

MURRAY BOWLS DIVISION

PENNANT PROCEDURE

UPDATED JANUARY 2021

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The following information outlines the various administrative procedures to be followed regarding the conduct of the Murray Bowls Division Pennant competition which is conducted in accordance with the Laws of the Sport of Bowls, BA Domestic Regulations and Bowls Victoria

Saturday Pennant Conditions of Play.

1. Time for Commencement

Will commence no later than 1:15pm. It is permissible however to commence games prior to 1:15pm if all players are present.

Trial ends must be completed before the commencement time.

With prior approval of the Match Committee and the agreement of the opposing Club, matches can be played on a Friday evening or Saturday at other than the scheduled start time.

2. Duration of Match.

For Divisions 1, 2, 3 & 4 each match shall consist of 21 ends per rink, with no scheduled breaks.

3. Composition of Sides.

- (i) Divisions 1 and 2 in Saturday Pennant shall consist of four Teams of four players;
Division 3 shall consist of three Teams of four players.
- (ii) For Saturday Pennant the composition of players in Division 4 or below shall be determined by the Match Committee each year. In order to maintain the maximum number of competing sides they may consist of either two teams of four players or three teams of three players.
- (iii) For Saturday Pennant no Club shall have more than one Side in Division 1.
- (iv) The competition shall consist of Divisions each with one section. Divisions shall be numbered as 1, 2, 3, and 4 respectively.
- (v) Byes shall be restricted to the lower division except in the case of a side withdrawing from a higher Division after the draw is made.
- (vi) The Match Committee shall determine the number of home and away games to be played in each Division depending on the number of sides entered in each Division.
- (vii) A Club can enter any number of Sides up to the maximum number which can be accommodated on the rinks available for its use.
- (viii) Sides of a Club will be numbered 1, 2, 3, 4, etc. in descending order of ability.
- (ix) If a Club does not have enough players to form a Side it can seek approval from the Murray Bowls Division Match Committee to combine with another Club or Clubs to enter a side. The application must be made by the Club accepting responsibility for the Side and be accompanied by written approval of the other Club or Clubs.
- (x) If a Club does not have sufficient Players to form a Side for the Club's lowest numbered Side, the Side can play with one or more Teams of three members playing as Lead, Second and Skip respectively in accordance with DR 2.52.
- (xi) Sides will be filled by available players in descending order of ability. If there are insufficient players available to fill all Sides entered by the Club in the Pennant Competition the lowest numbered Side will be the Side which forfeits.
- (xii) Prior to the last four rounds of Sectional play there will be no restriction on the interchange of players between the

Sides of a club.

- (xiii) For the last four rounds of Sectional play, no Side will include more than three players who have played the majority of their games prior to the fourth last game, in a higher numbered Side.
- (xiv) In any Post Sectional (Finals) match a Side will not include any Player who, during the current season, has played less than four games for the Club in that actual competition (the Saturday Pennant Competition and the Friday Pennant competition are separate competitions and games played in one competition do not count towards Player eligibility in the other competition).
- (xv) In any Post Sectional (Finals) match a Side will not include any Player who, during the current season, has played more than four games in any of the higher numbered Sides unless the Player has also played in four or more games in the Side concerned and/or any of the lower numbered Sides.
- (xvi) If any Club is uncertain of having available sufficient members who are eligible it can apply to the Match Committee for permission to play if necessary other nominated Members and if permission is granted such members can play in any position other than Skip.
- (xvii) All players must be selected on ability. Gender cannot be used as a selection consideration.

Midweek Pennant

NOTE: *Players to supply their own lunch, unless this contradicts the Rules of the HOST Club.*

Composition of Sides:

- (i) *Division 1 & Division 2 to consist of 3 Teams of Four.*
- (ii) *Each match to consist of 21 ends per rink.*
- (iii) *No Club shall have more than 1 side in Division 1.*
- (iv) *Sides will be numbered 1, 2.*
- (v) *Skips to be female.*

Starting Time: *Will commence at 10.00 am, except for the months of December through to the end of February, which will commence at 9.30am. With the approval of the Match Committee and agreement of opposing Clubs, matches may be played other than at the scheduled start time.*

4. Eligibility

All Pennant players must be registered financial members of a Club and be listed on the club's BowlsLink Data Base as eligible to represent the Club.

