**FAR WESTERN BOWLS PLAYING AREA.**

**RULES FOR MIDWEEK and WEEKEND PENNANT**

World Bowls By-Laws, Bowls Australia By-laws and Bowls Victoria Rules for Competition 2022 apply, subject to the following.

1. **DEFINITIONS:**

Midweek Pennant: - A pennant competition which may be played on the days of Monday to Friday inclusive.

Weekend Pennant: - Traditionally called Saturday pennant shall be played on weekend days.

Midweek Pennant shall be conducted under the auspices of a Playing Area Competitions Committee as designated in Region Regulations and shall be open, but subject to the implementation of Victorian Civil Administrative Tribunal “Legal Discrimination” survey results if conducted.

Saturday Pennant shall be conducted under the auspices of a Playing Area Competitions Committee as designated in Region Regulations and shall be “Open” format.

Reference to a Competitions Committee shall be to a Playing Area Competitions Committee having confirmed members after Region nomination and confirmation procedures are completed.

Competitions Committee members may administer events as decided by that committee.

Side Manager, A person designated by a club to represent a pennant side in any administrative decisions required prior to or during a game until final results are confirmed.

1. **PARTICIPATION and DURATION.**

Pennant shall be open to all clubs affiliated with the Far Western Bowls Playing Area. The length and timing of each season shall be confirmed by negotiation with clubs and put into operation by the Competitions Committee.

Following the 2021 “Legal Discrimination Survey” conducted by clubs on behalf of the playing area the result has given clubs the right to play two male players in each team, six per side. Such players shall not be permitted to play in the position of skipper.

1. **COMMENCEMENT AND FINISH TIME**

The appointed times for commencement and duration of each match shall be designated by the Competition’s Committee asreviewed from time to time*.* By manager agreement this time may be negotiated by clubs to make it easier for player travel / participation unless otherwise specified by the Competitions Committee.

*All weekend pennant shall be completed by 6:30pm and midweek pennant by 4:00 pm, ends in progress shall be completed.*

1. **ABANDONMENT / INCLEMENT WEATHER**

4.1 The Competitions Committee shall be the authority for determining at any time prior to 8:30am for Midweek, 10:00am Saturday whether or not play shall be abandoned for the day and its decision shall be relayed to clubs as expeditiously as possible.

4.2 Abandonment of play due to inclement weather shall be considered in Divisions. When 50% of scheduled matches in a Division are able to be completed during inclement weather conditions, the result of such matches shall stand, and points awarded. When remaining matches in that Division are unable to be completed due to inclement weather then maximum points shall be shared equally.

4.3 Total Fire Ban Days shall be regarded as inclement weather and all matches shall be abandoned for that day.

4.4 In any Post Sectional Match if play is abandoned due to inclement weather the Competitions Committee shall reschedule matches to ensure that all are completed before the nominal end of the bowls season. Every effort shall be made to ensure that all Post Sectional matches are played.

1. **EXTREME HEAT CONDITIONS**

5.1 Should the temperature, being read at a place to be decided by the Saturday Competitions Committee before 10:30am on the day of play, read 36 degrees C or above, play shall be abandoned for the day and such abandonment shall be notified to clubs by the Committee.

5.2. a. Following commencement of play and upon a request from a side manager, the temperature as read by both side managers is 34 degrees Celsius or above for midweek, 36 degrees Celsius or above for Saturday, play shall be suspended for a maximum 30 of minutes. If the temperature has not fallen to below the threshold then play shall be abandoned. Managers may waive the 30-minute leeway by agreement and abandon play. (as stated above all play will be abandoned at 6:30pm or 4:00pm as per the provisions of Rule 3).

5.2. b. If more than one Division is competing at a venue; then a reading is to be taken by “the Managers of the highest Division Side”, and any decision made shall be binding on all matches at the venue.

5.3 If play is abandoned for the day points shall be allocated as provided for in rule 4.2.

5.4 Temperature shall be read from a thermometer held in a “Stevenson screen”, or purpose constructed louver sided receptacle in which the thermometer is fixed or an appropriately positioned electronic thermometer.

5.6 Managers are reminded of their “duty of care” and decisions shall be made in a consistent and sportsperson like manner.

