**O&M Pennant**

**Major rule changes for 2016-17**

**Add Rule 6.7**

In sections where the draw determines that teams play an unequal number of byes throughout the season, then clubs felt an unfair advantage was gained by some clubs

Explanation:

In some sections with an uneven number of teams and a large number of teams, it may not be possible in the draw to complete 2 full rounds of home and away matches. Some teams may therefore have 2 byes and others only 1. Byes do not count for points, so some teams therefore have more games than others and a greater opportunity to earn points of the season. The Pennant Committee will determine a Points Ratio calculation for byes in the final round to make the section fair for all teams. No divisions are affected in 2016-17.

**Rule 5**

Delete all references to 50% of matches played in a section for the round to count.

Explanation:

The Pennant Committee is concerned that there is a disincentive for clubs to play games when inclement weather is involved. This is of particular concern with rain. The heat rule is very specific and regulated by the umpires, but with rain it is much more of a subjective decision. There is evidence that clubs ring other clubs to ascertain if play is likely and then make decisions based on that evidence. In fact, the weather and condition of the green at the host club should be the only determining factors when making a decision to play or not to play. The Committee is of the opinion that if clubs travel and make the effort to play, then that effort should be respected and **any** games completed as per Rule 5 and Rule 12, should count.

**Rule 7.1.3**

Additional opportunities for promotion to A Division for B Division Teams in line with promotion rules in A Division in Weekend Pennant.

***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.

**Rule 10 Incomplete sides**

Explanation

Teams can now play with three players if a substitute is not available. The team plays without a seconds and with 6 bowls (two- bowls each). The Skips will mark the scorecards in this circumstance.

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.

**Flagging intentions for 2017-18**

The Pennant Committee is committed to finding common ground with rule changes in an effort to align the Conditions of Competition for Weekend and Mid-Week Pennant. Specifically, the rules in regard to promotion and relegation and heat are for consideration.

The Committee is seeking evidence to help it make an informed decision re the heat policy for 2017-18. We ask that Club umpires keep a record of the temperature reached in all pennant games played at their clubs this season. Specifically we would like to know for Saturday pennant what maximum temperature was reached on each day and at what time. On Tuesdays we would also like to know what maximum temperature was reached before 2:00 pm. The Pennant Committee will prepare and distribute a Temperature Record Sheet which we ask umpires to complete and return at the end of the season. Consideration will be given to amending regulations to abandon the game if play has not resumed within one hour of an interruption for temperature above the maximum allowed in that competition.

At this stage, promotion and relegation is compulsory for Mid-Week Pennant but optional for weekend Pennant. We ask that clubs discuss this issue and that delegates indicate their club’s preference at a future delegates meeting.

Consideration will also be given for 2017-18 in regard to lunch arrangements for Mid-week pennant.