

OVENS AND MURRAY BOWLS REGION INC PENNANT RULES OF COMPETITION

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

- 1.1 The competition will be conducted in accordance with;
 - 1.1.1 Ovens and Murray (O&M) Bowls Region Inc Constitution and Regulations,
 - 1.1.2 Laws of the Sport of Bowls Crystal Mark 3rd edition,
 - 1.1.3 Bowls Australia (BA) Domestic Regulations,
 - 1.1.4 Bowls Victoria (BV) Constitution and Regulations, and
 - 1.1.5 Bowls Victoria Region & Division Pennant Competitions Conditions of Play (excepting where Regions reserve the right to alter or amend the conditions of play as it considers necessary)
- 1.2 **Controlling body on day of play.** The Controlling Body for the purposes of the Region's Pennant Competition is the Host Club.
- 1.3 **Side Captain.** Clubs are to appoint a Sides Captain for each side entered who will be responsible to manage that side as follows:
 - 1.3.1 Wherever under a Law or Regulation gives a Side a right of decision or choice, it will be exercised by the Side Captain who will act on behalf of the Side. **If possible, the Side Captain should not be the Umpire for the day (this may not be an option in smaller 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 (appointed by participating clubs) 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 as detailed below.

- 2.1 **Start Time.** All Pennant Matches are to commence at (other than agreed alternate date/time arranged in accordance with Rule 2):
 - 2.1.1 **Weekend Pennant:** 1:00pm on the Saturday (2 trial ends prior)
 - 2.1.2 **Midweek Pennant:** 10.00am on Tuesday (2 trial ends prior)
 - 2.1.2 **Starting Time Allowance.** Thirty (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 3:15pm on Tuesdays, 6.15pm on Saturdays (or after 5hrs 15 minutes if play commences at an alternative agreed start time), play shall cease, but any ends in progress shall be completed.

- 2.2 **Pre-Match Practice** The conditions are as follows:
- 2.2.1 **Home Side** Prior to an hour before the commencement time, Home team may practice on any rink other than the rinks or part of the rinks allocated to them for the match.
- 2.2.2 **Visiting sides** are not permitted to practice at the away venues on the day of competition.
- 2.3 **Breach** A breach in the first instance may result in a warning. A subsequent breach may result in the game being awarded to the opposition and/or loss of points.

Rule 3. **Divisions.** All Divisional Pennant Draws are to ensure that all sides play each other the same number of times to ensure fairness in points allocation. Two separate competitions will be run and structured as follows:

- 3.1 **Midweek.** There will be two Divisions:
- 3.1.1 **Division A** – with 3 Sections (12 players); consisting of Divisions A1, A2 and A3.
- 3.1.2 **Division B** – with 3 Sections (12 players); consisting of Division B1, B2 and B3.
- 3.2 **Weekend.** There will be two Divisions as follows:
- 3.2.1 **Division A** - 4 Sections (16 players), consisting of Divisions A1, A2, A3 and A4; and
- 3.2.2 Division B – 5 Sections (12 players), consisting of Divisions B1, B2, B3, B4 and B5.
- 3.2.3 The number of Divisions/Sections for both Midweek and Weekend Pennant can be added or reduced dependent on teams available each season.

Rule 4. **Selection of sides.** As per Bowls Victoria Region & Division Pennant Competitions Conditions of Play. Sides are to be filled by available players (male or female) in descending order of ability.

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 combined sixty (60) ends have been completed in a four sides match, or forty five (45) ends in a three sides match, and thirty (30) ends in a two sides match. The match shall thereupon be terminated and decided with the scores at that stage. If fifty percent (50%) of games, in any particular round of Pennant in a Section, are completed the points scored shall be taken. Clubs involved in un-played/incomplete games in any Section affected by adverse weather, shall receive one half of the maximum number of points which can be scored in their Section. ***If less than fifty percent (50%) of the matches in a Section are played the complete round shall be abandoned.***

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** – no points allocated.

- 6.6 **Cancelled or Abandoned Round.** No points allocated.
- 6.7 **Forfeit** 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 10 shots removed from the defaulting side.
- 6.8 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.

