

CONDITIONS OF PLAY

Australian Open

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Controlling body: Bowls Australia Ltd.

Event: 2024 Australian Open

Dates: Saturday, June 8 – Friday, June 21, 2024

Venue: Appointed clubs across the Gold Coast, Queensland

1. ENTRY CONDITIONS

1.1. Affiliation

Open to all bowlers who are registered as a member of an affiliated club with a:

- 1.1.1 State or Territory Association (STA) affiliated to Bowls Australia;
- 1.1.2 National Bowling Authority that is a member of World Bowls.

1.2. Eligibility

1.2.1 As a condition of entry, all competitors must:

1.2.1.1 Not be currently under disqualification or suspension by their STA or their National Authority;

1.2.1.2 Comply with all applicable 'Laws of the Sport of Bowls and Domestic Regulations for Australia, Crystal Mark 4th Edition, April 2023, including Bowls Australia Policies.

1.2.2 Competitors nominating for events in the 'Bowlers with a Disability' discipline, must be deemed eligible to play in that event by the appropriate disability governing body. For International bowlers, their appropriate disability governing body in line with Law 41 (Laws of the sport). Australian bowlers must fall in line with the conditions in the points listed below.

1.2.2.1 *Vision Impaired Singles & Pairs:* All players based in Australia must carry a national classification with ABBA or IBD. International players must carry a classification with IBD or IBBA. If asked by the organising body athletes must provide the appropriate medical evidence to BA prior to the event.

- 1.2.2.2 Players will have a Director with them on the green and will be entitled to use a monocular at any time when not on the mat. Numbers marking distance from 21m to 35m in 2m increments will be positioned along the rink boundary.
- 1.2.2.1 Mixed Disability Singles & Pairs: All players with a physical disability must have at least a current national classification from International Bowls for the Disabled (IBD). A International classification opportunity will be organised the day before the event.
- 1.2.2.2 Players with an intellectual disability based in Australia must be deemed eligible by Sport Inclusion Australia, while international players must be deemed eligible by Virtus.
- 1.2.2.3 Players who have a hearing impairment must be deemed eligible by Deaf Sport Australia or provide suitable medical evidence.
- 1.2.2.4 Player/s requiring wheelchair assistance must provide their own assistant.
- 1.2.2.5 If requested or recommended, players with an intellectual disability can have an on green assistant.
- 1.2.3 Competitors entering an Under- 18 event must be under 18 years of age on **June 8, 2024.**
- 1.2.4 Competitors entering an Over -60's event must be 60 years of age or older on **June 8, 2024.**
- 1.2.5 Players within teams **do not** have to be affiliated with the same club.
- 1.2.6 Players may enter multiple disciplines with consideration for the exceptions outlined in section 1.2.7. The Controlling Body will endeavour to avoid events clashing, but if this is unavoidable players will have to choose which match they wish to play in.
- 1.2.6.1 Players in Pairs or Fours events which clash may apply for a substitute or replacement player, who must conform to all clauses listed under Section 3;
- 1.2.6.2 Should a substitute or replacement player not be found or is not approved by the Controlling Body, the other match in the clash will be forfeited by the player/team.
- 1.2.6.3 A player/team who forfeits a match because of events clashing, retains the right to play in any subsequent fixtures that remain within a given event, and remains eligible to proceed through their section into knockout rounds.
- 1.2.6.4 Players with a disability must choose between Open pairs, or Disability Pairs - they cannot play in both events. In addition, players cannot submit an entry for more than one of the following events, as these events will be run concurrently.
- 1.2.6.5 Open Men's Pairs;
- 1.2.6.6 Over - 60's Men's Pairs;
- 1.2.6.7 Open Women's Pairs;
- 1.2.6.8 Over - 60's Women's Pairs.

- 1.2.7 The Controlling Body may choose to waive section 1.2.6 if deemed appropriate to the structure of an event schedule (for example, to fill withdrawals within a given event), but only **after** the completion of Open Men’s and Open Women’s Pairs
- 1.2.8 Competitors entering disciplines classified as ‘Bowlers with a Disability’ and ‘Under - 18’, may enter other disciplines they are eligible for, however should note that section 1.2.6 may apply if these disciplines clash.

