CONDITIONS OF PLAY

EVENT	Victorian Open 2012
CONTROLLING BODY	Bowls Victoria
DATES	November 11 – 16, 2012
VENUE	Shepparton Park BC & Various Clubs in Goulburn Valley

ENTRY CONDITIONS

Open to all bowlers affiliated with a State or Territory Association that is affiliated to Bowls Australia, or affiliated to an international body that is a member of World Bowls.

QUALIFYING EVENT: Bowls Victoria will not be conducting a qualifying event for the 2012 Victorian Open.

VICTORIAN OPEN: Bowlers wishing to enter the event must do so by application through hard copy entry to be accompanied with payment of all entry fees for each event.

AUSTRALIAN OPEN: All entrants are advised that in order to qualify into the Australian Open 2013 via the Victorian Open Event, the Australian Open Qualifying entry fee component for each event must be paid at the time of entry and indicated on the entry form. Only players who complete this form and submit the appropriate fees will be considered for the 2013 Australian Open.

STATE/TERRITORY QUALIFYING

Player may attempt to qualify in more than one qualifying event around Australia, with the exception of Last Chance qualifying. An entry fee will be required to be paid for each qualifying event entered. ***Once a player has qualified in a particular discipline for the Australian Open, that player may not enter in any further qualifying events for that discipline.*** **Attempting to qualify with a secondary team will result in that team being disqualified from that event.** (Persons who have already qualified for the Australian Open may still enter the Victorian Open)

LAST CHANCE QUALIFYING

Bowls Australia's Last Chance Qualifying event is only open to players who have **not** tried to qualify in that discipline previously through any State/Territory association qualifying event.

ELIGIBILTY

As a condition of entry to compete in a Bowls Australia event, all competitors must:

1. not be currently under disqualification or suspension by their state/territory association or their national authority.
2. satisfy the eligibility criteria of the member state/territory association.
3. comply with all applicable Laws of the Sport, Domestic Regulations and policies of Bowls Australia.

FORMAT

All events will be played in sets play as outlined in Law 15 of the Laws of the Sport of Bowls.

SINGLES: Four bowls per player, two sets of nine ends, with a time limit of two (2) hours per match.

PAIRS: Three bowls per player, two sets of nine ends, with a time limit of two (2) hours and thirty (30) minutes per match.

MIXED PAIRS: Three bowls per player, two sets of nine ends, with a time limit of two (2) hours and thirty (30) minutes per match.

TRIPLES: Two bowls per player, two sets of nine ends, with a time limit of two (2) hours and thirty (30) minutes per match.

1. Time limits will apply to all games for all disciplines, with the exception of semi-finals & finals in each discipline. Should a match be stopped due to extreme weather, the time limit will be extended by the equivalent amount of the time for the delay.
2. Any player/team arriving after the official start time, shall lose the right to play trial ends. Any player/team arriving at the green more than 15 minutes after the official starting time shall forfeit the game and the points for that game/or not progress through to the next round.

SECTIONAL PLAY

1. All sectional play will be conducted in accordance with Law 15.3.
2. In the event that a player or team must be chosen from across multiple sections where post sectional play has not been conducted, the same criteria from Law 15.3 will be used to rank the players or teams. The highest ranked player(s) or team(s) as required will then be chosen. In this instance, players who have a bye in their section will be awarded two match points, two set points, and two shots.
3. Allocation of positions per discipline per qualifying event is posted on the Bowls Australia website – www.bowlsaustralia.com.au.

VICTORIAN OPEN

The competition will be conducted in sectional & knockout play. The draw size will be:

Men's Singles	–	All entries received prior to COB Monday 15 October 2012
Men's Pairs	–	All entries received prior to COB Monday 15 October 2012
Men's Triples	–	All entries received prior to COB Monday 15 October 2012
Women's Singles	–	All entries received prior to COB Monday 15 October 2012
Women's Pairs	–	All entries received prior to COB Monday 15 October 2012
Women's Triples	–	All entries received prior to COB Monday 15 October 2012
Mixed Pairs	–	All entries received prior to COB Monday 15 October 2012

Entries arriving after the closing date (COB Monday 15 October 2012) will be placed on Emergency Waiting Lists.