Rule 7. **Promotion and Relegation.** Promotion and Relegation will form the basis of the Pennant competition. However, the Pennant Committee reserves the right to make changes to the Divisions in order to balance the competition.

- 7.1 **Divisions/Sections.** Both Weekend and Midweek Pennant will consist of Divisions and Sections with Divisions being alphabetical and Sections being numerical. Promotion and relegation will occur as follows:

7.1.1 **Division A.**

- 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 (Weekend Pennant) or Division B (Midweek Pennant);
- 7.1.1.4 the winner of Section A4 (Weekend Pennant) will be promoted to Section A3 and the bottom team in Section A4 will drop back to Division B; and
- 7.1.1.5 the winner of Division B will be promoted to Division A, Section A4 (Weekend Pennant), or Division A, Section 3 (Midweek Pennant) subject to the provisions of Rule 7.1.3.

- 7.1.2 Promotion is not compulsory and should the winner of any Division A Section 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 subjected to relegation will remain in that Division/Section.

- 7.1.3 **Division B.** This Division is generally based on geographic boundaries within the Region and not on seniority. If a Club has more than one side in Division B the only side that will be considered for promotion is the Club's senior side in Division B (refer Rule 7.4.2). Promotion to Division A is offered to clubs winning Division B in the order of points at the end of sectional play and if points are equal then by shots-up and finally by percentage.

- 7.1.3.2 If no club winning Division B desire promotion, the offer of promotion will be made to the **runners-up only** in Division B, in the order of points at the end of sectional play and if points

are equal then by shots-up and finally by percentage.

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

7.2 Nothing in these Rules will prevent a club from having more than one team in any one Division and/or Section.

7.3 If more than one side is fielded by a club in a Division/Section, the following conditions shall apply:

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

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

Rule 8. **Finals.** The conditions for the Pennant Finals are as follows:

8.1 All Finals are to commence at 1:00pm (Weekend Pennant) or 10.00am (Midweek Pennant) on the day programmed. - Afternoon tea or lunch is to be taken as 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 Chairman of the Pennant Committee no later than Friday for Midweek Pennant and Wednesday for Weekend Pennant prior to the relevant Final being played. If agreement cannot be reached by the two competing Clubs, on an alternate venue, or the proposed Greens are not available then the game will be played at the venue allocated by the Region's 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 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 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.

8.3.6 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** - A player must be a registered financial member of a Club as determined by the Board from time to time and in accordance with the Bowls Victoria Constitution.

9.1 Interchanging of a player between sides prior to finals:

9.1.1 Prior to the last four rounds of sectional play there shall be no restrictions on the interchange of players between the sides of a Club.

9.1.2 For the last four rounds of sectional play, no side shall include more than three players who have played the majority of their games, prior to the fourth last game, in a higher graded side.

9.2 Interchanging of a player between sides in finals.

9.2.1 A Side may not include any Player who, during the current season, has played less than four games for the Club (whether completed or not) in that actual competition (the Weekend Pennant Competition and the Midweek Pennant competition are separate competitions and games played in one competition do not count towards Player eligibility in the other competition).

9.2.2 In any Post-Sectional match a Side will not include any Player who, during the current season, has played more than four games (whether completed or not) in the Clubs higher graded Sides unless the Player has also played in four or more games in the Side concerned and/or lower graded Sides.

9.2.3 Where a Club has two sides in a Section the following qualification will apply to sides in that respective Section (eg. Two sides in Division A, Section 2):

9.2.3.1 at the conclusion of round 10 the Regions Pennant Committee will name 12 players (16 player side)/8 players (12 player side) in each side 'belonging' to that particular side, and as such, ineligible for interchange between the two sides in the same Division.

9.3 If a club has insufficient 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 2.4 except for its lowest numbered side;

10.2 If a player becomes unable to play in the match for reasons arising after the commencement of the match, a substitute is permitted in accordance with Law 33,2 & DR 2.3. Only one substitute is permitted in each Team.

