



2020 BPL Cup Competition Manual (including Conditions of Play)

(Version 1 – 9/9/20)

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Format

The BPL Cup was established to bring the format of the highly successful Bowls Premier League event directly to Clubs in the form of a nationwide pathway competition for grass roots player. The competition progresses through Preliminary Rounds, Regional Finals and State/Territory Finals culminating with the National Finals, staged during the Bowls Premier League at Moama Bowling Club in February 2021.

In 2019, there were 690 teams who played at 84 host venues with over 2400 participants.

Dates

Preliminary Rounds are to be played prior to December 6, 2020.

Regional Finals (venues to be determined by Bowls Australia) are to be played prior to January 10, 2021.

State/Territory Finals (venues to be determined by Bowls Australia) will be played prior to January 24, 2021.

Winning teams from State/Territory BPL Cup Finals will be flown to Moama Bowling Club in Moama to play in parallel with BPL12 – played February 21-25, 2021.

Venues

Venues for Regional and State/Territory Finals venues are to be determined by the BPL Cup Committee, in consultation with the Regional Bowls Managers, from the list of venues that have expressed interest.

Finals

The National BPL Cup Finals will be staged in parallel with BPL12 at Moama Bowling Club on February 21-25, 2021. This once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for most bowlers, with the final showcasing all the elements of a BPL match including the use of the electronic scoreboard, ground announcer, and use of the TV show-rink inside the grandstands. Information relating to the Finals will be sent to the eligible teams in advance of the matches being played.

Uniform

Competing clubs teams are required to wear their regular club uniforms in all BPL Cup matches.

These uniforms and their included sponsor brand marks must be in line with the Bowls Australia's Logo Policy.

Umpires

Each match of the BPL Cup will have at least one appointed umpire.

The respective host venues will have the opportunity to allocate an umpire for each round of the BPL Cup. If a host venue is unable to provide an umpire, another Club/Association within the region will have the opportunity to appoint an umpire. If the region is unable to provide an umpire, the Regional Bowls Manager will appoint or act as an umpire.

Venue Results

Host venues are required to submit results to Bowls Australia within two hours of the completion of events. The results must be uploaded via the BPL Cup competition management portal. Instructions for entering results will be emailed to Clubs in the lead up to your event.

Results will be made available via a link at www.bowls.com.au/events/BPL-Cup.

Awards & Prize Money

Winners of each State/Territory BPL Cup final will be provided with airfares and accommodation (where appropriate) to attend the National BPL Cup Finals and a free Jack Attack licence for their Club.

The following awards will be presented at the conclusion of the National BPL Cup Finals.

- Winners medallions (x3) + prize money
- Finalists medallions (x3) + prize money
- Player of the National Final medallion
- Perpetual BPL Cup Trophy

The total value of awards, airfares and accommodation will exceed \$20,000.

Rules and playing conditions

1. General Conditions

- 1.1 The Laws of Bowls (Crystal Mark 3), as adopted by Bowls Australia except as varied hereunder, shall apply.
- 1.2 The BPL Cup Committee shall be responsible for the management and operation of the event. The BPL Cup Committee shall hereafter be known as the Committee.

2. Entry Conditions & Player Eligibility

- 2.1. The BPL Cup is open to all bowlers who are registered as a member of an affiliated club with a State or Territory Association (STA) affiliated to Bowls Australia.
- 2.2. All participating players must be a registered financial member of the club they are representing in the calendar of the competition. If a player changes their Club during the BPL Cup season (i.e. the calendar year), then the player's Club for the purposes of the competition will be the one that they played their first Preliminary Round.
- 2.3. Players can only register to participate in the state or territory that they are affiliated with in the current calendar year.
- 2.4. The BPL Cup is an open gender competition. That is, teams can consist of all male players, all female players or any combination of either gender.
- 2.5. Teams can register a minimum of three and a maximum of four players, but only three players can participate at any one time. Teams can substitute players during matches, following the completion of an end. Teams can also substitute players during the competition, at the completion of matches. All players must be registered via the BPL Cup registration portal (via www.bowls.com.au/events/BPL-Cup) before the preliminary round that they wish to participate in. The registration cost for each team is \$60, regardless of the number of players that comprise the team (with \$10 being returned to the host venue from Bowls Australia following the conclusion of the hosted event).
- 2.6. As this is a Club based competition, all players within each team have to be affiliated with the same Club, except as 2.2 above.
- 2.7. Any player serving a suspension from their club or other related association at the time of a scheduled BPL Cup match for their club is ineligible to participate.
- 2.8. Players participating in the National Final matches must have played at least one match in the previous rounds and must be a registered player of the team.
- 2.9. Details of host venues, dates/times of play can be found on the BPL Cup website www.bowls.com.au/events/BPL-Cup

3. Playing Conditions

- 3.1. The matches will be played in a two bowl triples format. The matches will consist of two sets of five ends with a one end tie-breaker if the sets are evenly split. One optional roll up end per match (for all players registered in a team).
- 3.2. To ensure quick play, there are to be no jack rolls – jacks are to be placed by team that controls the mat. Ideally, there will be two jacks for each rink of play (one jack at each end).
- 3.3. First to play
 - 3.3.1. First set: teams will toss a coin and the winner of the toss can choose whether their team places the mat and jack, and then delivers the first bowl or tells the opposing team to place the mat and jack, and then deliver the first bowl (the opposing player cannot refuse).

