



NEWCASTLE DISTRICT BOWLING ASSOCIATION (ZONE 2) INC

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CIRCULAR NO. 2019-086 **TO ALL CLUB SECRETARIES**

Recommendations for

- (a) **2020 Season's Programme**
- (b) **Alterations to Rules and Regulations Governing N.D.B.A. Competitions**

The attention of all Clubs is drawn to the recommendations set out hereunder as they do have a definite bearing on Conditions of Pennant Play and District Championships for the 2020 Season. These recommendations will be discussed at the August Management Committee Meeting on Thursday August 15, 2019.

Voting will take place at the Management Committee Meeting on Thursday, September 19, 2019. Please note that no further recommendations may be placed before the September Management Committee Meeting and no further discussion will take place on those already made. Consequently, it is essential that the recommendations are fully discussed at Club level and your Delegates instructed on how to vote.

Match Committee Recommendations for commencement dates for events in Season Program:

1) 2019 SEASONS PROGRAMME

1. Saturday Pennants Grades 2 to 7 to commence February 29 with Double Header
2. Mid-Week Pennants to commence Wednesday, February 19
3. Zone Pairs to commence Saturday, February 1
4. District Junior Pairs & 18- 25 Years Pairs – commence Tuesday, February 7.
5. Zone Fours to commence Saturday, February 15
6. District Junior Fours Tuesday, March 3
7. Veterans' & Super Veterans' Day - Thursday, March 5.
8. District Junior and Under 25 Singles - commence Friday March 6.
9. Zone Singles to commence Sunday March 22
10. District Junior Triples & 18-25 Years Triples to commence May 5.
11. Zone Triples to commence Saturday, July 4
12. District Minor Singles to commence Saturday, July 18.
13. State Pennant Finals – Friday, July 24 to Sunday, July 26
14. Mattara - Monday, August 3 to Thursday August 13.
15. State Championships Friday August 14 to Sunday August 23
16. Three Threes - commence Wednesday, August 26.
17. Soldier Point Classic August 29 and 30
18. Rookies Singles – August 29 and 30
19. Champion of Club Champion Singles to commence Saturday, September 5.
20. State Over 40's Pairs – September 12 and 13
21. NDBA Delegates Day & President/Secretaries Day - Saturday, September 13.
22. Rookies Pairs – September 26 and 27.
23. Champion of Club Champion Pairs to commence Saturday, October 17.
24. Champion of Club Champions Fours to commence Sunday October 25.
25. Veteran Inter Zone October 28 to 30

Suggestions for 2020 Program

Please find below a summary of suggestions for the 2020 Rules and Regulations as well as Calendar. More information for each of the points (2 to 19) listed can be found below. Point 1 Season Program can be found above.

Also note that there are other suggestions at the end of this document that cannot be voted on or discussed at this time because, a) makeup of the 1 grade competition is not known as yet and b) some suggestions require Bowls NSW to change at State level.

Some of the 20 suggestions will be voted on as a group because they have a bearing on other suggestions put forward. (i.e 5 week Pennant season with all double headers compared to other suggestions with 1 or 2 double headers.

- 1) Season Programme (above)

Pennant Playoffs grades 2 to 7

- 2) Grades with 3 sections have winner and runner up go to playoffs
- 3) Finals draw remains same regardless of a club having 2 teams qualified in same grade
- 4) Finals with only 1 game on Sunday to start at 11am.

Pennant Season grades 2 to 7

- 5) Pennant sectional season to Saturday March 7 and Finish May 9 (3 double headers) Finals to be played May 23/24
- 6) Pennant sectional to start Saturday February 29 with Double header then every available Saturday finishing May 9 with Finals over 2 weekends May 16/17 and May 23/24
- 7) Pennants not commence before march with a couple of Double headers similar to number (5)
- 8) Play Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning to reduce the rounds to 5 weeks.
- 9) Play Pennants Saturday and Sunday to complete Pennant season in 5 weeks (same as 8)
- 10) Double Headers for 2020 Pennants Season (same as 8 & 9)
- 11) 5 week competition with Saturday and Sunday games. Finishing before Easter or Starting after Easter
- 12) Wet weather matches to be played at end of season only if required.
- 13) If wet weather matches are to continue the following Sunday, clubs with bye on Saturday do not play washout matches the day after or eliminate the bye even if this means amalgamating sections and not playing every team.
- 14) Open draw for lower grades.
- 15) Whatever Calendar is decided have it in place for at least 5 years.

Mid Week Pennants

- 16) (a to e) The players' grades in each team (rink) in a mid-week side (3 rinks) shall total more than or equal to or four times the grade number that the side is entered. (more information below)
- 17) Support for item 16 from New Lambton
- 18) No players permitted to drop any grade in Mid-week pennants.
- 19) 2 players only permitted to drop a grade in mid-week pennants and no more can be applied for.

