

# MEMO

TO: Metropolitan Member Clubs  
FROM: MBA Match & Program Committee  
DATE: Tuesday 29th August 2023  
SUBJECT: Season 2023-2024 Pennant Conditions of Play

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## Club Secretaries

The MBA is pleased to release the Conditions of Play for Season 2023/2024. Two versions are available, a standard A4 version and a version suitable to be printed as an A5 booklet. They will also be available soon on the MBA website [here](#).

## 2023/2024 Conditions of Play

For this season, there has been a significant change to pre-game procedures for all Divisions, changes to the Saturday Premier League Calendar and game length, the removal of “replays” for the Thursday competition, plus a few other relatively minor changes as listed rule by rule later in this Circular.

We took the opportunity to do some further re organising of the placement of some rules, added a few extra sentences to the Conditions of Play to act as references regarding bowlers “playing with permission” (i.e., a game permit) and re wrote some clauses, as well as including some new rules relating to Saturday Premier League Rounds played different times to other Divisions.

## A Summary of changes

1. Changes to **pre-game procedures** (practice/ card draw/ trial ends/ game start times), with appropriate adjustment to mid-game break and game finish times.
2. **Opposite Gender** (eligibility reference for Rounds 1 to 3/ Finals series).  
**Opposite Gender** restrictions (now generally Saturday Division 6).
3. **Thursday** competition. No resumed games.  
**Thursday Premier League**. No mid game break.
4. **Finals selection** (consecutive sides restriction/ one game played/ removal of permit player position restriction).
5. **Saturday Premier League** – games now 21 ends; ends to be played not reduced for early start; some programmed Friday/Sunday games, so selection management will be needed; resumed games take precedence over scheduled Friday games; opportunities for promotion/guest players.
6. **Game permit players** need to be declared at the draw of cards/ carry permit.
7. **BowlsLink management** of substitute player names.
8. Consideration for **Minor Premiers** in the promotion process.
9. **Sides will be numbered** to indicate their ranking within a club.
10. **Side Coach** declaration.
11. **Carer** support

**A list of amendments and additions to the Conditions of Play are on the last page.**

### **Saturday Premier League**

Our Saturday Premier League clubs have all expressed an interest in promoting Premier League bowls games at different times to the rest of the competition so that members and visitors alike can come along and view some of our Premier League bowlers in action, with opportunities to include “guest” players.

Some amendments to the Conditions of Play have been included specifically to accommodate some games for the Saturday Premier League that will be played on Friday nights and some that will be played on a Sunday.

### **Club Officials (Umpire of the Day, Side Manager)**

Version 4 of the “Laws of the Sport of Bowls” is now current. There are also several changes to the Conditions of Play that are relevant to the duties of officials.

Club administrators are encouraged to organise a meeting for their club officials prior to the start of the Pennant season to review the relevant sections of the Conditions of Play and Laws of the Sport.

If there are any questions or further clarification required, please contact MBA Match & Program committee ([MBAmatchcommittee@metrobowls.com.au](mailto:MBAmatchcommittee@metrobowls.com.au))



**Steve Franks**

**On behalf of the MBA Match & Program Committee**

## **The following lists the changes from season 2022/2023 (2023/24 numbers)**

### **Section 1**

Rule 1.8 Additional sentence clarifying “constitution” of a player (based on scorecard)

### **Section 2**

2.4 / 4.5 Sides will all have a ranking numeral added to their name to indicate their ranking within the club (and their relative capability where the club has two or more sides within a Division).

2.5.5 Match & Program committee has discretion in the placement of a Combined side into a Division.

### **Section 3**

3.2.3 Side managers will identify bowlers playing with a permit and those bowlers should have supporting documentation available, if requested.

3.3 Opposite Gender Player eligibility for Rounds 1-3 can be based on recent games from the preceding season.

3.3.2 Opposite Gender Player eligibility based on Saturday Division(s) played has been amended (now Division 6 level or below unless Division 5 is lowest ranked side).

3.4.1 Temporary players need Umpire approval.

3.4.3 A reference to Bowls SA player registration rules for unregistered players.

3.5 Clarification of playing positions to be used for incomplete teams.

3.8.2 Re-wording of player eligibility (Rounds 15 to 18) for improved clarity.

3.9.2.1 Re-wording of player eligibility (Finals series) for clarity, & amendments – [OG Player clause removed; one game played stipulation added; selection into consecutive sides in pairs of sides only;].

3.9.4 Player position restriction for permit players (Finals series) removed.

3.10 Saturday Premier League player management rules re added (games played at different times to other Divisions).

### **Section 4**

4.2.1 Saturday Premier League now play 21 ends for scheduled games.

4.2.2 Saturday Premier League play towards 21 ends for “early start” games.

### **Section 5**

5.1 Most game start times altered (15 minutes earlier).

5.3 Most practice start times altered (15 minutes later).

5.3.4 Organised pre-game practice restricted to rink of play.

5.4 No pre-game trial ends (roll-up). Games started by bell or p/a announcement.

5.6 Emphasis on “play without delay”.

5.7 Most mid-game break times altered. No mid-game break for Thursday Premier League.

5.9/ 5.10 Moved from Section 10 last season.

5.10.1 Saturday Premier League – completing unstarted/unfinished games take precedence over scheduled Friday night games

5.10.2 No “replays” for Thursday competition.

### **Section 6**

6.2.1 Cards will be drawn by 30 minutes before game start times.

### **Section 7**

7.6.8 Clarification regarding managing player changes in BowlsLink e.g., a substitute is introduced (retain original player name).

### **Section 12**

12.2 / 12.3 Losing Grand Final sides who were Minor Premiers have promotion priority in certain circumstances.

### **Section 15**

15.9 Side coach must be identified prior to the start of a game.

15.15 Procedures for a carer supporting a bowler.