1. **GAME COMPLETION.**

**Saturday:** -

Notwithstanding anything in the preceding rules, Saturday Pennant matches shall not be deemed to be completed unless 63 ends in Divisions 1, 2, 3 and 42 ends in Division 4 are completed, or one side is in an unbeatable position.

**Midweek: -**

Notwithstanding anything in the preceding rules, Midweek Pennant matches shall not be deemed to be completed unless 63 ends in Divisions 1, 42 ends in 2 and 3, are completed, or one side is in an unbeatable position.

Nb. Until all clubs are able to access and use Bowls link for result input, past practices of notifying the approved recorder / s shall continue (2022 -23)

1. **TEAM SHEETS**

The home side shall arrange for the results of all matches on its green to be entered onto the prescribed forms, signed by each team manager and forwarded to the Competitions Committee / Pennant Recorder on the day of play. Fax or electronic transmission is allowed but acknowledgement of receipt is required when electronic transmission is used.

**8. QUALIFICATION (Bowls Victoria Rule 13.2)**

**Scope**

Subject to the Laws relating to replacements/substitutes each Side will comprise affiliated bowlers of the Club concerned. Pennant Competitions conducted by affiliated Playing Area /Regions will be open to Clubs affiliated with them except that:

8.1.1 a Club can, with the approval of the Region and the two Playing Areas involved, enter a Side or Sides in the Pennant Competition of another Playing Area provided that that Playing Area is within the Region to which the Club is allocated;

8.1.2 in special circumstances approved by the BV Board, a Club or Clubs can play in a Playing Area of another Region providing both Regions and Playing Areas agree;

8.1.3 in special circumstances approved by the BV Board, two neighbouring Divisions in the same or adjoining Regions can combine to form a Pennant Competition. The Rules for Competition will be approved by BV;

8.1.4 in special circumstances approved by the BV Board, two Clubs from within the same affiliated Playing Area can combine to enter a Side in the lowest Division in the Pennant Competition with the approval of the Playing Area involved.

8.1.5 Regional Pennant Competitions open to Clubs within the respective Region boundaries or part of such boundaries can be conducted by Regions with the co-operation and approval of the Playing Areas involved.

**8.2 FORMAT**

The event will be conducted between Sides with teams of fours or threes with all players playing the number of bowls as can be determined by the Playing Area / Region concerned.

**8.3 COMPOSITION of SIDES (Bowls Victoria Rule 13.3.4** which is immutable**)**

8.3.1 A Club can field one or more Sides in Pennant Competition.

8.3.2 If more than one Side is fielded by a Club

8.3.2.1 in Pennant Competition/s comprising Sides from one or more Playing Area, or

8.3.2.2 in Playing Area/Region Competition/s associated with that of one or more Playing Areas the following will apply:

8.3.2.2.1 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.

8.3.2.2.2 Sides will be filled by available Players in descending order of seniority. If there are insufficient Players available to fill all Sides entered by the Club in the Pennant competition the lowest numbered Side will be the Side which forfeits;

8.3.2.2.3 Prior to the last four rounds of Sectional play there will be no restriction on the interchange of Players between the Sides of a Club.

8.3.3 For the last four rounds of Sectional play, no Side will include more than three Players who have played the majority of their games during the season in a higher numbered Side.

8.3.4 In any Post-sectional knockout match a Side will not include any Player who during the current season has played less than four games for the Club in that actual competition (the Saturday Pennant Competition and the Midweek Pennant competition are separate competitions and games played in one competition do not count towards Player eligibility in the other competition).

8.3.5 In any Saturday Post-sectional match a Side will not include any Player who during the current season has played more than four games in any of the higher numbered Sides unless the Player has also played in four or more games in the Side concerned and/or any lower numbered Sides. In any Midweek Post-sectional match a side will not include any Player who during the current season has played more than three games in any of the higher numbered Sides unless the Player has also played in three or more games in the Side concerned and/or any lower numbered Sides.

The last two sectional round matches (being considered as such whether completed or not and including byes) shall not count as qualifying matches for finals regardless of whether or not Sides of the Club can be in the same Division.

8.3.6 If any Club is uncertain of having available sufficient Members who are eligible under (vi) it can apply to the BV Region/Playing Area Pennant Committee for permission to play if necessary other nominated Members and if permission is granted such Members can play in any position other than Skip.