10.3 Incomplete Sides.

10.3.1 **at commencement of a game.**

10.3.1.1 If at the time a match is due to commence a player is absent DR 2.5 will apply;

- 10.3.1.2 A team with an absent player plays as though the second is the missing player. The opponents with a complete team will have their second play consecutive bowls (DR 2.5.1.1, 2.5.1.2 & 2.5.1.3).
- 10.3.1.3 the Skips of both teams carry the scorecard and update the score at completion of each end.
- 10.3.1.4 If the absent player arrives late, they must take their original place and enter the game at the completion of the end in progress.
- 10.4.1 **After a game has commenced:**
 - 10.4.1.1 If a player who has commenced the match cannot continue and there is no eligible substitute available, a team may play with an absent player. The absent player is deemed to be the second.
 - 10.4.1.2 The Skips of both teams carry the scorecard and update the score at completion of each end.
 - 10.4.1.3 The opponents with a complete team will have their second play consecutive bowls (DR 2.5.1.1, 2.5.1.2 & 2.5.1.3).
 - 10.4.1.4 If a player who leaves the match subsequently becomes available they must re-join the team in their original place in the team at the completion of the end in progress.
 - 10.4.1.5 If a substitute player is available, the Controlling Body may allow them to enter 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 (4) rink game,
 - 11.2.2 45 ends in a three (3) rink game, and
 - 11.2.3 30 ends in a (2) 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 **After the commencement of play.** if the temperature reaches **38 degrees Celsius**, play will be postponed until the temperature drops below 38 degrees Celsius.

- 12.1.2.2 If, owing to inclement weather, a match has not commenced by 2.30pm it shall be abandoned
- 12.1.2.3 If a home and away match has been delayed or interrupted by inclement weather, and a result cannot be achieved before 6:00pm play shall cease, but
- 12.1.2.4 in a delayed or interrupted game, where a result can be achieved, **any ends in progress at 6:00pm shall be completed.**
- 12.1.3 **Midweek Pennant.** Play will be cancelled once the temperature reaches **38 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 both Side Managers 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 'dry bulb' (no electronic, computer or phone to be used) thermometer housed in a Small Instrument Shelter specified by the Bureau of Meteorology, drawing MI-12-01 (copy available from the Region Secretary).
- 12.1.4.4 **Placement on non-shade covered Greens.** The Instrument Shelter is to be placed with its door facing south and in an open position, **preferably on the Green** but clear of any buildings, shelters, vegetation or any other item which may impede its operation.
- 12.1.4.5 **Placement on shade covered Greens.** The Small Instrument Shelter should be placed with its door facing the south and **under the shade cover** but clear of any shadows cast by buildings, vegetation or any other item which may impede its operation.
- 12.1.5 If a game is cancelled the following actions are to be completed:
- 12.1.5.1 **Home side Captain** is to notify their opponents
- 12.1.5.2 **Home Club** - complete results entry on the website

12.1.5.3 **Away Club** – confirm the results on the website.

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, the following actions are to occur:

12.2.4.1 **Home Club** - Notify their opponents before 7.30am for Midweek Pennant and 10.30am for Weekend Pennant (for an alternative agreed start time, 2.5 hours before the agreed time) and enter the results on the website eg. share points.

12.2.4.2 **Away Club** – confirm the results on the website.

12.2.5 **Cancelling or adjusting the start time of Pennant.** The Regions Pennant Committee may cancel the round prior to the programmed start time or adjust the programmed start time should extreme weather conditions be anticipated.

Rule 13. **Umpire.** The club that is designated as the Home Club is to appoint an accredited Umpire to officiate.

13.1 If the Home Club does not have an accredited Umpire available then a visiting accredited Umpire may be appointed to officiate. Alternatively, if no accredited Umpire is available then an accredited Measurer may be appointed Umpire.

13.2 If no accredited Umpire or Measurer is available then a competent player from the Home Club should be appointed to act as Umpire.

13.3 An Umpires' decision is final and cannot be contested, disregarded or appealed except for matters relating to the meaning and interpretation of a Law.

Rule 14. **Bowls Identification Discs** Approved coloured discs are to be used by Club's.

14.1 All players in the Side must use a disc of the same colour/design (including in the advent of a composite side).

14.2 Where opponents use the same coloured discs, the visiting Side shall remove theirs or use another colour if available.

