

# ***CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP & TOURNAMENT RULES***



**Mulgrave  
Country  
Club**

*Your Club*

***Bowls Committee***

***Last Updated: 24<sup>th</sup> November 2023***

## 1. CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS & TOURNAMENTS

The Committee may make such regulations as are deemed necessary to govern Club championships and domestic tournaments in line with the Rules for BV Competition and the Bowls Section Rules of the Bowls Section.

## 2. RESPONSIBILITY

Subject to overall control by the Committee, the Manager and Sub Committee shall be responsible for the satisfactory conduct of all Club Championships and domestic tournaments under the control of the Committee.

## 3. CONVENER

The Manager may delegate a Convener for each tournament who shall be responsible for organizing and running that particular tournament.

## 4. INTERPRETATION

In these Rules, unless the contrary intention appears:

- **BA** – means Bowls Australia
- **BV** – means Bowls Victoria
- **ERBR** – means Eastern Ranges Bowls Region.
- **Club** - shall mean the Mulgrave Country Club.
- **Committee/Controlling Body** - shall mean the Committee of Management of the Mulgrave Country Club Bowls Section
- **Bowler** - shall mean a bowls member affiliated that season with the Mulgrave Country Club and BV.
- **Manager** – shall mean the person as elected to the Committee under whose auspices the event is run.
- **Sub Committee** – refers to the body of people nominated by the Manager and whose participation in organizing and running club events has been endorsed by the Committee.
- **Bowls Year** - means the year commencing on the 1st April each year.
- **Member** - means a financial bowls member of the Mulgrave Country Club for the year in which the tournament is run.
- **Set Days** – shall mean that the event is to be played on that day only.
- **TBC Matches** - shall mean, “To Be Completed” matches where rounds have to be completed by a specific date.
- **Draw Schedule** - shall for each event, show the pairing of players/teams, byes where necessary and the dates of each round and be prominently displayed on the notice board.
- **Inclement weather** - shall cover weather conditions bad light or other valid causes which renders the green unplayable or which forces the closure of the greens.

## **5. ELIGIBILITY**

- (a) Every bowler, who is a financial bowls member and affiliated with BV for that season and is eligible to play Pennant for the Club, shall be entitled to enter and take part in any or all Club Championships or other Club events, subject always to rules which may be in force at the time and provided the member shall conform to the rules for championship play, laid down by the Committee.
- (b) Entries for Club Championship events shall close at a designated time on a designated date. Such time and date to be advertised on the bowls notice board, Club website and TeamApp.
- (c) Further entries (beyond such date and time) may be accepted at the discretion of the Manager however no additional entries shall be accepted after commencement of the first round of any event.
- (d) Entries accepted to avoid a bye should be allocated to the bye position in the Draw Schedule. If necessary the Convener may arrange for the Draw Schedule to start afresh.
- (e) Where eligibility for a Club event is based on Pennant ranking then the Manager & Sub Committee shall establish a player's ranking and eligibility for such event.

## **6. CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP / TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE**

- (a) The scheduling for any championship or tournament event shall depend on an adequate number of players/teams entering the draw.
- (b) Where numbers are less than originally scheduled then the Manager may reduce the number of rounds for the tournament. In such event the Manager will prominently display the amendment to the Draw Schedule on the Notice Board.
- (c) The Manager may cancel a championship or tournament event where the number of entries is inadequate.

## **7. DATES FOR CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS / TOURNAMENTS**

The Manager shall allocate dates for each round of a championship or tournament. However where, in any event, it subsequently becomes necessary to amend the date of any round or reduce the number of rounds such change shall be prominently displayed on the Draw Schedule.

## **8. SET DATE CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS / TOURNAMENTS**

- (a) Where a championship or tournament has set dates for each round those dates shall be adhered to unless changed by the Manager owing to a reduction in player numbers or an unforeseen situation such as inclement weather. In such event, details of such change and amended playing dates shall be displayed on the Draw Schedule.
- (b) No player/team shall arrange to play their match on an alternative date (or at an alternative time of day).
- (c) If any rounds within a SET DATE Championship/Tournament are set down as a "to be completed" by certain dates (i.e., TBC matches) Rule 9 will apply.

## **9. TBC DATE CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS / TOURNAMENTS**

- (a) Where rounds in any championship or tournament are not set down for fixed dates, but rather are "to be completed" by certain dates (i.e. TBC matches), it shall be the responsibility of the first named player/team in each match to contact their opponent to arrange a suitable playing date within the time limit for the respective round.
- (b) Where a match has not been played by the scheduled date and the convener considers one player/team is at fault, that player/team will be deemed to have forfeited the match to their opponent.
- (c) If unforeseen circumstances have caused a delay beyond the scheduled date for a particular round and neither player/team is at fault, the Manager or Convener may grant an extension provided such extension does not exceed 5 days and does not prejudice the playing of the ensuing round. However the Manager or Convener has the right not to grant an extension where the Manager or Convener believes the match could have been played before the final date for the round.
- (d) Certain restrictions apply to TBC matches played on Thursday's Refer Rule 21(c).