1.3. Entry Process

- 1.3.1 All entries made online will require the full payment of the entry fee for that event, as well as the fulfilment of all the requirements of the Conditions of Play.
- 1.3.2 Entries submitted through manual forms will be treated as confirmed only following the receipt of the forms by BA, the processing of entry fees and of the entry form itself. Manual entries should not be deemed as confirmed unless written confirmation (via email or letter) has been received from BA. All manual form entries incur an additional processing fee on top of the entry fee.
- 1.3.3 All fields marked mandatory on entry forms **must** be filled out correctly, with direct contact details for each competitor provided. The Controlling Body retains the right to reject or delay the confirmation of an entry with any outstanding mandatory information.
- 1.3.4 No entries will be permitted following the close of entries date unless approved by the Controlling Body. Entries received after the close of entries date may be considered on a first come first served basis if a player who has nominated for the event withdraws from the competition before being constituted.

1.4. Withdrawals

- 1.4.1 All entries for an event may be withdrawn up until the advertised close of entries date. Competitors who withdraw an entry prior to the advertised close of entry date will be entitled to a refund of their entry fee.
- 1.4.2 Competitors who withdraw after the official close of entry date **will not** be entitled to receive a refund of entry fees.
- 1.4.3 All withdrawals must be submitted in writing to the Controlling Body. The Controlling Body may implement an official withdrawal process at their discretion.

2. EVENT STRUCTURE

2.1. Event Structure

| <u>Open</u> | <u>Under - 18</u> | <u>Over - 60's</u> |
|---|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Men’s Singles ▪ Women’s Singles ▪ Men’s Pairs ▪ Women’s Pairs ▪ Men’s Fours | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Boys’ Singles ▪ Girls’ Singles | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Men’s Pairs ▪ Women’s Pairs |

| | | |
|--|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Women's Fours | | |
| <u>Bowlers with a Disability</u> | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Vision Impaired Singles – Open ▪ Mixed Disability Singles – Men ▪ Multi Disability Pairs – Open Gender | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mixed Disability Singles – Women ▪ Vision Impaired Pairs – Open Gender | |

2.2. Minimum Entry Numbers

2.2.1 All events must receive a minimum of **eight** entries to proceed. Events receiving less than **eight** entries will not be played, and the allocated prize money will not be distributed. Competitors who have nominated for an event, which has been cancelled will be entitled to a refund of their entry fees. In the case of a lack of entries in certain events, the Controlling Body may combine events at their discretion to achieve an event with the minimum size.

2.3. Event Schedule

2.3.1 A proposed event schedule has been published on the Australian Open section of the Bowls Australia website, and the Controlling Body will endeavour to utilise these parameters for the final event schedule as much as possible.

2.3.2 The final event schedule will be confirmed and published no less than **21 days** prior to the start of the event.

2.3.3 The Controlling Body reserves the right to amend the proposed event schedule due to entry numbers, available greens and any other relevant factors.

2.3.4 If a change to the proposed schedule is to occur, the commencement date of a specific event will be moved to **later** in the schedule rather than earlier wherever possible, in order to minimise disruptions to inbound travel for competitors.

2.3.5 The Controlling Body, in case of extreme weather and unforeseen incidents, can extend the length of the tournament if required.

2.4. Competition Format

The format of play for each event will be Sectional Play followed by Knockout Rounds.

2.5. Sectional Play

2.5.1 Game points will be awarded as outlined in section 6 and section rankings as determined as outlined in section 7.

2.5.2 Where possible, the number of player/teams in each Section will be **four**, with each player/team playing each of the other players/teams in their section once. However, the Controlling Body reserves the right to amend this number for any reason, including but not limited to schedule constraints, green availability or inclement weather.

2.5.3 All sectional winners will automatically proceed through to Knockout Rounds.

2.6. Next Best Qualifiers (NBQs)

- 2.6.1 Where there are less sections than the number of positions in the knockout draw, the vacant positions in the first round will be filled by the next best ranked players/teams (“Next Best Qualifiers” or “NBQs”) from all sections within an event as described in section 7.2.
- 2.6.2 The number of Next Best Qualifier positions is determined by subtracting the number of sections in an event from the next-highest perfect knockout number.
- 2.6.3 Disciplines with over 256 Sections will not have any next best qualifiers.
- 2.6.4 The Controlling Body reserves the right to amend or withdraw this stipulation subject to entry numbers and scheduling.

2.7. Knockout Rounds

- 2.7.1 All qualifiers from Sectional Play as per section 2.5 and 2.6 will proceed through to Knockout Rounds.
- 2.7.2 NBQs can play against other NBQs in Knockout rounds as the draw is completed randomly.