5. Incomplete Side

If at the time a match is due to commence a player is absent the following will apply.

- (i) A team with an absent player plays as though the second is the missing player.
- (ii) The Skips of both teams carry the scorecard and update the score at completion of each end.
- (iii) The opponents with a complete team will have their second play consecutive bowls.
- (iv) If the absent player arrives late, they must take their original place in the team and enter the match at the completion of the end in progress.

If a player who has commenced the match cannot continue and there is no eligible substitute available, a team may play with an absent player. The absent player is deemed to be the second.

- (i) The Skips of both teams carry the scorecard and update the score at completion of each end.
- (ii) The opponents with a complete team will have their second play consecutive bowls.
- (iii) If a substitute player is available the Controlling Body may allow them to enter the match at the completion of the end in progress.

6. Substitutes

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 may be allowed in each team.

7. Pennant Permit.

- (i) A player can be approved to play with another Club other than their Nominated Club by submitting a Pennant Permit Request Form to BV prior to Round 4 of Pennant Competition they wish to play in. No application will be considered after Round 4. This form must be endorsed by both Clubs.
- (ii) If approved by BV, a permit remains in place until 30 June of the following year and the player is not eligible to play for their Nominated Club until the permit expires.
- (iii) A player may apply for a clearance from their Nominated Club while a permit is in place and the permit automatically expires if the clearance is granted.
- (iv) A player may only apply for one permit for a Pennant Competition.

8. Pre-Match Practice

Prior to a half an hour before the commencement time, the home team may practice on any rink other than the rinks or part of the rinks allocated to them for the match including east west or on the pegs if a match is to be played north south or vice versa if the game is to be played east west.

9. Draw for Rinks.

Side Managers should be at the venue 30 minutes before the commencement of the trial ends for the exchange of cards and the allocation of rinks.

The rinks 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.

NOTE: The Home Manager shall advise the visiting manager who is the Host Clubs designated “**Venue Safety Officer**” In the event of a medical incident this person will be advised immediately to facilitate treatment required.

10. No Scheduled Breaks as playing 21 ends straight through.

11. Attire

It is the responsibility of the President of the player's Club to ensure a player is attired in accordance with the BV Regulations for Attire when playing in a Region/Division Pennant Competition.

12. Results

Both the home and away sides are responsible for entering full teams on BowlsLink prior to the commencement of the game.

Each Club will arrange for the results of all matches played on its green to be entered on the prescribed form. The form must be completed and signed by the Home Side Manager, and checked and countersigned by the Visiting Side Manager. It is important that all Divisions and Sections of the respective sides are identified, substitutes are designated (Sub) and scores are checked accurately. A copy of the form is to be retained by each club until the completion of the season.

Results must be submitted by the home club and confirmed by the away club on BowlsLink as soon as possible following the completion of the match.

Players names must be entered on BowlsLink for all games including byes, forfeits and abandoned games.

Pennant games played or not will count towards a player's eligibility to play in finals.

13. Smoking

Smoking on the greens (defined as having a lit cigarette, pipe, cigar, electronic nicotine delivery system (ENDS) including e-cigs, e-cigarettes and any other form of smoking device) is not permitted. Failure to comply can result in the Umpire applying an instantaneous Penalty.

14. Personal Electronic/Communication Devices

The use of Mobile Phones/ MP3 Players/iPods/Pads/Pagers/Communication Devices and/or other similar Sound/Communication Devices on the green is not permitted. Should a player have a legitimate reason (personal emergency or medical or emergency services personnel) to answer a mobile phone, they must have permission from the Controlling Body and notify the Umpire of the day prior to play. If approved, the phone can be carried on the player but must be on silent/vibrating (only) and responded to on the bank away from play.

15. Greens

Timing of greens is not compulsory and there is no requirement that MBD be informed of the speed of the green on the day of play. A visiting Club cannot demand that a green be timed.

16. Allocation of Rinks

If a club has insufficient rinks available for the number of games scheduled to be played at home, it must endeavour to find an alternative venue prepared to make excess rinks available.

