



# GEE LONG BOWLS REGION

## Regional Pennant

### Rules for Competition

2023/24

Approved 09/10/2023

Updated 19/01/2024

**GBR R1. Rules for Competition**

Date: 09/10/23

Approved

Rule #		Page #
1	Eligibility of Member Clubs	3
2	Insufficient Players to Enter a Side	4
3	Eligibility of Players	4
4	Gender Specific Restrictions	5
5	Pennant Permit	5
6	Protected Events	5
7	Competition Format	6
8	Controlling Body on the Day of Play	6
9	Side Manager on the Day of Play	6
10	Umpires	6
11	Eligibility to Play Finals	7
12	Interchanging of Players Between Sides Prior to Finals	7
13	Selection of Sides & the use of Substitutes	8
14	Substitutes at Commencement of a Game	8
15	Substitute After a Game has Commenced	8
16	Use of Alternate Venue for Home Games	9
17	Bowls Identification Discs	9
18	Rules for Attire	10
19	Playing of Music	10
20	Photography, Video and Live Streaming	10
21	Commencement Time & Trial Ends	10
22	Pre-Game Pennant Practice	11
23	Timing of Greens	11
24	Draw for Rinks	12

**GBR R1. Rules for Competitions**

Date: 09/10/2023

Approved

25	Allocation of Rinks	12
26	Duration of Game	12
27	Scheduled Break	13
28	Points Allocated for a Game	13
29	Division Results by Round	13
30	Results Submitted to Region	14
31	Results for Side Forfeit or Walkover	14
32	Alterations to a Recorded Result	14
33	Promotions & Relegation	14
34	Awarding of Points for Abandoned Games	14
35	Games Abandoned due to Inclement Weather	14
36	Inclement Weather, Play Commencement, and Interruption to Play	15
37	Instantaneous Penalties	16
38	Smoking	16
39	Personal Electronic / Communications Devices	16
40	Consumption of Alcohol	17
41	Player, Coach and Officials Conduct & Behavior	17
42	Delaying Play & Leaving the Green	17
43	Damage to Green – Delivery of a Jack or Bowls	18
44	Damage to Green – Use of Wheelchair, Walking Frame or Approved Artificial Device.	18
45	Bowlers Arm	19
46	Death of a Player	19
47	Infringements	19
48	Pennant Finals Series	19

## Introduction

These Rules of Competition are reviewed annually by GBR Rules & Regulations Committee. GBR Pennant Committee reserves the right to amend these Rules for Competition from season to season or as required.

These Rules apply to the conduct of the GBR 2023-24 Midweek and Saturday Pennant competitions, which are separate competitions.

Region Pennant Competitions are conducted in accordance with the:

- Laws of the Sport of Bowls Crystal Mark 4th edition and Domestic Regulations for Australia as published April 2023.
- Bowls Australia (BA) Policies; and
- Bowls Victoria (BV) Constitution, BV Regulations, and BV Policies.
- Geelong Bowls Region Constitution, Regulations & Policies.

No laws governing a sport can cope with every situation, and the Laws governing the sport of bowls are no exception. The Laws of the Sport of Bowls have been drawn up in the spirit of true sportsmanship. So, if a situation arises that is not covered by the Laws or these Conditions of Play, players and officials must use their **common sense and a spirit of fair play to decide the appropriate course of action**.

**GBR Region Pennant Committee reserves the right to alter these Rules for Competition as it considers necessary, so long as any alteration is not in conflict with the Laws of the Sport of Bowls or Domestic Regulations.**

### 1. Eligibility of Member Clubs

1.1 Affiliated Clubs are required to make their green or greens available for the playing of any competition or game under the control of the Region. Failure to do so by a Club may lead to termination of affiliation requirements.

1.2 Clubs may enter any number of Sides, up to maximum number which can be accommodated on the rinks available for use.

1.3 Sides will be assigned a division and section within each competition. The placement of Sides will depend on the promotion and relegation provisions applicable from the previous season, unless otherwise determined by GBR Pennant.

1.4 Sides of a Club will be graded numerically (1, 2, 3, 4 etc.) in descending order of ability.

1.5 A new Side entry in a Pennant Competition will be placed in a Division / Section as determined necessary by GBR Pennant controlling body. This may result in a side or sides being relegated as necessary to accommodate the new side.

## 2. Insufficient Players to Enter a Side

2.1 A club may seek approval from the Pennant Committee to combine with another Club or Clubs to enter a Side.

2.2 One of the combined Clubs must be nominated as being responsible for submitting the Side and recording results in BowlsLink, as provided for in **GBR Rule 30**.

