

Western Province Bowls Association



**WESTERN
PROVINCE
BOWLS**

General Conditions of Play 2026- 2027

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Conditions of Play for WP Competitions

A. General Conditions

1. Laws of the Sport of Bowls

The Laws of the Sport of Bowls, Crystal Mark Fourth Edition & Domestic Regulations adopted by Bowls SA shall apply to all games, matches, competitions and championships.

2. Controlling Body

The controlling body for all District competitions and championships shall be the Executive, who may delegate the function of controlling body to one or more specified members of the Executive and the District Competitions Secretary, who in turn shall be represented at club level by the duty umpire and/or club competition official.

These Conditions of Play are subject to change by the Executive at any time during the year.

3. Registration of Players

- a. Any player intending to participate in any District competition or championship shall be registered as a bona fide member of the WPBA and affiliated club which they intend to represent.
- b. In the case of any competition or championship requiring the name or names of players to be submitted together with the entry for the competition or championship, the player shall have been registered no later than the closing date for entries.
- c. In the case of competitions and championships where the composition of teams is dependent on selection or declaration before or during such competition or championship, a player shall have been registered no later than two days (about 48 hours) prior to the commencement of the round in which such player first participates.
- d. Players not registered in accordance with the above shall be deemed ineligible players.
- e. The onus is on clubs and players to ensure that players have been registered timeously, particularly in the case of new members.

4. Eligibility

Except where the eligibility of participants is otherwise specified, any player who has played for a particular club in any District competition or championship shall be deemed to be an ineligible player if they have played for or play during the same season and in the same competition or championship for:

- a. another club;
- b. another team in the same club if the competition or championship is between teams;
- c. another side in the same club if the competition or championship is between sides;
 - i. Subject to limitations in the last three rounds as detailed in the Competition Specific COPs, for Flag, Muter and the WP Trips League, players can be moved between teams and sides as required and decided by the club, as long as the players have not represented another club in the same league competition in the season; and
- d. Where the number of players per team or side is limited, players who participate more

than the prescribed number shall be deemed to be ineligible players.

5. Novice Status

To qualify for a District competition which is open only to Novices, the following must all apply:

a. Eligibility

The member must meet the standard eligibility requirements for all District competitions.

b. Open Singles Competitions

The member shall not have won a National, Provincial, District or Club **Open** Singles Championship.

c. Registration Date

i. Previously a Member of Non-Affiliated Club

If the member was previously a Lawn Bowls member of a non-affiliated Club prior to registering as an affiliated, full member with a National Bowling Association including the National Bowling Association of any other country, then their Novice Registration Date will be the date on which they joined that non-affiliated Club. Clubs and members must sign a declaration attesting to the date the member originally started bowling if this clause is applicable.

ii. New Member

The Novice Registration Date for any other member will be the date that they are registered as an affiliated, full member (i.e., this excludes members registered as Corporate or Social Members) with any National Bowling Association.

d. Number of Competitions

A bowler will qualify to enter a Novice District Competition for three consecutive years from their Novice Registration Date, assuming the competition is held during those years. It is specifically noted that in some circumstances this would mean that a member's qualification period may be a few months longer or shorter than the previous stipulation of three years, depending on their Novice Registration Date. If a Novice District Competition is not held during any year, then the number of competitions that any member qualifies to play is not extended because of the competition not being held.

6. Entry Forms and Fees

- a. The entry forms supplied by the District shall be used for Flag, Muter, Trips League and Singles Champion of Champions Competitions.
- b. For all other Championships, the club is responsible for capturing their entries directly on the bowlsdraw.co.za database or any other application that might be nominated by the Executive.
- c. Entries captured on the bowlsdraw.co.za database will require each entrant's BSA number and will need to have the entrant's name and surname confirmed.
- d. All entries must be submitted to the District office or captured on bowlsdraw.co.za by the stated closing time and date.
- e. Entry fees are not refundable in the event of the cancellation of an entry on or after the closing date for any competition or championship.

7. Withdrawals and Scratching

- a. Players or teams withdrawing from a District competition after the draw has been published will be required to furnish valid reasons for withdrawing in writing, failing which disciplinary action may be taken in terms of the Constitution.
- b. A player or team wishing to withdraw or scratch from any competition or championship within seven days prior to commencement of play in the first round of any competition or championship, shall:
 - i. inform the opposing skip or the Secretary of the club of which the opposing skip is a member; and
 - ii. inform the Secretary of the club at which the match is to be played; and
 - iii. confirm to the WP Competition Secretary that the above have been properly dealt with; and
 - iv. thereafter inform their own club Secretary that the above have been complied with.
- c. Any player, team or side who withdraws later than seven days before the start of the competition must withdraw in writing to their club secretary and the WPBA competitions secretary, or who does not show up for the start of the competition, will be fined by WPBA to their club at a rate double the entry fees for the competition;
- d. Any player who does not show up for the start of a competition without having presented a withdrawal in writing with a valid reason, will be suspended from that WP Competition for the next season at the discretion of the WP Executive;
- e. Any player who participates in any District competition or championship where play is on a knock-out basis, and who, after having been successful in one or more rounds, then withdraws for reasons which, in the sole opinion of the Executive, are deemed to be unacceptable, is guilty of unsportsmanlike behaviour, and shall be disqualified from participating in any WP Bowls competition or championship for up to a maximum of two full seasons.
- f. If an individual, a side or a team withdraws from a WP competition or championship during round robin or league play, the scores and points for that individual, side or team will be expunged from the record. The Club in whose name the individual, side or team was entered will incur a fine to be determined annually by the WP Executive, currently double the entry fee for the competition.
- g. If an individual, side or team withdraws from one game during round robin or league play of a WP competition or championship, such withdrawal will be taken as a withdrawal from the competition or championship and the Clause 7.f. will apply.
- h. In exceptional circumstances, the fine to the Club and the suspension may be waived at the sole discretion of the WP Executive.

