matches must be completed prior to the conclusion of Round 11 (April 11, 2027).

Both Clubs must agree to the change of date, time, or venue for the re-scheduled match, and submit this information in writing to Bowls NSW a minimum of twelve (12) hours prior to newly arranged match starting time.

11.13 Promotion/Relegation of Sides for Future Seasons

Platinum Pennant is limited to a maximum of twelve (12) participating clubs.

Should there be more than twelve (12) clubs seeking entry to Platinum Pennant Season IV from among previous participating clubs, as well as other clubs on submission of an Expression of Interest, the two (2) lowest-placed sides from the previous season may be relegated to Open Pennant Grade 1.

If ten (10) or more previous-season Platinum Pennant clubs seek entry into the following season and suitable Expressions of Interest for elevation to Platinum Pennant are received from other clubs, Bowls NSW will approve a maximum of two (2) new clubs to participate and the clubs finishing in 12th and/or 11th position on the previous season ladder will be regressed to Open Pennant Grade 1 for the following season.

If there are fewer previous Platinum Pennant clubs seeking re-entry for Season 4, or if Bowls NSW determines there are fewer than two (2) suitable Expressions of Interest for elevation to Platinum Pennant, then no sides will be relegated from the competition.

11.14 Pre-Match Practice

11.14.1 Home Side

The Home Side is permitted to practice between 90 minutes and 60 minutes of the match starting time.

11.14.2 Away Side

The Away Side is permitted to practice between 60 minutes and 30 minutes of the match starting time.

Either side is permitted to practice prior to these times, following permission from the Host venue.

11.15 Player Movement

11.15.1 Rink Changes

Player positions within a rink may be changed once during the match, with notification to the opposing team before the commencement of the next end.

This can be either:

- a direct swap of two players positions, or
- a change of positions of more than two players within the rink.

12. Open Pennant

12.1 Administration

NSW Open Pennant Competitions shall be conducted under the control of the State Match Committee.

The State Match Committee delegates to Region Match Committees to administer the competitions within their Regions, in line with these Conditions of Play.

12.2 Region Competitions - Endorsement of State Match Committee

All Regions are required to submit a proposal to the State Match Committee outlining the structure and format of the Open Pennant Competition to be played within the Region during the season.

Region Match Committees must send their Open Pennant submission to the State Match Committee for approval a minimum of eight (8) weeks prior to the commencement of the competition.

All Region Pennant Submissions must be on the Bowls NSW prescribed documents and in the prescribed format.

Any submissions not received in the correct format will be returned for resubmission.

Only approved submissions will be allowed to participate in the competition.

Any amendments to the submission (including any draws, or the addition or deletion of sides) after approval by the State Match Committee must be submitted to State Match Committee for consideration.

12.3 Geographic Draws

Geographic draws may be used in Open Pennant at Region level.

12.4 Multi-Grade Competitions.

There should be a minimum of four sides in each competition.

Where there are small numbers of sides entered in Grades, Multi-Grade competitions (involving sides from more than one Grade) shall be formed.

In a Multi-Grade competition, there must be at least two sides competing in the lowest Grade in that competition.

12.4.1 Qualification for Post-Sectional Play (Multi-Grade)

(i) Where there are two or more sides from a Grade, the highest-placed of those sides shall qualify for post-sectional play in that Grade, irrespective of that side's finishing position on the ladder.

(ii) Where there is only one side from a Grade, that side must finish above all sides from any lower Grade to qualify for post-sectional play.

12.5 Multi-Region Competitions

Regions with a small number of entries in a Grade are encouraged (as practical) to combine that Grade with a neighbouring Region(s) to play a Multi-Region competition.

The State Match Committee may combine Regions to form competitions in a Grade.

Qualification for State Finals from any such competition will be determined by consultation between the participating Regions and the State Match Committee.

12.6 Clubs with two or more sides in a Grade

(i) Where a Club has two or more sides entered in any Grade they shall be identified as No.1, No.2, No.3 or A, B, C, or Red, Green, Blue, etc.

(ii) The sides are considered equal within that Grade and players can play in any of the sides during all sectional and post-sectional matches (if graded appropriately).

(iii) Clubs with two (2) or more sides in a Grade must be drawn in separate sections if there are multiple sections within that Grade. If there is only one (1) section, or if geographic draws are used, those sides must be drawn to play each other in round one and any corresponding round. This also applies to Clubs that are part of a composite entry.

(iv) Where a Club has more than one side in the Region or State playoff in the same Grade they shall play each other in the first post-sectional match, irrespective of whether it is sectional play or knockout.

12.7 Composite Sides

Clubs may combine to enter composite sides into a Grade.

Clubs wishing to enter a composite side shall forward a written application, which shall be endorsed by the Region and sent to State Match Committee with the Region Pennant submission for approval.

A composite side is required to have players from more than one club participating in each match.

Such application shall detail:

(i) Names of the clubs forming the composite side.

(ii) The playing uniform to be worn by the composite side. This may be the individual club uniform of each player, or a neutral uniform.

(iii) Which club shall host allocated home matches, or the number of home matches to be hosted by each club.

(iv) Which club is responsible for payment of entry fees and any issued fines, receiving any winning flags, entering match information in Bowlslink, and keeping of player participation records.

12.8 Match & Season Participation Records:

12.8.1 Bowlslink

Regions and Clubs are required to use Bowlslink to set up and administer competitions.

Please refer to Bowlslink training manuals & tutorials for assistance.

(i) Clubs must submit their sides in Bowlslink no later than the nominated day/time as notified by the Region Association.
This day/time may vary between Regions.

(ii) Prior to the commencement of each match all sides listed by the Clubs in Bowlslink must be correct (i.e., not missing an individual that is competing in the match, or the incorrect indication of use of a substitute player.
Failure to adhere to this clause will result in a penalty to that side as listed in section 12.11 of this document.

(iii) Region Associations can set the nominated day/time for the Bowlslink Rink Shuffle to occur.
This day/time may vary between Regions.

(iv) Clubs must confirm and finalise their results from each match in Bowlslink no later than six (6) hours after each match.

(v) Clubs are encouraged to maintain their own participation sheet to assist them with player grading records.

12.9 Side Officials

All side officials are regarded as members of the side and must be attired in a manner that identifies them as member of that club/side.

All side officials should be nominated to the Controlling Body at each venue.

12.9.1 Side Managers

A club shall appoint a side manager (male or female) who is member of the Club and is responsible for drawing of cards & rinks (if not completed by the Region Association or Bowls

NSW using the Rink Shuffle option), the toss of coin for the mat on the first end as well as any extra ends, bowls discs and score board magnets.

12.9.2 Coaches

The coach of a player, team or side can give advice to the player(s) during play provided that:

(i) The coach is currently accredited as a Bowls Australia Community Coach or Bowls Australia Performance Coach, and their current accreditation is recorded in Bowlslink.

(ii) The Controlling Body is given the name of the coach before the game starts. (The Controlling Body shall advise the umpire(s) of the nominated coach.)

(iii) Only one person is present at the rink to give advice at any one time.

(iv) The person giving advice does so when their player or team is in possession of the rink; and

(v) The person giving the advice does so from outside the boundaries of the green.

If, in the umpire's opinion, this clause has been broken the umpire must ask the coach concerned to stay within the clause.
If they do not stay within the clause, the umpire must ask the Controlling Body to take immediate action to make sure that the offender stops breaking the clause.
A coach of any Junior bowler must have a valid Working with Children Check certification recorded on Bowlslink.

12.10 Eligibility

To enter and play Open Pennant with a Club, a player shall:

(i) Be registered with Bowls NSW as a Bowling Member of that Club.

(ii) Have that club registered as their Declared (Primary) Club on Bowlslink, with a membership category that permits Competition playing rights.

(iii) Be registered, and listed on Bowlslink, with their respective Region Association.

(iv) Be cleared to play at that club (if required).

(v) Satisfy all other eligibility and grading requirements for that event.

12.11 Penalties for fielding an ineligible player

Using an ineligible player will result in that side forfeiting the match to their opponents.

(i) The infringing side shall be awarded zero points and be credited with a margin of -15 shots, or the margin by which they lost, whichever is the greater.

(ii) The non-infringing side shall be awarded ten (10) points and credited with a margin of +15 shots, or the margin by which they won, whichever is the greater.

(iii) If scores need to be recalculated to achieve the margin(s) described above:

- the infringing side shall retain the number of shots they scored in the match, and
- the non-infringing side shall have as many additional shots added to their score as is necessary to create a 15-shot margin over their opponent.

NOTE: It is the sole responsibility of the Club to select players that meet all eligibility requirements for each Pennant match.

12.12 Forfeits

12.12.1 Forfeit During Sectional Play

(i) Any forfeit must be from the Club's lowest Division scheduled to play on that day/round.

(ii) The side receiving a forfeit shall be awarded ten (10) points and be credited with a margin of +15 shots.

(iii) The side forfeiting shall be awarded zero points and be credited with a margin of -15 shots.

(iv) A side forfeiting shall notify the:

- Region Association
- Opposition Club(s)
- Host Venue

at least 24 hours prior to the scheduled start time of any match.

Penalty

(1) The Club of a Pennant side that forfeits a match, with notification to all three parties as listed above, shall be penalised with a $400 fine, payable to the direct Controlling Body (Region Association or Bowls NSW), to be distributed to the scheduled host venue.

(2) The Club of a Pennant side that forfeits a match, without notification to all three parties as listed above, and by the required time as listed above, shall be penalised with a $1,000 fine, payable to the direct Controlling Body (Region Association or Bowls NSW), to be distributed to the scheduled host venue.

