



STATE SELECTION POLICY

1. OBJECTIVE

To identify athletes who in the opinion of Bowls Victoria are most likely to achieve the best possible results while representing Victoria at all state representative sides for which the athletes are selected.

Bowls Victoria's primary selection objective is to achieve the best possible result for the Side being selected. The secondary objective is to facilitate the advancement of individual athletes, either in player development or into national squads.

2. INTERPRETATION

- 2.1 'Affected Athlete' means any athlete whose selection in a Team/Side may be affected by an appeal made pursuant to clause 5 of this Policy.
- 2.2 'Prohibited Substance' and 'Prohibited Method' have the same meaning as set out in the Bowls Australia Anti-Doping Policy as in force from time to time (**ADP**).
- 2.3 'Selection Committee' means the State Selectors referred to in clause 4.1.
- 2.4 'Team/Side' means a Team/Side to represent Bowls Victoria at any event or competition in which Bowls Victoria is entitled to participate (Event).

3. ELIGIBILITY OF PLAYERS

- 3.1 A Player is qualified to represent Victoria in any Bowls Australia and World Bowls sanctioned event (including all International Events and all other Events) if:
- (i) they are a citizen of Australia; or
 - (ii) they have been a permanent resident of Australia for a period of twenty-four (24) months prior to the commencement of the event; &
 - (iii) they are not currently under disqualification or suspension by World Bowls, Bowls Australia, or any other National State or Territory Authority; &
 - (iv) they satisfy the eligibility criteria of BV; &
 - (v) if they comply with applicable rules and regulations of BV.

4. SELECTION

4.1. Bowls Victoria Selectors

Bowls Victoria shall appoint, in its sole discretion, State Selectors on the basis of previous State, National or International experience or involvement in the game of Lawn Bowls.

4.2. Conditions of Selection

Selection of an athlete into a Team/Side is conditional upon the athlete:

- 4.2.1 signing a Team/Side Agreement and observing and continuing to observe the terms of the Team/Side Agreement;
- 4.2.2 at all times prior to and after selection having acted in such a manner so as not to bring the athlete, Bowls Victoria, any Bowls Victoria sponsor, the Event, any sponsor of the Event, or the sport of Lawn Bowls into disrepute;
- 4.2.3 subject to clause 4.2.4 not having used or administered or been involved in any way with the use or administering of any prohibited substance or prohibited method or otherwise have breached the ADP;
- 4.2.4 clause 4.2.3 will not apply in respect of any breach of the ADP in respect of which the athlete has been sanctioned and which sanction has been satisfied in full.

4.3. Selection Criteria

- 4.3.1 Selection criteria ("Criteria") may include any or all of the following:
 - (a) subject to clause 4.4. satisfaction of, or the ability within the relevant time period to satisfy, the applicable eligibility criteria in respect of the squad, team/side, event or other activity under consideration;
 - (b) past state, national and international performances;
 - (c) current state, national and international performances;
 - (d) current Victorian ranking;
 - (e) current National and International ranking;
 - (f) the athlete's current level of skill and physical fitness;
 - (g) any current or potential injury or condition which will impair, inhibit or prevent the athlete's performance to the requisite level; and
 - (h) any other factor considered by the Selection Committee relevant in the circumstances.

4.3.2 For the removal of doubt no particular criteria listed in clause 4.3 shall carry any more or less weight by reason only of the order in which the criteria appears in this Policy.

4.4 Special Consideration

4.4.1 An athlete who has not met any relevant eligibility criteria may be eligible for selection if the provisions of this clause 4.4 apply and have been complied with;

4.4.2 an athlete may apply to the Selection Committee for special consideration;

4.4.3 any such application;

- (a) may only be made in respect of selection in a Team/Side for an Event;
- (b) must be in writing and signed by or on behalf of the athlete by a properly authorised person;
- (c) may only be made on one or more of the following grounds:
 - (i) injury to the athlete;
 - (ii) illness of the athlete;
 - (iii) bereavement of a parent, spouse, de facto partner, guardian, sibling or child of the athlete;
 - (iv) the obtaining of Australian citizenship after the date required by any relevant eligibility criteria.
- (d) must be accompanied by all relevant documentation or other evidence to substantiate the application;
- (e) must be supported by any additional documentation as may be requested by the Selection Committee including but not limited to a certificate or report from a medical practitioner nominated by Bowls Victoria and within such form and timeframe as directed by the Selection Committee;
- (f) will be determined by the Selection Committee in its complete discretion and no appeal from such decision is available to the athlete or any other person.

4.4.4. The Selection Committee will notify the athlete making the application as soon as practical after the decision and such notification may be oral or in writing and may be sent by post or email.

4.5. Selection Procedure

- 1) The Selectors shall select such squads, Team/Sides or individuals as Bowls Victoria determines in its sole discretion to participate in the Event.
- 2) The Selectors shall have total discretion in selection and may have regard to any one or more or none of the Criteria in any selection process and may give such weight to any one or more of the criteria as it sees fit.
- 3) Subject to this Policy, the decision of the Selectors shall be final. No reasons need be given for any selection or other decision of the Selectors. This shall not prevent, limit or restrict the Selectors changing the selection of any squad, Team/Side or individual at any time in their sole discretion, having regard to all the circumstances.