Entries arriving after the closing date (COB Monday 15 October 2012) will be prioritised based on the time entries are received.

Once the draw has been published no late entries will be accepted.

A copy of the Competition Schedule is available online at www.bowlsvic.org.au

TIE-BREAKER

1. If a game is tied after the two sets have been completed (each player having won one set or both sets having been drawn), a best-of-three-ends tie-breaker should be played to decide the winner.
2. The tie-breaker will be decided by the highest number of shots won in the three ends.
3. There should be no further play in the tie-breaker if, at any point, it becomes impossible for one player or team to draw or win the tie-breaker, given the number of ends left.
4. If the third end of a tie-breaker has been completed and the scores are still level, the players should play a fourth tie-breaker end to decide the winner.
5. If the fourth end of a tie-breaker is a tied end, the players will play further tie-breaker ends until a winner is found.

FIRST TO PLAY (Law 15.4)

1. First set: the skips or opponents in Singles should toss a coin and the winner of the toss has the options described in law 18.2.2.
2. Second set: the winner of the first set should place the mat, and then deliver the jack and the first bowl. If the first set is a draw, the winner of the last scoring end in that set should place the mat, and then deliver the jack and the first bowl.
3. First, fourth and any further ends of a tie-breaker: the skips or opponents in Singles should toss a coin and the winner of the toss has the options described in law 18.2.2.
4. In all ends after the first in each set (including tie-breaker ends), the winner of the previous scoring end should place the mat, and then deliver the jack and the first bowl. If, however, the first end of the first set or the first end of a tie-breaker is a tied end, the first to play in that end should also play first in the second end of the first set or the second end of the tiebreaker.

PROCEDURE FOR APPLYING TIME LIMITS

START OF PLAY:

Play will commence with the Tournament Director signalling the start time by a bell, horn, etc.

END OF PLAY:

At the completion of the allocated time, the Tournament Director will signal the end time of play by a bell, horn, etc. At this time players will complete the current end they are playing. (The start of an end is determined by the delivery of the jack by the first player in that end).

SECTIONAL PLAY:

Should a set/tie breaker not be completed as per the Laws of the Sport, then the score stands as at the completion of the end in play and the player with the highest number of shots for that set/tie breaker will win that set/tie breaker. In the event that the scores are tied then the tie stands and each player receives one point.

KNOCKOUT PLAY:

Should a set/tie breaker not be completed as per the Laws of the Sport, then the score stands as at the completion of the end in play and the player with the highest number of shots for that set/tie breaker will win the set/tie breaker. If the final scores are tied, then one additional end is to be played to determine a winner.

TRIAL ENDS

One trial end in each direction will be allowed prior to the commencement of the first round only in Sectional Play. In trial ends players can use any combination of bowls taken from different sets so long as all bowls carry a registered World Bowls stamp of either the current year or a future year. Trial ends will commence prior to the official starting time of each match/round. The tournament director will signal when players can take to the green for trial ends.

FOOTWEAR AND ATTIRE

As per the Laws of the Sport of Bowls, including Domestic Regulation 5. Footwear must adhere to Appendix A2. Attire must adhere to Appendix A3 and the BA logo policy. This policy is available on the Bowls Australia website www.bowlsaustralia.com.au. The new attire policy is effective as of February 1, 2010.

Failure to adhere to the BA Logo Policy will result in the offending player being given a verbal warning by the convening match umpire which will be lodged and recorded with the tournament director. The offending player will then be provided up until the forfeit time of their subsequent game to comply with the BA Logo Policy. Failure to comply by this deadline will result in the offending player being disqualified and the game forfeited to their opponent.

STAMP ON BOWLS

All bowls used during the event must carry a registered World Bowls stamp of either the current year or of a future year. Random checking of bowls may occur prior to the commencement of games. Bowls Australia's bowls testing policy is available on the Bowls Australia website www.bowlsaustralia.com.au.