12.12.2 Forfeit of a Match in Progress

If a side forfeits a match in progress, the Controlling Body shall award ten (10) points to the side receiving the forfeit and shall adjust the scores of the match.

The side receiving the forfeit shall be credited with the higher of:

(i) its score at the time of the forfeit, increased in proportion to account for the number of ends remaining, or

(ii) its score at the time of forfeit plus an additional five shots per team in the side, i.e., fifteen (15) total shots).

The forfeiting side shall be awarded zero points and a similar negative margin.

Penalty

The Club of a Pennant side that forfeits a match in progress shall be penalised with a $400 fine, payable to the direct Controlling Body (Region Association or Bowls NSW), to be distributed to the scheduled host venue.

12.13 Play Not Commenced

(i) The home club must advise the Region Association of any play not commenced and the reason.

(ii) Matches not commenced shall be played at a later date set down by the Region Association in its season calendar, as all matches may have a bearing on the Open Pennant Grades allocated to clubs in the following Bowling Season.

The Region shall notify all participating clubs of the allocated date as soon as possible.

12.14 Games unplayed

(i) For any Open Pennant match to remain unplayed, the Region Association must seek permission from the State Match Committee by submitting the prescribed form.

Any such match may count towards a player's grading and eligibility for post-sectional play, upon written application to the State Match Committee for approval.

(ii) Byes do not count as a match played.

NOTE: Clubs not playing all scheduled matches may not be considered for regression in Open Pennant the following season should they apply.

12.15 Play Not Completed

If a match is stopped due to inclement weather, the Controlling Body can allow a period of up to 60 minutes to determine whether play can be re-commenced.

If a match is stopped and unable to be resumed the match shall be either:

(i) deemed to be complete if, on that day:

- Fifty-four (54) or more ends have been completed, and both Clubs agree for the match not to resume on a new day.

OR

(ii) resumed at a later date if fifty-four (54) ends have not been completed, or if fifty-four (54) ends have been completed and both Clubs, as well as the Controlling Body, do not agree that the match will cease at that point.

(iii) If a match is not completed and cannot be resumed the same day, any score cards used must be signed by both teams noting the time of stoppage and handed to the controlling body.
Upon any resumption of play on a later date, teams are allowed two (2) trial ends each, with the match resuming from the end last played.

(iv) The Host Venue must notify the Region of any match not able to be completed on the day of play, together with the reason for the stoppage.

(v) Matches not completed shall be completed at a later date set down by the Region Association in its season calendar, as all matches may have a bearing on the Open Pennant Grades allocated to clubs in the following bowling season.
The Region shall notify all participating clubs of the allocated date as soon as possible.

12.16 Players in a resumed match

The players listed on Bowlslink as being in the side for the date on which the match was originally scheduled to be played shall remain eligible to play.

Where the side needs to make one player change on any rink, the incoming player will be a substitute.

Where a side is making two player changes on any rink, one substitute and one replacement player may be used.

Matches shall be counted as “matches played” for grading and eligibility for post-section purposes for all players except substitutes.

12.17 Competition Grades

12.17.1 Number of Grades

(i) The Bowls NSW Open State Pennant competition comprises Platinum Pennant and seven (7) grades.

(ii) Platinum is a higher grade than Grade 1 Pennant and is covered under a separate Conditions of Play. (Refer Section 11)

(iii) Grade 1 is the next 'highest' grade of pennant, through to grade 7 the 'lowest'.
All definitions in these Conditions of Play of higher and lower grades refer to this convention.

12.17.2 Sides

Each pennant side shall comprise three (3) teams of four (4) players. A total of twelve (12) players per side.

12.17.3 Entries

(i) For 2027 Open Pennant, clubs shall be allocated to grades based on the performance of their sides in the 2025/26 Bowls NSW Open State Pennant competition.

(ii) Clubs may enter additional sides based on the number of eligible players available.

(iii) Clubs may apply for the preferred grades for those additional sides; however, allocation to a grade will be determined by the Region within their pennant submission, based on creating equitable competitions throughout all grades, for final approval by State Match Committee.

12.17.4 Elevation of Sides

(i) All 2025/26 Region and State Winners of Open Pennant Grades 2 to 7 shall be elevated to the next highest grade, irrespective of whether that Club has a side already entered in that higher grade.

(ii) Clubs winning sections within a grade in a Region's Open Pennant competitions may also be elevated, irrespective of whether that Club has a side already entered in that higher grade.

12.17.5 Regression of Sides

(i) Clubs finishing last in grades 1 to 6 in the 2025/26 season within a Region may be regressed, irrespective of whether that Club has a side already entered in that lower grade.

(ii) Clubs finishing last in a section of grades 1 to 6 in the 2025/26 season may also be regressed, irrespective of whether that Club has a side already entered in that lower grade.

NOTE: Finishing last in a Grade or section of Open Pennant in the 2025/26 season does not guarantee that the Club will be regressed to the next lowest grade in the 2027 season.

12.17.6 Request for Elevation, Regression or Withdrawal

A club may submit a written request for sides to be elevated from a grade, regressed from a grade, retained in a grade, or withdrawn from a grade in variation of the allocation they have been given.

Any such application shall be based on an increase or decrease of the number of players eligible for those grades (Bowlslink transfers), or by providing a list of unavailable players.

Where a club's application to regress or withdraw a side is based on players being unavailable for Open Pennant in the 2027 season, the application must include a list of unavailable players and their individual previous season grading.

In assessing the application, the State Match Committee may restrict any or all of the nominated players from participating in any Open Pennant match during the season.

12.18 Entry Fees

Regions may apply any reasonable entry fee on a per side basis.

Bowls NSW may charge a State Finals entry fee, at the discretion of the Bowls NSW Board.

12.19 Side Withdrawal

If, after the State Match Committee has approved a Region Submission for a Pennant competition, a Club withdraws a side, the side to be withdrawn shall be the lowest Grade entered by that Club unless otherwise approved by the State Match Committee.

The Region may submit to the State Match Committee that a side other than the lowest be withdrawn if that is in the best interests in providing balanced, fair, and equitable competition in any affected Grades.

Following the listed final nomination date of sides, any side withdrawn by a Club will be issued a fine of $400 payable to the Region Association.

12.20 Competition Format

Regions must detail the number of sectional rounds of each grade's competition and the format of any post sectional play within their Region Pennant Submission.

12.20.1 Duration of Matches

Each match shall consist of sixty-three ends in total (21 ends per rink) in fours format.

12.20.2 Playing Days

(i) Regions must not start their 2027 Bowls NSW Open State pennant competition prior to 1 February 2027 unless approved by State Match Committee.

(ii) Region competitions must be completed no later than 31 May 2027.

(iii) Regions must list dates of play, including all dates provisionally set aside to be used for any deferred games, on the entry form.

(iv) Regions must schedule all rounds of play on weekend dates.

(v) Dates and/or start times can be re-scheduled with mutual agreement between both participating clubs, by submitting a Match Start Variation Application to the Region Match Committee.

12.21 Method of Scoring.

12.21.1 Allocation of Points

All NSW Open State pennant sectional and/or round robin matches will be:

Side Win:	7 points	(the side scoring the greatest aggregate of shots)
Side Tie (Draw):	3.5 points	(both sides scoring the same shots aggregate)
Side Loss:	0 points	(the side scoring the least aggregate of shots)
Team Win:	1 point	(one point for each team that wins – i.e. rink win)
Team Tie (Draw):	0.5 points	(0.5 points for each team that has a drawn rink)
Team Loss:	0 points	
Points per match:	**10 points**	

12.21.2 Byes

Where a bye occurs, there will be no points allocated.

12.22 Player Eligibility

Any player who does not have an "N" grading (refer clause 12.22.2) is eligible to play in sectional matches during the season in any grade, regardless of their previous season grading, except as provided within this clause.

A player is eligible to participate in more than one match in any round (Platinum to grade 7), including if the matches are scheduled on the same day, provided that they play in the lower grade match first, and are graded equal to or lower than the second match to be played in the same round.

Any player who plays the required number of Platinum Pennant matches to be graded in the previous season, will hold an N1 grading for the 2027 season.

12.22.1 Players changing declared club

A maximum of three (3) players who change their declared club after the State Match Committee has allocated grades to their new declared club for the 2027 season will be eligible to play more than two grades below their previous season grading in their new club's next highest grade.

EXAMPLE: A player graded Grade 2 on Bowlslink transfers to a new club after 2027 grades have been allocated. If the new club's highest side is Grade 5, that player may play in Grade 5 under this provision. A maximum of three such players may be used by the club.

Any player transferring from a Club outside of New South Wales after the State Match Committee has allocated grades to their new Declared Club for the 2027 season will not have a further Interstate Clearance issued until after 30 June 2027.

12.22.2 Previous Season Winners - 'N' graded players

Any player graded in a side winning a State Pennant in grades 2-7 in 2025/26 shall be graded as 'N_' one grade higher than the grade they won. State winners of grade 1 shall be recorded as N1.

Any player graded in a side winning a Region pennant in 2025/26 shall be graded as "N_" in that Grade.

Players with a "N_" grading are not eligible to play in any grade lower than that grading, unless provided in the clauses below:

(i) A club may select a maximum of three (3) "N_" graded players to play in their club's next-lowest grade during the entire 2027 season, without submitting a player regrade application. This applies to each of the club's Region or State winning sides from the 2025/26 season.

(ii) In exceptional circumstances, Bowls NSW may grant applications for a higher number of N-variations of eligibility. Such applications must be made using the Application for Player Regrade form, which must be sent to the Region for endorsement prior to being sent to State Match Committee for approval.