- 3.3.2. Second set: the winner of the first set shall place the mat and jack and then deliver the first bowl. If the first set is a draw, the winner of the last scoring end in that set shall place the mat and jack.
- 3.3.3. The first and any further ends of a tie-breaker: teams should toss a coin and the winner of the toss has the options as described in 3.3.1 above.
- 3.3.4. In all ends after the first end of each set, the winner of the previous scoring end shall place the mat, advise the marker the length of jack and then deliver the first bowl. If, however, the first end of the first set is a tied end, the first to play in that end shall also play first in the second end of the first set.
- 3.4. Each team will have one power play each set which will double the shots for their team only for one end. Teams must nominate to use a power play before the commencement of an end for the power play to take effect – the opposing team must be informed of the intention to use a power play before placement of the mat. Both teams can choose to use their power play on the same end. If a team has not utilised their power play before the fifth end of a set, then the fifth end will automatically become that team's power play.
- 3.5. If the jack is killed it will be re-spotted on the two metre mark at the end of the "T"
- 3.6. A skipper is allowed to be at the head while the leads and seconds deliver their bowls
- 3.7. Movement to the head – leads and seconds can only follow their second bowl each end, skippers may follow either bowl – slow play will not be tolerated with an aim to complete each match within 75 minutes.
- 3.8. All rounds, from Preliminary Rounds to National Finals will consist of sectional play.
- 3.9. All matches are to be played in accordance with the relevant BA Policies as referenced on the webpage <http://bowls.com.au/About-BA/Documents/Constitution-Policies>.
- 3.10. The Tournament Committee reserves the right to alter the Conditions of Play for the National Finals if circumstances necessitate alterations.
- 3.11. The minimum number of teams for a Preliminary Round event to be held is four teams. The maximum number for any Preliminary Round is sixteen teams.

4. 4. Determination of Winners

- 4.1. Sectional Winners and Ladder rankings will be determined in the following order:
 - 4.1.1. Firstly, by the highest number of game points (wins) scored – a win is worth three points and there cannot be any draws.
 - 4.1.2. If game points are equal, the team with the highest number of sets won shall be ranked higher – one point per set won and 0.5 points for a drawn set.
 - 4.1.3. If game points, and sets won are equal, the team with the highest net total shots (total shots for less total shots against) over all games in the section shall be ranked higher (shown as score difference on the ladder).
 - 4.1.4. If game points and sets won, and net total shots are equal, shot percentage will be used which will divide a player/teams' total of shots for, by the total of shots against to calculate a shot percentage. The player/team with the highest shot percentage will be ranked higher.
 - 4.1.5. If everything is equal, the head to head game will be used to separate the teams.
 - 4.1.6. The points tables linked from the BPL Cup webpage (under the National Events tab of www.bowls.com.au) should reflect the above ranking order in each case.

5. Qualification Process

- 5.1. For venues hosting Preliminary Rounds, where the number of teams that have entered are between 4-8 teams (inclusive), then one team will progress through to the next stage, most likely a Regional Final. Where the host venue has between 9-16 teams (inclusive), then two teams will progress to the next stage.
- 5.2. The progression path for Regional and State/Territory Finals will be determined by the BPL Cup Committee and communicated to participants before the commencement of each of the Preliminary Rounds.

6. Equipment

- 6.1. Stamps on Bowls
All bowls used during the event must carry a registered World Bowls stamp of either the current year or of a future year. Random checking of bowls may occur prior to the commencement of games. Bowls Australia's bowls testing policy is available on the Bowls Australia web site.

7. Contrived Results

- 7.1. The Committee shall have power to investigate a game or the actions of the clubs or any players involved in a match if it suspects the assistance or collusion of any person or club have colluded to contrive the result of a match. If the Committee decides to carry out an investigation, it will conduct such inquiries as it sees fit and invite submissions about the match or conduct of players and will give any person the opportunity to be heard.
- 7.2. If the Committee finds that clubs or players have colluded to contrive the outcome of a match the Committee may in its absolute discretion do one or more of the following:
 - a) Suspend a club or player from playing in future matches;
 - b) Take any other action that it deems appropriate.

Overview of the roles and responsibilities for BPL Cup events

Preliminary BPL Cup Rounds	
Selection of participating clubs	Clubs can self-nominate via Expression of Interest form
Confirming host venues	Bowls Australia
Selection of event dates/times	Host club (within parameters set by Bowls Aust.)
Team Registration Portal	Bowls Australia
Promotion of date for participants	Host club & date featured on Bowls Aust. website
Umpire(s)	Host club
Player equipment	Players
Catering*	Host club
Submitting scores from events	Host club
Event details/results on BA website	Bowls Australia
Regional & State BPL Cup Finals	
Selection of participating clubs	Bowls Australia (BPL Cup Committee)
Confirming finals dates & times	Bowls Australia (with host club)
Umpire(s)/ITO	Host club
Player equipment	Players
Catering	Host club
Submitting scores from events	Host club
Event details/results on BA website	Bowls Australia

National BPL Cup Finals	
Confirming match date & venue	Bowls Australia
Umpires/ITOs	Bowls Australia
Match Referee	Bowls Australia
Equipment	Bowls Australia
Player equipment	Players
MC	Bowls Australia
Player of the match award	Awarded by the Umpires/ITOs/Markers
Event details/results on BA website	Bowls Australia
Promotion	Bowls Australia
Photographer	Bowls Australia
Awards and prize money	Bowls Australia

* Catering is not compulsory, however if Clubs wish to provide catering, that is at the cost of the Club. Bowls Australia will not pay for any catering at Clubs for rounds or finals.