

CIRCULAR

No: 05/2021
Date: 29 June 2021 – *(Updated 30 June)*
To: All Clubs
Re: Q & A – Membership & Competition Eligibility



Women's Bowls NSW and Bowls NSW are now unified into a single STA (Bowls New South Wales Limited). This means that there are implications which affect the membership and competition eligibility of both male and female members.

The following Q & A answers questions we have received around membership and competition eligibility with the main points to note:

- The intent of the Circular is to clarify that a member can only Nominate one Club for the purposes of Championships and Pennants. For example, a female member now cannot play Women's Championships at one Club (Club X) and Open Pennants at a different Club (Club Y) as they have been able to do for the past 12 months. They must now choose to play all Championships and Pennants at the same Club.
- For the purposes of eligibility, the Men's and Women's Sub-Club of a Nominated Club are considered the SAME Club.
- Therefore, a female member of a Women's Sub-Club is eligible to play in any Women's only events AND any OPEN gender events such as Open Pennants. A male member of a Men's Sub-Club is likewise eligible to play in any Men's only events and any OPEN gender events.
- It is intended that all members will be able to play in Open Pennants as well as any single gendered events.
- There will be a full competition review and the opportunity for member feedback in the coming months.

The Bowls Australia (BA) Affiliation and Eligibility to Play Policy is the governing policy across all STA's which should be read in conjunction with this Q&A and Bowls NSW Circulars.

1. What is the Bowls Australia Affiliation and Eligibility to Play Policy?

Below is a link to the Bowls Australia Affiliation and Eligibility to Play Policy. The relevant clauses are clause 5 and 6.

https://www.bowls.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Affiliation-and-Eligibility-to-Play-Policy_Approved-2021-1.pdf

2. What does the BA Affiliation and Eligibility to Play Policy mean for NSW?

- a. As Bowls NSW Limited is now the ONLY recognised STA within NSW, a player must nominate only one club.
- b. All Association events are now defined as Championship Events.
- c. Bowls NSW Limited does **NOT** allow for a player to play Pennants for two (2) or more clubs, affiliated within NSW.

3. What does this mean for women who were dual registered with both RNSWBA & WBNSW?

A Dual registered woman must now declare ONE club only for the purpose of playing in Bowls NSW Limited events – this includes Pennants.

4. What does this mean for men and women who were only registered with RNSWBA or WBNSW, respectively?

A male or female member must continue to declare ONE Nominated Club for the purposes of playing in Club and Bowls NSW Limited events – this includes Pennants.

5. What if I am currently a member of a Women's Club and Men's Club within the same Club?

The requirement to be dual registered no longer applies. A member declares their Nominated Club by registering with either the Men's Bowling Club or the Women's Bowling Club.

6. What if I am currently a member of a Women's Club and a Men's Club at different Clubs?

- a. You will have to choose which club is your NOMINATED club for the purposes of playing in Championship Events – this includes Pennants.
- b. Joining (or renewing) membership at both clubs is up to the individual, however a player can only have ONE Nominated Club.
- c. Bowls NSW Limited recommends that female players register with their Women's Club, and male players register with their Men's Club (except for those clubs that have amalgamated/unified their Men's & Women's Clubs into one Club).

7. Will I still have to complete a Club Clearance/Transfer application to change my Nominated Club?

- a. YES: Any member who changes their Nominated Clubs MUST have the outgoing and incoming club complete the application and the fee must be paid.
- b. A Club Clearance/Transfer application MUST be completed, and fee paid each time a player wishes to change their Nominated club.

8. How should my club charge affiliation fees?

- a. All Clubs will be invoiced by Bowls NSW Limited in July 2021.
- b. Bowls NSW Limited recommends that clubs ascertain the amount of this invoice together with any fees payable to Zone and/or Districts plus any administrative costs, to total one equitable membership fee for both Men's & Women's Club members.
- c. The above method is the recommended process for Full Bowling Membership categories, however, Bowls NSW Limited acknowledges that it is up to individual clubs to set membership fees for all member categories.
- d. All bowling members must be registered with Bowls New South Wales Limited regardless of their playing eligibility/club membership category (as per the Constitution and Regulations of Bowls NSW Limited).

9. As a member, do I have to pay membership fees to both the Men's Bowling Club and Women's Bowling Club?

There is no requirement to be a member of both the Men's & Women's Club to be registered and declared with Bowls NSW Limited.

10. Should our Club unify the Men's & Women's Clubs?

There is no requirement from Bowls NSW Limited to do so. If both Men's and Women's Clubs wish to unify then Bowls NSW Limited will provide the required resources on request.

Please be advised that any current dual registered women, still participating or qualified in 2021 BNSW and/or WBNSW events are eligible until those competitions are completed.

If you have any queries, please contact Bowls NSW Limited on 02 9283 4555 or 02 9267 7155.

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