(iii) Any player granted a regrade will have an 'R_' reference ID certification added in Bowlslink for the 2027 season.

(iv) Applications for variation of N-graded players' eligibility may not be granted for clubs with an excess of players graded higher than the regrade being sought and could result in the club being elevated to an appropriate grade.

12.22.3 Eligibility for Post Sectional

(i) All players competing in post-sectional matches must either:
* have been a Primary/Declared member of that Club as at 1 January 2027; or
* have played at least one match for that Club during the sectional rounds in any grade.

(ii) When a side qualifies for post sectional rounds (at Region or State level), any player whose current Open Pennant grading is in that grade or lower will be eligible for post-sectional play.

(iii) A player with a higher current Open Pennant grading will only be eligible to play in a post-sectional match if they played at least 50% of this season's matches in that grade, or a lower grade, or are participating in their Club.

NOTE: In circumstances where a Side(s) has been regressed from the previous Bowling Season, a club can seek written approval from the State Match Committee for a variation to post-sectional eligibility.

12.22.4 Penalties for using an Ineligible Player

A side fielding an ineligible player shall forfeit the match to their opponents (refer clause 12.11).

12.23 Graded at end of Sectional Play

Players who play at least 50% of total available sectional matches (across all grades) will become graded at the end of the sectional rounds according to the grade in which they played the most matches. The calculation of the 50% threshold is taken from the grade the player participated in that has the most sectional matches.

EXAMPLE: A player participates in a grade with 10 available sectional matches. To receive a grading, they must play at least 5 matches across all grades. If they play 3 matches in Grade 3 and 2 matches in Grade 4, they will be graded Grade 3, as this is the grade in which they played the most matches.

If a player has played an equal number of matches in multiple grades, they will be graded in the highest of those grades.

EXAMPLE: A player plays 3 matches in Grade 3 and 3 matches in Grade 4. As they have played an equal number of matches in both grades, the player will be graded Grade 3, being the higher of the two grades.

Any player who does not play at least 50% of matches during the current season will retain their previous season grading.

EXAMPLE: A player has a previous season grading of Grade 3. Their Club has 10 sectional matches available during the current season in which the player could be selected. If the player participates in only 4 of those 10 matches, they have played less than the required 50% (5 matches) and will therefore retain their previous Grade 3 grading for the following season.

Byes do not count towards a player's grading.

12.23.1 When a Club has Grades with varying number of matches in those Grades

An individual player is graded at the conclusion of sectional play for each grade, if they have played at least 50% of sectional matches scheduled for that Grade. Once graded during the season the player cannot play in a lower grade for the remainder of the season.

EXAMPLE: A Club has 6 sectional matches scheduled in Grade 3 and 10 sectional matches scheduled in Grade 4. A player who participates in 3 of the 6 Grade 3 matches has played at least 50% of the sectional matches scheduled for Grade 3 and will therefore become graded Grade 3. Once graded Grade 3, the player is not eligible to play in Grade 4 or any lower grade for the remainder of the season.

12.24 Recording Player's Gradings.

Each player's previous season grade shall be recorded on Bowlslink as a certification.

The certification states the grade in which the player was graded at the conclusion of their previous Open Pennant season.

In addition, any previous season winner (N_ grading) or player with a regrade restriction (R_ grading) will have a reference ID recorded in Bowlslink to show their "N_" or "R_" grade status.

Bowls NSW updates gradings and certifications on Bowlslink at the end of each pennant season (i.e., following the completion of the State finals).

12.25 State Finals

The Bowls NSW State Open Pennant Finals are scheduled to be played 31 July - 2 August 2027.

12.25.1 State Pennant Qualifiers

Region winners shall qualify for State Finals in Grades 1-7.

Should a Region not have a winner in any Grade, the State Match Committee will offer additional places (to ensure sixteen sides competing) to Regions in preference order based on the percentage of sides in that grade per number of clubs in that Region.

EXAMPLE: If a Grade requires 16 sides at the State Finals, but only 15 Regions have a winner, one additional position will be available. If Region A has 8 sides in that Grade across its 20 clubs (40%), and Region B has 9 sides across its 30 clubs (30%), the additional position would first be offered to Region A, as it has the higher percentage of sides relative to its number of clubs. If required, this same process will be continued until all 16 places are filled.

12.25.2 State Finals Draw

(i) State Finals will be sectional play followed by knockout finals.

(ii) Clubs will be required to enter their teams into Bowlslink by Tuesday 22 June.
Bowls NSW will then utilise the Team Shuffle function to determine the team opponents for each round.

(iii) If two sides are drawn to play each other in the knockout stages of the State Finals and those two sides have already played each other in sectional play, the Controlling Body will alter the rink draw to ensure the same teams do not play each other.

12.25.3 Post Sectional Play

(i) The top two sides in each section shall play Quarter Finals.

(ii) The winners of quarter finals shall play semi-finals.

(iii) The winners of semi-finals shall play the final.

(iv) If scores are tied at the completion of the scheduled number of ends in a knockout sides match, all teams in that side shall play an extra end to determine the result.
If scores are tied at the completion of those extra ends, all teams shall play further extra ends to determine a winner.

12.25.4 State Awards

(i) Winners and runners up pennant flags will be awarded to clubs.

(ii) Winners and runners up medallions will be awarded to players participating in the final.
An additional four (4) medallions (for each of the winners & runners up) will be available for presentation to the Side Manager, Coach, and reserves players.

12.25.5 Bowls NSW Open State Pennant Flags

Grade 1:	Union Jack Blue with White letters
Grade 2:	Red with White letters
Grade 3:	White with Royal Blue letters
Grade 4:	Green with White letters
Grade 5:	Gold with Green letters
Grade 6:	Airforce Blue (Sky Blue) with White letters
Grade 7:	Brown with White letters

13. Women's Pennant

13.1 Administration

NSW Women's Pennant Competitions shall be conducted under the control of the State Match Committee.

The State Match Committee delegates to Region Match Committees to administer the competitions within their Regions, in line with these Conditions of Play.

13.2 Region Competitions - Endorsement of State Match Committee

All Regions are required to submit a proposal to the State Match Committee outlining the structure and format of the Women's Pennant Competition to be played within the Region during the season.

Region Match Committees must send their Women's Pennant submission to the State Match Committee for approval a minimum of eight (8) weeks prior to the commencement of the competition.

All Region Pennant Submissions must be on the Bowls NSW prescribed documents and in the prescribed format.

Any submissions not received in the correct format will be returned for resubmission.

Only approved submissions will be allowed to participate in the competition.

Any amendments to the submission (including any draws, or the addition or deletion of sides) after approval by the State Match Committee must be submitted to State Match Committee for consideration.

13.3 Geographic Draws

Geographic draws may be used in Women's Pennant at Region level.

13.4 Multi-Division Competitions.

There should be a minimum of four sides in each competition.

Where there are small numbers of sides entered in Divisions, Multi-Division competitions (involving sides from more than one Division) shall be formed.

In a Multi-Division competition, there must be at least two sides competing in the lowest Division in that competition.

13.4.1 Qualification for Post-Sectional Play (Multi-Division)

(i) Where there are two or more sides from a Division, the highest-placed of those sides shall qualify for post-sectional play in that Division, irrespective of that side's finishing position on the ladder.

(ii) Where there is only one side from a Division, that side must finish above all sides from any lower Division to qualify for post-sectional play.

13.5 Multi-Region Competitions

Regions with a small number of entries in a Division are encouraged (as practical) to combine that Division with a neighbouring Region(s) to play a Multi-Region competition.

The State Match Committee may combine Regions to form competitions in a Division.

Qualification for State Finals from any such competition will be determined by consultation between the participating Regions and the State Match Committee.

13.6 Clubs with two or more sides in a Division

(i) Where a Club has two or more sides entered in any Division they shall be identified as No.1, No.2, No.3 or A, B, C, or Red, Green, Blue, etc.

(ii) The sides are considered equal within that Division and players can play in any of the sides during all sectional and post-sectional matches (if graded appropriately).

(iii) Clubs with two (2) or more sides in a Division must be drawn in separate sections if there are multiple sections within that Division. If there is only one (1) section, or if geographic draws are used, those sides must be drawn to play each other in round one and any corresponding round. This also applies to Clubs that are part of a composite entry.

(iv) Where a Club has more than one side in the Region or State playoff in the same Division they shall play each other in the first post-sectional match, irrespective of whether it is sectional play or knockout.

13.7 Composite Sides

Clubs may combine to enter composite sides into a Division.

Clubs wishing to enter a composite side shall forward a written application, which shall be endorsed by the Region and sent to State Match Committee with the Region Pennant submission for approval.

A composite side is required to have players from more than one club participating in each match.

Such application shall detail:

(i) Names of the clubs forming the composite side.

(ii) The playing uniform to be worn by the composite side. This may be the individual club uniform of each player, or a neutral uniform.

(iii) Which club shall host allocated home matches, or the number of home matches to be hosted by each club.

(iv) Which club is responsible for payment of entry fees and any issued fines, receiving any winning flags, entering match information in Bowlslink, and keeping of player participation records.

13.8 Match & Season Participation Records:

13.8.1 Bowlslink

Regions and Clubs are required to use Bowlslink to set up and administer competitions.

Please refer to Bowlslink training manuals & tutorials for assistance.

(i) Clubs must submit their sides in Bowlslink no later than the nominated day/time as notified by the Region Association.
This day/time may vary between Regions.

