**NOTE:-** The Ovens & Murray Bowls Region Inc. Regulations have precedence over these Rules (in case of any amendments)

**RULE 1. PENNANT COMPETITION.** The Pennant Competition shall take place each season between the O&M Bowls Region Clubs

**RULE 2**. **DAY AND TIME OF PLAY.** Pennant Matches may be played any time during the week but no later than Sunday of the week scheduled. Matches are to commence at an agreed day and time arranged between the Club Side Captains to suit the competing teams. Should the Club Side Captains not reach agreement then play is to commence at the scheduled programmed time and date.

2.1 ***Start Time*.** All Pennant Matches are to commence at

(other than agreed alternate date/time):

2.1.1 ***Weekend Pennant:*** 1:30pm on the Saturday as per the Ovens and Murray Bowls Region Inc Program, unless arranged in accordance with Rule 2, 30 minutes grace shall be allowed after the agreed/appointed time. Should one club fail to appear within 30 minutes of the agreed/ appointed time, the Club ready to play may claim the match, except in cases of an accident when travelling, whereby a reasonable extension of time (no greater than an additional 30 minutes) shall be granted. If a sectional match has not been completed by 6:45pm on Saturdays (or after 5hrs 15 minutes if play commences at an alternative agreed start time), play shall cease, but any ends in progress at 6:45pm (or after 5hrs 15 minutes if play commences at an earlier agreed start time) shall be completed.

2.1.2 ***Midweek Pennant:*** 10.00am until 01 December then from 9.30am on Tuesday as per the Ovens and Murray Bowls Region Inc Program, unless arranged in accordance with Rule 2, 30 minutes grace shall be allowed after the agreed/appointed time. Should one club fail to appear within 30 minutes of the agreed/ appointed time, the Club ready to play may claim the match, except in cases of an accident when travelling, whereby a reasonable extension of time (no greater than an additional 30 minutes) shall be granted. If a sectional match has not been completed by 2:45pm on Tuesdays (or after 5hrs 15 minutes if play commences at an alternative agreed start time), play shall cease, but any ends in progress at 2:45pm (or after 5hrs 15 minutes if play commences at an alternative agreed start time) shall be completed.

**RULE 3.** **DIVISIONS.** The competition is to be played as follows:

3.1 ***Midweek.***  There will be 5 Open divisions as follows:

3.1.1 Divisions - Division 1 - 5 all with 3 teams (12 players)

3.2 ***Weekend.*** There will be three Open Divisions as follows:

3.2.1 ***Division A*** - 4 teams (16 players);

3.2.2 ***Division B*** - 3 teams (12 players)

3.2.3 ***Division C*** - 2 teams (8 players).

**RULE 4.** **COMPOSITION OF SIDES.** As per Bowls Victoria Rules for Competition.

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**RULE 5.** **NUMBER OF ENDS.** Games to be of twenty-five (25) ends per rink, unless through adverse weather or time restrictions as per Rule 12, when not less than sixty ends have been completed in a four teams match, or forty-five ends in a three teams match, and thirty ends in a two team match. The match shall thereupon be terminated and decided with the scores at that stage.

 Teams involved in un-played/incomplete games;

Teams affected by adverse weather, shall receive one half of the maximum number of points which can be scored in their Section if the game is abandoned with less than the required number of ends as per Rules 5 and 12.

**RULE 6. POINTS SYSTEM.** Pennant games will be decided on the following points system:

6.1 ***Sides of 16*** (4 rinks):- 2 points for a rink win and 10 points for aggregate.

6.2 ***Sides of 12*** (3 rinks):- 2 points for a rink win and 8 points for aggregate.

6.3 ***Sides of 8*** (2 rinks ):- 2 points for a rink win and 6 points for aggregate.

6.4 ***Tied rink or tied games:-*** the points are to be divided.

6.5 ***A Bye*** any round shall receive no points. The team that has the bye is considered to have played for the purpose of Rule 5. A Pennant Results sheet listing the team players should be submitted by teams with a bye for qualification purposes.