8. Ineligible Players

- a. Should a team include an ineligible player during league play, it shall forfeit the match and have no points and no shots scored. The opposing team shall be credited with maximum points and actual shots scored in the match vs zero for the offending team. In a league competition between sides, the other team with no ineligible players can still play their match and will earn points and shots as normal.
- b. Sides or teams introducing an ineligible player in any knock-out match shall forfeit the match to the non-offending side or team.

9. Format of Play and Determination of Winners

The entries for any competition or championship are either drawn or allocated into as many sections as are required in terms of the number of entries or in terms of the modus operandi for a particular competition or championship.

- a. Competitions and championships may be played in sections either on a knock-out basis throughout or initially on a league (round robin) basis, followed by a play-off between section winners on a knock-out basis.
- b. Where the initial sectional play is on a league basis, each team or side in a section will usually play each other team or side in the same section. It occasionally happens that more teams or sides are drawn or allocated into a section than are required for a normal round robin, and in such cases a team or side will not play all the other teams or sides in a section. Conversely, because of an odd number of entries or because of withdrawals, teams may have one or more byes in league play.
- c. In sectional play on a league basis, a team winning its match shall score two points, and the losing team scores no points. If the match is drawn (peeled) each team scores one point.
- d. At the conclusion of sectional play on a league basis, the winner or winners of the section, who will proceed to the knock-out sectional play-offs, may be specified as being the team(s) or side(s) which achieve the highest or highest equal total points. In other competitions or championships, it may be specified that only one team or side shall qualify for the section winners' play-offs. The method for determining a single winner of a section in such a case, as well as for ranking the remaining teams or sides in positional order, is as follows:
 - i. The winner of a section played on the league basis shall be the team or side achieving the highest total points.
 - ii. If two or more teams or sides have the same number of points, the winner shall be the team or side with the higher net score. (Total Shots For minus Total Shots Against).
 - iii. If a tie still prevails, the side with the highest shot percentage (shots FOR divided by shots AGAINST) ~~lower total shots against~~ will be declared the winner.
 - iv. If a tie still prevails, the winner shall be the team or side which won the match played between the two tied teams or sides.
 - v. If a tie still prevails, the two teams or sides will play a one end tie breaker to determine the winner. If the tie breaker is peeled, the teams/sides will continue playing until an end is one. The winner of the tie breaker will go through to the playoffs;
 - vi. If one of the teams/sides do not have all their players present to play the tie breaker, the other team with the full compliment of players will be declared the winner of the section;
 - vii. If it is not possible to play the tie breaker due to weather or darkness, the winner of the last end between the teams and the highest number of aggregate shots for sides will determine the winner;
 - viii. If the last end played between these teams are peeled and a tie still prevails, the winner shall be determined by the toss of a coin. ~~in the case of a tie between sides, or, if two teams are still tied, by the team winning the last decisive end in the~~

league match played by the teams involved. If two teams are still tied and did not play each other, the winner shall be determined by the toss of a coin.

- ix. The relative position of other sides in a section shall be determined on the same basis as for the winner.
- x. Except for singles competitions or championships which are played to a specified number of shots, competitions or championships matches between teams which are on the knock-out basis are played to the specified number of ends, with an extra end or ends being played to determine a winner. The skips shall toss a coin to determine who has the right to nominate who will lay the mat and deliver the jack and first bowl for the extra end.
- xi. The draw for the winners of sections played on a knockout basis is predetermined. It is only after the conclusion of the last round of sectional play on a league basis and the determination of the section winners that the draw for the play-off on a knock-out basis can be done.
- xii. The Executive shall have the sole discretion to amend the above conditions when deemed necessary and may do so at any time before or during the progress of a competition or championship.

10. Burnt Ends and Re-spotting of the Jack

- a. If a jack in motion passes completely outside the boundaries of the rink of play, comes to rest in any hollow in the face of the bank, or rebounds to less than 20 metres from the mat line, the end will be declared a burnt end.
- b. For every match played and for every team the end must be replayed and from the side of the rink that the end was originally played, unless the skips agree to play it from the other side.

11. Restricting the Movement of Players During Play

- a. Prior to the start of each end, the following players will take their position at the mat-end of the green:

Pairs	The leads.
Triples	The leads and seconds.
Fours	The leads and seconds.

