

All play will be in line with the Laws of the Sport of Bowls (including Domestic Regulations for Australia), and with Bowls Victoria Conditions of Play for Region and Division Pennant.

1. Pennant shall be open to club sides made up of players who are financial members of that WDBD club. Dual members must have that club as their nominated club.

2. Composition of Sides

A club can field one or more sides in pennant competitions. If more than one side is fielded the second and subsequent sides of the club will be graded in numerical sequence as 2, 3, 4, etc. in descending order of their seniority. Sides will be filled by available bowlers in descending order of seniority. If there are insufficient bowlers available to fill all sides entered by the club in the pennant competition the lowest numbered side will be the side which forfeits.

3. In a pennant match each team shall play 21 ends. A preliminary roll up of 2 ends shall be allowed providing it is completed before the time appointed for the commencement of the match.

4. Each club is to use coloured discs as allocated in the by-laws.

5. Prior to the commencement of each pennant match the home club shall appoint an umpire for that match. The appointed umpire and the side manager must not be the same person.

6. Sides and Timing

Weekend Pennant

A Side consists of: -

Divisions 1, 2, 3 and 4	3 Teams of 4 Players	Total 12 Players
Division 5	2 Teams of 4 Players	Total 8 Players

Weekend Pennant is an open competition with all participants to be selected on merit.

A Midweek division 1 player, having played 3 or more of the last 5 pennant games in division 1, can only play divisions 1, 2, 3 and 4 in Weekend pennant.

The commencement time for each home and away and finals match for divisions 1 and 2 shall be not later than 1.30 PM unless otherwise specified by the Match Committee.

The commencement time for each home and away and finals match for divisions 3, 4, and 5 shall be not later than 9.15 am unless otherwise specified by the Match Committee. Play to cease at 1pm.

Midweek Pennant

A Side consists of: -

Divisions 1 and 2	3 Teams of 4 Players	Total 12 Players
Divisions 3	2 Teams of 4 Players	Total 8 Players

Midweek Pennant is an open competition with participants to be selected on merit.

A Weekend division 1 player, having played 3 or more of the last 5 pennant games in division 1, can only play division 1 in Midweek pennant.

The commencement time for each home and away and finals match for divisions 1 and 2 shall be not later than 1.30 PM unless otherwise specified by the Match Committee.

The commencement time for each home and away and finals match for divisions 3 shall be not later than 9.15 am unless otherwise specified by the Match Committee. Play to cease at 1pm.

7. Abandoned Matches

(a) Pennant play will be abandoned on any declared day of Total Fire Ban in the South Western District.

(b) If there is no Total Fire Ban, the Match Committee shall be the authority for determining if all pennant play shall be abandoned for the day and its decision shall be communicated to all clubs by telephone, or email.

(c) Heat Policy

If predicted high temperatures do not result in a Match Committee decision to abandon all pennant for the day, sides may agree to delay the start of play until the times specified in Rule 9 (a) (2), or suspend or abandon play as described in Rule 9.

If play has commenced the Region Heat Rule applies: "At 36 degrees, play must be suspended or abandoned at the conclusion of ends in play, excluding Dead Ends. Suspended play may only recommence if the temperature is less than 36 degrees for 15 minutes."

It is the **manager's responsibility to look after the health and welfare of their members** in heat stress situations, and not rely solely on the temperature figure. An unwell player should be encouraged to take a rest and the team can continue with a player short.

Temperature measurements are to be read from a clearly readable thermometer placed in a Stevenson Screen (white box) placed in the open beside and above the greens. Managers should check the temperatures regularly when this is needed.

(d) If half, or more than half, of the matches of a pennant division are abandoned because of inclement weather, points for that division will be shared.

8. Inclement Weather

(a) (1) If the Greens Director is to be absent, each home club shall appoint a nominated deputy who shall be present to act. The Greens Director or the appointed deputy shall be the sole authority for determining whether play may be commenced on the greens of the club. If a decision against play for the day is reached before the arrival of visiting sides they should be contacted by telephone.

(2) If play for the day has not commenced by 10.15 AM or by 2.30 AM it shall be abandoned.

(3) If play for the day has commenced and subsequently, due to considerations of the weather (for example rain, thunderstorms or excessive heat), one side wishes to leave the green and the other does not, the umpire shall resolve the dispute.

(4) If play has been suspended because the Greens Director or appointed deputy closes the greens as unfit for play, it shall not be resumed if the green remains closed, but otherwise the side managers, or the Umpire on appeal, shall decide whether or not to resume. If play is resumed the provisions of Law 32 shall apply.

