

MEMO TO ALL CLUBS

PRE-SEASON REMINDERS FOR YOUR CLUB AND OFFICIALS FOR 2025-2026

CONDITIONS OF PLAY: -

Please ensure that your Club Umpires, Side Managers and Side Selectors have a copy of this season's Conditions of Play, with a copy of the changes to the rules for this season. A summary of rule changes is appended to this document.

REQUEST FOR SCHEDULED GAMES TO BE PLAYED AT A LATER DATE (Rule 5.1.1)

The COP contains the following option – If a club believes it will be unduly affected by the absence of 1 or more players that are representing the State at a National or an International event, then a club can request a deferment of games where those players would have been selected to play.

Requests for a game deferment must be made to the MBA Match & program committee for consideration in sufficient time (minimum 2 weeks) prior to the published date of the game requested for rescheduling. This will allow Match & Program committee time, to arrange for any deferred games to be played as soon as possible.

All clubs involved in selecting players for deferred games must be fully aware of the COP Rule 3.10 (player selection for “games played out of sequence”).

PRE GAME PRACTICE (Rule 5.3) We have received so many complaints from clubs with players expecting to be able to practice on arrival (sometimes, when greenkeepers are still preparing greens for play). Please advise all players that pre-game practice is now restricted to a time from 1 hour before the start time (Rule 5.1) and finishing immediately when players are notified that the Draw for rinks of play have been completed. No practice will be allowed for “Early Start” games or re-started games.

OPPOSITE GENDER ELIGIBILITY (Rule 3.4.2) There is an extra restriction now in place for using O.G. players, if a club has 2 or more sides entered in Saturday Division 5.

18 ENDS FOR SATURDAY DIVISIONS 6 AND 7. (Rule 4.3) This change has been introduced by Bowls SA from their recent bowler survey trends. It is a trial run for season 2025-26 to try and reduce game playing time for players.

THURSDAY PENNANT GAME START TIME (Rule 5.1) This minor change introduced because of the busier traffic conditions encountered when travelling to club venues prior to a game.

UMPIRES (Rule 6.1) Appointed Umpires should be aware that they are responsible to oversee the draw of scorecards between Side managers.

Umpires should be aware of the rules that apply to inclement weather conditions: -

WET WEATHER – do not try to achieve a game result that does not take into consideration the wellbeing of ALL players.

HOT WEATHER – Regular checks on the temperature to ensure games must cease when maximum playing temperatures have been reached.

Only use the BOM site that can be accessed from the MBA website.

Umpires should be aware of the rules that apply to Early Start games in respect of the reduced number of ends to be played.

SIDE MANAGERS (Rule 6.2) Side managers must be at the match venue at least 30 minutes before the scheduled start time, so that scorecards can be drawn between side managers at the specified time (not before). Drawn scorecards should not be given out early because under the Laws of the Sport of Bowls, players cannot practice on the rinks that they have been drawn to play their games on. **Please refer to the last page of the COP that contains all the relevant times applicable for all days of pennant competition.**

Game results must be updated onto BOWLSLINK as per the COP times.

SCORECARDS (Rule 7.2) Scorecards are the official record of players in a game and the results achieved. Scorecards must be filled out as indicated in the Conditions of Play. Scorecards must be retained until the Pennant season has concluded. Audits may occur.

EXTREME WEATHER (HEAT) (Section 9) Note that the reference to BOM forecasts for cancellation of matches due to an unexpected rise in forecast maximum temperatures has been amended to include the 4.30pm forecast on the day preceding the scheduled games.

THE MID-GAME BREAK IS MANDATORY (Rule 5.7) except for the Saturday Premier Division and Divisions 1 and 2 and the Thursday Premier Division. If hot weather conditions have been forecast and game Early Start rules apply, then clubs are expected to ensure the wellbeing of ALL players playing at their venues.

Every attempt should be made to limit the break to no longer than 15 minutes. Unnecessary delays can be avoided by reducing announcements that do not apply to visiting clubs.

CLAIMS FOR 8 AND 50 BADGES. Claims must be lodged with the MBA Secretary within 28 days of the match otherwise they will not be processed. Claims must be in a PDF format only. No photos taken on phones etc will be accepted. Note a club cannot claim either of the above awards if the opposing team, that they are playing, does not have a full complement of players in that team.

SELECTION POLICES AND RULES (Rule 3.3) Clubs should have a Pennant selection policy that is based on merit and recent performances, regardless of gender, to maximise

performance and achieve the best possible results as well as taking into consideration the spirit of the game.