2.8. Match Format

- 2.8.1 The Format of Play will be:
 - 2.8.1.1 *Singles*: Four bowls of a set per player, 21 shots up (shots in excess of 21 will not count).
 - 2.8.1.2 *Pairs*: Three bowls of a set, per player, 18 ends.
 - 2.8.1.3 *Fours*: Two bowls of a set, per player, 15 ends.
 - 2.8.1.4 All Disability events apart from Singles, will be 15 ends in length.

2.9. Time Limits

- 2.9.1 All events have a time limit of **two-and-a-quarter hours** (not including trial ends). This time limit will apply to all sectional matches and knockout rounds prior to the Quarter Finals.
 - 2.9.1.1 The Quarter Finals, Semi Finals and Finals in all disciplines apart from Open Singles, Open Pairs and Open Fours will have a time limit of **three hours** (not including trial ends).
 - 2.9.1.2 The Quarter Finals, Semi Finals and Finals in Open Singles, Open Pairs and Open Fours will **not be subject to a time limit**.
- 2.9.2 Any player/team arriving after the official start time for an event shall lose the right to play trial ends. Any player/team arriving at the green more than 15 minutes after the official starting time for an event shall forfeit the game and the points for that game (during Sectional Play) or not progress through to the next round (in Knockout Play). This determination will be made by the Tournament Director on the recommendation by the umpire in control of the match.

2.10. Respotting of the jack

- 2.10.1 If a jack in motion passes completely outside the boundaries of the rink of play, comes to rest in any hollow in the face of the bank, or rebounds to a distance of less than 18 metres from the mat line, the end must not be declared dead. Instead, the jack must be placed with the nearest point of the jack to the mat line at a spot on the rink, which is two metres from the front ditch and on the centre line, and play should continue.
- 2.10.2 If the spot mentioned in section 2.10.1 is partly or completely covered by a bowl, the jack must be placed as close as possible to the covered spot, between and in line with that spot and the corresponding spot at the opposite end of the rink, without touching a bowl.
- 2.10.3 The spot mentioned in 2.10.1 must be marked using spray chalk or some other suitable method.

2.11. Procedure for applying time limits

- 2.11.1 Two Trial Ends: An announcement will be made over the venue's public address (PA) system (or equivalent) for the commencement of trial ends 15 minutes before the scheduled match start time.
- 2.11.2 One Trial End – An announcement will be made over the venue's public address (PA) system (or equivalent) for the commencement of trial ends 8 minutes before the scheduled match start time.
- 2.11.3 Start of Play: Play will commence with the sound of a horn or bell or an announcement signalling the start time over the venue's PA system. Those who finish trial ends early must wait for one of the above before commencing their match.
- 2.11.4 End of Play: When the time limit is reached a horn, bell or an announcement will be made over the venue's PA system. If an end is in progress when the time-limit is reached, that end must be completed. The start of an end is determined by the delivery of the jack by the first player to play in that end.
- 2.11.5 An announcement will be made over the venue's public address (PA) system (or equivalent) 10 minutes prior to the expiry of the time limit.
- 2.11.6 Should a venue be unable to use their PA system for any reason, all matches in play should be made aware of the announcements in sections 2.11.1, 2.11.2 and 2.11.3 by the best available method as soon as practically possible.

2.12. Incomplete Matches

- 2.12.1 Should a match not be completed, as per the Format of Play stipulated under sections 2.8 and 2.9, then the score stands as at the completion of the end in play provided *at least 15 ends have been completed in Singles, 10 ends in Pairs and 8 ends in Fours*, with the below clauses:

- 2.12.1.1 *Sectional matches*: If scores are equal when the time limit is reached or when the required number of ends has been reached, the match shall be declared a tie, with game points awarded as per section 6.1;
- 2.12.1.2 *Knockout matches*: If the scores are equal at the completion of the end being played when the time limit is reached or when the required number of ends has been played, one additional end (or additional ends if required) will be played to determine a winner (as per Law 28).
- 2.12.2 A match that has begun but not been completed for any reason (excluding a forfeit), including but not limited to decisions by the Controlling Body to abandon or cut short matches due to inclement weather, shall be deemed “no result” (as per section 6) if less than 15 ends in Singles, 10 ends in Pairs and 8 ends in Fours have been completed.

2.13. Alterations to the format and length of games

- 2.13.1 The Controlling Body reserves the right to alter the format, times of play, greens and venues to suit local unforeseen circumstances, giving as much notice as practicable. The preferred method of contact in these circumstances will be via email.
- 2.13.2 Where an event is interrupted or cannot be completed due to inclement weather or other unsuitable conditions, the Controlling Body may alter any of the conditions of its programme if it decides it is essential to successfully carry out or finish the Championship. (Law 55.3.4)
- 2.13.3 Games shall proceed under artificial lights, if necessary, to achieve a result. The Controlling Body will determine the number of ends required to complete a game depending on the conditions.