- b. On changeovers, the thirds (in fours) will move to the mat end together.
- c. The skip playing second, may remain at the head until his opponent has played his first bowl and then move to the mat end to play his first bowl.
- d. After delivering their first bowl, players will only be allowed to walk up to the head under the following circumstances:

Singles	Both players	After delivery of their third bowls.
Pairs	Leads	After the delivery of their last bowl.
	Skips	After delivery of their second last bowl.
Triples	Leads & Seconds	After delivery of the Second's last bowl.
	Skips	After delivery of their second last first bowl.
Fours	Leads & Seconds	After delivery of the Second's last bowl.
	Thirds	After delivery of their first bowl.

12. Starting Times and Grace Period

- a. The trial ends for all competitions and championships should start at the stipulated time or earlier and are included in the time allowed for time limited games.
- b. Any competitors arriving within the starting time and 15 minutes after the stipulated time for the commencement or continuation of a competition or championship will lose their right to play trial ends. Competitors who have arrived on time may proceed with their trial ends at the stipulated start time.
- c. Any competitors arriving 15 minutes or later after the stipulated time for the commencement or continuation of a competition or championship, the offending players shall be deemed to have scratched.
- d. In a match being played on a knock-out basis, the opposition player, team, or side shall be awarded the win.
- e. In a match being played on a round robin or league basis Clause 7.f. shall apply.

13. Time Limits

Unless otherwise specified, the following time limits will apply to the relevant competitions and championships, except the final game, which will have no time limits. Depending on the number of entries received, it may be necessary to play first playoff rounds with a reduced number of ends and applicable time limits. These might be the same as for sectional play rounds.

Competition	Players per team	Bowls per Player	No. of Ends	2026/7 Limit
WP Fives				
Trips Sectional Play	3	2	18	2h30
Pairs Sectional Play	2	3	18	2h30
Trips Knock-Out	3	2	21	3h30
Pairs Knock-Out	2	3	21	3h30
WP Fours				
Fours Sectional Play	4	2	15	2h30
Fours Knock-Out	4	2	21	3h30
WP Trips				
Trips Sectional Play	3	2	18	2h30
Trips Knock-Out	3	2	21	3h30
WP Pairs & Mixed Pairs				
Pairs Sectional Play	2	3	18	2h30
Pairs Knock-Out	2	3	21	3h30
WP Flag & Muter				
Flag/Muter Premier	4	2	21	3h45
Flag/Muter Sectional Play	4	2	21	none
Flag/Muter Play-offs	4	2	21	none
WP Trips League				
	3	3	18	none
WP Singles RR				
WP Singles Playoffs	1	4		2h30
WP Singles Final	1	4		none
Pro 10 Pairs				
	2	2	10	1h00
Midweek				
	4	2	21	none
Premier Challenge				
	3	2	15	2h00

14. Tea Breaks

- a. There will be no breaks for tea and snacks during any District competitions, league matches and championships. Tea and snacks can be served in the breaks between games. Under conditions of extreme heat, teams may agree to take a hydration and comfort break approximately halfway through the match if needed. Note that any such breaks MUST BE by mutual agreement. The clock does not stop for these voluntary breaks in time limited games.
- b. Singles players will not be required to commence another match within twenty minutes after the conclusion of a match, during which time refreshments or tea may be taken.
- c. All players in WP Bowls competitions and championships are obliged to pay the host club the prescribed fee of R35 R40 for green fees and tea, prior to commencement of any match, and irrespective of whether the players have tea or not. Clubs may not charge any green or visitors' fee over and above the prescribed fee for tea but are allowed to sell additional meals.

15. Reserves and Substitutes

The following conditions apply to all competitions and championships except those where the use of reserves and/or substitutes is specifically not permitted.

A reserve for a team must be registered with the tournament official and filled in on the score card before the start of any district competition. A reserve must be an eligible player and may not have played in this same competition for another club, side or team in the season, except for WP League competitions.

Where a reserve has not been duly registered and indicated on the score card and a replacement player is needed, a substitute player can be used. Although there are generally restrictions on the use of reserves (e.g., he or she shall not have played for another team in the same competition), there are no restrictions on the eligibility of bona fide substitutes. A substitute for a single match or part thereof may be any registered player of the appropriate gender, irrespective of whether he or she has previously played in the same competition. If possible, when substitutes are required, the club competition official or duty umpire should call for names of between two to six volunteers and the skip of the team requiring a substitute should then be invited to draw a name from those available. In exceptional cases, where only one bona fide volunteer is available, then this player can play as a substitute.

Players need to ensure that they are available for alternative days when play is moved to other dates due to inclement weather. Where players are not available and reserves had not been nominated, WPB Executive can be approached to allow a reserve player not register before the start of play in the first round of the competition. Such reserves may not have played for any other team or sides in earlier rounds of the same competition.

a. Fours Matches

- i. If one player fails to appear within 10 minutes before the scheduled time for the start of a match a registered reserve, or, if no reserve is available, one approved substitute shall be allowed to complete the team.
- ii. When one player is forced to withdraw during a ~~fours (or triples or pairs)~~ match, a registered reserve, or, if no reserve is available, one approved substitute shall be allowed to complete the team.
- iii. If such a player is brought in before the start of the match, he or she may play in any position.