Selectors should be aware of the allowable movement of players, in their respective Divisions. Especially with the impact of those movements on selection for Rounds 15 to 18 towards the end of the minor rounds to be played.

REFRESHMENTS All Clubs are reminded that ALL refreshments supplied to players are their responsibility. Clubs can present whatever refreshments they want to and present them as they want to.

BOWLSLINK

BowlsLink managers are advised to NOT complete BowlsLink for forfeits until the games for a Round have been completed. All forfeits should be notified (by email) to MBA Match & Program committee (mbamatchcommittee@metrobowls.com.au).

When using players from another club as Temporary Players, use of the term "Substitute" for BowlsLink records is appropriate.

Clubs are reminded that there are penalties for persistent lateness in entering/confirming pennant scores.

UNIFORMS, HATS, CAPS & FOOTWEAR Many Clubs have invested in arranging a Uniform design for their members to wear when representing their club at pennant competitions and they should be encouraged to do so. Of greater concern is the variety of footwear that some bowlers have purchased to wear on bowling greens where the footwear does not meet the requirement of flat soles and no heels. Clubs should monitor their members footwear to reduce the possibility of damage to bowling greens, that are one of the big expenses for clubs to maintain. **Remember that no bare feet bowling is allowed.**

ANNUAL MBA FRIENDSHIP TOURNAMENT The MBA Executive has scheduled our Annual Open Fours Friendship bowls tournament for Sunday 4th January 2026, at the Torrensville Bowling club.

Every Club will be invited to enter ONE team into this tournament to share the friendship between our member clubs. The tournament is FREE for all entries.

Further information will be sent out soon.

Please enjoy the challenge of the season ahead.

Regards

Ron Mulliner

MBA Secretary on behalf of the MBA Executive Committee

7th October 2025

The following lists the changes from season 2024/2025 (season 2025/26 numbers)

Introductory material has been moved to an expanded Introduction page.

“Premier League” as a title has been replaced by “Premier Division” throughout the Conditions of Play.

The Division structure for the Thursday competition has been simplified. Refer separate memo for details.

Rule 3.1.3 Playing for another club

This Rule has been amended to conform with Bowls SA changes to Permits.

Rule 3.4.2 Opposite Gender Players

There is a slight restriction added to Opposite Gender player eligibility where a club has 2 or more sides in Division 5 on a Saturday.

Rule 4.3 Ends Played

Saturday Division 6 & 7 will play 18 ends. There is a consequential change to the number of ends completed to finalise a Saturday Division 6 or 7 game affected by extreme weather.

Rule 5.1 Start Times

Commencement of play in Thursday competition games has been changed to 10.30am (With corresponding alteration to associated times such as Draw for scorecards etc.)

Rule 5.1.1 Changing Starting Time/Date

The procedure for nominating games to be considered for deferral due to player absence representing SA or Australia has been amended, making clubs responsible for initiating the process.

Rule 5.3 Pre Game Practice.

Access to greens for pre-game practice has been restricted or removed.

- For games played under “normal” circumstances, greens will not be available for practice until 1 hour before the start of play i.e., 12 noon for 1pm start of play (refer Rule1.6). Players must be made aware that once the Draw for rinks has been completed, practice bowls must end & trial ends commence.
- Practice will not be allowed before Early Start games.
- Practice will not be allowed before moved or re-started games.
- Practice may not be available due to unavoidable delays in starting games.

Play in all games including restarted games will be preceded by two trial ends.

Rule 5.7 Mid-Game Break

Saturday Division 1 & 2 games will be played without a mid-game break.

Rule 6.2.2 The Draw

To enable promotion of the game, designated live streamed games may have the Draw for opposition teams performed “early”.

Section 9 Extreme Weather (Heat)

The reference Bureau forecast for cancellation of games due to an unexpected rise in forecast maximum temperature has been amended to include the 4.30pm forecast on the day preceding the game.

Rule 10.2 Finals Arrangements

A Finals game can be considered completed before all required ends have been played if the outcome has been agreed by both sides.

Rule 10.3 Finals Venues

If the regular host venue for Elimination Finals (Minor Premier) has insufficient rink capacity, the venue of the 3rd place club from the highest ranked Division will be used instead wherever possible.

Rule 10.4 Finals Officials

Clubs hosting Finals that require more Umpires should initially approach nearby clubs for assistance.

Rule 12.3 Saturday Promotion

The Promotion criteria for Division 5 have been amended to manage different numbers of Sections.

Rule 15.2 Death (at a venue)

The Rule has been amended to reflect other rules for abandoned games.

15.5 Unacceptable Behavior

The Rule has been amended to reflect the current version of Bowls Australia’s Instantaneous Penalties Policy.