

POLICY TITLE: AFFILIATION, ELIGIBILITY TO PLAY AND PLAYER CLEARANCE POLICY
POLICY CLASS: GENERAL



POLICY:

Bowls Australia is officially recognised by the world governing body World Bowls, the 'Australian Sports Commission' and the 'Australian Commonwealth Games Association' as the national sporting organisation for lawn bowls in Australia.

BA's charter includes the regulation, conduct, presentation, development and administration of the sport at national level.

The structure of bowling in Australia is such that:-

- States and territory associations are recognised as a member state and as such are members of BA. Each member state is to conduct and administer bowls in its particular state or territory.
- Clubs are able to affiliate with their Member State, or district/zone depending on the STA, and through their affiliation with the Member State they are recognised by BA.
- Affiliated players are the bowlers who join an affiliated club and pay an annual affiliation fee to the club, which includes a fee to its member state, BA and sometimes includes a fee to World Bowls.

AFFILIATION BENEFITS:

Benefits accruing to affiliated bowlers include the following: -

- Use of the laws of the sport of bowls for all forms of competition.
- Ability to enter competitions including social, club, district, state, national and international all year round in affiliated clubs, in other states and overseas.
- National standards for the conduct of the sport, including technical, competitions, coaching, umpiring standards.
- Access to services, resources and policies including laws of the sport, technical, competition conditions, coaching and officiating training and accreditation, legal, professional advice and representation services, which includes lobbying for facilities and grants.
- Ability to attend meetings, seminars, forums, events or functions organised by BA.
- Eligible to represent your club, state or Australia as grass roots/club or team player in national tournament activities.
- Eligible to represent Australia as an elite player in national teams, squads, promotional activities or publications.

- Education and accreditation of coaches and officials, recognised by BA and the ASC.
- Eligible to be endorsed to receive individual and club funding grants available at local, state or federal government levels.
- Receive regular information, bulletins and communications on wide range of issues affecting the operation and well being of bowls in Australia.
- Access to the whole of sport IT communication system and a MyBowls account.
- Television coverage of bowls as screened on ABC TV and Fox Sports.
- Have the protection and opportunities that flow from being part of a national organisation that is well respected by government, other sports organizations and business sectors.
- Access to state/territory based development staff, funded through the national merchandise program.

AFFILIATION REQUIREMENTS – INDIVIDUAL PLAYERS

While it is recognised that it is essential that new players are encouraged to take up the sport of bowls, beginners or introductory players should *be limited to a maximum of six (6) introductory sessions or visits to any club or playing facility.*

No beginner or introductory player is permitted to play in any type of competition including social events until they are financial affiliated members of a club or association with BA membership.

All social and recreational players must be financial affiliated members of an affiliated club or association of BA.

All individual players are required to pay an annual affiliation fee that is to be collected by the affiliated club (which includes an affiliation fee to be passed onto World Bowls, BA and the Member State).

AFFILIATION REQUIREMENTS AND ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA – CLUBS OR PLAYING VENUES

The affiliated club or association must: -

- Be an incorporated body or duly constituted legal entity under the relevant State/territory associations Incorporations Act.
- Have and maintain insurance policies including public liability and professional indemnity insurance.
- Comply with responsibilities as required under the BA Constitution, its policies, regulations, and by-laws.
- Ensure that all players are financial affiliated players with playing rights.

- Collect and forward affiliation fees and any other fee that may be prescribed from time to time by BA in conjunction with member states on all members with playing rights.
- Collect and forward statistical data as may be required.

In respect to the land on which its club is situated the club should have: -

Freehold ownership; or

- Leasehold tenure conferring access rights or: -
- A license or contract to use the venue, which confers rights to the club and its members for regularly reoccurring and clearly defined periods.
- A licence of sufficient permanence to provide regular access for play, competition and benefits of membership.

For the right to play at the club or association and to enjoy the facilities and benefits of the club, all players should pay to the club an annual subscription (which includes their state/territory and national levies).