- iv. If the match has commenced, the skip of the team or, if the skip is absent, the third, who shall then skip, shall arrange the positions of the reserve or substitute and of the other two players.
- v. The team concerned may decide, if it so chooses, to play with only three players, in which case the team may be re-arranged and the players playing as lead and second while one player is absent shall each play an additional bowl at each end during the absence of the fourth player, but the team shall forfeit twenty-five percent of the shots scored during the absence of the fourth player. Fractions of a shot shall be recorded.
- vi. If a match is suspended and resumed on another day, and any one of the players who comprised the team at the time the match was suspended is not available, then the same conditions as above shall apply, except that any reserve or substitute may not skip.
- vii. A player arriving after the start of a match and before the completion of the fifth end shall be permitted to join in the match at the start of the next end provided no reserve or substitute has already taken his or her place.

b. Triples Matches

- i. If one player fails to appear within 10 minutes before the scheduled time for the start of a match a registered reserve, or, if no reserve is available, one approved substitute shall be allowed to complete the team.
- ii. When one player is forced to withdraw during a ~~fours (or triples or pairs)~~ match, a registered reserve, or, if no reserve is available, one approved substitute shall be allowed to complete the team.
- iii. If such a player is brought in before the start of the match, he or she may play in any position.
- iv. If the match has commenced the skip of the team or, if the skip is absent, the second, who shall then skip, shall arrange the positions of the reserve or substitute and of the other player.
- v. If a match is suspended and resumed on another day, and any one of the players who comprised the team at the time the match was suspended is not available, then the same conditions as above shall apply, except that any reserve or substitute may not skip.
- vi. If no reserve or substitute is available, the team shall forfeit the match.

c. Pairs Matches

- i. If one player fails to appear within 10 minutes before the scheduled time for the start of a match a registered reserve, or, if no reserve is available, one approved substitute shall be allowed to complete the team.
- ii. When one player is forced to withdraw during a ~~fours (or triples or pairs)~~ match, a registered reserve, or, if no reserve is available, one approved substitute shall be allowed to complete the team.
- iii. If such a player is brought in before the start of the match, he or she may play in any position.
- iv. If the match has commenced, the reserve or substitute may not skip the team.
- v. If a match is suspended and resumed on another day, and any one of the players who comprised the team at the time the match was suspended is not available, then

the same conditions as above shall apply, except that any reserve or substitute may not skip.

- vi. If no reserve or substitute is available, the team shall forfeit the match.

16. Guidelines for Player Nominated Coaches at Tournaments

These guidelines are meant to assist coaches to understand the scope of their role and for umpires and tournament officials to manage the situation positively:

Law 44 – The Coach (Laws of the Sport of Bowls, Crystal Mark Fourth Edition)

Either the coach of a player, team or side or, in their absence, the coach's delegated deputy can give advice to a player during the course of play as long as:

- 44.1 The umpire is given the names of the coach or the coach's delegated deputy as appropriate before the game starts;
- 44.2 Only one person is present at the rink to give advice at any one time;
- 44.3 The person giving the advice does so when their team or side is in possession of the rink; and
- 44.4 The person giving the advice does so from outside the boundaries of the green;

If, in the umpire's opinion, this law has been broken, the umpire must ask the coach or delegated deputy concerned to stay within the law. If they do not stay within the law, the umpire must ask the Controlling Body to take immediate action to make sure that the offender stops breaking the law.

This is the only reference to the role of the coach in the law book. Some internationally accepted rules that the players and coaches must adhere to are listed below.

- a. The player must register his/her coach with the Tournament Official at registration on the day of play.
- b. The coach does not have to be a qualified/registered coach. (The designation "coach" is an international term and can also be understood as a manager)
- c. The Umpire is given the names of the coach/delegated deputy before the game begins.
- d. The coach cannot direct play but only gives advice and not on every bowl. The coach should work on the principle of helping the player make their own decisions.
- e. Any communication between player and coach must be off the green and when the player is in possession of the rink.
- f. The coach may only direct from the one side of the green – they may not move from one end to the other.
- g. In a timed game, a player or coach will be cautioned by the umpire if they are suspected of using up too much time in discussions.
- h. If the conditions of play stipulate that a player may only approach the head after they have bowled their 3rd bowl, this is the same for approaching their coach, should the coach be on the opposite of the mat end at that point.
- i. It has been suggested that there is a stipulation on how many ends you can use to talk to your coach - in other words that it can't happen at each end. This is in an attempt to find a way round the time issue and will possibly be reviewed as required.
- j. Players should move promptly to engage with their coach so as not to cause unnecessary delay during the game.
- k. Should the interaction of a player with their coach interfere with or negatively impact on the opposition player or team, the umpire will be asked to intervene as per law 44.5 above.
- l. Coaches are expected to comply with the conditions of play relating to alcohol consumption, as well as the use of electronic devices, with the exception of cameras used to record their player's deliveries during the game.

