

# GOULBURN VALLEY BOWLS DIVISION

## PENNANT RULES

The following Rules for pennant play are taken from Bowls Victoria Pennant Conditions of Play. These are not the complete set of Rules and Players, Managers, Selectors and Umpires are strongly urged to make themselves familiar with the complete Bowls Victoria Conditions of Play.

All matches will be played in accordance with the Laws of the Sport of Bowls (current edition), Bowls Australia Domestic Regulations and Policies and Bowls Victoria Rules for Competition. Every BV affiliated Member undertakes to conduct themselves in a polite and sportsman like manner when participating in any bowls event.

### **Controlling Body –Goulburn Valley Bowls Division Match Committees**

- 1. Eligibility** The GVBD Pennant Competition will be open only to a Side or Sides from affiliated Clubs. Players must be registered financial members of a Club. Players must also be recorded on the BV Bowls Connect data base as eligible to represent the Club.
- 2. Midweek Pennant** Men can play in any position other than Skip.
- 3. Weekend Pennant** There are no restriction on the playing position of either sex. All selection should be done on merit in accordance with Bowls Australia Policy and Bowls Victoria guidelines.
- 4. Starting Times**      **Midweek** – games will not start later than 10.00 am during October and November. From December through to March, games will start no later than 9.30.

**Weekend** - games will not start later than 1.30 pm.  
Unless delayed due to inclement weather.

It is permissible to commence play earlier if all players are present. Otherwise trial ends must be completed before the allotted starting time. Starting times can be altered at the discretion of the Match Committee.

A Club with the advanced permission of the Match Committee and the agreement of the opposing club, may play the game on a Friday evening, Saturday or Sunday. The rescheduled game must be completed on that day and cannot be altered again. A player will not play in more than one Side in the same round.

- 5. Umpire** An accredited Umpire who is not a Side Manager shall be appointed by the home side. If the home side does not have an accredited Umpire and the visiting side has an Umpire, they shall be appointed Umpire of the day. Failing no accredited Umpire being available the senior side Manager shall appoint a suitable person to act as the Umpire of the day.

The Umpire of the day shall be recorded on the Team Sheet. The Umpire shall act on behalf of the GVDB Match Committee in respect to substitutes in accordance with Law 33.

- 6. Timing of Greens** Timing of the green is not compulsory

- 7. Pre – Match Practice** Before 12 noon on the day of a match, any player due to play in that match can with the permission of the Venue Club, practice on any rink other than the rinks on which they are scheduled to play, or any part of the rinks allocated for the match (including east – west or on the pegs if the game is to be played north – south & vice versa if the game was to be played east – west by direction of the home club).

- 8. Draw for Rinks** The draw will be conducted prior to the commencement of the match by the Side Managers. The cards will be shuffled and exchanged with the cards of one Side being placed name face down by one Manager, then the other Manager will place a card face down on each card. Rinks allocated for Pennant play must be consecutively numbered.

- 9. Mobile Phones** The use of mobile phones/MP3 players/iPods and the like, Pagers and /or other similar sound device on the green is not permitted. Should a player have a legitimate reason (medical or

emergency personal ONLY) to answer a phone, they must have permission from the Controlling Body and notify the Umpire of the day-prior to playing. If approved the phone can be carried on the player but must be on silent/ vibrating and responded to only on the bank away from play.

**10.Smoking** Smoking on the green is not permitted under any circumstances by participating players at any time whilst a game is in progress. A failure to comply can result in the Umpire applying an instantaneous Penalty.

### **11.Approved Bowling Arm**

Any player can use a bowling arm, no certificate is required. Once a player begins using an arm in a game, they must deliver all their bowls with the arm for the rest of the game. Delivering the jack with the arm is optional. Bowling arms must be models approved by Bowls Australia and cannot be changed during a game. If an arm is damaged and cannot be used for the rest of the game, the player has 10 minutes to replace it with an arm of the same model or forfeit the game.

**12.Absentee Player** If, 30 minutes after the scheduled start time for a game of Pennant, one player is absent from one or more teams in a side and no eligible substitute is available or allowed the game must continue, however;

1. A team with an absent player plays as though the second is the missing player
2. The order of play shall be maintained by the second of the complete team playing consecutive bowls
3. Each player uses the number of bowls specified for that event
4. If an absent player arrives late, they must take their original place in the team

5. If an eligible substitute or replacement player becomes available and is permitted by the controlling body, they may join the team at the completion of the end in progress.

**12 Duration/Format of Play** There is no time limit for completing a game that has not been disrupted by inclement weather. Each match will consist of 25 ends played by each team in a side. Midweek Pennant lunch will be at noon with play to resume at 12.30 unless the Side Managers decide before the start of the match to alter the time. Saturday Pennant will have a break of at least 15 minutes at a time agreed by the senior side managers.

**13 Failure to Keep Appointment** Failure of any player, team or side to keep an appointment to play in any Division or State events, will be deemed to be an infringement of the rules, unless suitable action has been taken to notify the Controlling Body with a satisfactory reason. A fine of \$50 will be applied if appropriate action has not been taken to advise the withdrawal in advance of the event.

