

CHANGES TO CONDITIONS OF PLAY FOR 2023-24

Please note in addition to the following changes the Match Committee also has changed the layout/order of the Conditions of Play to a more logical layout to make the document more user friendly. Given this change will only adjust the order of the conditions and not change the actual conditions themselves these have not been individually outlined.

COVER PAGE	Update this to reflect the Conditions of Play as applying for the current season only and remove the history of previous revisions. The COP should be reviewed and confirmed as correct for each specific bowls season and dated accordingly to avoid any possible confusion with older versions.
NOTE 1 AND ALL OTHER AREAS AS RELEVANT	Update reference to Crystal Mark 3.1 to the current Crystal Mark 4 th edition.
THROUGHOUT DOCUMENT	Amend all references to 'he/she or him/her' or similar to 'they/them' or similar
THROUGHOUT DOCUMENT	Amend all references to 45 ends minimum to include '30 ends for an 8-player competition'
1.3	Update as follows to reflect current BA policy: Where a player is a member of two or more clubs, including clubs in multiple State and Territory Associations (STAs), that player must declare only one of those clubs in one STA as their Nominated Club for the purpose of playing in championship events conducted by a STA or BA during a bowling season. This includes, but is not limited to, Champion of Champions events. Per the BA Affiliation & Eligibility to Play policy, playing Pennant conducted by any STA shall not constitute a declaration of a player's Nominated Club. For clarity, Pennant is not a championship event.
1.6	Change 'the allocation of BN events' to 'the allocation of events under BN's control'
1.8	Change wording to: 'Penalties for infringing Conditions of Play where no specific penalty is noted'. Penalties to remain as current
1.9	Change wording to 'The BA National Merchandise Program Logo policy and BA Footwear policy will apply to all players in BN Pennant competitions and Championships
1.10	Add to the end of this: 'or plain white attire with BA logo'

1.11	<p>Amend 'discs' to 'discs/stickers' throughout.</p> <p>To comply with WB rules the following amendments must also be made:</p> <p>Amend (b) to 'Players in composite teams or replacement players must use the same discs/stickers as the entire team, or the entire team must use no discs/stickers. This includes BN championship events.</p> <p>Delete (c) as it currently stands.</p> <p>Add (c) There must be only one layer of discs/stickers fixed to either side of the bowl.'</p>
2.1	<p>Amend 'entrance fees' to 'entry fees' throughout</p> <p>Amend the beginning of (a) to 'The payment of entry fees, as fixed by the Board of BN and advertised on event entry forms, are an individual player's responsibility. The prescribed fee must be paid by.....'</p>
2.2	<p>Amend the final sentence of (b) to 'The next best qualifier can come from any section, and the logic of COP 2.18(b) will be used to determine the required number of next best qualifiers.'</p>
2.3	<p>Remove reference to COP Appendix D as this no longer exists.</p> <p>Remove '(Or the Club Secretary or nominee)'</p>
2.4	<p>Amend (e) to 'a Novice Bowler is a person who has not played in a novice championship or pennant competition in any previous season, in any state or territory.'</p>
2.5	<p>Amend (c) to: The host club is responsible for arranging sufficient markers (if required) and umpires. Should the host club does not have a sufficient number of umpires available, the host club must advise the Match Committee at least 48 hours prior to the event and the Match Committee shall arrange additional umpires as required.</p>
2.6	<p>Amend (a) to:</p> <p>'Any player that has nominated to play in any BN controlled championship event must notify the Match Committee or the BN Secretary at least 24 hours prior to the commencement of the game if they are unable to compete.'</p> <p>Amend (b) to remove 'and / or any other breach of the BN Rules of Competition'</p> <p>Amend (c) to remove 'certified' and replace with 'written'</p>
2.8	<p>Amend heading to 'TRIAL ENDS & PRACTICE'.</p>

