

MEMO

TO: Metropolitan Member Clubs
FROM: MBA Match & Program Committee
DATE: Friday 18 September 2026
SUBJECT: Season 2026-2027 Pennant Conditions of Play

Club Secretaries

2026/2027 Conditions of Play

Season 2026/2027 Pennant Conditions of Play will be released today. Two versions will be available, an A4 version and a version suitable to be printed as an A5 booklet.

The Conditions of Play will also be available soon on the MBA website [here](#).

This memo contains a summary of significant changes to the Conditions of Play, and a list of changes by Rule number (on page 2).

Some items have been added this season in anticipation of the greater use of "BowlsLink" features in the future. Further information will come later. Clubs are reminded that the procedures described in Section 7 are the currently accepted methods of recording player names and game results on to scorecards and then into BowlsLink. Persons involved in using BowlsLink should not attempt to use features such as the "shuffle" button or "Live" scoring without appropriate training and only with the agreement of the opposition.

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

- Saturday Premier League is now managed by Bowls SA. Rules relating to Saturday Premier Division have been removed, and some changes to player eligibility rules have been made to incorporate games played in the Saturday Premier League.
- There is no "catchup / complete" provision for part-played or unplayed games (i.e., no "replays").
- Thursday games will revert to begin play at 10.00am.
- Saturday Divisions 1 & 2 will continue to play without a mid-game break.
- Thursday Division 2 will be 5 Sections, to ensure clubs get "all home/ all away". All Division 2 Grand Final winners will be promoted if eligible.
- Both mid-week Pennant competitions will have Finals one week earlier than in the published MBA Calendar. This will be accommodated by resuming Pennant bowls on Wednesday 6 January 2027

Note: Bowls SA initiated trials last season.

- Divisions that trialled "no mid game break" will continue
- Divisions that trialled 18 end games will revert to 21 ends
- All Wednesday games will start at the normal time

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



Steve Franks

On behalf of the MBA Match & Program Committee

The following lists the changes from season 2025/2026 (season 2026/27 numbers)

Rule 3.8 Player eligibility Rounds 15 to 18

Additional text to incorporate games played in Saturday Premier League

Rule 3.9 Player eligibility Finals

Removal of “must have played one game” clause.

Additional text to incorporate games played in Saturday Premier League.

Rule 5.1 Start Times

Commencement of play in Thursday competition games has reverted to 10.00am (with corresponding alteration to associated times such as Draw for scorecards etc.).

Rule 5.5 Player position changes

Extra text has been added to cover circumstances where a replacement player is necessary after scorecards have been done but prior to the start of play.

Rule 5.10 Incomplete or non-started games will not be continued.

Rule 7.2 Scorecards and BowlsLink Live Scoring App

Added text to prepare for future use of more BowlsLink technologies.

Rule 7.7.7 Forfeit – not a bottom ranked side

That side and all sides ranked below will be fined/lose points.

Rule 8.4 Lightning

This has been re written to comply with Bowl SA policy.

Rule 12.2.4 Extraordinary promotions

Text has been added to clarify the procedure where extraordinary vacancies in Divisions must be filled.

12.5 Promotions & Demotions – Thursday

Text has been added to clarify the promotion/demotion between Division 1 & Division 2.

Rule 15.3 Mobile phones

Added text in case of (future) adoption of live scoring.

Rule 15.14 Music

Text to allow background music.

Flowcharts

Several flowcharts have been amended.