(ii) Prior to the commencement of each match all sides listed by the Clubs in Bowlslink must be correct (i.e., not missing an individual that is competing in the match, or the incorrect indication of use of a substitute player.
Failure to adhere to this clause will result in a penalty to that side as listed in section 13.18 of this document.

(iii) Region Associations can set the nominated day/time for the Bowlslink Rink Shuffle to occur.
This day/time may vary between Regions.

(iv) Clubs must confirm and finalise their results from each match in Bowlslink no later than six (6) hours after each match.

(v) Clubs are encouraged to maintain their own participation sheet to assist them with player grading records.

13.9 Side Officials

All side officials are regarded as members of the side and must be attired in a manner that identifies them as member of that club/side.

All side officials should be nominated to the Controlling Body at each venue.

13.9.1 Side Managers

A club shall appoint a side manager (male or female) who is member of the Club and is responsible for drawing of cards & rinks (if not completed by the Region Association or Bowls

NSW using the Rink Shuffle option), the toss of coin for the mat on the first end as well as any extra ends, bowls discs and score board magnets.

13.9.2 Coaches

The coach of a player, team or side can give advice to the player(s) during play provided that:

(i) The coach is currently accredited as a Bowls Australia Community Coach or Bowls Australia Performance Coach, and their current accreditation is recorded in Bowlslink.

(ii) The Controlling Body is given the name of the coach before the game starts. (The Controlling Body shall advise the umpire(s) of the nominated coach.)

(iii) Only one person is present at the rink to give advice at any one time.

(iv) The person giving advice does so when their player or team is in possession of the rink; and

(v) The person giving the advice does so from outside the boundaries of the green.

If, in the umpire's opinion, this clause has been broken the umpire must ask the coach concerned to stay within the clause.
If they do not stay within the clause, the umpire must ask the Controlling Body to take immediate action to make sure that the offender stops breaking the clause.

A coach of any Junior bowler must have a valid Working with Children Check certification recorded on Bowlslink.

13.10 Eligibility

To enter and play Women's Pennant with a Club, a player shall:

(i) Be a female.

(ii) Be registered with Bowls NSW as a Bowling Member of that Club.

(iii) Have that club registered as their Declared (Primary) Club on Bowlslink, with a membership category that permits Competition playing rights.

(iv) Be registered, and listed on Bowlslink, with their respective Region Association.

(v) Be cleared to play at that club (if required).

(vi) Satisfy all other eligibility and grading requirements for that event.

13.11 Competition Divisions

13.11.1 Number of Divisions:

The NSW Women's pennant competition comprises four (4) divisions.

13.11.2 Sides

Each pennant side shall comprise two (2) teams of four (4) players. A total of eight (8) players per side.

13.11.3 Entries

(i) For 2027 Women's Pennant, clubs shall be allocated to Divisions based on the performance of their sides in the 2025/26 Bowls NSW Women's Pennant competition.

(ii) Clubs may enter additional sides based on the number of eligible players available.

(iii) Clubs may apply for the preferred Divisions for those additional sides; however, allocation to a Division will be determined by the Region Match Committee within their pennant submission, based on creating equitable competitions throughout all divisions, for final approval by the State Match Committee.

13.11.4 Elevation of Sides

(i) All 2025/26 Region winners of Women's Pennant Divisions 2 to 4 shall be elevated to the next highest division, irrespective of whether that club has a side already entered in that higher division.

(ii) Clubs winning sections within a division in a Region women's pennant competition may also be elevated, irrespective of whether that club has a side already entered in that higher division.

13.11.5 Regression of Sides

(i) Clubs finishing last in Divisions 1 to 3 in the 2025/26 season within a Region may be regressed, irrespective of whether that club has a side already entered in that lower division.

(ii) Clubs finishing last in a section of Divisions 1 to 3 in the 2025/26 season within a Region may also be regressed, irrespective of whether that club has a side already entered in that lower division.

NOTE: Finishing last in a Division or section of Women's Pennant in the 2025/26 season does not guarantee that the Club will be regressed to the next lowest Division in the 2027 season.

13.11.6 Request for Elevation, Regression or Withdrawal

A club may submit a written request for sides to be elevated from a division, regressed from a division, retained in a division, or withdrawn from a division in variation of the allocation they have been given.

Any such application shall be based on an increase or decrease of the number of players eligible for those divisions (Bowlslink transfers), or by providing a list of unavailable players.

Where a club's application to regress or withdraw a side is based on players being unavailable for Women's Pennant in the 2027 season, the application must include a list of unavailable players and their previous individual season Women's Pennant grading.
In assessing the application, the State Match Committee may restrict any or all of the nominated players from participating in any Women's Pennant match during the season.

13.12 Entry Fees

Regions may apply any reasonable entry fee on a per side basis.

Bowls NSW may charge a State Finals entry fee, at the discretion of the Bowls NSW Board.

13.13 Side Withdrawal

If, after the State Match Committee has approved a Region Submission for a Pennant competition, a Club withdraws a side, the side to be withdrawn shall be the lowest Division entered by that Club unless otherwise approved by the State Match Committee.

The Region may submit to the State Match Committee that a side other than the lowest be withdrawn if that is in the best interests in providing balanced, fair, and equitable competition in any affected Divisions.

Following the listed final nomination date of sides, any side withdrawn by a Club will be issued a fine of $400 payable to the Region Association.

13.14 Competition Format

Regions must detail the number of sectional rounds of each Division competition and the format of any post sectional play format within their pennant submission.

13.14.1 Duration of Matches

Each match shall consist of forty-two ends in total (21 ends per rink) in fours format.

13.14.2 Playing Days

(i) Region competitions must be completed no later than 30 June 2027.

(ii) Regions must list dates of play, including all dates provisionally set aside to be used for any deferred games, on the entry form.

(iii) Regions shall nominate default day(s) and time(s) for all matches.

(iv) Days and/or start times can be re-scheduled with mutual agreement between both participating clubs, by submitting a Match Start Variation Application to the Region Match Committee.

13.15 Method of Scoring.

13.15.1 Allocation of Points

All NSW women's pennant sectional and/or round robin matches will be:

Side Win:	5 points	(the side scoring the greatest aggregate of shots)
Side Tie (Draw):	2.5 points	(both sides scoring the same shots aggregate)
Side Loss:	0 points	(the side scoring the least aggregate of shots)
Team Win:	1 point	(one point for each team that wins – i.e. rink win)
Team Tie (Draw):	0.5 points	(0.5 points for each team that has a drawn rink)
Team Loss:	0 points	
Points per match:	**7 points**	

13.15.2 Byes

Where a bye occurs, there will be no points allocated.

13.16 Grading at end of Sectional Play

Players who play at least 50% of total available sectional matches (across all Divisions) will become graded at the end of the sectional rounds according to the Division in which they played the most matches. The calculation of the 50% threshold is taken from the Division the player participated in that has the most sectional matches.

EXAMPLE: A player participates in a Division with 10 available sectional matches. To receive a grading, they must play at least 5 matches across all Divisions. If they play 3 matches in Division 1 and 2 matches in Division 3, they will be graded Division 1, as this is the Division in which they played the most matches.

If a player has played an equal number of matches in multiple Divisions, they will be graded in the highest of those Divisions.

EXAMPLE: A player plays 3 matches in Division 3 and 3 matches in Division 4. As they have played an equal number of matches in both grades, the player will be graded Division 3, being the higher of the two Divisions.

Any player who does not play at least 50% of matches during the current season will retain their previous season grading.

EXAMPLE: A player has a previous season grading of Division 3. Their Club has 10 sectional matches available during the current season in which the player could be selected. If the player participates in only 4 of those 10 matches, they have played less than the required 50% (5 matches) and will therefore retain their previous Division 3 grading for the following season.

Byes do not count towards a player's grading.

When a club has Grades with varying number of matches in each grade, then the following applies:

13.16.1 When a Club has Divisions with varying number of matches in those Divisions

An individual player is graded at the conclusion of sectional play for each Division, if they have played at least 50% of sectional matches scheduled for that Division. Once graded during the season the player cannot play in a lower Division for the remainder of the season.

EXAMPLE: A Club has 4 sectional matches scheduled in Division 1 and 6 sectional matches scheduled in Division 2. A player who participates in 2 of the 4 Division 1 matches has played at least 50% of the sectional matches scheduled for Division 1 and will therefore become graded Division 1. Once graded Division 1, the player is not eligible to play in Division 2 or any lower Division for the remainder of the season.

13.17 Player Eligibility

Any player is eligible to play in sectional matches during the season in any division, regardless of their previous season grading, except as provided within this clause.

13.17.1 Players changing declared club

A maximum of two (2) players who change their declared club after the State Match Committee has allocated Divisions to their new declared club for the 2027 season will be eligible to play one division below their previous season grading.
If the player's new declared club does not have a side in the next lowest Division, a maximum of two players are permitted more than one division below their previous season grading in their new club's next highest division.
The maximum of two players noted above is a combination of both clauses listed.

13.17.2 Players from Outside NSW

Players who have a Declared (Primary) club outside of NSW are not eligible to participate in this competition.
Interstate Pennant Declarations will not be accepted for this competition.

13.17.3 Eligibility for Post Sectional

(i) All players competing in post-sectional matches must either:
* have been a Primary/Declared member of that Club as at 1 January 2027; or
* have played at least one match for that Club during the sectional rounds in any Division.

(ii) When a side qualifies for post sectional rounds (at Region or State level), any player whose current Women's Pennant grading is in that Division or lower will be eligible for post-sectional play.

(iii) A player with a higher current Women's Pennant grading will only be eligible to play in a post-sectional match if they played at least 50% of this season's matches in that Division, or a lower Division.