**14 Attire** It is the responsibility of the Club President to ensure that all players are attired in accordance with Bowls Victoria Regulation for Attire for a Pennant match. Players must be attired in the same club attire in respect to image and colour.

**15 Trial Ends** Trial ends as in Law 5.1 will be completed prior to the appointed time for commencing play, regardless of the period of grace.

**16 Scoring** 10 points will be awarded for a Side win, forfeit or walkover and 5 points for each Side tie and 2 points for each Team (rink) win, no points will be awarded for a bye.

If play for the day is abandoned, points shall be shared equally. If a sectional match is abandoned it will count as a tie unless the scores are such that one side must win the match if all the remaining ends were to be played. That side will be awarded the match with the scores as at the abandonment.

In addition to the points awarded, a Side Giving a forfeit or walkover will lose 15 shots and the Side receiving the forfeit or walkover will gain 15 shots. In the event of a walkover both Sides must complete a Pennant Team sheet showing which Side has given the walkover. For the Side receiving the walkover, the round still counts towards player eligibility. Only the lowest Side in a Club can give a walkover.

**17 Results Notification** The home club shall arrange for results of all matches played on its green to be entered on the prescribed team sheets and sent to the Pennant Recorder of the day immediately upon completion of the match.

Team sheets must be submitted for all games including forfeits and abandoned games. Pennant games played or not will count towards a player's eligibility to play in finals. Failing to carry out this By-Law may result in all points being disallowed for that game.

Both Managers must sign the team sheet as a true and correct record of the game.

No Alteration to a completed team sheet received by the Pennant Recorder shall be permitted unless a correction agreed to in writing by both Clubs is lodged within 14 days of the match, or such longer period as the Match Committee can allow and failing such agreement the matter will be determined by the Match Committee and/or the Umpires Committee.

Failure to notify results in the prescribed forms and time will be deemed to be an infringement within Rule 1.3 and fines will apply.

**18 Replacements and Substitutes** Where a club has insufficient of its own members to field a complete Side, affiliated members from other Clubs may be used as substitutes to make up the number. However, in any Side only one substitute and one replacement player may be allowed in each team. Substitutes must be played in the Clubs lowest graded Side unless the vacancy occurs after one hour prior to the start of the match.

After the commencement of play in the match, a substitute can take the place of any member of the Side in accordance with Laws 32.4, 33, DR 2.3, only if such member becomes unable to continue to play in the match by reason of circumstances arising after the commencement of the match.

## **19 Selection of Sides**

- (1) If there are insufficient players available on a day of play to fill the Sides entered by the Club, the lowest numbered Side will be the Side which forfeits.
- (2) A Player will not play in more than one Side in the same round of competition.
- (3) Prior to the last four rounds of Pennant, there will be no restrictions on the interchange of players between the Sides of a Club.
- (4) For the last four rounds of competition, no Side will include more than three players who have played a majority of their games, prior to the fourth last game, in a higher numbered Side.
- (5) **Finals;** A Side may not include any player who during the current season has played less than four games in that competition. **Midweek and Weekend Pennant are separate competitions.**
- (6) A Side may not include any player who, during the current season has played more than four games in any higher numbered Sides unless the player has also played in four or more games in the Side concerned and/or a lower numbered Side.
- (7) A Club who has insufficient eligible players for any Pennant finals game may apply to the Match Committee for approval to play other players from the Club. If this approval is

granted, then such players may play in any position other than Skip.

**20 Green Availability** When a home game is not available the match must be played on the opponents green or a green available to both clubs. Any club obliged to play on a green other than on which they have been drawn to play in the first round, must play in the reverse order for the next round, or on a green available to both clubs. The Match Committee must be informed of any venue change.

See Rule 29 below.

**21 Slow Play – Delaying play** If the umpire, either by their own observations or on appeal from one of the skips decides that a player is unnecessarily delaying the delivery of the player’s bowl or a skip is acting or issuing instructions designed to delay play;

- On the first occasion the umpire will warn the player
- If the player commits the same offence a second time the end will be regarded as completed and the opposition of the offender will score as many shots as there are available on that end

**22 Inclement Weather – Wet Weather or Excessive Heat** The Match Committee shall be the authority for determining at any time prior to 2.5 hours before the appointed time of commencing play, whether or not play shall be abandoned for the day and its decision shall be conveyed by the secretary of the GVBD or any member of the Match Committee to the secretary or president of each club. If any club’s greens director closes its green before 8.00am for Midweek or 11.00am for Saturday pennant, that club should inform the relevant Match Committee chairperson.

- (A)** If due to inclement weather a match has not commenced within 1.5 hours of the scheduled start time, it shall be abandoned. Team sheets for the match must still be submitted.

- (B)** When play for the day has been commenced and stopped owing to inclement weather, it shall not be resumed if the club Greens Director or his nominated deputy declares the green unfit for play. Otherwise the Side Managers shall decide whether to resume or not. Failing agreement, the decision shall rest with the umpire.
- (C)** If any game has been delayed or interrupted by inclement weather and is not completed or been abandoned within 5.5 hours of the appointed starting time, it shall stop. Any ends in progress at that time shall be completed, including dead ends.
- (D)** If the actual dry bulb temperature recorded at the venue club has reached 39 degrees Celsius 30 minutes before the start of play, then commencement of the match will be suspended until such time as the temperature falls back below 39 degrees Celsius.