2.8	<p>Amend current text to (a), and add the following:</p> <p>(b) If a player or team that has not yet played is due to meet a player or team that has already played on the same day, the player or team that has not yet played can practice as long as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) the controlling authority has given approval (ii) there is enough time available without delaying the competition (iii) a rink is available that the player or team has not been drawn to play on later that day (iv) the controlling authority must allocate the rink for practice. <p>(c) If a player or team has a bye, that player or team can practice in line with COP 2.8(b)</p> <p>(d) If two or more players or teams are entitled to practice, they can practice together. The format of practice and the number of bowls used must be decided by the players concerned.</p>
2.10 – 2.11 – 2.12	<p>Consolidate all into a single section for Championships Format and add Fours format.</p> <p>For 2.10, amend (a) to ‘The standard format for singles matches is 4 bowls each and 21 shots up.’</p> <p>Delete (b), (c) and (d).</p> <p>For 2.11 and 2.12, delete from (a) (Laws of the Sport of Bowls B3.2). Add (c) ‘The format for the event must be specified on the entry form.’ Add ‘Fours Format: the standard format for fours is two bowls each played alternately.’</p>
2.13	<p>Amend singles to ‘All games 21 up’</p> <p>Amend pairs to ‘Sectional and Post Sectional up to semi-finals – 12 ends. Knock out up to semi-finals – 12 ends. Semi-finals and grand final – 15 ends’</p> <p>Add ‘A time limit of 2 hours from the scheduled start time will apply for all games up to semi-finals. No time limit will apply for semi-finals and grand finals. Where a game is incomplete when the time limit is reached, the game will finish upon completion of a live end following the time limit expiry’</p>
2.14	<p>Amend to the following.</p>

2.14	<p>(a) A minimum of four entries must be received for an event to be conducted.</p> <p>(b) Where less than eight entries are received, prize money will be awarded to winners only (excludes under 18 events).</p> <p>(c) If less than 12 entries are received for an event which is advertised as sectional play, the event may revert to a knock out competition at the discretion of the Match Committee (excludes under 18 events).</p>
2.16	Amend 'Law 32' to 'Law 33'
2.18	Remove reference to Laws of the Sport of Bowls 56.3 as this refers to sets play
2.20	Add to this: 'The format for this event will be as per BA/BT conditions of play for the event.'
2.21	Delete as this is covered in 2.13
3.1	<p>Change heading to 'Pennant Format'.</p> <p>Change (b) to 'Pennant format for the lowest Division on Saturday is two rinks of four players playing two bowls each.'</p> <p>Add: '(d) Penalty for a pennant side withdrawal – Clubs will incur a financial penalty of \$500 if a side is withdrawn after the draw is published. This includes clubs penalised under COP 3.3(a).'</p> <p>Add: (e) Clubs shall ensure that players who only play either Thursday or Saturday pennant are selected before allowing any players to play in both pennants in the same calendar week.</p>
3.2	Add to this: 'Permission must be sought and obtained from the Match Committee for any player who is unable to wear current club uniform prior to the day of play. Requests must be submitted in writing.'
3.3	Amend (a) to: 'Any side having forfeited three (3) consecutive games in any Division shall forfeit its rights to participate in any further games in that season and shall lose all Pennant points accrued.'
3.4	Amend Saturday Pennant to 21 ends for all divisions.
3.5	Replace with:



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3.5	<p>(a) Players may practice on the green they are playing on, on any available rink including the rinks the game is scheduled to be played on.</p> <p>(b) Practice must cease 30 minutes prior to the commencement of play.</p> <p>(c) The visiting side must be given access to at least half of the available practice rinks.</p> <p>(d) Players from both the home and visiting sides may practice on the same rink.</p>
3.7	<p>Amend to:</p> <p>‘The host club shall appoint an umpire at least 30 minutes prior to the scheduled starting time. Should the host club not have an accredited umpire available, an accredited umpire from the visiting side(s) should be appointed. If an accredited umpire is not available a competent person should be appointed.</p> <p>Match Managers must not act as Umpires.’</p>
3.9	<p>Amend (a) to:</p> <p>‘Thursday matches will start at 11am and are to be played straight through. A fifteen (15) minute break may be taken at an agreed time by prior agreement between the Match Managers before the commencement of the pennant match. If a break is agreed upon, this must be communicated to all players prior to the start of play.</p> <p>Saturday matches will start at 1pm and are to be played straight through. A fifteen (15) minute break may be taken at an agreed time by prior agreement between the Match Managers before the commencement of the pennant match. If a break is agreed upon, this must be communicated to all players prior to the start of play.</p> <p>Start time and the day of play may be varied by mutual consent of participating Match Managers at least 24 hours in advance of the game. Where the day of play is to be altered the BN Secretary must be advised at least 24 hours prior to the rescheduled starting time to allow changes to the Bowls Link Portal to be undertaken.’</p> <p>Amend (b) to:</p> <p>‘If a side is not on the green ready to play 30 minutes after the scheduled starting time, the side shall forfeit the match to the opposing side.’</p>
3.10	<p>Amend to:</p>