2.3 If a combined Side is approved, the players are permitted to wear their respective Club uniform and cap. If bowls discs are used, all members of the combined Side must use discs that are of the same colour/design.

2.4 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 playing in accordance with **Laws of the Sport of Bowls DR 2.6**.

2.4.1 Withdrawal of a Side from a Pennant Competition after the draw has been made by the Pennant Committee will incur a **fine of \$250** to the offending Club payable within 14 days of demand by the Region Executive.

2.4.2 Any Club giving a walkover will incur a fine of **\$50.00** per side per week.

## 3. Eligibility of Players

3.1. Affiliations, Subscriptions, Fees and Charges are payable in accordance with invoices issued by the Geelong Bowls Region and any Club or Player not complying with the terms of invoice may be deprived of the privileges of the Region.

3.2 Clubs must ensure all their players competing in any GBR Pennant Competition are Registered BV Members with Full Playing Rights and recorded on the Club's BowlsLink database prior to the commencement of the game.

3.3 Selection of players for Pennant Competitions will be based on merit with players selected for Sides in descending order of ability.

3.4 A breach of this requirement will result in forfeit of the game to the opponent and / or action being taken under **GBR Rule 47**.

*Note: Any participant in an organised event\* at club level and above must be a registered financial member\*\* of a BV Member club and recorded on the BowlsLink database as having playing rights.*

*\* Organised club events include all regular competitions regardless of the value of the prize or prestige associated with the event. For the avoidance of doubt, this includes social competitions such as Thursday morning triples where the prize might be a frozen chook or a small amount of money, but does not include barefoot bowls or Christmas parties which are understood to serve as an important format to attract new members and a vital income stream for clubs.*

*\*\* A registered financial member is any club membership that includes playing rights of any kind.*

#### 4. Gender Specific Restrictions

4.1 Male bowlers are not eligible for selection in Midweek Pennant Competitions in the position of skip in all Sections of Division 2, Division 3 and Division 4, and not more than two male bowlers to be selected in any team of four playing in Midweek Pennant. Sides defaulting in relation to this rule shall incur the same penalties which apply to Sides **forfeiting** matches, with opponents receiving all match points and shots in accordance with **GBR Rule 28.1**

4.2 Male bowlers are eligible for selection in Midweek Pennant Competition Division 1 in the position of skip, as long as a female is played as the third in that team / rink and not more than two male bowlers to be selected in any team of four playing in Midweek Pennant. Sides defaulting in relation to this rule shall incur the same penalties which apply to Sides **forfeiting** matches, with opponents receiving all match points and shots in accordance with **GBR Rule 28.1**

4.3 Midweek Pennant Competition Division 5 has been classified as an Open competition to allow newer bowlers to gain experience without the limitation of restrictions.

#### 5. Pennant Permit

5.1 A player can be approved to play in a Midweek or Weekend Pennant Competition for a Member Club other than their nominated Club by completing a Pennant Permit request on-line via BowlsLink, prior to round 5 of the Pennant Competition they wish to play in. No application will be considered after round 5.

5.2 If approved by BV, a Permit remains in place until 30 June of the following year and the player is not eligible to play Pennant for their nominated Club in the competition for which the Permit applies, until the Permit expires.

5.3 A player may apply for a clearance from their nominated Club while a Permit is in place.

#### 6. Protected Events

##### 6.1 BV Victorian Open & Regions Competitions

6.1.1 The BV Victorian Open & Region Sides Championships are protected events. GBR Pennant is not scheduled during the running of these events, and the scheduling/playing of rounds of Region State Championships (BV State Events) and Club Championship events during these protected events is prohibited.

6.1.2 No exemptions will be given for the conduct of Region / Club Championships during this time.

##### 6.2 The Nationals (Bowls Australia event):

6.2.1 The Nationals are a protected event for Pennant under the following conditions:

6.2.2 Where one player from a Pennant Side is unavailable due to playing in The Nationals, then that Side will play without any recourse;

6.2.3 Where two or more players from a Pennant Side are unavailable due to playing in The Nationals, the following shall occur:

6.2.3.1 By mutual agreement, teams can agree to play without players that are playing in The Nationals:

6.2.3.2 Clubs are encouraged to find a suitable alternate date to avoid any clash;

6.2.3.3 Where a suitable alternative date cannot be agreed to, the GBR Pennant Committee will nominate the suitable date.

6.2.4. If **GBR Rule 6.2.3.3** is invoked, the Controlling Body cannot choose a date during The Nationals.

6.2.5 State and Club Championships can be conducted on the proviso that any player at The Nationals must have an equal opportunity to participate with no exception.