ALTERATIONS TO THE FORMAT & LENGTH OF GAMES (Law 16.3.3)

1. The Controlling Body reserves the right to alter the format, times of play and greens to suit local unforeseen circumstances, giving as much notice as practical.
2. Where a program is interrupted or cannot be completed due to inclement weather or local conditions, the Jury of Appeal may amend the format and length of games to achieve a result or postpone the event where an outcome cannot be achieved.

ARRANGEMENT FOR PRACTICE

See Law 13 of the Laws of the Sport of Bowls

REPLACEMENT / SUBSTITUTE PLAYERS

1. The singles, pairs and triples events shall be played throughout by the competitors whose names appear on the scorecard of the first game. Players may change formations prior to the start of the subsequent game. The Tournament Director must be notified of all changes. Players will be required to complete the relevant paperwork regarding the adjustments made.
2. The team may call upon an affiliated player to replace a pairs or triples team member before the commencement of the event. A replacement player will not be allowed after the team's first match has been started.
3. Substitute player(s) are not permitted.
4. If the player / team is unable to complete any game already commenced during the competition, then the opponent(s) shall win on forfeit. Points shall be awarded to the winning player / team in accordance with Law 15.3.

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 delaying the delivery of the player's bowl:

1. On the first occasion the umpire will warn the player.
2. If the player commits the same offence a second time the end will be regarded as complete and the opponents of the offender will score as many shots as there are bowls in use by such opponent.
3. If the player offends a third time the game will be forfeited to the opponent.

RESTRICTING MOVEMENT OF PLAYERS DURING PLAY

After delivering their first bowl, players will only be allowed to walk up to the head under the following circumstances.

SINGLES GAME: the opponents: after delivery of their third and fourth bowls.

PAIRS GAME: (each player playing three bowls) the leads: after delivery of their third bowl; and the skips: after delivery of their second and third bowls.

TRIPLES GAME: (each player playing two bowls) the leads: after delivery of their second bowl; the seconds: after delivery of their second bowl; and the skips: after delivery of each of their bowls.

At the start of each end, the lead and second (in triples) will be at the mat end and on changeovers the skips (in pairs and triples) will move to the mat end together.
In exceptional and limited circumstances, a skip can ask that a player walks up to the head, or a player to the marker in singles, earlier than described above. If a player does not meet the terms of this law, law 35 will apply.

MARKING TOUCHERS

In all Bowls Australia events, only "spray chalk" can be used to mark touchers.

DRUG TESTING

Bowls Australia's Anti Doping Policy shall apply. See www.bowlsaustralia.com.au for details.

JURY OF APPEAL

A jury of appeal shall be appointed for the purpose of deciding upon any points not provided in the conditions of play, for dealing with any appeals from decisions made by umpires and/or the tournament committee, and generally for the purpose of exercising overall authority on behalf of Bowls Victoria.
In the event of an appeal during the playing of the event, such appeals shall be made in accordance with the Laws of the Sport of Bowls, and shall be directed to a Jury of Appeal which shall consist of four persons from the list of those nominated below:-

Bowls Victoria President or nominee
Peter Hanlon – Bowls Victoria Chief Executive or nominee
Haydn Williams – Bowls Victoria Umpires Committee Chairman
Barbara Gilbert & Bob Middleton – Tournament Director(s)
Graeme Bridge – Bowls Victoria Operations Manager

PRIZE MONEY

Prize money of $29,400 will be available for the event. Distribution of the prize money will be as allocated on the Bowls Victoria website – www.bowlsvic.org.au

Any player or team that is disqualified or forfeits a prize money round is ineligible to receive their prize money. Limited exceptional circumstances (forfeits only), can be applied for through written application to the Jury of Appeal.

GREENS

All greens to be used in the conduct of this event have been officially approved for play.
Matches will be conducted on a combination of natural grass & synthetic surfaces.

OTHER LAWS, REGULATIONS & POLICIES

All other Laws, Regulations & Policies other than stated above shall conform to the Laws of the Sport of Bowls and Domestic Regulations for Australia, as published in January 2011 including amendments (located at www.bowlsaustralia.com.au

Relevant Bowls Victoria Rules for Competition and Bowls Australia Policies will apply to the entire event.