

GOULBURN VALLEY BOWLS DIVISION PENNANT RULES

These Rules for pennant play are adapted 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 for Regions.

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. Sides of a Club will be numbered 1, 2, 3, 4, etc. in descending order of ability. Players must be affiliated with BV, financial members of the Club and recorded on the BV Bowls Connect Data Base as eligible to represent the Club. A breach of this requirement will result in forfeiture of the game to the opponent.

2. Competition Format

Pennant is divided into two separate competitions Midweek and Weekend. All players must be selected on ability. Gender cannot be used as a selection criterion and there are no restrictions on playing positions.

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Pennant games can be played on either grass or synthetic surfaces.

3. Starting Times

Unless delayed due to inclement weather. **Midweek** games will start no later than 10.00 am during October and November. From December through to March, games will start no later than 9.30 am.

Weekend games will start no later than 1.30 pm. It is permissible to start earlier if all players are present.

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.

Any rescheduled match not commenced or completed cannot be rescheduled again. A player will not play in more than one Side in the same round.

4. Attire

It is the responsibility of the President of the player's Club to ensure a player is correctly attired. For Pennant all attire must comply with the Bowls Australia National Logo Policy.

If a Club has a BV registered uniform then all members of the Side must be in the same attire.

The BA Logo must appear on the front or side of all headwear, except on white block hats with headband.

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

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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 on the day of play. A visiting Club cannot demand that the green be timed.

7. Pre –Match Practice

Midweek Pennant; pre-match practice is not permitted on match day other than the trial ends.

Weekend pennant; 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.

Visiting Sides are not permitted to practice at the away venues on the day of competition.

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.

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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 including a lit cigarette or any form of smoking device is not permitted.

Smoking is only permitted in the designated area as determined by the Club.

A failure to comply can result in the Umpire applying an instantaneous Penalty.

11. Bowling Arm

Any player can use a bowling arm, no certificate is required.

Once a player begins using an arm in a game it 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.

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

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a side and no eligible substitute is available or allowed the game must continue, however;

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

13. 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.

Scheduled Break

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.

14. Failing 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.

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A fine of \$50 will be applied if appropriate action has not been taken to advise the withdrawal in advance of the event.

15. Bowls Identification Discs

Sides are not required to use bowls discs. If they are used then all players in the Side must use discs of the same colour/design. All bowls must have discs on both sides of the bowl.

Discs must not cover the WB stamp/date or the serial number of the bowl. They may be cut or trimmed to comply. The Dot may be used instead of the small disc.

16. Trial Ends

Trial ends as in Law 5.1 will be completed before the appointed starting time for play, regardless of the period of grace.

17. Scoring

Side win-10 points will be awarded plus 2 points per rink win.

A tied game- Sides share 5 points each with 2 points for each rink win.

Rink tie- Teams share 1 point each.

Bye- no points will be awarded for a bye.

Forfeit- a Side receiving a forfeit will receive 10 points plus 2 points per rink and plus 16 shots for 16 players per Side, 12 shots for 12 players per Side or 6 shots for 6 players per Side.

The Side giving the forfeit will receive no points or shots.

Walkover- the Side receiving the walkover will receive 10 points plus 2 points per rink and plus 16 shots for 16

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players per Side, 12 shots for 12 players per Side or 6 shots for 6 players per Side.

The Side giving the walkover will receive no points or shots.

18. Results Notification

The home club shall arrange for results of all matches played at their green to be entered into the Bowls Link Pennant recording system within 2 hours of the completion of the match. The away Club shall within 4 hours, check and confirm the results as being correct. Any errors or disputes shall be corrected between the Clubs within a 24 hour period.

Results must be submitted to Bowls Link for all games including forfeits, abandoned games and cancelled rounds. 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.

Clubs must keep a signed record of each match by way of score cards or team sheets. Both Managers must sign the team sheet as a true and correct record of the game.

No Alteration to a completed result 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 and fines will apply.