(b) Every effort will be made, regardless of time, to complete any finals match, but if the match is abandoned for the day it will be completed under such conditions as the Match Committee decides.

9. Number of ends that constitute a game and awarding of points

When play has commenced, and the game is abandoned due to inclement weather following;

- 45 ends being completed for a 12-player game;
- 30 ends being completed for an 8-player game;

The game will be awarded to the Side who has the higher number of total shots at the time the game is abandoned, and points allocated according to Side win, Team win and Team tie. If the game is abandoned prior to the above number of ends being completed, the maximum available points will be shared equally for a tied game.

10. Change of Date or Venue

(a) (1) Permission to play a match on other than the fixed day must be applied for to the Match Committee, and later confirmed in writing. Such matches shall be played within 14 days of the fixture date.

(2) If agreed by both clubs, permission to vary the commencement time of play may be sought in accordance with the provisions of 10 (a) (1).

(3) A player may not play in more than one side in the same round of pennant.

- (b) Permission to play a match at other than the fixed venue due to inability to prepare or insufficient rinks or result of weather conditions or for any other reason, may be obtained from the Match Committee Chairperson or his or her delegate.
- (c) In the event that any club with insufficient rinks available, or as a result of weather conditions or for any other reason, instigates a change of venue, then the whole of the match shall be transferred to the other venue.

11. Record Keeping and Results

Forfeits or fines will apply if teams are not entered into the Bowlslink system prior to the match.

The home side shall arrange for the results of all matches played on its greens to be entered on the prescribed forms and retained. Home managers (or another club official) shall enter the results into the computer system, wherever possible within 60 minutes of the completion of the match. Visiting managers should organize verification after the home manager has entered the results at the completion of the match, or take a copy of the completed pennant check form back to their club to have the computer records verified.

Failure to submit results within the time may result in club fines.

During the finals of the pennant competition the club that finished higher on the ladder will be deemed to be the Home Side and will be responsible for the pennant check sheets and results.

12. Eligibility of Players

(a) For the last four rounds of home and away matches no side shall include more than three players who have played the majority of their matches in higher numbered sides.[Side 1 is a higher numbered side than side 2.]

(b) To be eligible to play in a finals match, a player must have played at least four matches with that side and/or lower numbered sides of that club, in that pennant competition during the current season.

Players selected when a match or a round is abandoned, and those in a side given a forfeit, will be considered to have played in that round, the players to qualify being those listed on the pennant check form for a match that is abandoned after it has started, or, for any match that does not start, those named by their club in the side submitted for publication by 6 PM on Wednesday.

If any club is uncertain of having available sufficient members who are eligible under this rule, it can apply to the WDBD March Committee for permission to play, if necessary, other nominated members. If permission is granted such members can play in any position other than skip.

13. Points Scored

Match points shall be allocated as follows: -

Sides with 3 teams

6 points for a side win and 2 points for each team win, total 12 points

Sides with 2 teams

4 points for a side win and 2 points for each team win, total 8 points.

Half of these points to each side if the match or team result is a tie.

Abandoned Match Each side to receive half maximum points

Abandoned Round Each side to receive zero points

If a competition has equal numbers of byes, sides with a bye will score zero points.

For unequal number of byes, when a round is not abandoned sides with a bye will receive the maximum points for their division.

14. Forfeits

A club needing to forfeit a pennant match must notify the Match Committee chairman by 6.00 PM on the day before the match. All teams in a side receiving a walkover shall be deemed to have won and as well as being allotted the maximum permissible points, the side receiving the walkover shall gain 15 shots. The side giving the walkover shall lose 15 shots.

15. Finals

- (a) At the completion of home and away matches and where sides have equal points the respective positions shall be determined by shots up. If still equal, the order will then be determined by the aggregate shots against each side being divided into the aggregate shots scored.
- (b) The top four sides in each division shall enter in their respective division finals. Finals shall be played on neutral greens chosen by the Match Committee excepting (if necessary) the Grand finals of both Weekend and Midweek Pennant. All Grand finals for each of the pennant competitions will be played on the same day at the same venue. The Grand Finals venue will be chosen in a rotation around those clubs able to provide 14 rinks on suitable greens.
- (c) Order of Play:
Semi Finals: 1st Semi Final 3 v 4, 2nd Semi Final, 1 v 2.
Preliminary Final: Winner of 1st Semi Final v Loser of 2nd Semi Final
Grand Final: Winner of 2nd Semi Final v Winner of Preliminary Final
- (d) In a pennant final the results shall be determined by the total shots scored by each side without regard to team wins. If the total shots are equal at the conclusion of the fixed number of ends a further end or ends shall be played by all teams in the sides, until a majority total score is reached by one of the opponents who shall then become the winner.