17. Venues

- a. All District competitions and championships shall be played on greens and on dates and at times decided by the Executive. Should tabs-in players of any Club hosting a WP competition wish to play on the same green as any District competition, such players shall not wear mufti. Players wearing mufti shall be permitted to play together on another green during all District competitions.
- b. Clubs will be required to make their greens available for play in any of the rounds of any District competition or championship for which members of such clubs have entered.
- c. Clubs whose members have entered any District competition or championship are not permitted to arrange club fundraising and similar events on the days of play of such competition or championship (in particular, the days on which opening rounds are scheduled to be played) unless written application has been made to and permission granted by the District before the closing date for entries for that competition or championship.
- d. It is expected of all clubs that they shall maintain their greens in good condition, and if such greens are selected as venues for any District competition or championship, to ensure that the better green or greens are adequately prepared for play. Clubs are required to notify the District immediately when it becomes apparent that the greens of the club are not suitable for use as a venue in any District competition or championship.
- e. Should a player find the need to submit a complaint against a particular playing surface, rink or green, all the necessary details need to go via the Secretariat of his/her Club in writing and then to the WPB Secretary. Complaints will not be dealt with if this line of communication is not adhered to.
- f. Clubs which are selected as venues for any District competition or championship, and which fail to notify the District of below standard greens, who fail to prepare greens for play or who request not to be used as a venue after the draw has been published, shall, at the sole discretion of the Executive, be liable to a fine not exceeding R1000 or such other penalties as the Executive may decide.
- g. The Executive shall have the discretion to determine the venue of any incomplete match which must be resumed on another day.

18. Umpires and Club Officials

- a. Staging clubs shall be responsible for appointing a duty umpire and/or a club competition official, except when umpires are appointed by the District for the final rounds of competitions and championships.
- b. Umpires and/or the club competition officials appointed by clubs shall be deemed to have been appointed by the District and shall always act as the delegated controlling body and shall have all the powers conferred on them as required by these Conditions of Play. Where needed for clarity in difficult decisions, umpires and tournament officials should consult with either the WPB Competitions Secretary and/or Executive.

19. Clothing, Colours and Footwear

- a. All players in a team or side wearing coloured clothing except for head- or footwear and protective clothing in the case of inclement weather, shall be similarly dressed. Headwear, if worn, may have approved insignia or hatbands.

- b. The use of umbrellas on the green during play is not permitted without a medical certificate.
- c. Shirts and blouses shall have conventional or mandarin collars and be adequately buttoned.
- d. Men players may wear full length trousers or shorts (knee length). Under no circumstances shall Denim trousers or shorts, or Rugby shorts be permitted. Socks or hose must be worn with shorts.
- e. Lady players may wear dresses, skirts, walking shorts, skorts or three- quarter or full-length non-see-through pants.
- f. For any District competition that is not club selected, both men and ladies may wear sponsored or coloured shirts, but shall be similarly dressed, except in the case of Midweek.
- g. In the case of clubs which have adhesive coloured bowls stickers, all players in a team shall use bowls with the stickers attached, failing which all players in the team must remove the adhesive stickers.
- h. In the case of sides consisting of more than one team, it will be acceptable for one or more teams to use bowls with stickers and for the other team or teams in the same side to use unmarked bowls.
- i. In all District competitions and championships, approved adhesive club stickers or coloured stickers supplied by the District shall be deemed to be part of the bowl.
- j. Only one set of stickers may be applied to a bowl.
- k. Players, Umpires and Markers shall wear conventional shoes or sports shoes which have a continuous flat sole or a sole with a channel rise in the middle of the sole, with the sole clearly in one piece and the heel area not sitting at a different height to the front of the shoe. To assist in traction the sole can have indented grooves up to 2 mm (thickness of matchstick), but no protuberances. The width of the rear part of the shoe shall be at least 50% of the widest part of the sole. Conventional sandals are acceptable providing they have a back strap (and socks are optional). The District reserves the right to allow or disallow the use of specific colours and brands of footwear.

20. Alcohol, Tobacco, and Cellular Telephones

- a. Smoking (including artificial vaping devices or e-cigarettes), Cell phones and Handheld TV or any electronic devices not approved by Bowls SA will not be permitted within 2 metres of the green while play is in progress.
- b. Players may not consume alcohol while play is in progress. A player found to be consuming alcoholic beverages on a green or while play is in progress shall be subject to disciplinary action.

21. Marking of Singles Matches

- a. It is the responsibility of clubs staging singles competitions or championship matches to appoint suitable markers, except where players are required to mark in sectional play, or when markers are appointed by the Executive for the final rounds of singles competitions or championships. Markers may not smoke or use cellular phones whilst on duty on the green.

- b. It is a condition of entry into any singles competition or championship that players having a bye in sectional play shall make themselves available for marking the game being played while they have their bye.
- c. It is a condition of entry into any singles competition or championship in the knockout stages, that losers on any one day shall make themselves available for marking the immediate next succeeding round on the same day.
- d. Losing players are to be appointed as markers in the same order as they completed their matches.
- e. No losing player shall leave the venue without the prior knowledge and consent of the duty umpire or club official.
- f. Losing players who refuse to mark or who leave the venue without the consent of the duty umpire or club official will be subject to disciplinary action.