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3.10	<p>(a) Clubs can use up to three (3) of their members who are not registered with BN to play as a social substitute. Social substitutes will be subject to the standard rules applicable for any substitute. Players used as social substitutes must not have been registered with BN in any previous season.</p> <p>Social substitutes may play a maximum of two games in BN pennant competitions before any capitation fees are required to be paid to BN.</p> <p>(b) Clubs must have nine (9) of their own members (six (6) for an eight (8) player competition) to compete in Bowls North Pennant matches, which can include three (3) social substitutes.</p> <p>(c) Substitute player form must be sent to the BN Secretary by 7pm on the day of play.</p> <p>(d) If substitute players are required for BN finals, they must meet all eligibility requirements as outlined in COP 3.26.</p> <p>(e) Games played as a substitute, including social substitutes, shall count towards qualification and eligibility requirements for BN Pennant finals.</p>
3.11	Remove reference to Law 39.2.3, and adjust Domestic Regulation to DR 2.6
3.12	<p>b) Amend 'alternatively' to 'on alternate ends'</p> <p>Amend (e) to 'No "Sharing" of a position shall be permitted unless it is approved by the BN Match Committee and confirmed in writing by the BN secretary prior to occurring'.</p> <p>Delete (f), and amend (g) to (f)</p>
3.13	<p>b) Amend to: 'Should the nominated Greens Manager of the host club close the greens for pennant play, no bowls of any kind, including practice, shall be allowed on those greens until at least 2 hours after the scheduled starting time on that day.'</p> <p>(d) Add to end of this: 'This includes when a round is washed out.'</p>
3.16	Amend hearing for all under this section to specify 'Before Play Commences'.
3.17	Consolidate with 3.16 under heading 'After Play Commences'

3.18	<p>Consolidate with 3.16 under heading 'Extreme Heat/Smoke Policy'</p> <p>Amend final paragraph to: 'Clubs MUST adhere to the current BA weather policy as published on the BA website. This is to be read as referring to the conditions at the venue where the match is being played.'</p>
3.19	Consolidate with 3.16
3.22	Amend 'The team points' to 'The rink points.'
3.23	<p>Amend heading to: 'Transmission of Results – Bowls Link Portal'.</p> <p>Add: (d) Should results be entered onto the Bowls Link Portal and be confirmed as correct by both Match Managers, but it is later discovered that the results are in fact incorrect, the Match Committee can (subject to the impact on overall season results) either:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Instruct the Statistician / BN Secretary to alter the results; or ii. Instruct the Statistician / BN Secretary to leave the results as entered
3.24	Delete as covered under 3.13 Cancellations
3.25	Consolidate East Coast Pennant information into 3.1
3.26	<p>Amend to:</p> <p>(a) To be eligible to play in BN finals, a player must have played at least 6 games in that pennant competition in the current season. Games played as a substitute/social substitute shall be counted towards this eligibility requirement.</p> <p>(b) Once a player has played 12 games in a specific division of a pennant competition, including finals games, they are ineligible to play any further games in a lower division. This includes both BN and BT finals. Where a club has two sides in any one Division, the logic of rules this clause shall apply to each side individually – i.e., once a player has played 12 games in any one side, they are ineligible to play any games in the other side.</p> <p>(c) Once a player has played three of the last six Pennant games in any combination of higher divisions, they are ineligible to play any further games in a lower division. This includes both BN and BT finals.</p>