NOTE: In circumstances where a Side(s) has been regressed from the previous Bowling Season, a club can seek written approval from the State Match Committee for a variation to post-sectional eligibility.

13.17.4 Penalties for using an Ineligible Player

A side fielding an ineligible player shall forfeit the match to their opponents (refer clause 13.18).

13.18 Penalties for fielding an ineligible player

Using an ineligible player will result in that side forfeiting the match to their opponents.

(i) The infringing side shall be awarded zero points and be credited with a margin of -10 shots, or the margin by which they lost, whichever is the greater.

(ii) The non-infringing side shall be awarded seven (7) points and credited with a margin of +10 shots, or the margin by which they won, whichever is the greater.

(iii) If scores need to be recalculated to achieve the margin(s) described above:

- the infringing side shall retain the number of shots they scored in the match, and
- the non-infringing side shall have as many additional shots added to their score as is necessary to create a 10-shot margin over their opponent.

NOTE: It is the sole responsibility of the Club to select players that meet all eligibility requirements for each Pennant match.

13.19 Forfeits

13.19.1 Forfeit During Sectional Play

(i) Any forfeit must be from the Club's lowest Division scheduled to play on that day/round.

(ii) The side receiving a forfeit shall be awarded seven (7) points and be credited with a margin of +10 shots.

(iii) The side forfeiting shall be awarded zero points and be credited with a margin of -10 shots.

(iv) A side forfeiting shall notify the:

- Region Association
- Opposition Club(s)
- Host Venue

at least 24 hours prior to the scheduled start time of any match.

Penalty

(1) The Club of a Pennant side that forfeits a match, with notification to all three parties as listed above, shall be penalised with a $400 fine, payable to the direct Controlling Body (Region Association or Bowls NSW), to be distributed to the scheduled host venue.

(2) The Club of a Pennant side that forfeits a match, without notification to all three parties as listed above, and by the required time as listed above, shall be penalised with a $1,000 fine, payable to the direct Controlling Body (Region Association or Bowls NSW), to be distributed to the scheduled host venue.

13.19.2 Forfeit of a Match in Progress

If a side forfeits a match in progress, the Controlling Body shall award seven (7) points to the side receiving the forfeit and shall adjust the scores of the match.

The side receiving the forfeit shall be credited with the higher of:

(i) its score at the time of the forfeit, increased in proportion to account for the number of ends remaining, or

(ii) its score at the time of forfeit plus an additional five shots per team in the side, i.e., ten (10) total shots).

The forfeiting side shall be awarded zero points and a similar negative margin.

Penalty

The Club of a Pennant side that forfeits a match in progress shall be penalised with a $400 fine, payable to the direct Controlling Body (Region Association or Bowls NSW), to be distributed to the scheduled host venue.

13.20 Play Not Commenced

(i) The home club must advise the Region Association of any play not commenced and the reason.

(ii) Matches not commenced shall be played at a later date set down by the Region Association in its season calendar, as all matches may have a bearing on the Women's Pennant Divisions allocated to clubs in the following Bowling Season.

The Region shall notify all participating clubs of the allocated date as soon as possible.

13.21 Games unplayed

(i) For any Women's Pennant match to remain unplayed, the Region Association must seek permission from the State Match Committee by submitting the prescribed form.

Any such match may count towards a player's grading and eligibility for post-sectional play, upon written application to the State Match Committee for approval.

(ii) Byes do not count as a match played.

NOTE: Clubs not playing all scheduled matches may not be considered for regression in Women's Pennant the following season should they apply.

13.22 Play Not Completed

If a match is stopped due to inclement weather, the Controlling Body can allow a period of up to 60 minutes to determine whether play can be re-commenced.

If a match is stopped and unable to be resumed the match shall be either:

(i) deemed to be complete if, on that day:

- Thirty-six (36) or more ends have been completed, and both Clubs agree for the match not to resume on a new day.

OR

(ii) resumed at a later date if thirty-six (36) ends have not been completed, or if thirty-six (36) ends have been completed and both Clubs, as well as the Controlling Body, do not agree that the match will cease at that point.

(iii) If a match is not completed and cannot be resumed the same day, any score cards used must be signed by both teams noting the time of stoppage and handed to the controlling body.

Upon any resumption of play on a later date, teams are allowed two (2) trial ends each, with the match resuming from the end last played.

(iv) The Host Venue must notify the Region of any match not able to be completed on the day of play, together with the reason for the stoppage.

(v) Matches not completed shall be completed at a later date set down by the Region Association in its season calendar, as all matches may have a bearing on the Women's Pennant Divisions allocated to clubs in the following bowling season.

The Region shall notify all participating clubs of the allocated date as soon as possible.

13.23 Players in a resumed match

The players listed on Bowlslink as being in the side for the date on which the match was originally scheduled to be played shall remain eligible to play.

Where the side needs to make one player change on any rink, the incoming player will be a substitute.

Where a side is making two player changes on any rink, one substitute and one replacement player may be used.

Matches shall be counted as "matches played" for grading and eligibility for post-section purposes for all players except substitutes.

13.24 Recording Player's Gradings.

Each player's previous season Women's Pennant grading shall be recorded on Bowlslink as a certification.

The certification states the Division in which the player was graded at the conclusion of their previous Women's Pennant season.

Bowls NSW updates gradings and certifications on Bowlslink at the end of each pennant season (i.e., following the completion of the State finals).

13.25 State Finals

The NSW Women's State pennant finals are scheduled to be played 31 August - 2 September 2027.

13.25.1 Region Competitions

Whilst there is no requirement for a Region to field sides in all divisions of Women's Pennant, all Clubs must be offered the opportunity to nominate their desired number of side(s).

13.25.2 State Pennant Qualifiers

Region winners shall qualify for State Finals in Divisions 1-4.

Should a Region not have a winner in any Division, the State Match Committee will offer additional places (to ensure sixteen sides competing) to Regions in preference order based on the percentage of sides in that Division per number of clubs in that Region.

EXAMPLE: If a Division requires 16 sides at the State Finals, but only 15 Regions have a winner, one additional position will be available. If Region A has 8 sides in that Division across 20 clubs (40%), and Region B has 9 sides across 30 clubs (30%), the additional position would first be offered to Region A, as it has the higher percentage of sides relative to its number of clubs. If required, this same process will be continued until all 16 places are filled.

13.25.3 State Finals Draw

(i) State Finals will be sectional play followed by knockout finals.

(ii) Clubs will be required to enter their teams into Bowlslink by Tuesday 20 July.
Bowls NSW will then utilise the Team Shuffle function to determine the team opponents for each round.

(iii) If two sides are drawn to play each other in the knockout stages of the State Finals and those two sides have already played each other in sectional play, the Controlling Body will alter the rink draw to ensure the same teams do not play each other.

13.25.4 Post Sectional Play

(i) The top two sides in each section shall play Quarter Finals.

(ii) The winners of quarter finals shall play semi-finals.

(iii) The winners of semi-finals shall play the final.

(iv) If scores are tied at the completion of the scheduled number of ends in a knockout sides match, all teams in that side shall play an extra end to determine the result.
If scores are tied at the completion of those extra ends, all teams shall play further extra ends to determine a winner.

13.25.5 State Awards

(i) Winners and runners up pennant flags will be awarded to clubs.

(ii) Winners and runners up medallions will be awarded to players participating in the final.
An additional four (4) medallions (for each of the winners & runners up) will be available for presentation to the Side Manager, Coach, and reserves players.

13.25.6 Bowls NSW Women's State Pennant Flags

Division 1:	Royal Blue with Gold letters
Division 2:	Gold with Royal Blue letters
Division 3:	Green with Gold letters
Division 4:	Pale Blue with Crimson letters

14. Men's Pennant

14.1 Administration

NSW Men's Pennant Competitions shall be conducted under the control of the State Match Committee.

The State Match Committee delegates to Region Match Committees to administer the competitions within their Regions, in line with these Conditions of Play.

14.2 Region Competitions - Endorsement of State Match Committee

All Regions are required to submit a proposal to the State Match Committee outlining the structure and format of the Men's Pennant Competition to be played within the Region during the season.

Region Match Committees must send their Men's Pennant submission to the State Match Committee for approval a minimum of eight (8) weeks prior to the commencement of the competition.

All Region Pennant Submissions must be on the Bowls NSW prescribed documents and in the prescribed format.

Any submissions not received in the correct format will be returned for resubmission.

Only approved submissions will be allowed to participate in the competition.

Any amendments to the submission (including any draws, or the addition or deletion of sides) after approval by the State Match Committee must be submitted to State Match Committee for consideration.

14.3 Geographic Draws

Geographic draws may be used in Men's Pennant at Region level.

14.4 Multi-Division Competitions.

There should be a minimum of four sides in each competition.

Where there are small numbers of sides entered in Divisions, Multi-Division competitions (involving sides from more than one Division) shall be formed.

In a Multi-Division competition, there must be at least two sides competing in the lowest Division in that competition.

14.4.1 Qualification for Post-Sectional Play (Multi-Division)

(i) Where there are two or more sides from a Division, the highest-placed of those sides shall qualify for post-sectional play in that Division, irrespective of that side's finishing position on the ladder.

(ii) Where there is only one side from a Division, that side must finish above all sides from any lower Division to qualify for post-sectional play.

14.5 Multi-Region Competitions

Regions with a small number of entries in a Division are encouraged (as practical) to combine that Division with a neighbouring Region(s) to play a Multi-Region competition.

The State Match Committee may combine Regions to form competitions in a Division.