6.6 ***At the conclusion of sectional play points shall decide the position of the clubs.*** If points are equal, shots up shall decide the position and, if these are equal then percentage shall decide the position.

***6.7 In sections with an odd number of byes, the Pennant Committee will determine the points for the byes before the start of the season. (None in 2016-17)***

### 6.8 Unless permission has been granted by the Pennant

***Committee*** a side which has defaulted in any match shall incur a match point penalty with the total match points available for the game and 10 shots being awarded to the opponent of the offending side and a loss of 10 shots from the defaulting side.

**RULE 7:** **PROMOTION AND RELEGATION.** Promotion and

Relegation will generally occur as follows, but the Pennant Committee reserves the right to make changes to the Divisions in order to balance the competition.

7.1 ***Weekend Pennant***

7.1.1 ***Division A.*** Promotion and relegation will occur as follows:

7.1.1.1 The bottom team in Section A1 will drop back to

Section A2.

7.1.1.2 The winner in Section A2 will be promoted to Section A1 and the bottom team in Section A2 will drop back to Section A3.

7.1.1.3 The winner of Section A3 will be promoted to Section A2 and the bottom team in Section A3 will drop back to Section A4.

7.1.1.4 The winner of Section A4 will be promoted to Division A3 and the bottom team in Section A4 will drop back to Division B.

7.1.1.5 The winner of Division B will be promoted to Section A4, subject to the provisions of Rule 7.1.3

7.1.2 However, promotion is not compulsory and should the winner of Section A2, A3 and Section A4 decline promotion, the offer will be made only to the runner-up in their respective sections. Should no team wish to accept promotion the team to be relegated will remain in that Division.

7.1.3 ***Division B.***

Promotion to Division A4 offered to clubs winning B divisions in the order of points at the end of sectional play and if points are equal then by shots-up and finally by percentage.

If no club winning Division B desire promotion, the offer of promotion will be made to the runners-up in B Divisions,

in the order of points at the end of sectional play and if points are equal then by shots-up and finally by percentage.

If no club winning or runner-up in Division B desire promotion, there will be no relegation from Section A4.

7.1.4 ***Division C.*** A Club can apply to elevate it’s Division C side to Division B before the commencement of a season.

7.2 ***Midweek Pennant.*** Promotion and relegation is compulsory for the Midweek Open Pennant competitions as indicated by the pennant committee for 2016-17.

7.3 Nothing in these Rules will prevent a club from having more than one team in anyone Division and/or section.

7.4 If more than one side is fielded by a club in a Pennant competition, the following conditions shall apply:

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7.4.1 The second and subsequent sides shall be graded in numerical sequences as 2, 3, 4 etc (eg. A2-2 or 1A-2) in the descending order of their seniority; and

7.4.2 If a Club has more than one side in Weekend Pennant B Division they are to formally advise the Pennant Coordinator, prior to the 1st round, the seniority of each team. If formal advice is not received, the Pennant Coordinator is to assume that the seniority for the Club is in numerical sequence (B1 then B2 etc).

7.4.2 In Mid-week Pennant for 2016-17, the pennant committee has designated the teams which are the numbered 1 and 2 teams in Division 1A and 1B for clubs with two teams, to even the two equal competitions.

**RULE 8. FINALS.** The conditions for the Pennant Finals are asfollows:

8.1 All Finals are to commence at 1:00pm for the Weekend Open Pennant or 9:30am for the Midweek Pennant on the day programmed. Afternoon tea is to be taken where programmed by the Regions Pennant Committee.

8.2 Allocated Venues will be made by the Pennant Committee at the end of the last home and away game. The two finalist sides are to agree on the venue allocated. Any objections to the allocated venue must be received by the Ovens and Murray Bowls Region Inc Secretary on the Thursday (Midweek Pennant) and Monday (Weekend Pennant) prior to the relevant Final being played. If agreement cannot be reached by the two competing Clubs, on an alternate venue, the game will be played at the venue allocated by the Pennant Committee.

8.3 ***The Finals*** are to be played under the Page System for all Divisions. The conditions for the Finals are as follows:

8.3.1 *Qualifying Final:-* 1st versus 2nd

8.3.2 *Elimination Final:-* 3rd versus 4th.

