



CIRCULAR

ROYAL NSW BOWLING ASSOCIATION LTD.

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No: C25/2020
Date: 20 October 2020
To: Zones, Districts & Clubs
Re: 2021 SEASON – CONDITIONS OF PLAY (COP)

Bowls NSW would like to thank all those individuals, clubs, districts & zones that sent in feedback regarding 2021 COP.

The 2021 COP is now available for download from our website or by [clicking here](#)

Whilst there were many items of feedback agreeing to and/or suggesting other methods to vary formats of play, it has been decided to keep all formats of matches for all divisions and disciplines the same for another 12 months.

The major changes to 2021 COP are as follows:

SINGLES FORMATS:

- All knockout **Association** Singles matches must be played as 31 up (first to score 31 shots).
 - However, in order to allow clubs/districts/zones the ability to play sectional matches in the first stage of their competition, if they so choose to do so, these matches may be played as 25up (first to score 25 shots). Numbers in a section is to be decided by relevant Match Committee and can be 3 in a section to alleviate need to provide markers.
- All Bowls NSW State Finals matches (either Sectional or Knockout) will be contested as 31up unless stated by that individual event COP (e.g. U25 Singles, Junior Championships).
- The 2021 COP has also been amended to enable Match Committees to be able to utilise players receiving a bye in a round to mark a match in that round, if it is scheduled on the same day of play as their subsequent round match.
- All non-association singles matches (e.g. minor; handicap; tournaments) formats are at the discretion of the relevant committee.

PREVIOUS SEASON GRADING:

With the 2020 season all but abandoned due to COVID-19, all references to previous season grading (PSG) within 2021 COP refers to 2019 season grading.

STATE RESERVE EVENTS:

Due to the uniqueness of the 2021 season, with COVID-19 forcing BNSW to complete 2020 State Championships after the commencement and/or closing date of entries of 2021 championships as well as zones competing in differing disciplines at same time, it has meant that for the 2021 SEASON ONLY, any person with a PSG of Grades 5 – 6 – 7 or ungraded or comply with COP are eligible to enter State Reserve events (this includes previous State Winners who are eligible under 2021 COP).

It is anticipated that from 2022 season that all previous winners of State Reserve Singles will be ineligible to enter that event/discipline again whilst Pairs, Triples & Fours State Reserve winners will be ineligible to enter those events/disciplines for a period of 2 years.

PENNANTS:

- The allocation of grades for 2021 season is based upon the approved submissions for 2020 season.
- As players were unable to participate in the minimum number of threshold matches for 2020 season, PSG refers to 2019 season.
- Clubs will now be graded as per their performance in a season with compulsory promotion of State Winners for Grades 2 – 7 and compulsory promotion of district & zone winners for Grades 3 – 7.
- Zone Grade 2 winners will be invited to participate in the Bowls NSW State Grade 1 competition.
- Compulsory relegation for sides finishing last in district/zone Grades 2 – 6 Pennants is also now in place.
- Clubs may apply to participate in a higher grade, however, to request to participate in a lower grade other than that allocated by their season performance, the club must provide evidence to Zone and State Match Committees for approval.
- All players who have a N grading, following 2019 season, retain this grading, whilst all regrade submissions approved prior to commencement of 2020 season will remain as R grades for 2021 season.
- A club may select a maximum of 6 players to participate in a grade that is no lower than 2 grades lower than their PSG or the next highest grade in a club.
- If a club had applied and been approved for a maximum of 6 regrades to a grade, prior to start of 2020 season, they will not be allowed to apply for any further regrades to that grade under 2021 COP.
- Players transferring from a club outside of NSW, who do not have a previous Bowls NSW grading will be allocated a P grading to the club's highest grade. If a club wishes to have this player regraded to a lower grade they must apply to Zone and State Match Committee for approval and if granted will count as 1 of the 6 players allowed under COP.

RESTRICTING MOVEMENT OF PLAYERS:

- In a triples match, 2nds can now only follow their 2nd bowl to the head.
- If both 3rds are at the Head during an end of a match, they must move to the mat end together or if only one 3rd is at the head, they must move to the mat end immediately it is their turn to play
- Skips must move to the mat end together when it is either of the skips turn to bowl

INTER ZONE ELIGIBILITY:

- The deletion of the clause restricting players to be selected in only one inter zone side.
- This will enable those zones who have players eligible to compete in both Open & Senior Inter Zones sides to be selected if they so wish to do so.
- **Bowls NSW is also pleased to announce that the 2021 Inter Zone Series to be held within Zone 3 will be hosted by South Tamworth Bowling Club in conjunction with West Tamworth & North Tamworth Bowling Clubs.**

For all other Bowls NSW event COP's, please download from our website or [click here](#)

It is strongly urged that all players, Club/District/Zone match and umpire officials familiarise themselves with Bowls NSW COP as well as Laws of the Sport and if there are any queries, to contact either Andrew Lynn or David Ellis at Bowls NSW head office.