Qualification for State Finals from any such competition will be determined by consultation between the participating Regions and the State Match Committee.

14.6 Clubs with two or more sides in a Division

(i) Where a Club has two or more sides entered in any Division they shall be identified as No.1, No.2, No.3 or A, B, C, or Red, Green, Blue, etc.

(ii) The sides are considered equal within that Division and players can play in any of the sides during all sectional and post-sectional matches (if graded appropriately).

(iii) Clubs with two (2) or more sides in a Division must be drawn in separate sections if there are multiple sections within that Division. If there is only one (1) section, or if geographic draws are used, those sides must be drawn to play each other in round one and any corresponding round. This also applies to Clubs that are part of a composite entry.

(iv) Where a Club has more than one side in the Region or State playoff in the same Division they shall play each other in the first post-sectional match, irrespective of whether it is sectional play or knockout.

14.7 Composite Sides

Clubs may combine to enter composite sides into a Division.

Clubs wishing to enter a composite side shall forward a written application, which shall be endorsed by the Region and sent to State Match Committee with the Region Pennant submission for approval.

A composite side is required to have players from more than one club participating in each match.

Such application shall detail:

(i) Names of the clubs forming the composite side.

(ii) The playing uniform to be worn by the composite side. This may be the individual club uniform of each player, or a neutral uniform.

(iii) Which club shall host allocated home matches, or the number of home matches to be hosted by each club.

(iv) Which club is responsible for payment of entry fees and any issued fines, receiving any winning flags, entering match information in Bowlslink, and keeping of player participation records.

14.8 Match & Season Participation Records:

14.8.1 Bowlslink

Regions and Clubs are required to use Bowlslink to set up and administer competitions.

Please refer to Bowlslink training manuals & tutorials for assistance.

(i) Clubs must submit their sides in Bowlslink no later than the nominated day/time as notified by the Region Association.
This day/time may vary between Regions.

(ii) Prior to the commencement of each match all sides listed by the Clubs in Bowlslink must be correct (i.e., not missing an individual that is competing in the match, or the incorrect indication of use of a substitute player.
Failure to adhere to this clause will result in a penalty to that side as listed in section 14.11 of this document.

(iii) Region Associations can set the nominated day/time for the Bowlslink Rink Shuffle to occur.
This day/time may vary between Regions.

(iv) Clubs must confirm and finalise their results from each match in Bowlslink no later than six (6) hours after each match.

(v) Clubs are encouraged to maintain their own participation sheet to assist them with player grading records.

14.9 Side Officials

All side officials are regarded as members of the side and must be attired in a manner that identifies them as member of that club/side.

All side officials should be nominated to the Controlling Body at each venue.

14.9.1 Side Managers

A club shall appoint a side manager (male or female) who is member of the Club and is responsible for drawing of cards & rinks (if not completed by the Region Association or Bowls NSW using the Rink Shuffle option), the toss of coin for the mat on the first end as well as any extra ends, bowls discs and score board magnets.

14.9.2 Coaches

The coach of a player, team or side can give advice to the player(s) during play provided that:

(i) The coach is currently accredited as a Bowls Australia Community Coach or Bowls Australia Performance Coach, and their current accreditation is recorded in Bowlslink.

(ii) The Controlling Body is given the name of the coach before the game starts. (The Controlling Body shall advise the umpire(s) of the nominated coach.)

(iii) Only one person is present at the rink to give advice at any one time.

(iv) The person giving advice does so when their player or team is in possession of the rink; and

(v) The person giving the advice does so from outside the boundaries of the green.

If, in the umpire's opinion, this clause has been broken the umpire must ask the coach concerned to stay within the clause.
If they do not stay within the clause, the umpire must ask the Controlling Body to take immediate action to make sure that the offender stops breaking the clause.

A coach of any Junior bowler must have a valid Working with Children Check certification recorded on Bowlslink.

14.10 Eligibility

To enter and play Men's Pennant with a Club, a player shall:

(i) Be a male.

(ii) Be registered with Bowls NSW as a Bowling Member of that Club.

(iii) Have that club registered as their Declared (Primary) Club on Bowlslink, with a membership category that permits Competition playing rights.

(iv) Be registered, and listed on Bowlslink, with their respective Region Association.

(v) Be cleared to play at that club (if required).

(vi) Satisfy all other eligibility and grading requirements for that event.

14.11 Penalties for fielding an ineligible player

Using an ineligible player will result in that side forfeiting the match to their opponents.

(i) The infringing side shall be awarded zero points and be credited with a margin of -15 shots, or the margin by which they lost, whichever is the greater.

(ii) The non-infringing side shall be awarded ten (10) points and credited with a margin of +15 shots, or the margin by which they won, whichever is the greater.

(iii) If scores need to be recalculated to achieve the margin(s) described above:

- the infringing side shall retain the number of shots they scored in the match, and
- the non-infringing side shall have as many additional shots added to their score as is necessary to create a 15-shot margin over their opponent.

NOTE: It is the sole responsibility of the Club to select players that meet all eligibility requirements for each Pennant match.

14.12 Forfeits

14.12.1 Forfeit During Sectional Play

(i) Any forfeit must be from the Club's lowest Division scheduled to play on that day/round.

(ii) The side receiving a forfeit shall be awarded ten (10) points and be credited with a margin of +15 shots.

(iii) The side forfeiting shall be awarded zero points and be credited with a margin of -15 shots.

(iv) A side forfeiting shall notify the:

- Region Association
- Opposition Club(s)

- Host Venue

at least 24 hours prior to the scheduled start time of any match.

Penalty

(1) The Club of a Pennant side that forfeits a match, with notification to all three parties as listed above, shall be penalised with a $400 fine, payable to the direct Controlling Body (Region Association or Bowls NSW), to be distributed to the scheduled host venue.

(2) The Club of a Pennant side that forfeits a match, without notification to all three parties as listed above, and by the required time as listed above, shall be penalised with a $1,000 fine, payable to the direct Controlling Body (Region Association or Bowls NSW), to be distributed to the scheduled host venue.

14.12.2 Forfeit of a Match in Progress

If a side forfeits a match in progress, the Controlling Body shall award ten (10) points to the side receiving the forfeit and shall adjust the scores of the match.

The side receiving the forfeit shall be credited with the higher of:

(i) its score at the time of the forfeit, increased in proportion to account for the number of ends remaining, or

(ii) its score at the time of forfeit plus an additional five shots per team in the side, i.e., fifteen (15) total shots).

The forfeiting side shall be awarded zero points and a similar negative margin.

Penalty

The Club of a Pennant side that forfeits a match in progress shall be penalised with a $400 fine, payable to the direct Controlling Body (Region Association or Bowls NSW), to be distributed to the scheduled host venue.

14.13 Play Not Commenced

(i) The home club must advise the Region Association of any play not commenced and the reason.

(ii) Matches not commenced shall be played at a later date set down by the Region Association in its season calendar.

The Region shall notify all participating clubs of the allocated date as soon as possible.

14.14 Games unplayed

(i) For any Men's Pennant match to remain unplayed, the Region Association must seek permission from the State Match Committee by submitting the prescribed form.

Any such match may count towards a player's grading and eligibility for post-sectional play, upon written application to the State Match Committee for approval.

(ii) Byes do not count as a match played.

14.15 Play Not Completed

If a match is stopped due to inclement weather, the Controlling Body can allow a period of up to 60 minutes to determine whether play can be re-commenced.

If a match is stopped and unable to be resumed the match shall be either:

(i) deemed to be complete if, on that day:

- Fifty-four (54) or more ends have been completed, and both Clubs agree for the match not to resume on a new day.

OR

(ii) resumed at a later date if fifty-four (54) ends have not been completed, or if fifty-four (54) ends have been completed and both Clubs, as well as the Controlling Body, do not agree that the match will cease at that point.

(iii) If a match is not completed and cannot be resumed the same day, any score cards used must be signed by both teams noting the time of stoppage and handed to the controlling body.
Upon any resumption of play on a later date, teams are allowed two (2) trial ends each, with the match resuming from the end last played.

(iv) The Host Venue must notify the Region of any match not able to be completed on the day of play, together with the reason for the stoppage.

(v) Matches not completed shall be completed at a later date set down by the Region Association in its season calendar.
The Region shall notify all participating clubs of the allocated date as soon as possible.

14.16 Players in a resumed match

The players listed on Bowlslink as being in the side for the date on which the match was originally scheduled to be played shall remain eligible to play.

Where the side needs to make one player change on any rink, the incoming player will be a substitute.

Where a side is making two player changes on any rink, one substitute and one replacement player may be used.

Matches shall be counted as "matches played" for grading and eligibility for post-section purposes for all players except substitutes.

14.17 Competition Divisions

14.17.1 Number of Divisions:

The NSW Men's Pennant competition comprises four divisions.

(i) **Division 1:** Open to all eligible players.

(ii) **Division 2:** Open to all eligible players whose previous Open State Pennant grading is Grade 2 or below, or are ungraded.

(iii) **Division 3:** Open to all eligible players whose previous Open State Pennant grading is Grade 4 or below, or are ungraded.

(iv) **Division 4:** Open to all eligible players whose previous Open State Pennant grading is Grade 6 or below, or are ungraded.

NOTE: The grading eligibility referenced above are the individual member's currently recorded Open Pennant grading on Bowlslink (not any "new" grade received by participation in the 2027 Open Pennant season.

14.17.2 Sides

Each Pennant side shall comprise three (3) teams of four (4) players. A total of twelve (12) players per side.

14.17.3 Entries

Clubs may enter as many sides as deemed necessary based on the number of eligible players.