5. APPEAL PROCEDURE

5.1. Ground of Appeal

An athlete may appeal against a decision of the Selection Committee only on the ground that this Policy has not been properly followed or implemented in any one or more of the following respects:

5.1.1 The Selection Committee has taken into account a factor or factors which it was not permitted to take into account pursuant to this Policy.

5.1.2 The Selection Committee has failed to take into account at all a factor or factors which it is required by this Policy to take into account.

For the removal of doubt it is not permissible to appeal on the ground that the Selection Committee has given too much or too little weight to any one or more of the Selection Criteria.

5.2. Procedure for Appeal

5.2.1 Any appeal against a decision of the Selectors must be made within 7 days of any public announcement of that decision.

5.2.2 The appeal must be lodged in writing with the Chief Executive Officer of Bowls Victoria setting out:

- a) the decision of the Selectors in question;
- b) the ground or grounds on which the appeal is made; and
- c) the specific reasons or circumstances supporting the alleged ground of appeal. (**Appeal Papers**)

5.2.3 Nothing in this Policy prevents the withdrawal of an appeal at any time in writing.

5.2.4 On receipt of an appeal in accordance with this Policy, the Chief Executive Officer of Bowls Victoria must forthwith forward the Appeal Papers to the Selection Review Panel.

5.2.5 A failure to comply with any of the requirements set out in clauses 5.2.1 or 5.2.2 may render the purported appeal invalid.

5.3. Constitution of Selection Review Panel

5.3.1 Subject to this clause 5, the Selection Review Panel shall be constituted by any three persons available to hear the appeal, which must include the following:

- a) Bowls Victoria President or a person nominated by the Bowls Victoria President;

- b) a member of the Board of Bowls Victoria Inc. (or delegate); and
 - c) a person being legally qualified, chosen by the other two.
- 5.3.2 No member of the Selection Review Panel may have a relationship with any party to the appeal or any affected athlete such that the member is or may be seen to be not independent.
- 5.3.3 Where a determination of the Appeal is required urgently and the athlete making the appeal agrees in writing, the Selection Review Panel may consist of only one person nominated by Bowls Victoria.

5.4. Functions of the Selection Review Panel

- 5.4.1 The Selection Review Panel has no power of selection or re-selection.
- 5.4.2 If the Selection Review Panel determines that this Policy has not been properly followed or implemented it shall refer the matter back to the Selection Committee in which case the Selection Review Panel may in its complete discretion give such directions to the Selection Committee as it sees fit provided such directions do not, in effect, amount to direction to select or not select a particular athlete or athletes.

5.5. Procedures of the Selection Review Panel

- 5.5.1 On receipt of the Appeal Papers, the chairman of the Selection Review Panel shall forward copies of the Appeal Papers to the other Panel members as a matter of urgency.
- 5.5.2 The Selection Review Panel shall, as soon as practical investigate and consider the matter and shall within 7 days of receiving the Appeal Papers, determine whether:
- a) the matter should be dismissed, because in its determination, the matter is trifling in nature or has no merit; or
 - b) the appeal warrants further review and determination in accordance with this Policy.
- 5.5.3 If the Selection Review Panel determines the matter warrants further review under clause 5.5.2(b), it shall as soon as practicable, having regard to the proximity of any relevant event advise the athlete making the Appeal, the Selection Committee and any Affected Athlete.
- a. that the Selection Panel will meet to hear the appeal;
 - b. stating the date, place and time of that meeting which shall not be less than 48 hours after notice is given pursuant to this clause 5.5.3;

- c. that they may do any one or more of the following:
 - i. attend that meeting (personally or by his or her representative, not being legally trained or qualified); or
 - ii. give the Selection Review Panel and the other parties to the appeal, no later than 24 hours before the time of that meeting, further written statements or submissions relevant to the appeal.

5.5.4 The Selection Review Panel may conduct a meeting convened in accordance with clause 5.5.2 (or any adjournment thereof) in such manner as it sees fit, but shall:

- (a) give to all parties every opportunity to be heard;
- (b) give due consideration to any written statement by the aggrieved person;
- (c) allow the aggrieved person to be present along with his or her adult representative (not being legally trained or qualified);

5.5.5 Following consideration of all relevant and available information, the Selection Review Panel shall determine the appeal where the Selection Review Panel consists of three members it shall be sufficient for a majority of those members to agree on a decision.

5.5.6 The Selection Review Panel shall notify the Chief Executive Officer of Bowls Victoria of its finding as soon as practicable.

5.5.7 If the Selection Review Panel refers the matter back to the Selection Committee in accordance with clause 5.4.2, the Selection Committee shall comply with any direction of the Selection Review Panel provided such directions do not in effect amount to a direction to select or not select a particular athlete or athletes.

5.5.8 Provided the Selection Committee has complied with any directions given to it pursuant to clause 5.4.2 there shall be no appeal from any decision of the Selection Committee which is made following a referral to it by the Selection Review Panel pursuant to clause 5.4.2.

Review History and Version Control

The Bowls Victoria Selection Policy will be reviewed every two years.

Version	Prepared	Reviewed	Approved	Date Approved
1.1	Member Services & Events Manager	Selection Committee	Board	23 rd May 2019
1.2	Member Services & Events Manager	GM Bowls Ops	Board	22 Feb 2023