In the event that an alternative venue is available the agreement of the opposing side to transfer the game must be obtained, and the Division Match Committee must be advised.

17. Side Manager (Side Manager must not be the Umpire as per B.Vic Regulations 50.6)

Wherever under a Law, Rule or Regulations gives a Side a right of decision or choice, it will be exercised by the Side Manager who will act on behalf of the Side.

18. Umpires

The Club who is designated as the Home Club should appoint accredited Umpires to officiate. If the venue club does not have an accredited Umpire available, then a visiting accredited Umpire may be appointed to officiate.

Alternatively, if no accredited Umpire is available then an Accredited Measurer may be appointed Umpire. If no accredited Umpire or Measurer is available then a competent player from the Home Club should be appointed to act as Umpire of that day.

19. Identification Discs

- (i) Sides are not required to use bowls disks (adhesive labels). If they are used, then all players in the side must use discs of the same colour/design.
- ii) Where opponents are using the same coloured discs, the visiting Side shall remove theirs or use another colour if available.
- (iii) Bowls Disks may not cover the WB Stamp/Date, or the Serial Number of the bowl and they should be cut or trimmed to comply.
- (iv) Only a single layer of disk is permitted on a bowl. All bowls must have disks on both sides of the bowl.
- (v) Alternatively, the dot from the set of disks may be placed over the insignia on the bias side of the Bowl in lieu of the small ring provided it is from the same set of disks used by the Side.

20. Inclement Weather Procedures

The below covers parts of the Inclement Weather Conditions and all information concerning this matter can be found in the Murray Bowls Website also.

The Murray Bowls Division Match Committee shall be the only authority for determining prior to the day on which

matches are to be played, whether or not play shall be abandoned for that Round.

If play is abandoned each Club Secretary will be advised under procedures defined from year to year.

If a round of play is abandoned that round shall then be played on the next available spare day.

If in the day before a scheduled Pennant game a Code Red Fire Danger Rating Day is forecast and announced by the Bureau of Meteorology for any Fire District within the Murray Bowls Division boundaries for the day of play all Pennant matches will be abandoned for that day.

(Pre-match) For Midweek Pennant play will not commence if the temperature at the venue club reaches 38 degrees Celsius or above at the commencement time of the match on the Pennant day. The commencement of the match will be suspended until such time as the temperature falls back below 38 degrees Celsius. If play has not commenced by 11 am (10:30am) then the match will be abandoned. If it is unlikely that the temperature will drop below 38 degrees Celsius the Side Managers may by mutual agreement abandoned the game and share the points available. Any disputes that may arise are to be referred to the venue clubs officially appointed Umpire of the day whose decision will be final.

(During game:) For Midweek Pennant if play has commenced and the Temperature at the venue club reaches 38 degrees Celsius or above at any time on the Pennant day then play will be suspended until such time as the temperature falls back below 38 degrees Celsius (all play will be abandoned at 2:00pm (1:30pm)). Every effort must be made to complete any ends in progress prior to leaving the green for the suspension of play. If play has been suspended due to Heat and the game is not recommenced within 1 hour of the cessation of play, then that game will be abandoned immediately.

(Pre-match) For Saturday Pennant play will not commence if the Temperature at the venue club reaches 40 degrees Celsius or above on the Pennant day. The commencement of the match will be suspended until such time as the temperature falls back below 40 degrees Celsius. If play has not commenced by 3:00pm then the match will be abandoned. If it is unlikely that the temperature will drop below 40 degrees Celsius the Side Managers may by mutual agreement abandoned the game and share the points available. Any disputes that may arise are to be referred to the venue clubs officially appointed Umpire of the day whose decision will be final.

(During game) For Saturday Pennant if play has commenced and the temperature at the venue club reaches 40 degrees Celsius or above at any time on the Pennant day then play will be suspended until such time as the temperature falls back below 40 degrees Celsius. Every effort must be made to complete any ends in progress prior to leaving the green for the suspension of play. If play has been suspended due to Heat and the game is not recommenced within 1 hour of the cessation of play, then that game will be abandoned immediately.

Note: During play Side Managers ONLY to check temperature in the Stevenson Box.

Despite anything contained in this Rule 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.