14.18 Entry Fees

Regions may apply any reasonable entry fee on a per side basis.

Bowls NSW may charge a State Finals entry fee, at the discretion of the Bowls NSW Board.

14.19 Side Withdrawal

If, after the State Match Committee has approved a Region Submission for a Pennant competition, a Club withdraws a side, the side to be withdrawn shall be the lowest Division entered by that Club unless otherwise approved by the State Match Committee.

The Region may submit to the State Match Committee that a side other than the lowest be withdrawn if that is in the best interests in providing balanced, fair, and equitable competition in any affected Divisions.

Following the listed final nomination date of sides, any side withdrawn by a Club will be issued a fine of $400 payable to the Region Association.

14.20 Competition Format

Regions must detail the number of sectional rounds of each Division competition and the format of any post sectional play format within their pennant submission.

14.20.1 Duration of Matches

Each match shall consist of sixty-three ends in total (21 ends per rink) in fours format.

14.20.2 Playing Days

(i) Region competitions must be completed no later than 30 June 2027.

(ii) Regions must list dates of play, including all dates provisionally set aside to be used for any deferred games, on the entry form.

(iii) Regions shall nominate default day(s) and time(s) for all matches.

(iv) Days and/or start times can be re-scheduled with mutual agreement between both participating clubs, by submitting a Match Start Variation Application to the Region Match Committee.

NOTE: A change of an individual's grading through participation in the 2027 Open Pennant season does not alter the individual's previous season grading for this competition.

14.21 Method of Scoring.

14.21.1 Allocation of Points

All NSW Men's Pennant sectional and/or round robin matches will be:

Side Win:	7 points	(the side scoring the greatest aggregate of shots)
Side Tie (Draw):	3.5 points	(both sides scoring the same shots aggregate)
Side Loss:	0 points	(the side scoring the least aggregate of shots)
Team Win:	1 point	(one point for each team that wins – i.e. rink win)
Team Tie (Draw):	0.5 points	(0.5 points for each team that has a drawn rink)
Team Loss:	0 points	
Points per match:	**10 points**	

14.21.2 Byes

Where a bye occurs, there will be no points allocated.

14.22 Player Eligibility:

A player's eligibility is determined by their previous season Open State Pennant grading (as currently listed on Bowlslink).

14.22.1 Additional Players

(i) No player is eligible to participate in a Division that is lower than their previous season grading would otherwise permit.

(ii) There will be no player regrades or variations to eligibility for men's pennant.

14.22.2 Players from Outside NSW:

Players who have a declared club outside of NSW are not eligible to participate in this competition.

Interstate Pennant Declarations will not be accepted for this competition.

14.22.3 Eligibility for Post Sectional

(i) All players competing in post-sectional matches must either:
* have been a Primary/Declared member of that Club at 1 January 2027; or
* have played at least one match for that Club during the sectional rounds.

Additionally:

(ii) When a side qualifies for post sectional rounds (at Region or State level), any player with a previous season Open Pennant grading who would be permitted to play in that Division will be eligible for post-sectional play, irrespective of the number of matches played by that individual during the current season.

14.22.4 Penalties for using an Ineligible Player

A side fielding an ineligible player shall forfeit the match to their opponents (refer clause 14.11).

14.23 Grading at the end of Sectional Play

Matches in Men's Pennant will not alter a player's Open Pennant grading from their previous or current season.

14.24 State Finals

The NSW Men's State pennant finals are scheduled to be played 31 August - 2 September 2027.

14.24.1 Region Competitions

Whilst there is no requirement for a Region to field sides in all divisions of Men's Pennant, all Clubs must be offered the opportunity to nominate their desired number of side(s).

14.24.2 State Pennant Qualifiers

Region winners shall qualify for State Finals in Divisions 1-4.

Should a Region not have a winner in any Division, the State Match Committee will offer additional places (to ensure sixteen sides competing) to Regions in preference order based on the percentage of sides in that Division per number of clubs in that Region.

EXAMPLE: If a Division requires 16 sides at the State Finals, but only 15 Regions have a winner, one additional position will be available. If Region A has 8 sides in that Division across 20 clubs (40%), and Region B has 9 sides across 30 clubs (30%), the additional position would first be offered to Region A, as it has the higher percentage of sides relative to its number of clubs. If required, this same process will be continued until all 16 places are filled.

14.24.3 State Finals Draw

(i) State Finals will be sectional play followed by knockout finals.

(ii) Clubs will be required to enter their teams into Bowlslink by Tuesday 20 July.
Bowls NSW will then utilise the Team Shuffle function to determine the team opponents for each round.

(iii) If two sides are drawn to play each other in the knockout stages of the State Finals and those two sides have already played each other in sectional play, the Controlling Body will alter the rink draw to ensure the same teams do not play each other.

14.24.4 Post Sectional Play

(i) The top two sides in each section shall play Quarter Finals.

(ii) The winners of quarter finals shall play semi-finals.

(iii) The winners of semi-finals shall play the final.

(iv) If scores are tied at the completion of the scheduled number of ends in a knockout sides match, all teams in that side shall play an extra end to determine the result.
If scores are tied at the completion of those extra ends, all teams shall play further extra ends to determine a winner.

14.24.5 State Awards

(i) Winners and runners up pennant flags will be awarded to clubs.

(ii) Winners and runners up medallions will be awarded to players participating in the final.
An additional four (4) medallions (for each of the winners & runners up) will be available for presentation to the Side Manager, Coach, and reserves players.

14.24.6 Bowls NSW Men's State Pennant Flags

Division 1:	Royal Blue with Light Blue letters
Division 2:	Gold with Black letters
Division 3:	Green with White letters
Division 4:	Pale Blue with Dark Blue letters

15. Inter-Region Sides Championship

15.1 Composition of Sides

Each side shall comprise of three teams, each of four players.

Regions will be required to enter their teams into Bowlslink by 8 December 2026.

Bowls NSW will then utilise the Team Shuffle function to determine the team opponents for each round.

Players may not be changed between teams without prior approval from the Controlling Body.

If two sides are drawn to play each other in the knockout stages of the finals and those two sides have already played each other in sectional play, the Controlling Body will alter the rink draw to ensure the same teams do not play each other.

15.2 Player Eligibility

15.2.1 Women's Inter-Region Sides Championship

(i) Players shall be female and registered with Bowls NSW as an Individual Member and shall have a declared club which is affiliated with the Region in which they are selected at the time of playing each match.

(ii) Each side shall contain a minimum of three (3) players who shall be eligible to be selected to represent NSW at the National Sides Championship and not eligible to be selected in the National Senior Sides Championship (i.e., aged under 60 years of age as at October 8, 2027).

(iii) Each side shall contain a minimum of three (3) players who shall be eligible to be selected to represent NSW at the National Senior Sides Championship (i.e., aged 60 years or over as at October 8, 2027).

(iv) A reserve player(s) may be used, however the requirements of three (3) players (senior & under 60) as above must be maintained in each match.

15.2.2 Men's Inter-Region Sides Championship

Players shall be male and registered with Bowls NSW as an Individual Member and shall have a declared Club which is affiliated with the Region in which they are selected at the time of playing each match.

15.2.3 Men's Senior Inter-Region Sides Championship

(i) Players shall be male and registered with Bowls NSW as an Individual Member and shall have a declared Club which is affiliated with the Region in which they are selected at the time of playing each match.

(ii) Players shall be eligible to be selected to represent NSW at the National Senior Sides Championship (i.e., aged 60 years or over as at October 8, 2027).

15.2.4 Eligibility

All players selected, Men and Women, must be eligible to represent Bowls NSW in the Australian Sides Champions as per Bowls NSW State Representative Selection Policy.

15.3 Attire

Sides shall be attired in Region uniform.

Note: Players are at all times required to be attired in accordance with the Uniform Policy.

15.4 Duration of Matches

Each match shall consist of sixty-three ends in total (21 ends per rink) in fours format.

Dead ends shall be replayed.

15.5 Trial Ends

Two (2) trial ends shall be permitted at the commencement of each match.

15.6 Play Not Completed

If a match is not able to be completed (to sixty-three (63) completed ends), a minimum of fifty-four (54) completed ends shall constitute a completed match.

15.7 Determination of Section Winners

15.7.1 Allocation of Points

The method of scoring for all sectional matches shall be:

Side Win:	7 points	(the side scoring the greatest aggregate of shots)
Side Tie (Draw):	3.5 points	(both sides scoring the same shots aggregate)
Side Loss:	0 points	(the side scoring the least aggregate of shots)
Team Win:	1 point	(one point for each team that wins – i.e. rink win)
Team Tie (Draw):	0.5 points	(0.5 points for each team that has a drawn rink)
Team Loss:	0 points	
Points per match:	**10 points.**	

15.7.2 Determining Section Rankings

(i) **Determining Section Rankings**

Sides shall be ranked within their section by the following criteria:

- The side scoring the highest number of points.
- The side with the largest difference between 'total shots for' and 'total shots against'.
- The lowest 'total shots against'.
- The aggregate results from matches played between the equal sides using the three points above (in that order).
- The drawing of lots by the Controlling Body.

15.8 Post Sectional Play

The top two placed sides in each section shall play Quarter Finals.

The winners of quarter finals shall play semi-finals.

The winners of semi-finals shall play the final.

(i) **Knockout Matches**

If scores are tied at the completion of the scheduled number of ends in a knockout sides match, all teams in that side shall play an extra end to determine the result.

If scores are tied at the completion of those extra ends, all teams shall play further extra ends to determine a winner.

