

Eligibility to Play

Playing Status

All participants in organised events at Club level and above must be a registered financial member** of a BV Member Club and recorded on the BowlsLink database.*

**Organised club events include all regular competitions regardless of the value of the prize or prestige associated with the event. For the avoidance of doubt, this includes social competitions such as Thursday morning triples where the prize might be a frozen chook or a small amount of money, but does not include barefoot bowls or Christmas parties which are understood to serve as an important format to attract new members and a vital income stream for clubs.*

***A registered financial member is any club membership that includes playing rights of any kind*

Suspension

If a club suspends a member, that member, will be ineligible to play in any bowls event arranged by Bowls Australia, State or Territory Association, Region or Club, affiliated with BV during any period in which the member is suspended from Membership.

Bowls Victoria can also, through a disciplinary hearing with an independent disciplinary panel, suspend a player in accordance with the [Bowls Victoria Guidelines for Disciplinary Hearings](#).

A suspended player can practice at their club and enter their club rooms, unless specifically stated by the Disciplinary Committee. [If a person is permitted to attend a game while under suspension, the person must demonstrate exemplary behaviour at all times.](#)

A suspended Player can not be cleared to any other Club during the period of a suspension.

Identification and Clearances

A Bowls Victoria Member will be identified with a Club in accordance with [Bowls Victoria's Clearance Procedure](#) and [Bowls Australia's Player and Club Clearance Policy](#).

Any Member wanting to:

- transfer from another State or Territory Association,
- transfer Membership from the Club with which the Player is an identified Member, or
- become an identified Member of another affiliated Club within 2 years of having been identified with a Club, will need to obtain a clearance.

No clearance is to be considered effective until notice of its approval by Bowls Victoria has been received. This is via email to the Club in which the Member has transferred to and the club in which they have left.

No clearances will be issued for the period 31 December through to 31 March of each year unless, due to exceptional circumstances, BV decides otherwise.

In any one year (**July 1 – June 30**):

- a Member can play in Bowls Victoria Championships as an identified Member of one Club only and the Member's entry will be made through that Club;
- a Member can play in the Club Singles, Pairs, Triples, Fours, Mixed Pairs Championship of their one identified Club only;

If during a season a player obtains a clearance, they remain eligible to play in the Singles, Pairs, Triples, Fours and Mixed Pairs championships of their identified Club only;

- if a clearance is granted to a Club **outside their current Region**, they will no longer be eligible to continue to play in the championships of their former identified Club or to play on in the Region or State Championships representing their former Club.
- If an open clearance is granted, and the player is yet to find a new club to join, the player still remains eligible to represent the club they are leaving.
- If a clearance is granted to a Club **within their current Region during a season**:

For Champion of Champion Singles:

- if a player has won a club singles championship before transferring, they will be eligible to represent their previous club at region championships.

Clearance Forms are located on the BV website [here](#)

Interstate Pennant Declaration

A Player *affiliated with a state or territory other than Victoria* who is requesting to play Pennant in Victoria is required to complete a [BA Interstate Pennant Declaration Form](#) and submit it to the State or Territory they are affiliated with via e-mail.

A BV affiliated player requesting to play in another State or Territory Association's Pennant Competition, *must submit* the Interstate Pennant Declaration Form to bowlsvic@bowlsvic.org.au for approval.

The Interstate Pennant Declaration application is not effective until the players BV affiliated club has been advised by e-mail of its approval.

Protected events

The BV Victorian Open is a protected event and as such, the scheduling/playing of Pennant, Region Championships and Club Championship events during this time is prohibited.

No exemptions will be approved for the conduct of Pennant or Championship events during the time of the Victorian Open.

Protection – players and officials

Should a player or official be involved in a World Bowls, Bowls Australia, Bowls Victoria, Region or Club Championship, an Interstate Match, a Region trial, a BV Development Squad activity, an Under 18 game or trial, they will not be penalised should they be absent because of their involvement in a higher-level event on the same day.

Except for World Bowls and Bowls Australia events this protection is limited to **one occasion per season**.

If the game cannot be rescheduled the player or official will decide which event, to compete in or officiate at. *Every effort must be made to find a mutually acceptable date.*

Failure to reach an agreement on an alternative date, Bowls Victoria will decide when and where the match is played.

Guidelines for Club Events

Controlling Body

The Controlling Body is the Committee or person appointed by the club to act as the 'Controlling Body' of an event conducted by an affiliated Club.

The Controlling Body must ensure play is in accordance with the Conditions of Play for the event.

The requirements for Conditions of Play are specified in Appendix A of the Laws of the Sport of Bowls.

Conditions of Play

The Controlling Body should develop Conditions of Play for all club events and open tournaments.