22. Scorecards and Charts

- a. Staging clubs shall be responsible for supplying and preparing scorecards for all WP Bowls competitions and championship matches played, except when prepared score cards are provided by the District.
- b. Scorecards, which must be kept by the skip or delegate, must be completed correctly, clearly and legibly with the following information:
 - i. Surnames and initials of all players, including any registered reserves;
 - ii. Club names of teams;
 - iii. Competition name, venue, round number, date, green and rink number;
 - iv. End-by-end scores;
 - v. Skips' names above each column of end-by-end scores.
 - vi. The time when the match was completed has to be captured on the score card.
- c. Unless stipulated on draw charts, skips must draw for rinks.
- d. In all matches other than singles matches, the team which won the toss for opening play shall update the scoreboard and the opposing team shall keep the scorecard, unless the skips agree otherwise.
- e. In singles matches, the marker shall keep the scorecard and mark the scoreboard.
- f. At the conclusion of a match, the duty umpire shall check the scorecard to the scoreboard in the presence of both skips (and marker, in the case of singles), and all shall sign the scorecard as a true and accurate reflection of the result of the match and place the time of completion of the match on the scorecard.
- g. The staging club's duty official is required to mark up the results of matches played on the draw charts.
- h. Staging clubs are responsible for ensuring that scorecards and charts are handled as follows:
 - i. If the next round of the competition or championship is to be played the next day, or if requested to do so, scorecards and charts are to be given to a reliable winning skip to be taken to the next venue.

- ii. The scores should be entered into the online system being used by the District for competition management (currently BowlsDraw), subject to a person trained in how to do so being present.
- iii. In all cases, results of the day's play must be forwarded to the District Office by WhatsApp or email as soon as possible, score cards and charts must be kept in a safe place by staging Clubs until one month after the completion of the Competition.

23. Incomplete, Inaccurate or Missing Scorecards

- a. Scorecards shall be deemed to be invalid if:
 - i. Skip's names are not entered above the end-by-end scores;
 - ii. Surnames and full initials of players are not recorded;
 - iii. End-by-end scores are not recorded;
 - iv. Scorecards are not signed by both skips;
 - v. Incorrect scores are recorded; or
 - vi. Scorecards are not legible.
- b. Notwithstanding the above, missing scorecards and scorecards deemed to be invalid shall be permitted to be corrected and correctly recorded provided it is brought to the attention of the Executive before the next round in the same competition has been played and provided both Skips agree on the correct result.

24. Inclement Weather

- a. Inclement weather is defined as darkness, very wet weather conditions, excessive wind or excessive heat which may cause a match not to be commenced or to be stopped. The BSA Inclement Weather policy document definitions are applicable in this regard.
- b. The decision to not commence or suspend play in any match because of inclement weather may be taken by the Club controlling body in consultation with a representative of the WP Bowls Executive and the Skips or Captains of the two teams or sides. The decision of the controlling body shall be final.
- c. In any match, if play is suspended due to inclement weather, players should complete the end being played, including measuring, agreeing the number of shots and recording it. Any end not completed when play was suspended, will be replayed when play is restarted. Players leaving the green to put on protective rain gear and return to continue play, does not constitute a suspension of play and the end will have to continue until completed.
- d. Skips, by mutual agreement, can decide to stop play and approach the club tournament official with a request to suspend play if needed, but may only do so after an end has been completed and before the next end has been started. Unless suspended by the club tournament official, any team who walks off the green to terminate or suspend play without the agreement by the opposing skip, will forfeit the match.
- e. In no circumstances shall a game or match be abandoned until thirty minutes have elapsed after the stipulated time for commencement of play.
- f. If it appears at the commencement of or during play that inclement weather is likely to disrupt play, the players shall be instructed to attempt to play 15 ends before any break.

- g. If any match being played on the knock-out basis is not commenced or is stopped because of inclement weather or for any other valid reason, it shall, subject to the following clause, be completed at a future date, time and venue, as decided by the Executive, from the point at which the match was stopped.
- h. The Executive shall have the sole discretion at any time before or during any knock-out match between teams or sides to determine that a result has been reached in the match if at least 15 ends have been completed by at least one team when play is suspended because of inclement weather. This does not restrict the right of either skip in any match between teams to concede the match to the opposing skip at any time and for any reason.
- i. If any match between teams played on a league basis is abandoned because of inclement weather or for any other valid reason (including agreement between the skips) before 15 ends have been completed, the match will be regarded as having been drawn, the points will be shared, but no shots are to be recorded. If 15 or more ends have been completed, the result of the match will be based on the scores as at the last completed end.
- j. In matches between sides played on the league basis, the match shall be considered as having been completed if at least one of the teams has played a minimum of 15 ends. The scores of teams shall be taken at the end completed prior to abandonment to determine the award of points for the match, provided that teams not having completed 15 ends shall always be regarded as having drawn and shall each be awarded one point. The scores in each game at the last end completed prior to abandonment shall be valid for the purpose of determining the award of the aggregate point. Should none of the teams have completed 15 ends or should the match not have commenced at all the match shall be regarded as a draw, the sides shall share the points, and no shots are to be recorded.
- k. In matches between sides played on a set's basis - Flag, Muter and Trips League, a game shall be considered as having been completed if at least two sets have been completed. If the second set cannot be completed, the second and third set points and game points will be shared. If play cannot continue after two sets have been completed, the third set point will be shared. If teams have not completed one set or should the match not have commenced at all, the teams will share the points, and no shots will be recorded.