Three Threes

- 20) 1 grade to revert back to 3 bowl triples.

Suggestions in detail

Pennant Playoffs Grade 2 to 7

2) From Shaun Dare. Selector at Wangi Bowling Club.

I have an idea for the Grades that only had 3 Sections, eg (2 Grade & 3 Grade) this year. Instead of the 3 winners & best performed Second place.

I would like to see the 3 winners & the 3 second place teams go to playoffs, it gives sides some hope.

The way this could work is having the 2 best performed winners go to the Semi Finals (one in each semi). That leaves 4 teams to playoff for the 2 remaining spots in the Semi Final.

The argument will be that the winner of one of the sections has a disadvantage. At the end of the day to win the flag you need to beat all the teams.

3) From John Stanley Mayfield

When you make the draw at the start of the year that should be it no changes should be made. The 6 Grade pennant playoffs had changes. It's just unfortunate or bad luck that 2 teams from the one club ended up winning their section and found themselves in the same group cause the draw had already been completed at the start of the season. I ask can you make a rule for the 2020 pennant season or put it down as a suggestion for the 2020 pennant season rules that

"once the pennant draw is done that's final and if a club has teams that win their section and fall in the same group they stay in that group not accommodate into different groups".

Note from match committee: should the above be approved, the match committee would like to add to the above that, if the same club was represented by 2 teams in the same section that they play each other 1st in playoff matches.

4) From Kevin Bucklee Vice President

I would like to make a suggestion to the match Committee that where it is a round robin with only three or four teams, that the Sunday game starts later say 11am this gives the greenkeeper time to get the green at the best he can I understand that we have no option on Saturday as there are 2 games I know the greenkeeper started very early both days and with the dew that was around the greens were that much better after lunch if it is possible start Sunday later.

Saturday sectional play

5) From Wallsend Diggers Saturday Pennant Schedule 2020

We agree most of our players would **not like to play all double headers but could possibly agree to a couple of double headers.** Taking into account Saturday March 14th for Interzone, Saturday April 11th Easter, Saturday April 25th Anzac Day, Saturday May 16th City Country we would suggest following program

- Round 1 Saturday March 7th
- Round 2 Saturday March 21st
- Round 3 Sunday March 22nd
- Round 4 Saturday March 28th
- Round 5 Saturday April 4th
- Round 6 Sunday April 5th
- Round 7 Saturday April 18th
- Round 8 Saturday May 2nd
- Round 9 Sunday May 3rd
- Round 10 Saturday May 9th
- That would allow playoff's to be weekend of May 23rd/24th after City Country.
- With having 3 grass greens we would recommend Pennants do not commence before first weekend in March otherwise greens would not be up to optimum standard after their annual renovation.

6) Zone Match Committee

To commence pennants for grades 2 to 7 on February 29 with a double header weekend (Round 2 on March 1) then play 1 match each Saturday of March 9, 16, 21, 28, April 4, (no game Easter April 11) Round 8 on April 18 (no game April 25 ANZAC) round 9 on May 2 and Round 10 on May 9. The Playoffs to take place on May 15 and 16 for some of the grades, not affected by City Country, and remainder to be played on May 23 and 24. Match committee believes playing the finals over 2 weekends allows more spectators to attend venues.

7) From Andrew James. Adamstown

Hi, I would just like to submit a suggestion for the 2020 Saturday Pennant season. As a bowler who also plays club cricket during the summer (and I'm sure I'm not the only one), My suggestion is to **not start the competition any earlier than March. Late March would be better to accommodate cricket finals. I'd be happy with 2 Saturday/Sunday rounds during the season if it helps with scheduling. Double headers every week would be too much for some older bowlers.**

8) From Warner Bay

Pennants may need to be brought forward to align with proposed playing dates put forward by BA for October. **Play Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning to reduce the rounds to 5 weeks.**

9) From Eric Roach Valentine

Play Pennants Saturday and Sunday to complete Pennant season quicker as many players will not commit themselves for 10 weeks.

10) From Mathew Hellier - Delegate -Toronto Workers Club

In relation to 2020 Pennants Season, Toronto Workers Bowling Club has asked its members at numerous gala events whether they would accept playing a season of Double Headers starting February.

The General consensus was positive, many felt that having

Double Headers for 2020 Pennants Season would create more interest in Pennants as there will be less weekend of commitment and cited that other Zones play Double Header Seasons.