## 7. Competition format

7.1 The number of Divisions/Sections will depend on the number of entries received.

## 8. Controlling Body on the Day of Play

8.1 The Controlling Body for matters arising on the day of play shall be GBR Pennant Committee. The decision to suspend or discontinue play as a result of weather conditions etc. remains the discretion of the venue Controlling Body. In the case of GBR's Pennant that could be: the Umpire, Division / Section Managers or Greens Director.

## 9. Side Manager on the Day of Play

9.1 Wherever under a Law, Regulation, Policy or the BV & GBR Conditions of Play a Side is given a right of decision or choice, it will be exercised by the Side Manager who will act on behalf of the Side.

9.2 The Side Manager must not be the Umpire of the day for the game they are managing.

## 10. Umpires

10.1 The club designated as the home Club must appoint an Accredited Umpire to officiate.

10.2 If the home 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 must be appointed Umpire.

10.3 If no Accredited Umpire or Measurer is available, then a competent player from the home club must be appointed to act as Umpire for that day.

10.4 An Umpire's decision is final and cannot be contested, disregarded, or appealed except for matters relating to the meaning or interpretation of a Law.

10.5 The Umpire of the day must resolve any matter where the Side Managers cannot agree.

10.6 The Umpire of the day must not be the Side Manager, Side Captain or Coach for the game they are umpiring.

## 11. Eligibility to Play Finals

11.1 To be eligible to play finals, a player must comply with **GBR Rule 3** in these Rules for Competition (Eligibility of players) and must have played a minimum of 3 (three) games for their Club in that GBR Pennant Competition. [Midweek and Saturday Pennant are two separate (different) competitions].

11.2 A Side in finals may not include any player who, during the current season has played more than four games in any combination of higher graded Sides unless the player has also played in four or more games in the Side concerned and/or lower graded Sides.

11.3 The provisions relating to the interchange of players between Sides in finals also apply to players involved in combined sides formed under **GBR Rule 2**

11.4 A Club who has insufficient eligible players for any finals of a Pennant Competition may apply to the Region Pennant 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.

## 12. Interchanging a Player Between Sides Prior to Finals.

12.1 Prior to the last four rounds of a Pennant Competition, there will be no restrictions on the interchange of players between the Sides of a Club.

12.2 For the last four rounds of GBR Pennant Competition, no Side will include more than three (3) players who have played a majority of their games, prior to the fourth last game, in any combination of higher graded Sides.

12.3 No player should be demoted more than one Division/Section, or to the Club's next lower Side, in this process. Any club seeking consideration to select Sides outside these provisions must put a written request to the Pennant Committee for consideration.

12.4 The BowlsLink Competition Management System is used as the official record of the number of games played by a player.

12.5 Failure to comply will result in forfeiture of the game under **Laws of the Sport of Bowls Law 39.2.1**

*Note: For clarity, Divisions/Sections are graded in descending order and are separate Divisions.*

*i.e. Division 1 Section 1 is a higher grade and a separate Division to Division 1 Section 2 etc.*



### 13. Selection of Sides & the use of Substitutes

13.1 Gender cannot be used as criteria for selection.

13.2 Subject to **GBR Rule 13**, Sides will be filled by available players in descending order of ability.

13.3 If there are insufficient players available on a day of play to fill all Sides entered by the club, the lowest graded Side must be the Side which forfeits.

13.4 The Club's lowest graded Side can play with one or more teams playing ONE player short in accordance with **Laws of the Sport of Bowls DR 2.6**.

13.5 If a club has insufficient players to fill all Sides entered by the Club, an affiliated player may act as a substitute in the Club's lowest graded side.

13.6 Only one substitute is permitted in each team (rink) and the substitute cannot skip.

13.7 A player will not play or substitute in more than one Side in the same round of the same Pennant Competition.

13.8 A Club forfeiting must notify their opponent via phone as soon as possible, but no later than two hours before the scheduled starting time

13.8.1 Failure of a Club to comply with this cause may result in action being taken pursuant to **GBR Rule 47**.

### 14. Substitutes at Commencement of a Game

14.1 If, 30 minutes after the scheduled start time for a game, one player is absent from one or more teams in a Side and no eligible or affiliated substitute is available or allowed, the game must continue in accordance with the provisions of **Laws of the Sport of Bowls DR 2.6**.

14.1.1 The skips of both teams will carry the scorecard and update the score at the completion of each end.

14.1.2 A team with an absent player plays as though the second is the missing player. The opponents with a complete team will have their second play consecutive bowls. **Laws of the Sport of Bowls DR 2.6**.