Following commencement of a game, Side Managers can check the thermometer and if the temperature is 39 degrees Celsius or above, the game in progress will be suspended until such time as the temperature falls below 39 degrees.

All play will be abandoned 5.5. hours after the appointed starting time as per rule (C) above. Every effort must be made to complete the ends in progress prior to leaving the green for the suspension of play. Side Managers may by mutual agreement abandon the game at any time due to the prevailing weather conditions if a resumption of play is unlikely.

- (E)** If the temperature forecast the night before on WIN TV is 38 degrees for our area, then the thermometer shall be placed appropriately and shall be checked prior to the start of play by both Side Managers and then at intervals not greater than 30 minutes.



**(F)** If the temperature forecast the night before on WIN TV is 40 degrees or above for Pennant, all matches will be cancelled.

**(G)** In the case of abandonment, the following will apply;

If a sectional match is abandoned before or during play before a result is obtained, each Side will share equally the maximum points, including Team points for the match.

If a sectional match is abandoned during play and a result is possible, the points will be allotted as if the match had been completed, with the points for Team wins and shots allocated on the scores as they stand at the time of the abandonment.

Unless 50% of games in a Division are completed, the Match Committee will declare all games in that Division abandoned with points being shared between the responsible competing Sides. This includes games where the Managers have mutually agreed to abandon a game.

**(H)** When playing in warm or hot conditions, players should take responsibility for their wellbeing with good hydration and suitable preparation before and during the game. It is the Individuals responsibility to take care of themselves. Despite anything contained in the Heat Rule, Side Managers may by mutual agreement abandon the game at any time due to the prevailing weather conditions.

**BV Championships** for BV Men's and Women's Championships conducted by the Division/Region the local heat policy will apply. If games are interrupted by inclement weather, every effort must be made to complete the ends in progress prior to leaving the green for suspension of play. The game should be completed on the same day providing time allows and the temperature falls below 39 degrees Celsius.

If a game is unable to be continued on the same day, it will be continued at a time and place as determined by the controlling body with the scores as they were at the time of the stoppage.

**23 Death of a Player** If a match including a final has commenced and a participating player passes away, all games in progress at the Club will be abandoned.

Matches other than a Final will count as a tie, unless the scores are such that one Side must win the match if all the remaining ends were played. In that case the scores will stand as they were at abandonment.

A finals match abandoned will be resumed at the discretion of the Match Committee with the scores carried forward as they were when play was abandoned.

**24 Division Winners** The final series will be conducted as follows;

Qualifying Match - top Side plays the second Side

Elimination Match – third Side plays the fourth Side

Preliminary Final loser of qualifying match will play winner of elimination match

Final – winner of qualifying match will play winner of preliminary final.

**25 Finals** every effort will be made regardless of time to complete a post sectional match. If the match is abandoned for the day it will be completed under such conditions as the Match Committee decides, with the scores as they were at the time of abandonment.

The Match Committee reserves the right to alter the starting time if required due to inclement weather and to transfer games as required, this includes using synthetic greens.

Emergencies used in finals are not required to pay green fees to the host club.

**26 Tie in Finals** to determine the winner in the event of a drawn game, each rink will play one extra end or ends as necessary in accordance with Law 28 until a decision is reached.

**27 Promotion and Relegation** before the start of the next pennant season, Sides eligible for promotion and relegation shall see the bottom Side relegated and the top Side promoted where possible. The Match Committee will decide upon the merits of the promotion and relegation.

**28 Damage to Green** If an Umpire by his own observation or on appeal by the Greens Director or his Deputy decides that a player is causing damage to the green when delivering the jack or a bowl, a warning will be issued to the player's skip.

If the Umpire forms the opinion that the player has repeated the same offence a second time, the Umpire will direct that the player must use a "dump" mat if available.

If a "dump" mat is not available or the player refuses to use it, they will be a defaulting player and be removed from the game (Laws of the Sport of Bowls C.2) A substitute player is not permitted (DR2)

**29 Condition of the green** A green must be suitable for play. If a green is found to be unsuitable, a Club may be directed by the Match Committee to make alternative arrangements.

If it is necessary to transfer a game to an alternative venue, the Club must get agreement from the opposing Side. If agreement can't be reached, it will be referred to the Match Committee for resolution.

If a satisfactory alternative green cannot be found, the Club may be directed to forfeit the game by the Match Committee.

For the conduct of pennant matches, Bowls Victoria has recommended that the pace of the green should be between 13 and 17 seconds

Any Club wishing to lodge a complaint about another Club's greens should make that complaint in writing, clearly specifying the reason for the complaint. Such complaint must be signed by the President and Secretary of that club, together with that of the Side Manager of the day.

Such complaint must be made within 48 hours of the completion of the match about which the complaint concerns.