Western Province Bowls

021 531 1541 **T** | 086 631 3001 **F** | admin@wpbowls.co.za | www.wpbowls.co.za

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WP Bowls Circular 2022-01

Personal Trust WP Bowls Men's Flag Draw Explanation

The WP Bowls office has received several queries about the Flag draw. Practically all these queries are related to the reduction in the number of sections in each Division from 3 to 2, with a corresponding reduction in the number of sides from 30 to 20.

Some Clubs are, understandably, unhappy because they have sides that have dropped to a lower Division. This is, unfortunately, mathematically unavoidable when reducing the number of sides per Division.

Reduction of Sides in each Division

The first point to note is that the reduction from 3 Sections to 2 Sections per Division was proposed by nearly every club and person who responded last year to the request for comments regarding the WPBA Conditions of Play. This change was discussed at length at the subsequent meetings and was agreed to. When it was announced to the district there was overwhelming support for this from clubs, with not one club offering any negative feedback in this regard.

Flag Results to base the Draw on

As acknowledged in the information letter for the League draws, circular 2021-41 did mention that the results of the 2019-2020 season would be used. The same circular also said that from next season there would no longer be limits on the number of sides from a single club in each section.

After this circular was sent out submissions and comments were received from many of the clubs in the district.

Accordingly, circular 2021-59 asked for input on two of the changed conditions of play for Flag, Muter and Trips League. A change was made to the Conditions of Play, based on this feedback.

At the next meeting of the WPBA Executive Committee, the draw for Flag was discussed.

At the 2020 Annual General Meeting the delegates voted to scrap the 2019-2020 Flag season and declare it null and void. Circular 2021-41 was, therefore, obviously incorrect in stating that the results of that season would be used, because there were no results for the season. It was agreed by our committee that there was no possible way to fairly promote or relegate sides based on an incomplete season which had been declared void.

It was resolved to base this year's draw on the last completed Flag season, which was the 2018-2019 Flag season.

The Draw Process

The first step when planning the new Flag draw was then to work out how to handle this reduction in the number of sides per Division.

The following exercise was completed before entries were submitted from clubs and shows what the draw would have looked like if every club had entered the same number of teams. The final draw is slightly different because of some clubs entering more or less teams.

Western Province Bowls Association | NPO 180-192 | P.O. Box 41, Howard Place, Pinelands, 7450

President: G van Milligen | **Vice:** M Douglas | **Treasurer:** J Griffiths | **Executive:** M Gibbs, J Phillips, M Kirsten, A Carstens, T Bright, N Solomon | **Finance:** D Vermeulen | **M & M Manager:** T Bright | **Administration**: C Nurrish | **Competitions**: B Eksteen

Premier Division
The Premier Division remains at 10 sides and no Clubs are affected.

Division 1
Division 1 has been reduced from 30 sides to 20 sides. This means that 10 sides that were in Division 1 are now going to be in Division 2.

The sides in the new Division 1 are:

- The two sides relegated from the Premier Division.
- The sides placed 2 to 6 from Section 1A (the side finishing first having been promoted to Premier).
- The sides placed 1 to 6 from Section 1B.
- The sides placed 2 to 6 from Section 1C (the side finishing first having been promoted to Premier).
- The sides that won Sections 2A and 2C.
- Note that the side that won Section 2B is Durbanville E. They could not be promoted as no Section may contain 2 sides from the same club.

Division 2
Division 2 has been reduced from 30 sides to 20 sides. With 12 sides from Division 1 taking up most of these places, 22 of the 30 teams that were previously in Division 2 will drop to Division 3.

The sides in the new Division 2 are:

- The 12 sides that were previously in Division 1.
- The sides placed 2 to 4 from Section 2A (the side finishing first having been promoted to Division 1).
- The sides placing 1 to 3 from Section 2B.
- The sides placing 2 and 4 from Section 2C (the side finishing first having been promoted to Division 1, and Edgemead already having a team in each of the sections in Division 2).

Division 3
Division 3 has been reduced from 30 sides to 20 sides. Because of the reduction in the number of sides in each of Division 1 and 2, this means that Division 3 consists almost entirely of sides that were previously in Division 2.

The sides in the new Division 3 are:

- The sides placed from 5 to 9 in Section 2A (with the side finishing last being relegated).
- The sides placed from 4 to 10 in Section 2B (the side finishing 10th would have been relegated, but the side winning Section 3B could not be promoted because their Club already has a team in both Sections of the Division).
- The sides placed 3 and from 5 to 9 in Section 2C (with the side finishing last being relegated).
- The sides who won Sections 3A and 3B.

Division 4
Division 4 has space for 20 sides.

The sides in Division 4 are:

- The two sides relegated from Sections 2A and 2C.
- The sides placed 2 to 7 from Section 3A.
- The sides placed 1 to 7 from Section 3B.
- The sides placed 2 to 6 from Section 3C.

Division 5
The remaining sides will be allocated to Division 5.

As noted already, this exercise was completed before entries were submitted from clubs and shows what the draw would have looked like if every club had entered the same number of teams. The final draw is slightly different because of some clubs entering more or less teams.

The attached spreadsheet provides a visual display of the above and should be viewed in conjunction with the explanation in this circular.

The Covid pandemic has created havoc in so many aspects of our society. There is absolutely no way of dealing with the aftermath of some of this that will satisfy all the clubs and bowlers in our district, and we ask that your members see the logic of the approach we have taken.

We wish you all a successful and enjoyable Flag season.

Regards,

Barrie Eksteen
WPBA – Competition Secretary