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19. Substitutes during Season and Finals

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.

If 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. Such substitutes must be played in the Clubs lowest graded Side unless the vacancy occurs after one hour prior to the start of the match.

20. Selection of Sides

- a. Sides of a Club will be numbered 1, 2, 3, 4, etc. in descending order of ability. If a Club has two Sides in the same Division, then the first selected Side will be 1, and the second selected side will be 2.
- b. If there are insufficient players available to fill the Sides entered by the Club, the lowest numbered Side will be the Side which forfeits.
- c. A Player will not play in more than one Side in the same round of competition.
- d. Prior to the last four rounds of Pennant, there will be no restrictions on the interchange of players between the Sides of a Club.
- e. For the last four rounds of competition, no Side will include more than three players who have played a

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majority of their games, prior to the fourth last game, in a higher numbered Side.

- f. Finals: A Side may not include any player who during the current season has played less than four games for the Club in that Pennant competition. Midweek and Weekend Pennant are separate competitions.
- g. A Side may not include any player who, during the current season has played four or more 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.
- h. 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.

21. 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.

If during the Pennant season it is necessary to transfer a home game to an alternative venue, the Club must get agreement from the opposing Side. The Match Committee must be informed of any venue change.

22. Delaying play

If the umpire, either by their own observations or on appeal from the Side Manager decides that a player is

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deliberately delaying the delivery of their bowl or a skip is acting or issuing instructions designed to delay play, a warning will be issued.

If the Umpire forms the opinion that the player or Skip has repeated the same offence a second time, the end will be regarded as completed and their Opponent will be awarded as many shots as there bowls in use by their Opponent.

23. Inclement Weather - Rain or Excessive Heat

Cancelled Rounds; the relevant GV Match Committee may determine at any time prior to 2.5 hours of the starting time of a Round, that the Round has been cancelled.

If possible a cancelled Round may be replayed at a later date as determined by the Match Committee. If no date is available for play then no points will be allocated for that Round. Team sheets should be submitted as cancelled Rounds count towards qualification for finals.

Abandoned Games; if within 2.5 hours of the starting time for a Pennant match, the Greens Director or their Deputy determines the game cannot commence, or the Side Managers agree that play is not possible, then that game will be abandoned with the points shared equally by the competing Sides. Abandoned games will not be replayed at a later date.

Side Managers may by mutual agreement abandon the game at any time due to the prevailing weather conditions

Closure of Green-Wet Weather

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If any Club closes its green before 8.00am for Midweek or 11.00am for Weekend Pennant, that Club must inform the Relevant Match Committee and the opposing Club.

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.

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 their 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.

If a 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.

Inclement Weather – Heat

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.

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If a suspension of play occurs and the game 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.

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.

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

Results for Games Affected by Inclement Weather

If a sectional match is abandoned before or during play before a result is obtained, it will be a tie.

If a match is abandoned during play and one Side must win if all the remaining ends were played, 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 competing Sides. This includes games where the Managers have mutually agreed to abandon a game.

Player Responsibility

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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.

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, or the green becomes playable.

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.

24. 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.

25. Division Winners

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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.

26. Finals

Every effort will be made regardless of time to complete a post sectional match on the day. 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.

Evaluation of finals venues will be done by the GV Greens Committee and they will advise the Match Committee of their assessment. Venues will be selected on merit with no restriction on type of playing surface.

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

27. 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.

28. Promotion and Relegation

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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. The Match Committee will decide upon the merits of the promotion and relegation.

29. 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)

30. Condition of the green

A green must be suitable for play. If a green is found to be unsuitable, a Club may be directed to make alternative arrangements.

If a satisfactory alternative green cannot be found, the Club maybe 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. The complaint must be signed by the President and Secretary

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of that club, together with that of the Side Manager of the day and the complaint must be made within 48 hours of the completion of the match concerned.

31. Playing of Music

If music is played during a Pennant game, it shall not impact on the conduct of the game and be at a level acceptable to both Side Managers.