15.9 Variations to Conditions of Play

The Controlling Body shall have the authority to vary Conditions of Play to bring the Championship to a successful conclusion. The Controlling Body shall advise the Side Managers of the participating sides.

The decision of the Controlling Body shall be final.

16. Junior Inter-Region 7-A-Side Championship

16.1 Player Eligibility

16.1.1 Gender Requirements

There are no gender requirements for the Junior Inter-Region 7-a-side championship.

16.1.2 Age Requirements

Players shall be under the age of 18 years as at the scheduled completion date of the championship (July 11, 2027).

16.1.3 Eligibility to represent Region

(i) Players can be male or female and registered with Bowls NSW as an Individual Member and shall have a declared Club which is affiliated with the Region in which they are selected at the time of playing each match.

If a Region is unable to enter a complete side, reserve players from other Regions may be permitted to be used to play in another Region, upon application to the Bowls NSW State Junior Committee.

16.2 Composition of Sides

Each side shall comprise of seven players:
One singles player,
One pairs team and
One fours team.

16.2.1 Interchange of Players

Players within Sides (including Singles players) may be interchanged before each match, or reserve players may be used.

Singles players and Pairs/Fours teams that qualify for medal play-offs (1st-4th) must notify the Bowls NSW event Controlling Body of their selected players for each discipline.

All selected players must then retain the selected discipline and position for all post-sectional matches.

16.3 Event Format

Each discipline shall play sectional play.

Singles players and teams shall progress to post-sectional play based on their ranking within their section.

Overall side rankings shall be determined based on the performance of each discipline.

16.4 Format & Duration of Matches

16.4.1 Singles

Matches are to be played four bowls per player, 21 shots up (shots in excess of 21 do not count).

16.4.2 Pairs

Played as three (3) bowls per player, in the order lead three bowls, skip three bowls.

Each match shall be played over eighteen (18) ends.

16.4.3 Fours

Played as two (2) bowls per player.

Each match shall be played over fifteen (15) ends.

16.4.4 Trial Ends

One trial end shall be permitted before each match.

16.5 Re-spotting the Jack

If a jack in motion passes completely outside the boundaries of the rink of play or rebounds to a distance of less than 18 metres from the mat line, the end should not be declared dead. Instead, the jack should be placed with the nearest point of the jack to the mat line at a spot on the rink which is two metres from the front ditch and on the centre line, and play should continue.

If the spot mentioned in paragraph one is partly or completely covered by a bowl, the jack should be placed as close as possible to the covered spot, in line with that spot and the corresponding spot at the opposite end of the rink, without touching a bowl.

16.6 Coaching

The coach of a player, team or side can give advice to the player(s) during play provided that:

(i) The coach is currently accredited as a Bowls Australia Community Coach or Bowls Australia Performance Coach, and their current accreditation is recorded on Bowlslink.

(ii) The Controlling Body is given the name of the coach before the game starts. (The Controlling Body shall advise the umpire(s) of the nominated coach.)

(iii) Only one person is present at the rink to give advice at any one time.

(iv) The person giving advice does so when their player or team is in possession of the rink; and

(v) The person giving the advice does so from outside the boundaries of the green.

If, in the umpire's opinion, this clause has been broken the umpire must ask the coach concerned to stay within the clause. If they do not stay within the clause, the umpire must ask the Controlling Body to take immediate action to make sure that the offender stops breaking the clause.

16.7 Working with Children / Junior Bowlers

A coach of any Junior bowler and/or any individuals coaching at any Junior event must have a valid Working with Children Check certification recorded on Bowlslink.

16.8 Determination of Section Winners

(i) **Allocation of Points**

In each match of sectional play points shall be awarded as follows:

- Win — 3 Points (player/team scoring the highest number of shots)
- Tie (Draw) — 1 Point (both players/teams score equal number of shots)
- Loss — 0 Points (player/team scoring the lesser number of shots)

(ii) **Allocation of Points for Forfeited Matches**

A team/player receiving a forfeit shall be credited with a win (3 points).

If a player/team forfeits a match in sectional play, all matches in that section involving the forfeiting team shall be declared a forfeit, with no results recorded for the player/team receiving the forfeit.

(iii) **Sectional Standings**

The winner of the sectional series of matches shall be determined as follows:

- The player or team scoring the highest number of points shall be declared the winner.
- If two or more players or teams are equal on points, the player or team with the largest difference between 'total shots for' and 'total shots against' shall be the winner.
- If there is still a tie, the player or team with the lowest 'total shots against' shall be the winner.

- If two players or teams remain tied, the winner of the match between those teams/players shall be declared the winner.
- If there is still a tie the team with the higher number of ends won (does not apply to singles player) shall be declared the winner.
- If there is still a tie in singles, the player to have conceded the least number of ends shall be the winner.
- If two players or teams remain tied, there will be a drawing of lots by the Controlling Body to determine final section placings.

16.9 Post Sectional Play

The highest placed player/team in each section shall play off for Gold, Silver & Bronze Medals.
The second placed player/team in each section shall play-off for 5th-8th place.
The third placed player/team in each section shall play-off for 9th-12th place.
The fourth placed player/team in each section shall play-off for 13th-16th place.
In each discipline play-off the draw shall be:
Semi-Final A – Section 1 v Section 2
Semi-Final B – Section 3 v Section 4
Final – Winner Semi-Final A v Winner Semi-Final B
3rd Place play-off – Loser Semi-Final A v Loser Semi-Final B

16.10 Policy On Alcohol & Smoking

It is a condition of participation that all players and reserve players involved in the Junior Inter-Region 7-a-side championship shall be required to be alcohol free and smoke free.
Side Managers shall ensure that this condition is adhered to throughout the event.

16.10.1 Penalty:

The player, team, or side shall be disqualified from the event.

16.11 Determination of Best Performed Side

Points shall be awarded based on performance in each discipline. The side scoring the greatest number of points shall be declared the best performed side.
Points shall be awarded as follows to each discipline:

1st – 20 points	5th – 12 points	9th – 8 points	13th – 4 points
2nd – 18 points	6th – 11 points	10th – 7 points	14th – 3 points
3rd – 16 points	7th – 10 points	11th – 6 points	15th – 2 points
4th – 14 points	8th – 9 points	12th – 5 points	16th – 1 point

16.12 Awards

16.12.1 Discipline

Gold, Silver & Bronze medals shall be awarded in Singles, Pairs and Fours disciplines.

16.12.2 Side

Gold & Silver medals shall be awarded to the best performed side and second best performed side, respectively.

16.13 Variations to Conditions of Play

The Controlling Body shall have the authority to vary Conditions of Play to bring the championship to a successful conclusion.

The Controlling Body shall advise the side managers of the participating sides if any variations to these Conditions of Play are required.

The decision of the Controlling Body shall be final.

17. NSW Para State Championships

17.1 Eligibility

17.1.1 Players

To enter and play in NSW Para State Championships a player must be:

(i) Be registered with Bowls NSW as a Bowling Member of that Club.

(ii) Have that club registered as their Declared (Primary) Club on Bowlslink, with a membership category that permits Competition playing rights.

(iii) Be registered, and listed on Bowlslink, with their respective Region Association.

(iv) Be cleared to play at that club (if required).

(v) Have a current Parasport classification approved by International Bowls for the Disabled recorded on Bowlslink.

NOTE: Players without a current Parasport classification are required to contact Bowls NSW staff for further details.

17.2 Team Entries for Team Events

Entries for team events may be submitted as nominated teams.

Members of Teams are not required to be from the same Club or Region.

17.3 Single Entries for Team Events

Entries for team events may be submitted as single entries.

Entries submitted in this way will be formed into teams (as possible) by Bowls NSW.

Players in teams formed in this way may be from any club & are not required to be from within the same Region.

17.4 Attire

Players shall wear their own current club uniform.

Composite pairs teams are not required to be similarly attired.

Note: Players are at all times required to be attired in accordance with the Uniform Policy.

17.5 Event Format

Players shall enter direct to Bowls NSW.

Each Championship shall be combination of sectional play and knockout, as required.

Championships shall be conducted in:

(i) Open Singles

(ii) Reserve Singles

(iii) Open Pairs

17.6 Match Formats & Durations

17.6.1 Singles

Matches are to be played four bowls per player, 21 shots up (shots in excess of 21 do not count).

17.6.2 Pairs

Played as three (3) bowls per player, in the order lead three bowls, skip three bowls.

Each match shall be played over fourteen (14) ends.

17.6.3 Trial Ends

One trial end shall be permitted before each match.

17.6.4 Time Limits

Singles	2 hours and 15 minutes, not including trial end.
Pairs	2 hours, not including trial end.

The Controlling Body will signal for matches to commence.

When the time limit is reached a signal will be given that the time limit has been reached.

At the conclusion of the time limit any end in progress shall be completed, but no further ends commenced.

17.6.5 Format Alterations

Bowls NSW reserves the right to alter match formats or durations as required to successfully conduct or complete the event.

17.7 Re-spotting the Jack

If a jack in motion passes completely outside the boundaries of the rink of play or rebounds to a distance of less than 18 metres from the mat line, the end should not be declared dead. Instead, the jack should be placed with the nearest point of the jack to the mat line at a spot on the rink which is two metres from the front ditch and on the centre line, and play should continue.

If the spot mentioned in paragraph one is partly or completely covered by a bowl, the jack should be placed as close as possible to the covered spot, in line with that spot and the corresponding spot at the opposite end of the rink, without touching a bowl.

17.8 Entry Fee

As determined by the Board of Bowls NSW.

If a player or team withdraws after the closing date of entries for the competition, the entry fee will be forfeited.