3.26	<p>(d) Clubs may apply to the Match Committee for special dispensation under these rules. Such requests must be submitted in writing to the BN secretary at least 72 hours prior to the scheduled game time, and a detailed explanation why dispensation is sought must be provided. Dispensation shall only be granted in exceptional circumstances.</p> <p>(e) The penalty for playing an ineligible player under any condition covered in this clause is the loss of all points for the game in which the infringement occurs, and all points shall be awarded to the opponent.</p>
3.27	Delete (b)
3.29	Delete
3.31	Delete
3.32	<p>Consolidate with 3.33.</p> <p>Amend final paragraph to: 'Pennant finals starting time is as per pennant starting time. A 15-minute break may be taken by mutual agreement as per COP 3.9 (a).'</p>
3.33	<p>Add to (b): 'Host clubs must provide a Match Manager.'</p> <p>Amend (e) to: replace 'within 3 days of' with 'at least one day prior to'</p>
3.34	<p>Amend to:</p> <p>(a) Promotion</p> <p>The club finishing top of the ladder after the home and away season is eligible to be promoted.</p> <p>Where a club already has a side in the higher division, the club will have the choice if they wish for the side to be promoted to that division. Should they not wish to have two sides in that division they can forfeit their right for promotion. Should this occur, the order of consideration for promotion shall be the side winning the pennant grand final, followed by the side finishing second on the ladder, followed by the side finishing runner up in the grand final. Club choice will apply in all instances where this may result in a club having two sides in the division.</p> <p>The above logic is also to be applied where more than one side is to be promoted by virtue of multiple relegations.</p>

3.34	<p>(b) Relegation</p> <p>The club finishing on the bottom of the ladder in each division after the home and away season will be relegated to the next lowest division, except for the lowest division, in each pennant competition.</p> <p>Where a club already has a side in the division they are being relegated to, that club shall have the choice if they wish to have two sides in that division. Should they not wish to have two sides in that division, one of their sides must be relegated to the next lower division.</p> <p><u>NOTE:</u> The Match Committee will have final discretion over promotion and relegation. The Match Committee has the authority to adjust promotion and relegation conditions at any time throughout the season.</p>
3.35	Add to the end: 'of all sides playing at the venue.'
3.36	Move this to Section 1 – General
APPENDIX A	Refer to attached proposed amendment
APPENDIX B	<p>Amend Point 2 to: 'Appoint an umpire in line with COP 3.7</p> <p>Move Point 7 to be Point 5</p> <p>Amend Point 12 to reflect consolidation of COP 3.16, 3.17 and 3.18</p> <p>Delete from Point 13 'due to weather or other cause'</p>
APPENDIX C	Remove from COP as this is more a BN policy rather than a condition of play.
ADD TO APPENDIX	Substitute player form

APPENDIX A

APPENDIX A – SELECTION OF GREENS FOR EVENTS

OBJECTIVE

The objective of this policy is to provide the most appropriate greens and equipment for the conduct of BN championships, BN Pennant Finals and BT events.

RESPONSIBILITY

The allocation of greens is the responsibility of the BN Match Committee, under the guidance of the BN Greens Committee.

PROCESS

- The results of regular green inspections by the BN Greens Committee during the playing season will be forwarded to the BN Match Committee, including a rating of greens, on a regular basis during the bowls season.
- The allocation of greens will not be influenced by the geographic location of the club and greens.
- There shall be no discrimination in favour of either natural, synthetic, indoor, undercover or uncovered surfaces.
- Events will be allocated to clubs at least two weeks prior to the scheduled date of the event.
- Only those clubs who maintain an acceptable standard both with their greens and equipment will be considered. Clubs should be rewarded for their effort in reaching the required standard.

Clubs are reminded that it is a condition of renewal of membership with the Association, under Section 11.3(b) of the Bowls North Constitution, that the Club make their greens available for the playing of any competition or game under the control of the Association.