**8.4 REPLACEMENT PLAYERS/SUBSTITUTES**

8.4.1 Prior to a time on the day of the match as determined by the respective BV Region/Playing Area Pennant Committee but not later than 1 1/2 hours before the commencement of the match, a Club will not introduce a replacement bowler under the provisions of Domestic Regulation 4.3 except for its lowest numbered Side.

8.4.2 After commencement of play in a match, a substitute can take the place of any member of the Side in accordance with Law 51.2 and Domestic Regulation 4.7 only if such member becomes unable to continue to play in the match by reason of circumstances arising after the commencement of the match. Clubs having more than one side in a Playing Area shall identify each of these by colour.

**9.** **VENUE CHANGES**

Permission to play a match on other than a fixed date, time or venue must be obtained from the Competitions Committee through the Playing Area Competitions Committee.

**10. POINTS ALLOCATION / WALKOVERS / WASHOUTS**

The order of the sides in each Playing Area at the completion of home and away games shall be determined by the total points gained by each side. Points shall be awarded as follows.

10.1 Division 1, 2, 3 & 4. Ten points for the overall winner. In the advent of a tie overall, points shall be shared. Two points shall be allotted for each winning rink. In the advent of a tie on a rink, points shall be shared.

10.2 In the event of two or more sides having the same number of points their order shall be determined by the difference between the shots for and shots against each side. If these are equal, the sides shall play off, (at a time and venue to be decided by the Competitions Committee).

10.3 The side receiving a walkover in any Playing Area shall receive maximum points relevant to the Division. When a walkover occurs, the side giving the walkover shall lose 15 shots and the side receiving the walkover shall gain 15 shots.

10.4 As a result of a single washout during a game, points shall be shared equally.

10.5 In the advent of a bye in any Playing Area the team having the bye shall receive the average of winners points for that round, and the average shots for and against in that Playing Area for that round.

**11. FINALS ARRANGEMENTS- Midweek and Saturday Pennant**

**Saturday and Midweek McIntyre final four system.**

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| **Day** | **Match** | **Name** | **Side1** |  | **Side 2** |
| **1** | A | 1ST Semi | Ladder position 3 | v | Ladder position 4 |
| B | 2nd Semi | Ladder position 1 | V | Ladder position 2 |
| **2** | C | Preliminary | Loser Match B | V | Winner Match A |
| **3** | D | Grand final | Winner Match B | v | Winner Match C |

**12. FINALS TIES**

In finals games, should each side have an equal number of shots at the conclusion of the designated ends, then each team shall play an extra end or ends to determine the winner.

**13. PLAYING AREA COMPOSITION of SIDES, PROMOTION AND RELEGATION**

**All pennant competition shall be played according to the rules below.**

Division 1 Midweek and Saturday sides shall consist of 12 players in teams of Four, playing 2 bowls singly and in turn. Twenty-one ends.

Division 2 Midweek sides shall consist of 8 players in teams of Four playing 2 bowls singly and in turn. Twenty-one ends

Saturday sides shall consist of 12 players in teams of Four playing two bowls singly and in turn. Twenty-one ends.

Division 3 Midweek sides shall consist of 6 players in teams of Three playing three bowls singly and in turn. Twenty-one ends.

Saturday sides shall consist of 12 players in teams of Four playing two bowls singly and in turn. Twenty-one ends

Division 4 Saturday sides shall consist of 8 players in teams of Four playing two bowls singly and in turn. Twenty-one ends

The format of the Division and Sides to be at the discretion of the Competitions Committee.

No club shall be entitled to more than two sides in any division.

The Midweek and Saturday pennant competitions shall commence no earlier than the first Saturday of October, and be completed by the last Saturday of March, unless extenuating circumstances make it necessary for the competitions committee to schedule extra days. An example, a grand final scheduling or completion affected by inclement weather

**14. MANAGEMENT OF COMPETITION / PROTESTS**

The Competitions Committee shall make any decisions necessary for the conduct of the competition, following the Far Western Playing Area requirements and decisions of a Workshop or Information Day meeting.

The Relevant Competitions Committee shall hear all protests received in writing as soon as practicable and have the authority to interpret these rules for competition. The committee shall also rule on matters not covered by the World Bowls By-laws, Bowls Australia By-Laws and Bowls Victoria Rules for Competition.