25. Disputes and Appeals

- a. A club or player feeling aggrieved at any decision of an umpire based on alleged misinterpretation of the Laws of the Sport of Bowls, Crystal Mark Fourth Edition or conditions of the competition or championship, may appeal through his or her club in writing to the Executive within 24 hours of the completion of the game.
- b. No protest in connection with the result of a game or match or an alleged infringement of the Laws during the game shall be considered unless it is made to the umpire on duty. Subsequent play must proceed, and the score cards noted accordingly. On receipt of the protest, the umpire shall take steps, within forty-eight hours, to bring it to the notice of the Executive.
- c. The Executive shall have the sole discretion to call for additional verbal or written evidence if required, to rule on any appeal, and if necessary and practicable, require a game or match to be replayed at a time and place determined by the Executive.

26. Deliberate Slow Play

- a. Deliberately slowing down play or delaying a game that is subject to a time limit in order to force a possible non-completion of all the ends in the game is considered Deliberate Unsporting Behaviour and will be dealt with as a serious breach of the fair sportsmanship code included in the Laws of the Sport of Lawn Bowls.
- b. Where a player, team or side allegedly deliberately delays or slows down the game in order to gain an advantage, the opponent skip or captain of a side can lodge a complaint to the umpire and/or the Club Tournament Official.
- c. After having heard the complaint and opponent's response, the umpire and club tournament official will have the mandate to issue a warning and if appropriate, to either allow more time for the match to be completed, or the match can be awarded to the opponent of the defaulting party with a greater of the score as it stood at the start of the delay, or a one-shot difference.
- d. The Tournament Official must submit a brief report including the names of defaulting players to WPB Executive for a possible disciplinary process for deliberate unsporting behaviour.

27. Disciplinary Procedures

- a. The Executive, on production of satisfactory proof and due investigation of verbal and/or written evidence as required at the sole discretion of the Executive, after having followed a due disciplinary process, shall have the power to reprimand and/or fine and/or suspend the membership of a player and/or disqualify a player from further participation in any District or other competition or championship for a period not exceeding two full seasons.
- b. Disciplinary action may be instituted in respect of the following:
 - i. Any player who has played in any team knowing that an ineligible player has been included and has not reported this to the WP Competitions Secretary;
 - ii. Any player who has played in any team knowing that the number of players allowed by the modus operandi for the competition or championship has been exceeded;
 - iii. Any player who has entered any District competition or championship but fails to play without a valid reason;
 - iv. Any player who has wilfully committed a breach of the Constitution and/or Byelaws and/or Laws of the Sport of Bowls and/or the District;
 - v. Any player who has been found guilty of bad sportsmanship;
 - vi. Any player who has brought the sport, the district or any of the District or BSA officials into disrepute;
 - vii. Any player who has wilfully disobeyed any directive or regulation of the District;
 - viii. Any player or person, being a member of an affiliated club, who is accused of unseemly conduct, whether verbal or physical, on or within the precincts of any green of any member club.
 - ix. Any player who fails to honour their commitments in terms of marking in singles.
 - x. Any person subjected to disciplinary action in terms of the above shall enjoy the rights of appeal as set out in the District Constitution.

28. Trophies and Awards

- a. All trophies, unless otherwise provided, shall be deemed to be floating trophies and clubs or players who are current holders of any trophies shall ensure their return to the offices

of the District by not later than 28 days prior to the scheduled commencement of the relevant District competition or championship.

- b. The District Admin office will arrange for the engraving of all District trophies.
- c. Trophies must be returned to the District in a clean condition. The Executive reserves the right to recover the cost of cleaning trophies from clubs who fail to return trophies in a clean condition.
- d. Clubs whose members receive trophies shall be responsible for their safekeeping and shall be held liable for the expense of replacing or restoring any trophy which is damaged, lost or stolen.
- e. Cash prizes awarded to pairs, triples, fours and fives teams and sides are payable for the whole team or side, irrespective of how many players were registered if reserves are permitted.
- f. The cash value of prizes awarded will depend on sponsorships received and shall be determined by the Executive.

29. Seeding

The players who entered the competition and finished in the last 16 of the previous year's tournament shall be seeded and allocated to sections according to their seedings. However, only the Skip carries the seeding for all competitions other than Singles. Seeded players shall not be drawn to play other seeded players in the round robin stage of the competition, unless there are less than 16 sections for sectional play.

30. Zoning

Normally WP Competitions and Championships will not be zoned, except for reasons of avoiding peak hours traffic during the week and specifically for WP Midweek and Pro10s, which will be zoned. The zones may be set or changed based upon the number of entries received for a specific zone or competition.

APPENDIX A: Bowls South Africa Inclement Weather Conditions Policy

In our vast country we are subject to a variety of weather conditions all of which can have an effect on the ability to complete bowls tournaments. In order to provide a definitive determination as to what constitutes 'inclement weather' and how these are to be treated when they do occur at tournaments held under the control of Bowls South Africa this policy sets out the manner in which these are to be determined and treated.

The intent of this policy is to provide clear guidelines on this matter so that Tournament committees have a firm basis for decision making in the interests of good sportsmanship and ensuring the safety of participants are cared for.