8.3.3 *Preliminary Final:-* Winner of Elimination Final versus loser of Qualifying Finals.

8.3.4 *Final:-* Winner of Qualifying Final versus winner of Preliminary Final.

8.3.5 Semi-Finals and Finals shall be played right out unless it is impossible for one side to win in the number of ends remaining to be completed.

8.3.6 In Semi-Final and finals games, should sides obtain equal number of shots at the completion of the game, an extra end or ends shall be played by all rinks to decide the winners.

8.3.7 During the Finals of the Pennant competition, the club highest on the ladder will be deemed to be the home side.

**RULE 9.** **PLAYER ELIGIBILITY** - refer Bowls Victoria Rule 13

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9.1 Prior to the last four rounds of sectional play there shall be no restrictions on the interchange of players between the sides of the Club. For the last four rounds of sectional play, no side shall include more than three players who have played the majority of their games during the season in a higher graded side.

9.2 A side shall not include in any post sectional match, a player who during the current season who has played in four or more matches (whether completed or not) in any higher graded sides, unless the player has also played in four or more games (whether completed or not) in that competition (Midweek Open and Weekend Open) [must play 4 games in the respective Midweek competition and the Weekend competition to be eligible to play in either sets of finals] or in the side concerned and/or any lower graded side or sides.

 Where a Club has two sides in either Pennant Division the following qualification will apply to sides in that respective. For 2016-17 this also applies to clubs in Mid-week Open 1A and 1B with two teams in these divisions and in Weekend B2 division.

9.2.1 At the conclusion of round 10 the Regions Pennant

Committee will name 12 players in each side ‘belonging’ to that particular side, and as such, ineligible for interchange between the two sides in the same Division.

9.3 In any post sectional match a side shall not include any player who during the current season has played in less than four Pennant games for the club.

9.4 If a club is not certain of having sufficient members available (under Rule 9.2) it can apply to the Pennant Committee for permission to play, another nominated

member or members and if permission is granted such member or members can play in any position other than Skip.

**RULE 10.** **SUBSTITUTES & REPLACEMENT PLAYERS.**

10.1 Prior to two hours before the commencement of the match, a Club may not introduce a replacement bowler under the provisions of Domestic Regulation 4.1.8 except for its lowest numbered side;

10.2 After the commencement of play in a match, a substitute can take the place of any member of the side in accordance with World Bowls Laws 51.2 and Domestic Regulation 4 only if such member becomes unable to continue to play in the match by reason of circumstances arising after the commencement of the match;

10.3 A Club cannot have more than one substitute in a team; and

10.4 Incomplete Side

If at the latest time for the commencement of a match a Side does not have sufficient Members to form a Side,

10.4.1 A team with an absent player plays as though the second is the missing player; the Skips of the respective teams carry the scorecard and update the score at completion of each end.

10.4.2 The order of play shall be maintained by the second of the complete team playing consecutive bowls;

10.4.3 If a player has commenced the game, however is unable to continue the game and no eligible substitute or replacement is available or allowed, play will continue as if one player is absent as per Rule 10.4.1.and 10.4.2.

10.4.4 If an absent player arrives late, they must take their original place in the team when they arrive and enter the game at the completion of the end in progress.

10.4.5 If an eligible substitute or replacement player becomes available they may be introduced to the game at the completion of the end in progress.

**RULE 11.** **TEA BREAK.**

11.1 ***Midweek Pennant.*** No tea break will be taken during the game.

11.2 ***Weekend Pennant.*** A tea break will be taken at a time determined by both Side Captains. During Sectional Play, if either Side Captain is of the opinion that play may be interrupted due to weather conditions, the tea break is not to be taken until:

11.2.1 60 ends have been completed in a four rink

 game

11.2.2 45 ends in a three rink game, and

11.2.3 30 ends in a two rink game.

**RULE 12.** **INCLEMENT WEATHER.** To ensure player safety and protection of Club assets the following conditions will be applied during inclement weather:

12.1 ***Heat***

12.1.1 The Pennant Executive may cancel the round prior to the programmed start time should extreme temperatures be anticipated.