14.2 If the absent player arrives late, all players must take their original place in the team, at the completion of the end in progress.

### 15. Substitutes after a game has Commenced

15.1 If a player who has commenced the game cannot continue and there is no eligible or affiliated substitute available, the team must play with the second as the absent player.

15.1.1 The skips of both teams will carry the scorecard and update the score at completion of each end.

15.1.2. A team with an absent player plays as though the second is the missing player. The opponents with a complete team will have their second play consecutive bowls in accordance with [Laws of the Sport of Bowls DR 2.6](#).

15.2 If a substitute is available, they must play in the same position as the player being substituted, (excluding the skip). If the Skip is required to be substituted, then the other members of the team must rearrange their positions as necessary. A substitute cannot skip.

15.3 If a player who leaves the game subsequently becomes available, they must re-join the team in their original place in the team at the completion of the end in progress.

15.4 If a substitute player becomes available, the controlling body may allow them to enter the game at the completion of the end in progress.

## 16. Use of Alternative Venue for Home Games

16.1 When a Club enters more Sides than can be catered for at home, the Club must nominate the Side(s) to use the alternative venue prior to the commencement of the Pennant season.

16.2 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. If agreement cannot be reached between the Clubs, it will be referred to the Chair of the Region Pennant Committee for resolution.

16.3 Where the home green is available, Sides will be allocated to play at the home green in order of seniority of the Sides drawn to play at home.

## 17. Bowls Identification Discs

17.1 Sides are not required to use bowls discs (adhesive labels). If they are used, then all players in the Side must use a disc of the same colour/design.

17.2 Where opponents use the same-colored discs, the visiting Side shall remove theirs or use another colour if available.

17.3 Bowls discs cannot cover the WB Stamp/Date, or the Serial Number of the bowl, and they should be cut or trimmed to comply.

17.4 Only a single layer of disc is permitted on a bowl. All bowls must have discs on both sides of the bowl.

17.5 The dot from the set of discs 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 discs used by the Side.

## 18. Rules for Attire

18.1 It is the responsibility of the President of the player's Club to ensure a player is attired in correct uniform for competitions.

18.2 All attire must comply with Bowls Australia National Merchandise Program (NMP) Logo Policy as it relates to Upper and Lower body attire.

[https://www.bowls.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/BA-Policy\\_National-Merchandise-Program-NMP-Logo\\_May2018-1.pdf](https://www.bowls.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/BA-Policy_National-Merchandise-Program-NMP-Logo_May2018-1.pdf)

18.3 For information about approved footwear, refer to the following Bowls Australia information <https://www.bowls.com.au/get-involved/attire-equipment/footwear>

18.4 If BV registered shirts/tops are worn, all members of the Side must be in the same attire except for a combined Side. **GBR Rule 2.3**

18.5 An affiliated member approved as a substitute must comply with the BA National Merchandise Program (NMP) Logo Policy and is permitted to wear their respective Club uniform and cap.

18.6 Complaints must be lodged with GBR Region Board within 7 days of occurrence.

18.7 Failure to comply will result in a warning on the first occasion. A subsequent breach(s) may result in a **fine of \$100** and / or action being taken under **GBR Rule 47**.

## 19. Playing of Music

19.1 If music is played during a Pennant game, it should be appropriate in content, not impact on the conduct of the game and be at a level acceptable to Side Managers. If Side Managers cannot agree, the Umpire of the day will make the final decision.

19.2 Any breach of this Clause may result in action being taken under **GBR Rule 47**

## 20. Photography, Video and Livestreaming

20.1 Bowls Victoria & Geelong Bowls Region reserves the right to use any photographs, video or live streaming during Pennant for promotional requirements.

20.2 Bowls Victoria encourages third party streaming for all matches.

20.3 Third party Streaming requires prior approval from Bowls Victoria. Approval can be sought by e-mailing [media@bowlsvic.org.au](mailto:media@bowlsvic.org.au).

## 21. Commencement Time & Trial Ends:

21.1 One trial end each way may be played commencing 20 minutes prior to the scheduled start time. Trial ends shall cease if incomplete at the scheduled start time.

21.1.1 Midweek Pennant-Commencement of all pennant matches shall be at 10.00am

21.1.2 Saturday Pennant-Commencement of all pennant matches shall be at 1.00pm

21.2 Clubs with advance approval (5 days) from the Pennant Committee may mutually elect to play / start at a different day/time.