** Clubs should have the flexibility to arrange play on Friday night, Saturday Morning and Sunday Morning by agreement.

Match committee Note: ** this is able to be done now by completing change of time application

(11 to 15) From Lemon Tree Passage BC. Greg Patterson

We are happy with current set up of 10 weeks or as has been suggested a

11) 5 week competition with Saturday and Sunday games.

If the later occurs, we would prefer games are finished before Easter or start the season after Easter.

12) If the current 10 week set up continues we would prefer Wet Weather games to be made up only if necessary at the end of the season (not the following Sunday).

13) If you continue with the wet weather games the following week then we would like to see the elimination of the bye (It is difficult getting teams for a Sunday when players have organized the bye weekend to be away with their family). Perhaps we could amalgamate sections to eliminate the bye, even if this means we do not play all teams twice.

14) We would like to see an open draw in the lower grades, moving away from our immediate area. We would like to play more, and different, clubs.

15) Whatever decision is made, can it please be set in concrete for at least the next five years, so all bowlers can plan their activities around the pennants without it suddenly changing.

Mid-Week Pennants

16) Match Committee (CHANGES HIGHLIGHTED IN YELLOW)

A player's grading in the Mid-Week Pennant Competition shall be firstly determined by his previous season's Saturday Pennant Competition Grade. A player shall retain his previous season Saturday pennant grade into the Mid-Week Pennant Competition for the entire Mid-Week Season

- a) unless he is graded lower during the current Saturday season, at which time his new grade applies.
- b) Players granted a regrade by Bowls NSW in the current season are eligible to play in the new grade that has been approved.
- c) Players with an "N" grading cannot play in a grade lower than their current "N" grade without written permission for the Zone Match committee. Permission MAY only be granted if it is for the next immediate grade below his "N" grading. If a player does not have a Saturday Pennant Competition grading, He will be classed as a grade 5.
- d) The players' grades in each team (rink) in a mid-week side (3 rinks) shall total more than or equal to or four times the grade number that the side is entered. i.e. in a 2 grade mid-week side the players grades in each rink must total 8 (4x2). In a 3 grade side each rink must total 12 and so on.
- e) Only 1 player with a higher grade than the grade they are playing is allowed in each rink and if that player's grade is 2 or more grades higher than the grade they are playing, they cannot play in the Skip position. (i.e. a grade 1 player cannot skip in mid-week grade 3 or below) but may play any other position. One player only, will be permitted and clubs cannot request to have more than the one player per rink.

Grades of each player are to be clearly marked on the result sheet.

17) From New Lambton John Chook Fowler

The board of New Lambton Bowling Club has discussed the concepts regarding the gradings for mid-week pennants and after reading the proposal sent to us fully endorses the proposed changes.

The proposal we had discussed was similar in nature and not as simple in structure and we welcome the purpose and methodology you have created.

18) From Wallsend BC District Pennant Competitions – Rule 4 re Mid-Week Pennants

Amend Clause C – A Club will be permitted to drop 2 players from a higher grade

We suggest replace with " No player will be permitted to drop any grade from which they are eligible. Players may only be promoted.

19) Match Committee

That only 2 players be allowed to drop 1 grade only and no other players will be approved.

Three Threes

20) From David Govan Bowls Manager Valentine BC

I am writing for discussion on changing the 1 grade three threes back to its original format of three bowls, I believe that singling out the 1 grade from all other grades to play two bowls is not a good look for our game & to be quite honest it has taken out the fun of the competition & made it a bit boring. Three threes is a Newcastle based competition & has no significance on the state events so does not need to follow suit in the 2 bowl category hence why all other grades continue to use three bowls. Three bowl triples also does not always guarantee that the strongest side will win as it creates more opportunity for the underdog to claim a victory. I also believe this is good for our game as everyone wants to be competitive no matter what club they are playing for. At this present time in Newcastle District we a couple of power house clubs that are dominating year in year out and for smaller clubs

who cannot field all 1 graders in their 3x3s I believe will benefit as well as enjoying the game a lot more going back to three bowl triples. Is amazing that competitive bowls has been played for well over 100 years and each discipline had its own uniqueness – Singles four bowls, Pairs four bowls but played 2x2x2x2, triples three bowls & fours two bowls. Now triples two bowls, well it's just another version of fours. If we want to play with two bowls why don't we just play fours and forget about triples, yes this would be a shame so why don't we get back to how the game originated and play each discipline for its uniqueness & enjoy the diversity of each individual discipline. Seeing as we are governed by the royal and bowls Australia we have no choice but to follow suit in district/state events but given the opportunity we don't need to follow suit for three threes I think we should embrace the history of our game & play three bowls triples in our great three threes competition in Newcastle!

Note that the following suggestion for grade 1 cannot be discussed or voted on until such time as the make up of the grade 1 competition is known.