#### 12.1.2 Weekend Pennant

12.1.2.1 Before commencement of play. If the temperature at a club reaches 38 degrees Celsius at 11:30am on the day of play, as measured by the ‘Umpire of the day’, the game is to be cancelled.

12.1.2.2 After the commencement of play if the temperature reaches 40 degrees Celsius, play will be postponed until the temperature drops below 40 degrees Celsius.

12.1.2.3 If, owing to inclement weather, a match has not commenced by 3:00pm, it shall be abandoned.

12.1.2.4 If a home and away match has been delayed or interrupted by inclement weather, and a result cannot be achieved before 6:30pm play shall cease, but any ends in progress at 6:30pm shall be completed.

12.1.3 ***Midweek Pennant.*** Play will be cancelled once the temperature reaches 36 degrees Celsius.

12.1.4 ***Monitoring of Temperature.*** The monitoring of the temperature shall be conducted independently on grass and synthetic/carpet Greens. (where two Greens at a Club, one synthetic/carpet and the other grass, are being used for Pennant on the same day then the temperature must be monitored independently for each Green).

12.1.4.1 The monitoring of the temperature will be by the ‘Umpire of the day’ whose decision shall be final. The umpire is to allow the Side Captains to view the thermometer if requested.

12.1.4.2 Any team, side or individual who continues to play after a decision to abandon play, shall be liable to loss of points, disqualification and or fine.

12.1.4.3 The measuring of the temperature to be made using a thermometer housed in a Small Instrument Shelter specified by the Bureau of Meteorology, drawing MI12-01 (copy available from the Region Secretary). The Shelter is to be placed in an open position, preferably on the Green but clear of any buildings, shelters (exempt shade cloth covers), vegetation or any other item which may impede its operation.

12.1.5 If a game is cancelled the Home Side Captain is to carry out the following:

12.1.5.1 Notify their opponents

12.1.5.2 Weekend Pennant- Pennant Phone Contact (Noel Murrell Ph 0490007125) to be advised that the game has been cancelled.

12.1.5.3 Midweek Pennant - Pennant Recorder (Dawn Fox Ph 0357214271) to be advised that the game has been cancelled.

12.1.5.4 Both Sides are to send the Pennant Check Form to the Pennant Co-ordinator stating that the game was cancelled. Team sheets should be filled in for qualification purposes.

12.2 ***Rain***

12.2.1 In cases of adverse weather conditions due to rain, the Home Club Sides Captain, after consultation with the Greens committee or Club representative, shall make the decision as to the fitness of the Green for play, whether prior to commencement of play or due to interruption during play.

12.2.2 If, owing to inclement weather, a match has not commenced within 1.5 hours from the planned start time it shall be abandoned.

12.2.3 If a sectional match has been delayed or interrupted by inclement weather, and has not been completed after 5 hours of the planned start time play shall cease, but any ends in progress at that time shall be completed.

12.2.4 In the event of the home Green being unavailable due to wet weather, Home Club Sides Captain is to carry out the following:

12.2.4.1 Notify their opponents before 7.00am for Midweek Pennant and 11:00am for Weekend Pennant. (alternative agreed start time, 2.5 hours before agreed time)

12.2.4.2 Weekend Pennant, phone (Noel Murrell Ph 0490007125) and Midweek Pennant, phone (Dawn Fox Ph 0357214271) advise them that the game has been cancelled.

12.2.4.3 Both Club Side Captains are to send the Pennant Check Form to the Pennant Co-ordinator stating that the game was cancelled, with the teams entered for qualification purposes.

12.2.5 ***Cancelling Pennant.*** The Pennant Executive may cancel the round prior to the programmed start time should extreme weather conditions be anticipated.

**RULE 13.** **UMPIRE.** The home club shall appoint an Umpire of the day whose decision on any dispute shall be final, unless an appeal is lodged in writing together with a deposit of $50, with the Secretary of the Region, within three (3) days of the agreed day of play. Such appeal to be dealt with by the Regions Pennant Committee whose decision must be accepted.