The following are considered to be classified as inclement weather:

Heat & Humidity

Rain

Lightning and

Wind

Interruption or Abandonment of Play

In the event of adverse weather conditions, which includes lightning activity, excessive heat and humidity, or for any other valid reason, the Tournament Official shall temporarily suspend play. Play shall stop immediately and only resume when authorized by the Tournament Official. In the event that conditions do not improve he shall make the decision to abandon play.

Heat and Discomfort

The Tournament Official should be guided by applying suspension of play once the discomfort index exceeds 36 degrees in Temperature and 39 % in Humidity.

Lightning

The Tournament Official shall assess the proximity of the lightning strikes either by using a lightning meter or by counting off the seconds between the observed strike and hearing the thunder (3 seconds per kilometer. Strikes at 16 kilometers (i.e. 48 seconds) should initiate a temporary evacuation of the green.

A. Heat and Humidity

Everyone is at risk of heat-related illness during extreme hot weather, some groups of people – such as the elderly and people who have chronic health conditions – are more at risk than others.

Whilst there does not appear a definitive definition of what is considered the maximum temperature at which participation should be stopped, the diagram below gives some indication as to what health specialists consider to be unsafe conditions:

Clearly from the table below there is a correlation between heat and humidity to give effect to determination in what is considered dangerous. It follows that a correlation between temperature and humidity needs to be established so that based on the combined factor of the two measurements a maximum temperature is calculated and used.

Metrication of Template:HeatTable

		temperature (°C)																
		27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43
Relative Humidity (%)	40	27	28	29	30	31	32	34	35	37	39	41	43	46	48	51	54	57
	45	27	28	29	30	32	33	35	37	39	41	43	46	49	51	54	57	
	50	27	28	30	31	33	34	36	38	41	43	46	49	52	55	58		
	55	28	29	30	32	34	36	38	40	43	46	48	52	55	59			
	60	28	29	31	33	35	37	40	42	45	48	51	55	59				
	65	28	30	32	34	36	39	41	44	48	51	55	59					
	70	29	31	33	35	38	40	43	47	50	54	58						
	75	29	31	34	36	39	42	46	49	53	58							
	80	30	32	35	38	41	44	48	52	57								
	85	30	33	36	39	43	47	51	55									
	90	31	34	37	41	45	49	54										
	95	31	35	38	42	47	51	57										
	100	32	36	40	44	49	54											

	Caution
	Extreme Caution
	Danger
	Extreme Danger

Play must be suspended when any combined temperature places the participants under extreme danger.

There is an excellent app available through the Google Play store called 'Heat Index' that calculates the heat index factoring in both temperature and humidity. A further app called 'Galaxy Sensors' gives an indication of both ambient temperature and relative humidity. These two apps used together will help make a scientific determination to establish heat conditions that are prevalent.

B. Rain

It's a fact that some greens drain better than others and thus it's quite conceivable that play may be possible at some venues whilst not the case at others.

At all times the Greenkeeper at each venue or his proxy shall be the sole determinant in deciding to suspend or stop play. Such a decision may be done either before play commences or during the process of play.

Likewise the Greenkeeper or his proxy is the sole determinant in deciding when play may commence again.

C. Lightning

Whilst the occurrence of lightning is normally accompanied by both visual and sound recognition lightning has been recorded to strike at a distance of 16 Kms from such observations. The rule of safety for safety is 10 Kms from where lightning is present.

Once again there is an app available called 'Lightning Alarm' that gives a very graphic presentation of where lightning may be and its proximity to the location of the place where the app is being used.

D. Wind

Excessive winds are normally more prevalent in our coastal areas but sporadic excessive winds have been known to affect other areas.

The occurrence of the following events prohibiting the fair participation is considered to be proof of excessive wind speeds:

1. The jack cannot be placed without it moving from the designated position and
2. Where equipment such as scoreboards etc. placed in the proximity of the greens presents a danger to contestants.

E. General

1. At all events run under the auspices of Bowls South Africa the above measures will be the determinant when making a decision with regard to inclement weather. Players participating in a Bowls South Africa event shall be deemed to have accepted the provisions of this document as it relates to that event.
2. The Event Co-ordinator at each venue will be the person responsible for communicating all decisions made with regard to inclement weather. In making such determination the Event coordinator must take into account all factors including the health of participants.
3. Before such decisions are made the Organising committee or their designated official must have been advised of the need to suspend play.
4. Where possible it is preferable to recommence play should conditions permit. The Event coordinator will be responsible, in conjunction with other authorities, for making such a decision.
5. Play may be stopped on appeal of a player / team to the Event Coordinator. The Event Coordinator will make a decision in conjunction with the Organising committee or their designated proxy after taking into account the appropriate conditions as set out above. The decision of the Event Coordinator will be final and binding on all participants.
6. Each venue hosting a Bowls South Africa event is expected to have such equipment as is necessary to measure temperature, humidity and potential lightning incidents.
7. Whilst sectional play at some venues may be more affected than others play at those less affected should continue as per normal and in terms of the conditions of play provided that all participants in those sections are afforded equal opportunity to complete their obligations.

Bowls South Africa is committed to providing a safe environment for participants in the sport of bowls. The above policy has been drawn up with this in mind however it is not always possible to cover all eventualities and Tournament officials are urged to take cognisance of the above and use these when reaching decisions as to the matter of inclement weather. The safety and health of participants under their control is of paramount importance.