21.3 No play is permitted on Sundays unless special approval is given by GBR Board.

## 22. Pre-game Pennant Practice

22.1 Practice is allowed on the day of play for Saturday Pennant including on the rinks the game is to be played on, for both the home and visiting Sides.

22.1.1 The visiting Side must have access for 1 hour commencing **120 mins (11.00AM)** before the game is scheduled to start and concluding **60 minutes (12.00PM)** before the commencement of play.

22.1.2 If required, the visiting Side must have access to half the rinks the game is to be played on, and these should be consecutive rinks.

22.1.3 Practice for the Home Sides must also conclude **60 minutes (12.00PM)** prior to the commencement of play.

22.2 If allocated rinks for the game are in use for another Pennant Competition prior to the start of the game, an equivalent number of rinks must be made available on other rinks or greens, of similar surface if available, at the Club.

22.3 These rules apply for all play. For Finals at a neutral venue, both Sides must have access for 1 hour by arrangement before the game is scheduled to start and concluding **60 minutes** before the commencement of play.

22.4 The Controlling body is responsible for the management of any issues arising during the practice period.

22.5 Provision relating to Pre-Game practice for both the home and away Sides is subject to the Greenkeeper / Greens Director declaring the greens available for practice. In the event the Green is not available for practice the home team **MUST** advise the away team.

22.6 The home Club Greens Director is responsible for any stoppage or greens closure due to inclement weather during practice.

22.7 A breach of these provisions may result in a fine or the deduction of 4 competition points and / or action being taken under **GBR Rule 47**.

22.8 If a Club wishes to lodge a complaint about pre-game practice, Clubs are to email GBR Pennant Committee at pennant@geelongregionbowls.org.au

## 23. Timing of Greens and Recommended Green Speeds.

23.1 Greens, if timed, shall be with a member of the opposing side not less than 30 minutes and not more than 45 minutes prior to the commencement of each Pennant match and the green speed displayed on a suitable notice board at the venue.

## GBR R1. Rules for Competitions

Date: 09/10/2023

Approved

23.2 The recommended green speed for Pennant is in the range 13 to 17 seconds. In response to genuine complaints, the Region's Greens Committee has the authority to check offending greens and, should improvement be necessary, corrections must occur within two weeks of appropriate notice being given to the Club. Failure to achieve this will result in approval for the use of the green/s being withdrawn until the recommended speed guidelines are achieved.

### 24. Draw for Rinks

24.1 The rink draw will be conducted prior to the commencement of the game by the Side Managers.

24.2 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.

### 25. Allocation of Rinks

25.1 Rinks must be consecutively numbered. A side will play on consecutively numbered rinks, preferably on the same green.

25.2 The separation of teams that are part of a Side is not permitted on the same green.

25.3 Where more than one green is required, a Side will play on those rinks which have been consecutively numbered for both greens.

### 26. Duration of Game

26.1 The Region Pennant Committee has determined the duration of a game shall be 21 ends per rink.

26.1.1 For sides with 4 Teams, each to play 21 ends, an aggregate of 84 live ends to be played.

26.1.2 For sides with 3 teams, each to play 21 ends, an aggregate of 63 live ends shall be played.

26.1.3 For sides with 2 teams, each to play 21 ends, an aggregate of 42 live ends shall be played.

26.2 The Region Pennant Committee has determined that if a game has been abandoned in accordance with Rules for Pennant 2023/24, the scores will remain and points allocated accordingly, **only if the following aggregate number of ends (total) have been completed.** (Approx. 80%)

26.2.1 For sides with Four (4 Rinks) Teams, an aggregate of **68 live Ends played.**

26.2.2 For sides with Three (3 Rink) Teams, an aggregate of **50 live Ends played.**

26.2.3 For sides with Two (2 Rinks) Teams, an aggregate of **34 live ends played.**

**27. Scheduled Break**

27.1 For season 2023-24 GBR Pennant is to be played 21 Ends straight through.

27.2 Considering our age demographics and temperatures experienced in past seasons, if either (one) Side Manager, during pre-match duties, requests on behalf of his/her Side, a 10-minute break during the days play, then a Break shall be held by each rink at the completion of its 11<sup>th</sup> End.

27.2.1 If a break is NOT arranged and communicated to both Sides prior to the commencement of play, the game will be played 21 ends straight through.