Pennant Playoffs Grade 1

Andrew Rees (Kurri Kurri)

To the NDBA,

If there is 3 places for state:

2 sections of 10 same as this year,

both section winners get a place at state.

For the remaining place to State....2nd and 3rd from each section play-off in a four team section.

Winner goes to State, runner up to playoff against Central Coast if that is to happen again. If both section winners are from Zone 2 they can play on the Saturday afternoon of the playoffs for the Zone flag. If a Zone 6 team wins a section then the other section winner is declared the Zone 2 flag winner. If Zone 6 were to win both sections, the winner of the 4 team playoff for the 3rd spot at state will be declared the Zone 2 flag winner.

This way...a club can still pay a tender to hold the playoff if so desired.

The reason I propose this idea is so there is benefit to a team winning a section...for i feel the last couple of years there has been no advantage to running first. Also with there still being a playoff if 2 strong teams draw the same section...the team finishing lower still has a chance to make state playoffs.

The suggestion below in cannot be altered by Zone 2 as they are State Conditions of play and will be passed on to Bowls NSW

From Warner Bay

Reducing the Zone singles to 21 up so 3 games can be played in 1 day.

(2 games of 31 = 62 up, 3 games of 21 = 63 up).

Reducing pairs and triples 18 ends and

4's to 15 ends for the same reason as above.

From Terry McCabe

I am very concerned about the declining membership in our game as I am sure that most people involved in administration are. I feel that we should be targeting people in their 20's, 30's and 40's in an endeavor to halt this decline, which appears to have escalated in the past few years. May I suggest that a way to do this is to get a result much quicker than currently especially at District, Zone and State Level. The culture of the world has changed dramatically in the last 20 years, to the extent that possible bowlers in the suggested age group are now expected to spend much more time with family with so many things to do in the world than what was the case some 20-30 years ago and as a result their personal leisure time is far less.

After attending and participating in some events at the Australia Open on the Gold Coast over the past few years their formats most of the time where an excellent example of getting results quicker which is something I have personally advocated for a number of years. I have been very lucky and our game has been wonderful for me personally and I have had a great time, but my time has ended now and any suggestion from me are purely for the benefit of the future.

A format to consider is to get a result in app. 2.25 hrs which allows for 3 games in a day instead of 2 which would appeal strongly to the suggested age group and 50's also of course, and certainly to wives, partners and families. Very rarely will best player/team lose in 2.25 hrs unless bad luck consistently occurs.

I suggest the following formats be considered;

At District, Zone and State Level all games be 2.25 hrs maximum duration. Deliberate slow play by a team / player leading by a large margin is a rarity to my knowledge, however a rule to stop this possibility could be easily adopted.

SINGLES - 4 BOWLS 21 UP.

PAIRS - 4 BOWLS 2, 2, 2, 2, 14 Ends.

This format is far more popular with the majority instead of 3 bowls and should still be comfortable time wise.

FOURS - 2 Bowls 14 Ends

TRIPLES – 2 Bowls 18 Ends

PENNANTS

I Believe Pennant Numbers have only declined in Zone 2 in the last 2 years but I am not sure about that statistic and I don't know about other Zones. In 2017 Pennants in Zone 2 were played from early March to mid May and most bowlers seemed to enjoy the Autumn conditions. In 2018 Pennants did not start until early May and we lost 168 bowlers from 2017. In 2019 the beginning was shifted back to early March, and I was hoping we would regain the numbers but alarmingly we lost 48 Bowlers and that was only from Grade 1. In Grades 2 and 3 the status quo remained collectively and I am not sure about 4-7.

I think Saturday afternoon Pennants over 21 Ends on a Saturday afternoon is wonderful and have enjoyed it since 1968 when I had my first game over 50 years ago. I'm not sure why Pennants numbers are declining maybe because of natural attrition with old age and culture of the world. I think the current format for Pennants is fine. I am hearing that it is being considered to played some games on a Sunday next year to co-incide with a possible schedule change for some events. I don't think that this would be very accepted family wise and lead to more decline in numbers.

I have heard people complaining about the 10 point scoring system, however I think no matter what system is used the best team will probably still prevail. In the first 9 years from 1999 in Premier League we used 2 points for a win, 1 point for a tie, rink wins in brackets for 2nd criteria an shots up if necessary for 3rd criteria if necessary and it was simple an worked fine.

It is a very unenviable task that you gentleman have to address in the near future in as effort to stop this decline in the amount of people playing our great game and I wish you all the best un the decisions that you have to make.

I hope that you will give some consideration to some of the suggestions that I made in this report which is based purely on my concern for the longevity of our game.

J.T. SMITH OAM
PRESIDENT
20/07/2019

W SHIPLEY
SECRETARY