**RULE 14.** **DISCS** Approved coloured discs are to be used by Club’s except where colours clash and are likely to cause confusion. In this case alternative colour discs or no discs are to be used by the visiting Club.

**RULE 15.** **BOWLING GREEN**

15.1 ***Timing the Green*** Clubs are to time the Green(s) prior to the commencement of each Pennant game and ensure visiting Club Side Captain is advised of the speed.

15.2 ***Greens Complaints.*** The following procedures are to be followed where teams have a complaint regarding the condition of Greens:

15.2.1 Any complaint must be made in writing to the Ovens and Murray Bowls Region Inc Secretary;

15.2.2 The President or the Secretary of the Club concerned is to be informed and provided with a written copy of the complaint;

15.2.3 The Ovens and Murray Bowls Region Inc Greens

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Chairman is to make arrangements for an inspection of the Subject Green with a Club representative present; The Ovens and Murray Bowls Region Inc Greens Chairman is to provide a report with recommendations to the Ovens and Murray Bowls Region Inc Pennant Committee; and The Ovens and Murray Bowls Region Inc Pennant Committee is to consider the Greens Chairman’s report and take any action as deemed necessary.

**RULE 16.** **PENNANT RESULTS** The following procedures are to be followed:

16.1 ***Home Side Captains;***

16.1.1 Complete the Pennant Check Form and ensure it is signed by both Sides Captains.

16.1.2 Phone the results to the Pennant Scores Recorder:

16.1.2.1 ***Weekend Pennant.*** Phone (contact details to be provided each season) by 6:45pm on Saturday or day of play.

16.1.2.2 ***Midweek Pennant.*** Phone (contact details to be provided each season) by 6:00pm Tuesday or day of play.

16.1.3 Post the Pennant Check Form to the Pennant Co-ordinator;

16.1.3.1 ***Weekend Pennant.*** (Mike J. BODMAN, O&M Weekend Pennant Recorder,

PO Box 495, WODONGA VIC 3689) post no later than Monday following the match.

16.1.3.2 ***Midweek Pennant.*** (Dawn Fox 46 Swan St., Wangaratta, 3677) Post no later than Wednesday following the match.

16.2. ***Pennant Scores Recorder.*** Is to Fax or email all Pennant results to the O&M Bowls Region Web Site Manager or notified representative by no later than:

16.2.1 ***Weekend Pennant.*** 7:00pm each Saturday or day of play.

16.2.2 ***Midweek Pennant.*** 7:00pm each Tuesday or day of play.

16.3 ***Penalties.*** Penalties will apply for Clubs not complying with the Pennant Administrative requirements. A Club will be penalised $20.00 for breaches listed as follows:

16.3.1 Failure to comply with Rule 12.2.4;

16.3.2 Failure to comply with Rule 16.1.2;

16.3.3 Failure to comply with Rule 16.1.3; and

16.3.4 Failure to correctly compile or confirm correctness of Pennant Check Form.

16.3.5 Persistent failure to comply with the above will result in loss of competition points as set by the Pennant Committee.

16.4 ***Pennant Co-ordinator.*** The Pennant Co-ordinator is responsible for:

16.4.1 Recording all team results at the completion of each round.

16.4.2 Maintaining and publishing the official O&M Bowls Region Pennant Ladder as directed by the Pennant Committee, and

16.4.3 Confirming the eligibility of a player.

**RULE 17.** **DEATH OF A PLAYER ON THE GREEN.** If, after the commencement of play in a home and away game, the death of a player occurs the match will be abandoned out of respect. If this occurs the points will be awarded in accordance with a tied game. If death occurs during Post Sectional play, the match will be completed in accordance with the rules for postponement and at a time to be determined by the Pennant Committee.

**RULE 18.** **PENNANT RULE AMENDMENTS.** Clubs can submit proposed amendments to the Pennant Rules, through the Regions Secretary (for formal recording), at anytime throughout a bowls season. However, as a general rule, no Pennant Rule shall be amended by the Regions Pennant Committee, once the Pennant Season has commenced, unless it impacts on player wellbeing or is a logical requirement that it should occur as it impacts on the current season.