27.2.2 Any deviation from **GBR Rule 27.2** other than in accordance with **GBR Rule 42** will be deemed Delay of Play, and Instantaneous Penalties applied. **Laws of the Sport of Bowls Rule 32.**

**28. Points Allocated for a Game**

28.1 The allocation of points for all Pennant Matches shall be: -

SIDE WIN	10 POINTS
SIDE TIE	5 POINTS
SIDE BYE	5 POINTS
Side RECEIVING FORFEIT OR WALKOVER	
Sides with 4 Rinks	18 POINTS & PLUS 16 SHOTS
Sides with 3 Rinks	16 POINTS & PLUS 12 SHOTS
Sides with 2 Rinks	14 POINTS & PLUS 8 SHOTS
Side GIVING FORFEIT OR WALKOVER	Zero POINTS & MINUS THE SHOTS AWARDED TO THEIR OPPONENT
RINK WIN or FORFEIT	2 POINTS
RINK TIE or RINK BYE	1 POINT
Game ABANDONED (Other than as per GBR Rule 26.2)	5 POINTS

**29. Division Results by Round**

29.1 The order of Sides in each Division/Section will be determined by the total points gained.

29.2 If two or more Sides have the same number of points their order will be determined by net margin of shots 'for' minus shots 'against' each side.

29.3 If net margins are equal the order will be determined by the higher proportion (percentage) of 'total shots for' divided by 'total shots against'.

29.4 If there is still a tie for a position to qualify for finals play, the Sides concerned will play a deciding game.

### 30. Results Submitted to Region

30.1 The procedure for submitting results will be as per BowlsLink Competition portal with results to be submitted by home Side Managers in consultation with visiting Side Managers and Finalizing Results before leaving match venue.

### 31. Result for a Side Forfeit or Walkover

31.1 The procedure for submitting details of a forfeit or walkover will be determined by the GBR Pennant Committee and established on BowlsLink Results Portal

31.2 If a Side receives a walkover/forfeit or a bye, they must submit the names of the selected players for finals eligibility purposes on BowlsLink.

### 32. Alterations to a Recorded Result

32.1 Clubs may seek a correction to a result entered in BowlsLink. The request must be submitted to GBR Pennant within 48 hours of the game being completed. [pennant@geelongregionbowls.org.au](mailto:pennant@geelongregionbowls.org.au)

### 33. Promotion and Relegation

33.1 The Region's Pennant Competitions are run primarily on the basis of a promotion and relegation system involving One Side up and One Side down. However, the final determination of Sides to be promoted and relegated is a matter for the Pennant Committee's consideration each year having regard to the number of Sides candidate Clubs have in relevant Divisions and to any necessary structural changes envisaged for the competition. Season 2023 – 2024 will be One Up & One Down.

33.2 Each Club is restricted to having not more than two Sides in any Division/Section.

### 34. Awarding Points When Play is Abandoned

34.1 Points will be shared by Sides when all games or **a majority of games** in that Division /Section scheduled for that day are abandoned. **Refer GBR Rule 26.2**

34.2 A forfeit or walkover in that Division will count as a completed game.

34.3 For a game abandoned by agreement before or during play and before a result (approx. 80% aggregate Ends) is obtained each Side will share equally the maximum points available. **Refer GBR Rule 26.2**

34.4 In the event of any Government-imposed movement constraints, (e.g. COVID) impacting on the competition, the round will be cancelled, **Zero Points and No Player Finals Qualifications applicable.**

### 35. Game Abandoned Due to Inclement Weather

35.1 Inclement Weather in this Clause can be: - Wet Weather, Lightning, Excessive Heat, Excessive Wind or Dust, Code Red Fire Danger Rating Day, Total Fire Ban Day.

## GBR R1. Rules for Competition

Date: 09/10/23

Approved

35.2 Every effort must be made to complete a game on the schedule day.

35.3 The GBR Pennant Committee shall have the authority to determine, up to two hours before the scheduled commencement of play, whether or not all play will be abandoned for the day.

35.4 Where Play is abandoned, all Clubs shall be advised as soon as possible and all matches (other than finals) scheduled for that day shall be deemed ties and points allotted accordingly.

35.5 If due to inclement Weather the start of a Pennant match has been delayed or interrupted in accordance with GBR Rule 35 above, and the match cannot be completed before 3.00 pm for a Midweek match and 6.00 pm for a Saturday match, it will be abandoned.

35.6 If due to inclement Weather a match has not commenced within one hour of designated start time, (Midweek 11.00am, Saturday 2.00pm) the match will be abandoned.

35.7 Despite anything contained in these Rules for Competition, 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.

35.8 Where a decision to abandon play is made by a Club Greens Director due to Greens being closed and the game has not commenced, every attempt shall be made to notify the visiting Club prior to their arrival.

35.9 Where play has commenced and has been stopped owing to inclement weather or because the Greens Director or his nominated Representative declared the relevant green unfit for play, it shall not be resumed if the green remains closed for play.

