

# MEMO

TO: Metropolitan Member Clubs  
FROM: MBA Match & Program Committee  
DATE: Tuesday 9 September 2025  
SUBJECT: Season 2025-2026 Pennant Conditions of Play

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## Club Secretaries 2025/2026 Conditions of Play

The MBA is pleased to release the Pennant Conditions of Play for Season 2025/2026. Two versions are available: an A4 version and a version suitable to be printed as an A5 booklet. The Conditions of Play will also be available on the MBA website [here](#).

**It is a requirement that copies of the Conditions of Play are provided to your Umpires and for a copy to be placed in with the Umpires equipment at your club.**

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.

### A Summary of major changes

- Restrictions have been included into **pre-game practice**.
- Thursday games will begin play **at 10.30am**.
- Saturday Divisions 1 & 2 will play **without a mid-game break**.
- Saturday Divisions 6 & 7 will play **18 ends**.
- The reference Bureau forecast for cancellation of games (extreme heat) now includes the 4.30pm forecast on the day preceding the game

A detailed list of amendments to the Conditions of Play are on the next page. **Note the change of text to the item on Rule 5.3 Pre Game Practice.**

### Note:

1. The Division structure of the Thursday Pennant competition has been changed. Details will be published separately.
2. Play in Wednesday Pennants – Rounds 11 – 14 due to be played on the 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> January 2026, will commence at 10.30am. (i.e., those 4 Rounds will adopt the same timings as the Thursday competition for practice, scorecard draw, trial ends; but with a mid-game break at mid-day).

This is a trial run, based on the high number of responses to the Bowls SA survey indicating the preference for an earlier match start time on Wednesdays.

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 2024/2025 (season 2025/26 numbers)**

Introductory material has been moved to an expanded Introduction page.

“Premier League” as a title has been replaced by “Premier Division” throughout the Conditions of Play.

The Division structure for the Thursday competition has been simplified. Refer separate memo for details.

### **Rule 3.1.3 Playing for another club**

This Rule has been amended to conform with Bowls SA changes to Permits.

### **Rule 3.4.2 Opposite Gender Players**

There is a slight restriction added to Opposite Gender player eligibility where a club has 2 or more sides in Division 5 on a Saturday.

### **Rule 4.3 Ends Played**

Saturday Division 6 & 7 will play 18 ends. There is a consequential change to the number of ends completed to finalise a Saturday Division 6 or 7 game affected by extreme weather.

### **Rule 5.1 Start Times**

Commencement of play in Thursday competition games has been changed to 10.30am (With corresponding alteration to associated times such as Draw for scorecards etc.)

#### **Rule 5.1.1 Changing Starting Time/Date**

The procedure for nominating games to be considered for deferral due to player absence representing SA or Australia has been amended, making clubs responsible for initiating the process.

### **Rule 5.3 Pre Game Practice.**

Access to greens for pre-game practice has been restricted or removed.

- For games played under “normal” circumstances, greens will not be available for practice until 1 hour before the start of play i.e., 12 noon for 1pm start of play (refer Rule 1.6). Players must be made aware that once the Draw for rinks has been completed, practice bowls must end & trial ends commence.
- Practice will not be allowed before Early Start games.
- Practice will not be allowed before moved/re-started games.
- Practice may not be available due to unavoidable delays in starting games.

**Play in all games including restarted games will be preceded by two trial ends.**

### **Rule 5.7 Mid-Game Break**

Saturday Division 1 & 2 games will be played without a mid-game break.

### **Rule 6.2.2 The Draw**

To enable promotion of the game, designated live streamed games may have the Draw for opposition teams performed “early”.

### **Section 9 Extreme Weather (Heat)**

The reference Bureau forecast for cancellation of games due to an unexpected rise in forecast maximum temperature has been amended to include the 4.30pm forecast on the day preceding the game.

### **Rule 10.2 Finals Arrangements**

A Finals game can be considered completed before all required ends have been played if the outcome has been agreed by both sides.

### **Rule 10.3 Finals Venues**

If the regular host venue for Elimination Finals (Minor Premier) has insufficient rink capacity, the venue of the 3<sup>rd</sup> place club from the highest ranked Division will be used instead wherever possible.

### **Rule 10.4 Finals Officials**

Clubs hosting Finals that require more Umpires should initially approach nearby clubs for assistance.

### **Rule 12.3 Saturday Promotion**

Promotion criteria for Division 5 have been amended to manage different numbers of Sections.

### **Rule 15.2 Death (at a venue)**

The Rule has been amended to reflect other rules for abandoned games.

### **15.5 Unacceptable Behaviour**

The Rule has been amended to reflect the current version of Bowls Australia’s Instantaneous Penalties Policy.