(b) Other Inclement Weather (excluding Heat)

In this Rule “**weather**” means wet weather, lightning, excessive heat, excessive wind or dust or any other similar like weather conditions that effects play.

(i) If a decision to abandon play is made by the Murray Bowls Division Match Committee, its decision for abandonment will be announced under procedures defined from year to year.

(ii) For the purpose of this Rule, each Club on whose green a match is to be played will appoint a nominated deputy for its Greens Director who will be present to act in the event the Greens Director is absent, and

- (iii) If the Murray Bowls Division Match Committee has not determined that play be abandoned, the Greens Director of the appointed Deputy will be the sole authority for determining whether play can commence on the green of the Greens Director's Club.
- (iv) If a decision against play for the day or for a delayed commencement is reached before the arrival of the visiting Side or Sides, such decision will promptly be telephoned to the Club or Clubs concerned.
- (v) If due to inclement weather a match has not commenced by 11 am (10:30am) for a Friday Match or 3:00pm for a Saturday Match it will be abandoned.
- (vi) If play for the day has commenced and subsequently due to consideration of the weather one Side wishes to leave the green but the other does not, neither Side can leave the vicinity of the green and the Umpire will resolve the dispute, or due to inclement weather play has been stopped officially by the Controlling Body or by direction of the Umpire, or by agreement between the Managers when the Umpire or a representative of the Controlling Body is not present or because the Greens Director or the appointed deputy closes the green as unfit for play, it will not be resumed if the green remains closed, but if otherwise the Umpire on their own observation or on appeal of the Managers will decide whether or not to resume, and if resumed, the provisions of Law 32.2., 32.3 and 32.4 will apply.
- (vii) If due to inclement weather the start of a Sectional match has been delayed or play interrupted and the match has not been completed before 3:00pm (2:30pm) for a Friday Match or 7:00pm for a Saturday Match, it will then be abandoned but if play is in progress at 3:00pm (2:30pm) for a Friday Match or 7:00pm for a Saturday Match it will be abandoned thereafter upon interruption or completion of any end or ends in play at 3:00pm (2:30pm) for a Friday Match or 7:00pm for a Saturday Match.

- (c) **Note:** When the game has commenced and is subsequently abandoned, and the following **minimum number of ends per rink completed:** for Midweek Pennant Division 1 & 2, 16 ends per rink; for Saturday Pennant Division 1, 2, 3, & 4, 16 ends per rink; the game will be awarded to the side who has the higher number of total shots at the time the game was abandoned and points awarded as per rink results.

If the game is abandoned prior to the above number of ends being completed the maximum available points will be shared equally for a tied game for Midweek & Saturday Pennant.

- (d) Every effort will be made regardless of time to complete a post-sectional (knockout) match but if such match is abandoned for the day it will be completed under such conditions as the Murray Bowls Division Match Committee decides.
- (e) Despite anything contained in this Rule 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.
- (f) Play should be suspended when lightning is present. Players should go inside a sturdy building and stay inside until 30 minutes after the last rumble of thunder.

NB: Bowlers Arms, Bowls lifters and umbrellas should not be handled when lightning is present.

21. Death of a Player.

- (i) If a match including a Final has commenced and a participating player passed away, all games in progress at the Club will be abandoned.
- (ii) Matches other than a Final abandoned because of the death of a player will count as a tie unless the scores are such that one Side must win the match if all the remaining ends were played.
- (iii) In that case, the Side will be awarded the match with the scores as at the abandonment.
- (iv) Finals match abandoned because of a death of any participating player resumed under such conditions as the Match Committee determines with the scores carried forward as they were when play was abandoned.

22. Allocation of Points – Sectional Play.

The method of scoring shall be determined by the total points gained by each side. Points shall be awarded as follows:

- (i) Ten (10) points for each win plus two (2) points for each winning rink with one (1) point for a rink draw.
- (ii) The side receiving a forfeit shall be credited with 10 points plus 2 points per rink plus 15 shots.
- (iii) Washouts and games not played due to inclement weather **and as per Rule 20(e)**, shall be treated as drawn games with each side sharing the points equally. If 50% or more matches are completed for the round, then those game results will stand. If due to inclement weather less than 50% of matches for the round are completed, then all matches will be treated as abandoned, and all sides will split the points. Sides having a bye do not score points.