### 36. Inclement Weather, Play Commencement & Interruption of Play

36.1 **Lightning** can strike without other typical storm characteristics (i.e. thunder, rain and wind) being present.

36.1.1 When lightning is sighted by the Competition Manager, (GBR Rule 9) the Controlling Body will suspend play and all players will be required to leave the green immediately and move to a safe structure.

36.1.2 When the Controlling Body deems it safe to return to the green, play should resume as per GBR Rule 36.1.3

36.1.3 If the end was not completed before leaving the green that end shall be declared dead and replayed when the game is restarted.

36.2 **Temperature.** When the Senior Manager present in consultation with opposition Manager deems the Temperature (as indicated using methods approved in GBR Weather Policy) has reached the Upper Limit, play will be suspended and all players will complete the end they are currently playing and move from the green to a cool, shady area.

36.2.1 Midweek Pennant Competition upper limit is 34 degrees.

36.2.2 Saturday Pennant Competition upper limit 36 degrees



<b>GBR R1. Rules for Competitions</b>	Date: 09/10/2023
	Approved

36.2.3 When the Managers (**GBR Rule 9**) determines the temperature has fallen below the Upper Limit, play should resume.

**36.2.4 IF PLAY IS 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.**

36.3 **Code Red Fire Danger Rating Day.** If, on the day before a scheduled GBR game a Code Red Fire Danger Rating Day is forecast and announced by the Bureau of Meteorology for the Central Fire District for the day of play all GBR Events will be abandoned for that day.

36.4 **Total Fire Ban Day.** If a Total Fire Ban Day is declared for the Central Fire District for the Day of Play, play shall be abandoned.

### 37. Instantaneous Penalties

37.1 During a game 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, coach or official 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.

37.2 If the Umpire forms the opinion on a second occasion that the same player, coach or official is non-compliant, the player will be excluded from taking any further part in the game. A substitute will not be permitted.

37.3 An instantaneous penalty applied to one player in a team shall be considered as an instantaneous penalty to all players in that team.

37.4 Any of the above Umpire-imposed penalties are final and cannot be appealed.

37.5 The umpire shall also complete a BA Instantaneous Penalty Report and forward it to GBR who shall forward to BV within seven (7) days of the incident.

### 38. Smoking

38.1 Smoking on the green (defined as having a lit cigarette, pipe, cigar, electronic nicotine delivery system (ENDS) including e-cigs, e-cigarettes, vapes and any other form of smoking device) by a player on the green is not permitted.

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

38.3 A failure to comply can result in the Umpire applying an Instantaneous Penalty and/or referring the matter to the GBR Disciplinary Committee. **GBR Rule 37.**

### 39. Personal Electronic/Communication Devices

39.1 The use of mobile phones/MP3 players/iPods/iPads/Pagers/Communication Devices and/or other similar Sound/Communication Devices on the green by a player is not permitted.

39.2 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.

39.3 A failure to comply can result in the umpire applying an Instantaneous Penalty **GBR Rule 37** and/or referring the matter to the GBR Disciplinary Committee.

39.4 Exemptions are provided for scoreboard control devices or applications requiring the use of an electronic device. eg. Smart Phone for Live End Scoring

#### 40. Consumption of Alcohol

40.1 The consumption of alcohol on the green by a player whilst a game is in progress is not permitted.

40.2 A failure to comply can result in the Umpire applying an Instantaneous Penalty **GBR Rule 37** and/or referring the matter to the BV Disciplinary Committee.

#### 41. Player, Coach and Officials Conduct & Behavior

41.1 All players, coaches, and officials are required to conduct themselves in a polite and sportsmanlike manner. The following behaviors are not acceptable when participating or officiating in a region pennant competition:

41.1.1 Act in an abusive, threatening, or intimidating manner;

41.1.2 Use obscene, offensive, abusive, threatening, or intimidating language;

41.1.3 Act in an unsportsmanlike manner;

41.1.4 Threaten any person with physical violence or assault;

41.1.5 Assault any person;

41.1.6 Act in a manner likely to bring the sport of bowls into disrepute; or

41.1.7 Act in a manner likely to bring Geelong Bowls Region / Bowls Victoria into disrepute.

41.2 A failure to comply can result in the Umpire applying an Instantaneous Penalty **GBR Rule 37** and/or the matter being referred to the GBR Disciplinary Committee.

#### 42. Delaying Play – Leaving the Green during the Course of Play

42.1 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 the skip, and the side manager must be advised.

42.2 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.