The Conditions of Play should be available to all players and umpires and displayed at the venue throughout the course of the event.

A club event that is a preliminary round for a State Event should be played under the conditions set out in the Bowls Victoria Conditions of Play for State Events.

As a guide for club events a Pro Forma Conditions of Play is located under Marketing & Event Management here: bowlsvic.org.au/clubassist

Inclement weather

In the interest of player health and safety clubs are required to ensure that an appropriate Inclement Weather Policy is in place and enforced.

As a guide:

- Metropolitan clubs should refer to the Inclement Weather provisions of the Metropolitan Pennant Conditions of Play.
- Clubs outside the Metropolitan area should refer to the Inclement Weather provisions of their relevant Region Pennant Conditions of Play.

Event Information

Seeding of events

For all events, the draw must be an open draw and the seeding of Players is not permitted.

Method of draw for knockout competition

Each competitor's name (in the case of Team games the Skip's name) is written on a separate piece of paper and placed in a suitable container, and then drawn out one by one at random and copied onto a list in the order in which they are drawn.

When the number of competitors is 4, 8, 16, 32, 64 or any higher power of 2, they will meet in pairs in the order of the draw and play out to a winner.

When the number of competitors is not a power of 2, byes will be given in the first round only. The number of byes will be equal to the difference between the number of competitors and the next higher power of 2. The competitors to play in the first round will be those first drawn and the number of them will be the difference between the number of competitors and the number of byes. The byes, if even in number, will be placed as the names are drawn with half their number above those paired to play in the first round and half below; if uneven in number, there will be one more bye at the bottom half than at the top. (For example, with 37 competitors, 64 minus 37 equals 27 byes and 37 minus 27 equals 10 competitors to play in the first round. The first 10 names drawn will be paired to play in the first round in the order drawn; the next 13 names drawn will be placed in the second round above those in the first round and the remaining 14 below them).

Where electronic applications/software is used to conduct a draw, it must conform to the rules in the manual draw process as outlined above.

Club Championship Events

In all Championship events, there MUST be at least one game played for a player or team to become constituted. A player/team cannot be regarded as winning an event without first being constituted.

A player becomes constituted when the jack is delivered in the first end of their first game.

If in the final of the respective Championship a player or team gives a walkover or the game is forfeit to their opponent/s the remaining player or team will be deemed the winner(s) of the event.

A Club Singles Championship must be played in knockout format with all rounds to 25 shots up (in excess of 25 will not count).

Other Competitions

(e.g. 100 up event)

Points are awarded as follows: -

- bowl closest to the jack 4 points,
- next bowl 3 points,
- third bowl 2 points and
- fourth bowl 1 point.

When two or more bowls are equidistant from the jack their total points are divided equally.

After the first end, the Player who had shot bowl will play first and not the player with the higher score on that end.

The last end of the game is not completed until all the bowls have been played and the points allotted, after which the player with the greater aggregate shots will be the winner.

In the event of a tie, an additional end (or ends) will be played. Players must toss a coin prior to each additional end to determine who will play first.

Handicaps

Handicaps should be allocated so that every player has an opportunity of winning.

Regardless of the method used to determine a handicap, all MINUS handicaps MUST be played off in full before commencing to score in any match.

The range of handicaps will depend on the size of the Club and number of competitors. As a guide only, three options for a 21 up singles event would be:

- Option 1 Lowest handicap 0 with Novice bowler on +10
- Option 2 Lowest handicap -10 with Novice bowler on 0
- Option 3 Lowest handicap -8 with Novice bowler on +6

The handicap used for a 100 up event is 2.5 times the handicap for a 21-up event.
i.e.. +10 becomes +25, -8 becomes -20 and 0 remains 0.

Masters qualifications

As Bowls Australia has withdrawn its master's Policy, individual Clubs conducting Masters events are to determine the eligibility requirements and include them in the Conditions of Play for the event.

Attire

Logo requirements

The [National Merchandise Program \(NMP\) Logo Policy](#) provides guidance on the logo requirements for garments for Pennant, Championship Events and Club Tournaments (with the exception of social competitions).

As specified in the policy the logo must appear on all upper and lower body attire.

Headwear

The NMP Logo must appear on the front or side of all headwear, except on hats with a hat band, where a logo is not required.

Footwear

All footwear must be flat soled and heel-less. A list of Bowls Australia approved footwear is located [here](#).

Registration of club coloured apparel

- (a) Club Coloured apparel must be submitted by Clubs to Bowls Victoria for registration [here](#).
- (b) Submissions for registration must include the coloured image, front and back including sleeves, of the apparel and the name of the approved NMP Licensed Manufacturer/s.