23. Finals

To determine the Division winners the Final series will be conducted as follows:

- (i) 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.
- (ii) In determining ladder positions at the end of the home and away rounds the order of Sides in each Division will be determined by the total points gained.
- (iii) If two or more sides have the same number of points their order will be determined by the net margin of shots “for” minus shots “against” for each side.
- (iv) If the net margins be equal the order shall be determined by the higher proportion of “total shots for” divided by the “total shots against”.
- (v) If there is still a tie for a position to qualify for finals play the sides concerned shall play a deciding match under conditions stipulated by the Match Committee.

Venues for Finals matches shall be arranged by the Match Committee. Matches shall be played on neutral greens with following exceptions:
 - (i) a Side may choose to waive its right to a neutral green in the interests of the Division
 - (ii) If two Sides from one Club play each other, the Match Committee may allow the match to be played on the Club’s home green.

24. Promotions and Relegations.

At the end of the season the premier sides in Divisions 2 & 3 will be promoted to the higher Divisions. If a Side in Division 2 is ineligible, promotion will be awarded to the loser of the Final in which the club has played. If that Club is also ineligible then promotion shall be determined by the Match Committee.

The bottom sides in Divisions 1 & 2 shall be relegated to the next lower Divisions in each succeeding season. For Divisions 3 and 4 the Match Committee shall determine the system in order to maintain a balanced competition.

25. Walkovers.

- (i) In the event of a walkover, both sides must complete a Pennant Check form showing which side has given the walkover. The walkover must also be recorded on BowlsLink.
- (ii) A Side receiving a walkover must also enter the intended player’s names to enable players who would have played in a match to qualify for finals.
- (iii) A walkover once conceded cannot be withdrawn.

26. Bowlers Arm.

The bowlers arm once used in a game 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 bowler’s arm.

27. Players conduct & behaviour.

All players are required to conduct themselves in a polite and sportsman like manner when participating in a Pennant Competition and not in any of the following behaviours:

- *act in an abusive, threatening, or intimidating manner;
- *use obscene, offensive, abusive, threatening, or intimidating language;
- *act in an unsportsmanlike manner;
- *threaten any person with physical violence;
- *assault any person;
- *act in a manner likely to bring the sport of bowls into disrepute; or
- *act in a manner likely to bring Murray Bowls Division into disrepute. A failure to comply can result in the Umpire applying an Instantaneous Penalty.

28. Instantaneous Penalties.

- (i) If an Umpire, by observation or on an appeal by the Controlling Body, a Side Manager, a Skip or an opponent decides that a player is non-compliant then the end shall be immediately regarded as completed and the opponent of the offender shall be awarded as many shots as there are bowls in use by the opponents.
- (ii) If the Umpire forms the opinion on a second occasion that the same player is noncompliant, the player will be excluded from taking any further part in the game. A substitute will not be permitted (DR 2.5.1.1 – 2.5.1.3) and the defaulting team will forfeit the game.
- (iii) An instantaneous penalty applied to one player in a Team shall be considered as an instantaneous penalty to all players in that Team.
- (iv) Any of the above Umpires imposed sanctions are final and cannot be contested, disregarded or appealed.
- (v) The Umpire shall forward a written report about the incident to the Division Match Committee within seven (7) days of the incident.

29. Delaying Play.

- (i) If an Umpire by their own observation or on appeal by a Side Manager decides a player is deliberately delaying the delivery of their bowl or a Skip is acting or issuing instructions designed to delay play, a warning will be Issued to a Skip.
- (ii) If an 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 are bowls in use by their Opponent.

All players are required to conduct themselves in a polite and sportsman like manner when participating in a Pennant Competition and other Competitions as set down by the Division and Bowls Victoria as per;

- (a) Members shall abide by the Bowls Victoria Code of Conduct. Failure to do so will render the Individual Member liable to action under rule 10 of the Bowls Victoria Constitution.
- (b) Members shall abide by the Victorian "Fair Play Code". Failure to do so will render the Individual Member liable to action under rule 10 of the B.V Constitution.