



MEMORANDUM

TO: State Umpiring Committee Chairs

CC: NOAG, Tony Sherwill – Chief Operating Officer, Steve Campbell – Education and Training Coordinator, Neil Dalrymple – Chief Executive Officer, STA CEOs, STA Operations Managers

FROM: John Roberts – NOAG Chair

DATE: 6 September 2016

RE: **The use of Personal Electronic and Communication Devices policy**

Please be advised that National Officiating Advisory Group (NAOG) has developed a policy around the use of personal electronic and communication devices to assist and support States and Territories in managing the use of mobile phones and other electronic devices on the greens and surrounds during play.

Background: States and Territories in various forms have addressed the use of mobile phones and other electronic devices in their respective Rules for Competition and Conditions of Play. NOAG has developed this policy to provide a more consistent approach.

Action: NOAG asks that each State and Territories disseminate the personal electronic and communication devices policy to their appropriate bodies so that this policy can be shared amongst all officials, bowlers and Bowling clubs in all States and Territories of Australia.

NOAG notes that because of the fast pace of technological advances and the use of mobile phones and other devices and their applications this policy will be reviewed annually to reflect any necessary adjustment.

This policy will be for use during all Bowls Australia events but can be adopted at any level to assist the relevant controlling body in their decision making.

As from (September 6 2016) this policy will be available on the Bowls Australia website.
Link: <http://bowlsaustralia.com.au/About-BA/Constitution-and-policies>.

1. PRINCIPLE:

- 1.1. Bowls Australia (BA) believes in a fair and equitable competition and will do everything in its power to ensure that all players participate within the Laws of the Sport of bowls.
- 1.2. Bowls Australia provides the following policy for use during all Bowls Australia events. The policy can be adopted at any level to assist the controlling body in their decision making.
- 1.3. The Bowls Australia philosophy is to allow access to our sport to as many participants as possible and ensure an inclusive atmosphere for all involved.

2. Personal Electronic Devices / Communication Devices:

The use of Mobile Phones/MP3Players/iPods/iPads/Pagers/Radios, Communication Devices and/or other similar Sound/Communication Devices on the green and immediate surrounds during play is not permitted.

Should a Player have a legitimate reason (personal emergency or medical or emergency services personnel) to answer a mobile phone they must have permission from the controlling body and notify the Umpire of the day – prior to playing.

In this instance, the phone can be carried on the player but must be on silent/vibrating (only) and responded to on the bank away from play.

If a Player is observed to be using a mobile phone or any sound device as described above on the green the Umpire will warn the Player and advise the Skip, the manager and/or the controlling body.

Please note coaches and others are able to use electronic devices on the banks and surrounds to record relevant data of the players under their management.

If the Player is found to be using a mobile phone or any other sound device as described above on a second occasion the Umpire will immediately suspend the player for the remainder of the day. Should this penalty be applied, no replacement or substitute Player will be allowed for his/her Team.

In a Team game the defaulting Team will forfeit the game to their Opponent.

In a Side game BA Domestic Regulations 2.5.1.1, 2.5.1.2 and 2.5.1.3 will apply.

A replacement player is not permitted for a singles player. BA Domestic Regulation 2.4.6.

Players with a hearing impairment may use communication devices provided they provide a current medical evidence from a doctor stating that the device is required. These devices may only be used when the player's team is in possession of the rink and must not disturb any other players.

Hearing aids are permitted at all times unless otherwise stated in the Conditions of Play.

An umpire may refer to their mobile phone on the green or bank if they are using the Laws of the Sport application that is now available.

- Please note this policy in line with the fast pace of advances and the growing uses of technology and its applications will need reviewed at least annually.

John Roberts

Chair - NOAG