42.3 A player must not delay play by leaving the rink of play or their team unless their opponent agrees, and then only for no more than 10 minutes. [Laws of the Sport of Bowls Rule 32.1](#)

42.4 If a player has to leave the green during the course of a team or side game due to illness or some other reasonable cause, and they cannot return within 10 minutes, the umpire or the controlling body can approve the introduction of a substitute. [Laws of the Sport of Bowls Rule 32.2](#)

42.5 Substitute requirements as per [GBR Rule 14](#)

#### **43. Damage to Green – Delivery of a Jack or Bowl**

43.1 If the Umpire by observation or on appeal by a Greens Director or their deputy decides a player is causing damage to the green when delivering the jack or a bowl, a warning will be issued to the player and their skip and/or Side Manager advised.

43.2 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. A dump mat (2) at each end of the rink is required. [Laws of the Sport of Bowls DR 1.2](#)

43.3 If the offending player refuses to use a "dump mat", they will be a defaulting player and be removed from the game.

43.4 If a "dump mat" is not available and the offending player refuses to leave the game, the game will be forfeited to the opposing side.

43.5 If a "dump mat" is not available and the offending player agrees to leave the game as directed by the Umpire, a substitute is then permitted in accordance with [GBR Rule 14 & Laws of the Sport of Bowls DR 2.4](#)

43.6 A "dump mat" may only be used for an individual player(s) to address an identified issue as defined above

#### **44. Damage to Green - Use of a Wheelchair, Walking Frame or other Approved Artificial Device**

44.1 If an Umpire by observation or on appeal by the Greens Director or their deputy decides a player using a wheelchair, walking frame or other approved artificial device is causing damage to the green, a warning will be issued to the player and their skip and/or Side Manager advised.

44.2 If the Umpire forms the opinion on a second occasion that the player has caused further damage to the green, the Umpire will direct that the player retires from the game.

44.3 If a player retires from the game a substitute player is permitted.

44.4 If a player refuses to leave the green, they will be a defaulting player, and the game forfeited to the opponent.

#### 45. Bowlers Arm

45.1 When a player commences using a bowler's arm in a game, then the arm 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.

45.2 If an Umpire, by observation or on appeal by a side manager or a skip, decides that a player is non-compliant then they will warn the player and advise the skip and Side Manager.

45.3 If the Umpire forms the opinion on a second occasion that the same player is non-compliant, the player will be excluded from taking any further part in the game and a substitute will not be permitted.

45.4 Failure to comply may also result in the matter being referred to the GBR Disciplinary Committee and action taken under **GBR Rule 47**

#### 46. Death of a Player

46.1 If a game has commenced and a participating player passes away all games in progress at the club will be abandoned.

46.2 Points for game abandoned other than a Final because of the death of a player will be awarded as per **GBR Rule 34.1**

46.3 Finals abandoned for this reason will be resumed under such conditions as Region Pennant Committee decides with the scores carried forward as they were when play was abandoned, unless the scores are such that one Side must win the game if all the remaining ends were played.

#### 47. Infringements

47.1 Infringements of any Laws, BA Domestic Regulations, BA Policies, BV Regulations, BV Policies, BV Conditions of Play, GBR Constitution, Regulations, Policies & Rules shall involve a monetary fine (**not exceeding \$1000**) and / or disqualification, and / or such other penalty as determined by the Region Disciplinary Committee, in respect of an affiliated player or Club.

47.2 **Fines.** Where a club incurs a fine in respect of default by a Pennant Side and has not paid the fine within the allotted 14-day period the club concerned shall be ineligible to compete in matches until payment of such fine is received by the GBR.

#### 48. Pennant Final Series

48.1 To determine all Division/Section Winners, a Final Series consistent with "The Page – McIntyre System" shall be adopted and feature the Top Four Teams.

<b>GBR R1. Rules for Competitions</b>	Date: 09/10/2023
	Approved

48.2 Venues for all finals will be allocated by the Pennant Committee.

48.3 Every effort must be made to complete a final on the scheduled day.

48.3.1 If the Game is abandoned, it will be rescheduled to the reserve day, unless one Side must win if all remaining ends are played.

48.3.2 For an Abandoned Final (**GBR Rule 48.3.1**) scores are to be carried forward as they were when play was abandoned, for the resumed game.

48.4 If the aggregate **Score is Equal** when all ends have been played, an Extra End must be played by all teams to decide the result. The Extra Ends must be played from where the previous ends were completed for each rink. Managers shall Toss for Mat. **Laws of the Sport of Bowls Rule 28.**

48.5 **Fees for Finals.** **\$10.00** per player shall be paid to the host Club.