PAYMENT OF AFFILIATION FEES:

Affiliation fees are determined by the BA council and are due by October 31 of each year or by instalments on October 31 and February 28 of each year.

AFFILIATION FEE POLICY:

All players regardless of the number of times they play the sport on a weekly, monthly or yearly basis must be fully financial (affiliation fees paid for club, state/territory and national) and registered with an affiliated club.

All affiliated clubs have the ability to determine playing category memberships for all players in their club.

All players must be financial at all times. It is the responsibility of the club to collect the affiliation fees which include state/territory, national and World Bowls capitation fees from each player and forward the these fees to the state/territory office by the specified date.

Member States/Territories must ensure that payment of fees for all affiliated players with playing rights in the affiliated clubs in their state/territory must be submitted to BA by the specified date.

AFFILIATION OF CLUBS (TRANSFER OF):

- Bowling clubs should be affiliated with a state or territory association.
- No application for affiliation with a state or territories association should be accepted from a club outside a state or territory's boundary unless the state or territory in whose boundary the club is situated approves.
- No application from a club to transfer from one state or territory association to another should be accepted unless the state or territory association with which it is affiliated approves it.

REGISTRATION OF PLAYERS and DUAL REGISTRATIONS:

- All players within Australia should be registered with at least one state or territory association.
- A player may be a member of more than one affiliated club, but must nominate one club (nominated club) in one state or territory as being the club with which the player identifies for the purposes of playing state championship or other championship events (not including pennant or open events) conducted by a state or territory association or Bowls Australia (championship events).
- A player shall only be eligible to represent the state or territory association with which that player's nominated club is affiliated with.

PENNANT PLAY

- A player may play pennants in more than one state or territory association; however the player must be registered with each state or territory association in which they play.
- An interstate clearance is not required for players to play pennant in another state or territory association, unless that player wishes to change their nominated club.
- A state or territory association may require a declaration form prior to any player being registered for pennants.*

* The interstate pennant declaration form can be sourced from your state/territory association

INTERSTATE CLEARANCES:

- Any player wishing to change their nominated club to a club affiliated with a different state or territory association must obtain an Interstate Clearance by completing the relevant form before he or she is eligible to play in any championship event at the new club.**
- A state or territory association should not unreasonably withhold a clearance sought by a player.
- Any dispute arising under member transfer will be determined in accordance with the grievance procedure set out in the constitution.

** The interstate clearance form can be sourced from your state/territory association

INTERCLUB CLEARANCES (INTRASTATE):

- Clearances and transfers between two Clubs within a State or Territory Association for the purpose of Championship events and/or Pennant shall be under the jurisdiction of individual State and Territory Association Conditions of Play.

CONCURRENT EVENTS:

If a player qualifies for more than one event under the control of the same controlling body and is instructed to play in one event, the player should not be penalised for failing to attend any other event which is set down to be played at the same time.

Where a player is scheduled to play in a championship event being conducted by a controlling body and is not able to do so because of selection to play in or officiate at an international or interstate event scheduled to be played at the same time, or to take part in a selection trial for such an event, reasonable time being allowed for travel:

- the championship event should be re-scheduled, or
- if the event cannot be rescheduled, then the player should decide which event to contest.

PREGNANCY:

The individual member should consider their own health implications with regard to participating and competing in the sport of lawn bowls.

GENDER IDENTITY:

Any clarification required on gender identity will be heard on a case by case basis and shall in the first instance be referred to the controlling body of the relevant event.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Any questions or queries regarding affiliation with Bowls Australia should be directed to:

Chief executive officer
Bowls Australia
PO Box 52
NORTHCOTE VIC, 3070
admin@bowlsaustralia.com.au
Ph: (03) 9480 7100
Fax: (03) 9495 0194

RELATED POLICIES: Nil

RESPONSIBLE OFFICERS:

- **Chief executive officer**

AUTHORITY:

- **Bowls Australia board**

REVIEW DATE: TBC