



# CIRCULAR

ROYAL NSW BOWLING ASSOCIATION LTD.  
PO Box A2186, Sydney South NSW 1235  
Ph: (02) 9283 4555, Fax: (02) 9283 4252  
email: rnswwa@rnswwa.org.au  
<http://www.bowlsnsw.com.au>

**No: C19/2020**  
**Date: 24 August 2020**  
**To: Zones, Districts & Clubs**  
**Re: 2021 SEASON – PROPOSED CALENDAR & COP**

## 2021 CALENDAR:

Due to the COVID pandemic crisis, 2020 has been one of the most challenging years in memory and the impact will still be felt throughout the 2021 season.

With 2020 International and National events postponed and scheduled to be played in 2021, as well as continuing with 2021 events as per normal, the reality is that we are faced with a hugely congested calendar in 2021.

Bowls NSW has worked extensively on a calendar with all concerned parties and based on feedback sought from zones and clubs earlier this year have produced a proposed 2021 season calendar. The calendar assumes that restrictions associated with COVID-19 will have eased and, as with any calendar may change if restrictions are still in place or other factors cause events to be re-scheduled.

### *Items to Note:*

- NSW v QLD U18 Test Series to be added when confirmed
- Due to the postponement of 2020 Australian Championships to May 2021, Bowls NSW needs to complete 2020 State Championships.
- These have been scheduled to be played in 2 instalments together with State Champion of Champions (Feb & March 2021).
- The actual schedule of events will be determined once all Zones have completed 2020 Championships and we know of qualifiers in multiple events.
- The reason for the 2 instalments is to ensure that weekends are kept free for clubs and/or Zones to be able to schedule events.
- NSW Junior 7 a Side to be moved to April School Holidays to align better with Selection Pathway and due to congestion of calendar later in the year.
- Bowls NSW has been granted an extension by Bowls Australia to allow our 2021 State Championships to be played after the closing date for entrants to 2021 Nationals to be notified to Bowls Australia.
- Zone administrators need to remember 3 important dates:
  - Complete Zone Championships by 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2021
  - Complete Zone Pennant Competitions by 1<sup>st</sup> September 2021
  - Complete Zone Champion of Champion events by 25<sup>th</sup> October 2021
- Zones will be able to schedule events wherever they need within the year, suited to their local conditions and club needs with preference to order of precedence and ensuring they are completed by above dates.
- Major Bowls NSW State events have been scheduled for later part of year to help with clubs/zones scheduling.

To view a PDF of proposed 2021 Season Calendar, click [here](#).

## 2021 EVENT HOSTS:

Clubs who were selected as hosts for 2020 events that did not proceed will be invited to host the corresponding event in 2021 season.

Any other events, not currently under any agreements, will be offered via Expressions of Interest.

The following events and scheduled hosts, pending confirmation, are as follows:

- 2020 State Championships & Champion of Champions – Ettalong Memorial Bowling Club
- 2021 Australian Indoor Qualifying – Expressions of Interest will be called for
- 2021 Inter Zone Series – Zone 3 (Venue clubs to be advised)
- State Junior 7 a Side – West Dubbo Bowling Club
- 2021 State Selection Series – Cabramatta Bowling Club
- 2021 State Quadrangular Series – Soldiers Point Bowling Club
- 2021 State Junior Championships – Warilla Bowling & Recreation Club
- Drakes Pride Junior Carnival – Windang Bowling Club
- O40s Qualifying Event – Zones will be requested to propose venues
- NSW v QLD Test Series (Open: Senior: U25: O40 – Men & Women) – Taren Point Bowling Club
- VIC v NSW Test Series (Open; Senior: U25 – Men & Women) – Venue TBA by Bowls VIC
- Brett Duprez U18 Series – Taren Point Bowling Club
- 2021 Bowls NSW State Championships – Ettalong Memorial Bowling Club
- Rookie Qualifying Events – Zones will be requested to propose venues
- 2021 Bowls NSW State Pennants:
  - Grade 1 – Forster Bowling Club
  - Grade 2 – Parkes Bowling & Sports Club & Parkes Railway Diggers Club
  - Grade 3 – NBC Sports Club & Toongabbie Bowling Club
  - Grade 4 – Yamba Bowling Club & Maclean Bowling Club
  - Grade 5 – St Georges Basin Country Club & Nowra Bowling Club
  - Grade 6 – Club Maitland City & Lorn Park Bowling Club
  - Grade 7 – Warilla Bowling & Recreation Club & TBC
- 2021 Bowls NSW State O40s Pairs Finals – Club Maitland City & TBC
- 2021 State Rookies Finals – Raymond Terrace Bowling Club
- U25 Singles Qualifying – Bowls NSW to allocate venues
- 2021 Bowls NSW State Champion of Champions – South Tamworth Bowling Club
- Club Challenge Qualifying – Clubs to nominate hosting availability upon entry
- U25 Singles Finals – Wentworthville Leagues Bowling Club
- 2021 Club Challenge Finals – Warilla Bowling & Recreation Club

Bowls NSW will contact each host venue to ascertain availability to host above events and pending responses will then issue any Expressions of Interest.

## 2021 COP:

Bowls NSW consistently receives feedback and suggestions for the management of competitions and the sport.

