POLICY TITLE: ARTIFICIAL DEVICES POLICY

RELATED POLICIES:	Nil
RESPONSIBLE OFFICERS:	Chief Operating Officer National Officiating Advisory Group, Education and Training Coordinator
AUTHORITY:	Audit Risk & Policy
APPLICABLE FORMS:	Nil
APPROVED:	November, 2017
NEXT REVIEW DATE:	**July 2018**

1. PRINCIPLE

The Bowls Australia philosophy is to allow access to our sport to as many participants as possible and ensure an inclusive atmosphere from club to elite level. We must also ensure that bowlers (regardless of any requirement of a wheelchair or artificial device) must not damage the playing surface during play.

2. POLICY

2.1 The Laws of the Sport of Bowls – Crystal Mark Third Edition - Law 41.1 under the heading of 'Players with disabilities' states that "Wheelchairs should be of a type approved by both World Bowls and the Governing Body for wheelchair bowlers in the country in which the player is playing" (in this case Bowls Australia in conjunction with Wheelchair Sports Australia Lawn Bowls).

2.2 Law 41.8 states that Member National Authorities can approve the use of artificial devices such as 'Bowlers Arms'.

3. SPECIFICATIONS

3.1 Wheelchairs

3.1.1 The large and usually rear tyres (pneumatic or soft rubber slicks), must have a minimum width of 45mm. Tyres must be smooth "slicks" or inverted tread tyres.

3.1.2 The most suitable tyres for the small or front wheels are 200mm x 50mm with a pneumatic tyre or soft rubber "slicks".

3.1.3 Castors, made of nylon or polyurethane are becoming increasingly popular and can also be used for front wheels. The recommended width of these should be a minimum of 75mm. It is a requirement that the edges, if sharp, must be rounded off.

3.1.4 If there are any doubts about tyre tread, duct tape can be placed over the tyre to provide a smoother surface as a temporary or precautionary measure.

3.1.5 The above guidelines are intended for use in all conditions, however in the case of particularly wet greens or other unusual circumstances, consultation and a common sense approach between the wheelchair user and club administrator or greenkeeper is appropriate. To further ensure there is no undue damage to the green, players should ensure a wide circle is taken when turning their chair on the green. In the event of a dispute, the Greenkeeper and or Controlling Body / Tournament Director / relevant Official shall be the final decision maker.

3.1.6 The use of an electric wheelchair encompasses the above guidelines and measurements, with the additional consideration of the weight of the chair. This is of particular importance for the care of the surface where the green is wet or experiencing another unusual circumstance.

4.1 Walking Frames

4.1.1 Walking frames can be used provided the frame does not cause damage to the green. To eliminate damage that may be caused to the green, the frame must comply with the following:

4.1.1.1 Preferably wheels of 45mm and pneumatic as applied to wheelchairs or wide wheels that are smooth and without tread.

4.1.1.2 If the frame has “feet”, each one must have its own base covered with rubber or similar material. The base should measure at least 76mm across.

4.1.2 Players are not to sit on their frames while on the green unless each “foot” and wheel complies with the specifications above.

5.1 Bowlers Arms

5.1.1 “Bowlers Arms” were introduced into the game to allow persons with a medical condition that would otherwise prevent them from playing the game, the opportunity to play or continue playing bowls. There are various types of bowlers arms approved for use in Australia.

5.1.1.1 Each device is manufactured in several lengths and release mechanisms. Only approved arms (with a BA logo as part of the National Merchandising Program) can be used in Australia. Modifications are not permitted (with exception to the rubber grip on the bottom of the arm which may need to be replaced as it wears out.). For a list of approved bowlers arms refer to the Bowls Australia website at http://www.bowlsaustralia.com.au/Club-Assist/Approved-bowlers-arms.

5.1.2 An affiliated member must gain approval from their State Governing Body to use an artificial device (bowlers arm). A medical certificate stating that the affiliated member requires the bowlers arm to continue to participate in lawn bowls must accompany the application for approval.

5.1.3 A player using an approved bowlers arm should have their State Governing Body issued approval card/certificate with them on the day of play.

5.1.4 If a player is using a bowlers arm that is not approved, the player becomes a defaulting player as per law C.2 and will forfeit the game as per law C.10.

5.1.5 If a player is using a bowlers arm that is approved but does not have approval to use one, the player becomes a defaulting player as per law C.2 and will forfeit the game as per law C.10.

5.1.6 If a player using an approved bowlers arm does not have their approval card/certificate with them on the day of play, the player must show their State Governing Body issued approval card/certificate to the controlling body of the competition within five working days.

5.1.7 A player may use any number of bowlers arms during trial ends for suitability. Once a game has commenced, the designated brand or style of bowlers arm chosen by the player must stay the same during the match.

5.1.8 The bowlers arm once used in a game must be used for the remainder of the game, including rolling of the jack.

5.1.9 A player cannot alter/change the brand or style of bowlers arm during the course of a game except in such circumstances where the device is rendered unplayable and in this instance, the player may change to another designated brand or style of bowlers arm on approval by the umpire or controlling body.

5.1.10 Challenge on appeal to an umpire regarding a bowlers arm could occur before the trial ends or up to 10 minutes after a game (but not during the game) as similar to law 52.4.3 and 52.4.4. 2.