14.3 Only a single layer of disc is permitted on a bowl.

- 14.4 Bowls discs may not cover the WB Stamp/Date or the Serial Number of the Bowl and they should be cut or trimmed to comply.
- 14.5 Bowls must have discs on both sides of the bowl. Alternatively, the dot from the set of discs may be placed over the insignia on the bias side of the Bowl in lieu of the small ring provided it is from the same set of discs used by the Side.

Rule 15 **Use of a Bowlers Arm.** The Bowlers Arm **once used** in a game must be used for the remainder of the game. This does not apply to the rolling of the jack, which can be rolled either by hand or by a Bowlers Arm. (DR 2.5.1.1, 2.5.1.2 & 2.5.1.3)

Rule 16. **Condition of Green**

- 16.1 A Green must be suitable for play. If a Green is found to be unsuitable, a Club may be directed to make alternative arrangements.
- 16.2 If a satisfactory alternative Green cannot be found, the Club may be directed by the Regions Pennant Committee to forfeit games.
- 16.3 The ideal speed of Greens for Pennant is between 13 and 17 seconds.
- 16.4 **Timing the Green.** Clubs are to time the Green(s) prior to the commencement of each Pennant game and ensure visiting Club Sides Captains are advised of the speed.
- 16.5 **Greens Complaints.** The following procedures are to be followed where teams have a complaint regarding the condition of Greens:
 - 16.5.2 Any complaint must be made in writing to the Ovens and Murray Bowls Region Inc Secretary;
 - 16.5.3 The President or the Secretary of the Club concerned is to be informed and provided with a written copy of the complaint;
 - 16.5.4 The Ovens and Murray Bowls Region Inc Greens Chairman is to make arrangements for an inspection of the subject Green, with a club representative present;
 - 16.5.5 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
 - 16.2.6 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 17. **Entering Teams and Posting Results.** The SportsTG Competition Module on the website is to be used for administering the Pennant competition. All teams and results are to be entered, by participating clubs, through the Region's Website. The following procedures are to be followed:

- 17.1 **Entering of Teams.** Clubs are to enter all teams on the website (including sides with a Bye, if allowed, otherwise as advised by the Pennant Committee) prior to each round of Pennant. The procedure for entering teams will be provided by the Pennant Committee.
- 17.2 **Posting Results.** Results of each round of Pennant are to be posted to the website by the Home Club on the day of play and confirmed by the Away Club by no later than 12.00pm the day after the

game was played. The procedure for entering the results will be provided by the Pennant Committee. The responsibilities of each club are as follows:

17.2.1 **Home Side Captains.** Enter the results to the website.

17.2.2 **Away Side.** Confirm the results on the website.

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

17.3.1 Failure to comply with 12.1.4.2

17.3.2 Failure to comply with Rule 12.2.4;

17.3.3 Failure to comply with Rule 17.1; and

17.3.4 Failure to comply with Rule 17.2.

17.4 **Pennant Committee** is responsible for:

17.4.1 maintaining and publishing the official O&M Bowls Region Pennant Ladder; and

17.4.2 confirming the eligibility of a player.

Rule 18 Death of A player on the Green. If, after commencement of play in a home and away game, the death of a player occurs at the club, all matches in progress at the club 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 accord with the rules for postponement and at a time to be determined by the Pennant Committee.

Rule 19 Protected Events

19.1 The BV Victorian Open is a protected event. Region/Division Pennant cannot be scheduled during the running of the event and the scheduling/playing of rounds of Region State Championships and Club Championship events during Victorian Open is prohibited.

19.2 No exemptions will be given for the conduct of Region/Club Championships during this time

Rule 20 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.

Summary of O&M Pennant Rules of Competition that differ to Bowls Victoria Region & Division Pennant Competitions Conditions of Play:

Bowls Vic Conditions of Play Guidance No.	O&M Pennant Rules of Competition Refer
27, 34	Rule 2
9	Rule 4
16, 21, 22, 23	Rule 6
1, 4	Rule 7
35	Rule 11
24	Rule 12
32, 40	Rule 16
17, 18, 19, 20	Rule 17