Other Matters

16. Providing that it is **the club's lowest side**, in the morning or afternoon competition, a club side will be permitted to **play one player short** in any or all of the teams. As detailed in Bowls Australia Domestic Regulation 2.5 a team with an absent player plays as though the second is the missing player. The order of play is maintained by the second of the competing team playing consecutive bowls. Each player plays 2 bowls. There is no adjustment to the scores.

Domestic Regulation 2.5 also applies if a player arrives late or is unable to continue to play. If absent players or eligible substitutes becomes available they may be introduced into the team at the completion of the end in play at the time.

17. **Pennant Permits**: A player can be approved to play with another Club other than their Nominated Club by submitting a Pennant Permit Request Form to BV prior to Round 4 of Pennant Competition. No application will be considered after Round 4. The player must be a member of both clubs. This Form must be endorsed by both Clubs and BV approval given before play.

A player with a Pennant Permit may not play in the Singles, Pairs, Triples and Fours Championships of a Region/Division other than that of their Nominated Club and is not eligible to represent a Region/Division other than that of their Nominated Club.

Loan Players. A club unable to fill pennant sides on a day may use available players from another club as one player per team (rink) in their lowest sides. Loan players use their own club uniform but must have the discs from the club they represent. Loan players cannot play as skip or in finals.

18. For all divisions of pennant competition promotion and relegation may be applied. Either or each of the two sides playing in the grand final can apply to be permitted to go to a higher division. The promotion will be at the discretion of the WDBD Match Committee. No club will be required to play more than two sides in Division 1 competitions.

19. Player, Coach and Officials Conduct & Behaviour

All players, Coaches and Officials are required to conduct themselves in a polite and sports like manner when participating or officiating in a Pennant Competition and not in any of the following behaviours:

- 1.1. act in an abusive, threatening, or intimidating manner;
- 1.2. use obscene, offensive, abusive, threatening, or intimidating language;
- 1.3. act in an unsportsmanlike manner;
- 1.4. threaten any person with physical violence or assault;

- 1.5. assault any person;
- 1.6. act in a manner likely to bring the sport of bowls into disrepute; or
- 1.7. act in a manner likely to bring Bowls Victoria into disrepute.

A failure to comply can result in the Umpire applying an **Instantaneous Penalty** (Clause 46) and/or disciplinary action taken in accordance with Disciplinary Breaches (Clause 4).

20. Instantaneous penalties

- (a) If an Umpire, by observation or on an appeal by the Controlling Body, a Side Manager, a Skip or an opponent decides that a player is non-compliant then the end shall be immediately regarded as completed and the opponent of the offender shall be awarded as many shots as there are bowls in use by the opponents.
- (b) If the Umpire forms the opinion on a second occasion that the same player is non-compliant, the player will be excluded from taking any further part in the game. A substitute will not be permitted.
- (c) An instantaneous penalty applied to one player in a Team shall be considered as an instantaneous penalty to all players in that Team.

21. Communication Devices

The use of Mobile Phones/MP3 Players/iPods/iPads/Pagers/Communication Devices and/or other similar Sound/Communication Devices on the green by a player is not permitted. Failure to comply can result in the Umpire applying an Instantaneous Penalty.

22. Infringement of any of the Laws, or of the Rules for Pennant, may involve imposition of a penalty as determined by the Division Board after considering the recommendation of the Match Committee. Penalties available may be a fine not exceeding \$50, and/or disqualification, loss of match points, or a replay.
23. Perceived problems concerning attire, rule violations, or the state of a green will be followed up if a formal complaint is lodged. A formal complaint must be lodged in writing (letter or Email) to the Division Secretary, within three days of the game. The complaint must be endorsed by a club office bearer.

- The Division Greens Committee can be asked to investigate complaints about the speed or state of a green.
- For pennant attire Division rules read: "Bowls Victoria Rules for Attire apply - regulation dress is needed for pennant and if a registered club uniform is worn for pennant, all members of a side must be attired in the same shirt. WDBD Officials will consider complaints about uniform matters that are lodged by managers, who must inform their opponent's manager that they intend to lodge the complaint."