## **10. BV & ERBR EVENTS**

The Manager shall have regard to BA, BV & ERBR trials and championship events and shall avoid conflict of dates with such events whenever possible.

## **11. PROTECTION**

- (a) If any Club events are scheduled to be played on the same date as any of the championship events run by BA, BV, and ERBR, no player engaged in such events will be penalised in a lower graded championship by reason of absence through participation in a higher graded event. If the event cannot be rescheduled, then the player will decide which event to contest. Any events other than the above, do not qualify for protection, e.g. RSL games, Police games, University games, BPL and any other Club Tournaments.
- (b) Players seeking protection must apply in writing to the controlling body within 3 days prior to the Club event. If protection is granted, and so as not to

disrupt club schedules any further, players are to complete their club games within 5 days of completion of their higher level commitment.

## 12. DURATION AND METHOD OF PLAY

In Club Championships the duration and conditions of play shall be in accordance with BV rules which currently are:

**Singles Championship:** Knockout from first round, 25 shots up, and four bowls each player, played alternately.

**Pairs Championship:** Knockout from first round, 18 ends, and four bowls each player, played lead 2 bowls, skip 2 bowls then repeat (2x2x2x2 format).

Apart from the foregoing championships the Committee may, in any year, conduct the following tournaments or such other tournaments as the Committee may decide.

**Proportional Singles:** A handicap event to a score of 100. Scoring will be 4 points for shot, 3 for 2nd shot, 2 for 3rd shot and 1 point for 4th shot. Players' handicaps are to be determined by the Manager. The handicap score must be played off first.

**Minor Singles:** 21 shots up, four bowls each player, played alternatively. Any player who has played the majority of their games in Division 3 or lower and has not previously won a club or higher level Singles championship event is eligible to enter. The Manager shall determine the eligibility of any entrant who does not have a pennant ranking for Saturday Pennant. Refer Rule 5(e).

**Over 60 Singles:** Open to players over 60 years of age. To qualify a player's 60<sup>th</sup> birthday must be on or before the date of the first scheduled round. 21 shots up, four bowls each player, played alternatively.

**Geoff Woodley Legacy Pairs:** Sets play, 2 Sets of 7 ends. If scores are level after 7 ends, play an extra end. If 1 set all, play 3 end tie breaker. Format is 3 bowl pairs.

**Triples Championship:** Conducted over 2 days, with Sectional Play on day 1 and Semi-Finals and Final on day 2. Sectional games played over 15 ends and finals played over 18 ends. Two bowls each player, played alternatively in the order: lead, second and skip.

**Fours Championship:** Sectional Play on day 1 and Semi-Finals and Final on day 2. Sectional games played over 12 ends and finals played over 15 ends. Two bowls each player, played alternatively in the order: lead, second, third and skip. Restrictions on make-up of teams may be applied.

**Novice 2 Bowls Single Tournament:** Open to bowlers who have bowled for 2 years or less. Knockout singles to 12 up.

**Mixed Pairs:** All rounds played over 18 ends. Three bowls each player, played consecutively. Mixed Pairs requires teams to be one man and one woman.

**OBE Singles:** Open to players over 80 years of age. To qualify a player's 80<sup>th</sup> birthday must be on or before the date of the first scheduled round. 4 bowls each player. 2 sets of 9 ends, and if one set each, 3 end tie breaker to be played. If still equal one extra end to be played.

The Committee will conduct separate championship events for Men and Women for the Club Singles and Pairs events. All other events will be open to both men and women, with no restriction on players or make-up of teams for team events, other than as designated above.

### **13. TRIAL ENDS & PRACTICE**

- (a) Before start of play, or on the resumption of a match on another day, not more than one trial end each way shall be played. Trial ends shall be permitted only before the first match of the day and must be completed prior to the appointed time for commencement of play.
- (b) An intended player/team due to meet a player/team that has previously played on the same day may practice provided:
  - (i) there is sufficient time available without delaying the competition and a rink is available.
  - (ii) the Convener shall allocate the rink.
  - (iii) Practice is not permitted on a rink upon which the player/team has been drawn to play in a subsequent round.

### **14. TIES**

In the event of a tie at the conclusion of the set number of ends or shots up, then an extra end or ends shall be played to obtain a result.

### **15. SUBSTITUTES**

- (a) A substitute (as opposed to a replacement) means a member who acts as a proxy for an intended member or a constituted player in a team, who is unavailable or physically incapable and thereby prevented from playing in a match or part thereof.
- (b) No member may act as a substitute unless the Convener and Umpire of the event have granted permission after being satisfied regarding the eligibility of the proposed substitute and the circumstances governing the request.
- (c) A constituted player in a team, whether defeated or not, shall be ineligible to act as a substitute in any other team in the same event.
- (d) A substitute shall be chosen from available eligible members whose playing ability shall not be considered.
- (e) A member, who has acted as a substitute, if he/she remains eligible, may continue to act as such in that, or any other team, in the same tournament, or he/she may be changed at the completion of any end during the match or between succeeding matches in the same tournament.
- (f) If a team, having a substitute for a portion or all of the time, eventually wins a tournament the appropriate award thereof shall be given to the constituted player of the team and not to the substitute.
- (g) A substitute may play in any position except skip. In the case of a triple or four the other players may re-arrange their positions as desired.
- (h) In a team only one substitute shall be allowed.