Based on this feedback from zone administrators and individuals as well as with a framework to move the game forward and attract new players to the sport, we have re-worked parts of the COP and major proposed changes are:

- Change of Declared Club;
    - Players changing declared Club after season start needed SMC approval based on zone advice before being allowed.
    - This is restrictive and if a player chooses to change clubs, they are within their rights to do so, especially at club financial year end, which is usually in the middle of the bowling season.
    - COP will now have in place that any person that changes declared club will only be allowed to participate in events at their new declared club that they have not already been constituted in at their previous club.
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- This will also include Pennants, so if a player chooses to change club after Pennants has commenced and prior to competition finish, they will not be able to play Pennants at their new declared club if they had already played a match for their previous club.
    - COP will still allow for players to be granted special exemption, upon application, if the change was for employment, change of residence or other extenuating circumstance.
  - Host Clubs of Events:
    - The current clause allows for players and/or sides with players suspended for a non-bowling related incident at the club hosting an event or round of competition to apply to be able to play at that club or have match changed to an alternative venue.
    - A Club should be able to exercise its right to disciplinary procedures under its constitution and licensed club regulations.
    - The new clause will now mean that a player, who is under disciplinary action at a host venue, be required to get a substitute or replacement player in a team match; forfeit a singles match or club select a player who is eligible to attend the venue in a sides match.
    - The clause retains the principle that players suspended for a bowling related matter are ineligible to play as per Bowls NSW regulations.
  - Coaching Qualifications:
    - COP is amended to allow only BA accredited Coaches at Association events and that any Coach of a junior team or side have current Working with Children Check qualification.
  - Singles Matches:
    - Change all Association matches (unless otherwise stated within event COP) from first to score 31 shots (31 up) to first to score 21 shots (21 up).
    - Based on feedback, this change is proposed to help with:
      - ❖ Align State events with National and International scoring
      - ❖ Enable, if desired, to play Singles events in sectional play, which may also alleviate need for host venues to supply markers
      - ❖ Reduce amount of time player is required when playing multiple matches per day
  - Senior Pairs & Fours Matches:
    - Based on review of multiple events, it has been found that Senior Pairs & Fours matches are consistently finishing up to an hour longer than the equivalent matches in other divisions.
    - Change all Association Senior Pairs & Fours matches (team format) to be played over 18 ends.
    - Reducing duration is also in line with protection of players in senior category, especially when playing multiple matches in a day.
    - This will not affect Sides matches (e.g. Senior Inter Zone) which will remain 63 end matches.
  - State Presidents Reserve (SPR) Champions:
    - Currently, COP states that previous SPR winners are ineligible to enter that discipline again.
    - It is proposed to delete prohibition of previous winners.
    - This is based on feedback that many winners are genuine Grade 5 and lower bowlers and restricts their entry into event in subsequent years.
  - Pennants – Club Gradings:
    - Change COP to ensure that District & Zone Winners from Grades 3 – 7 are promoted and last placed finishers in Grades 2 – 6 are relegated, notwithstanding that club having a side in the grade higher or below.
    - Enable Zones to have ability to promote sides finishing 1<sup>st</sup> in sections to be promoted or those finishing last in sections to be regressed if it helps to create balanced competitions throughout the grades.
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- This will enable Clubs to know immediately after State Competition is completed, their club gradings for subsequent season.
- This will also place the onus on clubs to ensure that their player gradings allow them to select eligible players or to apply for grades higher and/or lower especially if they have player gains or losses that dictate a need to do so.
- Delete the requirement for a club to submit a Pennant Player Participation List prior to start of season.
  - ❖ This will significantly ease the burden of administration on clubs/zones/state.
- Pennants – Individual Gradings:
  - Clearly explain gradings:
    - ❖ N grading – means a player was in a successful side at Zone/State level and can play NO LOWER THAN THAT GRADING
    - ❖ R grading – means a player has had a regrade application approved and can play NO LOWER THAN THAT GRADING
    - ❖ P grading – means a player who has had an Interstate Pennant Declaration or Interstate Clearance approved and can play NO LOWER THAN THAT GRADE.
      - Any player who has an Interstate Pennant Declaration or Interstate Clearance and does not have a Bowls NSW previous season pennant grading will be given a grading in their declared clubs highest grade.
      - Clubs will have to apply for a regrade if they believe that player is not up to the standard of their club’s highest grade.
      - Players from an Overseas Association will be automatically graded P1. Clubs will need to apply for a regrade if they believe that player is not up to the standard of Grade 1.
- Players with a Nominated (Declared) Club outside NSW:
  - COP to ensure that only 2 players are allowed in a club’s highest grade
  - No restriction on lower grades
- Pennants – Gradings:
  - Increase number of players to be allowed up to 2 grades lower than previous season grading from 4 players to 6 players for both consecutive and non-consecutive grade clubs.
    - ❖ Together with Club gradings this will give clubs more flexibility in selecting sides and ensure that they have enough players to select in allocated grades or apply for higher/lower gradings.
- Application for Variation of Grading (Regrades):
  - New statement to ensure clubs can select players based on gradings that regrades for more than 6 players will not be considered and club must apply for a higher grade.
    - ❖ This will significantly reduce the administrative burden on zones/state with regrade applications.
- Clubs Highest Grade:
  - New statement to ensure that a maximum of 6 players with a previous season grading of more than 2 grades higher than a club’s highest grade are eligible to play.
  - If a club has more than the maximum 6 players allowed, they must apply to be placed in a higher grade.

To view a PDF of proposed 2021 COP, click [here](#).

#### Feedback Submissions:

Bowls NSW invites zones/clubs/individuals to provide further feedback on the proposed 2021 Calendar and COP.

All submissions must be received no later than 5.00pm Friday 25<sup>th</sup> September.

Please send all submissions to pennant@bowlsnsw.com.au

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