- (i) If one member of a team is absent and no substitute is available the team shall forfeit the match.

## **16. REPLACEMENTS**

- (a) A replacement (as opposed to a substitute) applies when there is no possibility of the player's return to fill his/her place in the team in that competition.
- (b) If, during the course of a game or competition, a constituted player in a team is physically incapable of continuing in the competition, or becomes ineligible by resignation, suspension, expulsion, forfeiture of playing status or disqualification, the position shall be declared vacant and the Convener shall allow an eligible member to fill the vacated position as a constituted player of the team.
- (c) Only one player may be replaced in a team under this provision.
- (d) No member may act as a replacement unless the Convener and Umpire of the event have granted permission after being satisfied regarding the eligibility of the proposed replacement and the circumstances governing the request.

## **17. UMPIRES**

The Manager shall endeavour to always have an umpire present for Club Championship matches set down for specific dates. This does not apply to TBC matches.

## **18. MARKING**

- (a) Duties of a Marker shall be in accordance with the Laws of the Game.
- (b) For Club Singles Championships all competitors shall be required to be in attendance before the start of Round 1, including those players afforded a bye, and should the availability of Markers be inadequate to accommodate all matches, then the Convener may require a player or players to act as a Marker. Such player/s to be classified as "Late Starters" for Round 1 and shall be afforded every assistance to commence their Round 1 match as soon as possible.
- (c) For subsequent rounds the losers in the previous round shall be balloted for marking. The Convener shall advise those players who have been balloted as Markers and should a balloted Marker be unavailable it will be that player's responsibility to secure a substitute Marker.

## **19. CLUB UNIFORM**

- (a) Unless the contrary is advised, all players in Club Championship events must be attired in a registered Coloured Club Uniform or risk a forfeit.
- (b) Markers are also preferred to be attired in a registered Coloured Club Uniform, although where a Marker is appointed at short notice, non-Club Uniform attire shall be acceptable.



## 20. **INCLEMENT WEATHER**

### **Fixed Date Club Championships / Tournaments**

- (a) Where a round of a championship or tournament has been set down for a specific date and inclement weather either prevents commencement of play or completion of matches, the Convener shall set an alternate date for the playing or completion of play. Details of the deferment shall be shown on the Draw Schedule.
- (b) Where matches cannot be completed because of inclement weather, and are thus deferred to another date, the players shall agree the scores to date, rule off the scorecard/s at that point, and pass the cards to the Convener who shall hold such cards and return them to the players on the day play resumes.
- (c) Play shall resume at the score previously recorded on the scorecard. Trial ends may be played before the match resumes.
- (d) Details of any deferment, and the date of resumption, shall be shown on the Draw Schedule.

### **TBC Club Championships / Tournaments**

- (a) Should inclement weather either prevent commencement of play or completion of a TBC match an alternate date shall be set by the players provided such date shall be before the date of the next round. Players shall agree scores to date, rule off scorecard/s and hold the card/s until play resumes. Trial ends may be played on resumption.
- (b) However where a round of a TBC event is scheduled to be completed by a certain date it is expected that the time granted to complete the round should be sufficient. Thus should inclement weather on the final date for a round of a TBC event preclude play, the players risk forfeit of their match unless the Convener believes efforts have been made to play the match prior to the deadline. In such event the Convener may grant additional time for playing the match, provided such extension shall not prejudice the playing of a subsequent round of that event.

## 21. **RESERVATION OF RINKS**

- (a) The Convener shall advise the Green keeper the number of rinks required for Club Championship / Tournament rounds of a "Set Round" event and the Green keeper shall be responsible for the allocation of appropriate rinks.
- (b) For TBC events the players involved shall note in the "rink allocation book" the date and time of their match and the Green keeper shall allocate a rink.
- (c) Any TBC match played on a Thursday must be completed by 2.00pm when Pennant practice is scheduled that same day.
- (d) Please always note Green opening times.



**22. SCORE CARDS**

- (a) Where appointed, the Marker shall keep the scorecard in a singles match, otherwise one or both players shall keep a card. For team events a player in each team shall be responsible for keeping score and confirming the score with his counterpart in the opposing team.
- (b) All scores must be agreed and signed by opponents before the result is posted on the Draw Schedule.

**23. RESULTS OF MATCHES**

All results shall be recorded on the Draw Schedule displayed on the Notice Board. If not present, the Manager is also to be advised.

**24. APPEALS**

- (a) The Manager/Convener and Championship & Tournament Sub Section committee of an event shall arbitrate on any disputes arising in a match under that championship or tournament.
- (b) A player/team, dissatisfied with a Championship & Tournaments Sub Sections committees ruling, may appeal in writing to the Committee, whose decision shall be final.

**By order Bowls Committee**