2.14. Trial ends

- 2.14.1 **Two** trial ends are permitted:
- 2.14.1.1 before the starting time of the first game of each day or;
- 2.14.1.2 before continuing an unfinished game on another day;
- 2.14.2 Matches subsequent to the first match of the day in a given event are permitted **one** trial end before the starting time of each game.
- 2.14.3 The Controlling Body reserves the right to amend the number of trial ends played in the case of unforeseen circumstances (as per law 5.1.2, Laws of the Sport of Bowls).

2.15. Practice

- 2.15.1 As per Law 4, Laws of the Sport of Bowls.

3. COMPOSITION OF TEAMS AND ENTRIES

3.1. Nominated Players

- 3.1.1 If approved by the Controlling Body (BA), the players nominated to form a team entered in the competition may be changed before their first round. (DR 2.2.1).

- 3.1.2 Players can only nominate once for each event.
- 3.1.3 Nominated players playing positions can be amended at any time up until the constitution of players. All amendments to nominated players positions must be made as determined by the Controlling Body.
- 3.1.4 All nominated players must conform to all Conditions of Play.
- 3.1.5 Any player withdrawn before the first round shall be regarded as not having entered the competition and can act as a substitute or replacement player in that competition DR 2.2.2.
- 3.1.6 Constituted Players may change positions within a team prior to the start of any subsequent game within an event. Scorecards must be amended to reflect any change in playing positions.

3.2. Replacement or Substitute Players (DR 2.4, 2.5)

- 3.2.1 With the approval of the Controlling Body substitutes in the first round and subsequent rounds and replacement players in rounds after the first round will only be permitted if a player is physically incapable or otherwise prevented from playing.
- 3.2.2 Approval for substitutes or replacement players must be sought from the Tournament Director or their nominee before they play in a match. This player must not have already played and been constituted in the event.
- 3.2.3 Only the players who complete the final match of an event will be eligible for prize money, medals or trophies. Only players who are recorded on Bowlslink and constituted within that particular team before the round they were defeated in, are eligible for prize money.

4. RESTRICTING THE MOVEMENT OF PLAYERS DURING PLAY

Prior to the start of each end, the following players will take their position at the mat-end of the green:

- *Pairs*: the leads
- *Fours*: the leads, seconds and the thirds.

On changeovers, the skips (in pairs and fours) will move to the mat end together.

After delivering their first bowl, players will only be allowed to walk up to the head under the following circumstances:

4.1. Singles

- 4.1.1 *The opponents*: after delivery of their third and fourth bowls.

4.2. Pairs

- 4.2.1 *The leads*: after the delivery of their third bowl;
- 4.2.2 *The skips*: after the delivery of their second and third bowls.

4.3. Fours

- 4.3.1 *The leads and seconds*: after the third player in their team has delivered their second bowl;
- 4.3.2 *The third*: after the delivery of their second bowl;
- 4.3.3 *The skip*: after the delivery of each of their bowls.

4.4. Exceptional Circumstances

In exceptional and limited circumstances, a singles player can ask the marker for permission to walk up to the head, or a skip can ask that a player walks up to the head earlier than described above. If a player does not meet the terms of this law, Law 13 will apply.

5. DELAYING PLAY

If the umpire, either by their own observation or on appeal from one of the skips or the opponent in singles, decides that a player is deliberately delaying play:

- 5.1.1 On the first occasion, the umpire will warn the player.
- 5.1.2 If the player commits the same offence a second time, the end will be regarded as complete and the opponents of the offender will score as many shots as there are bowls in use by such opponent.
- 5.1.3 If the player offends a third time, the game will be forfeited to the opponent.
 - 5.1.3.1 In this case, the opponent/team receiving the win by forfeit will receive the shot allocation listed under section 6.1.3 or the score at the time of the forfeit, whichever shot margin is greater.

6. SCORING

6.1. Sectional Play

Game points will be awarded during sectional play, as follows:

- 6.1.1 Three points for a win;
- 6.1.2 One point for a draw or no result;
- 6.1.3 Three points, and the following shot allocation for each discipline, for a win by forfeit and a bye in a section (based on average sectional scores from past Australian Open events).
 - 6.1.3.1 *Singles*: 21 shots for, 12 shots against (shot margin of plus 9)
 - 6.1.3.2 *Pairs*: 17 shots for, 10 shots against (shot margin of plus 7)
 - 6.1.3.3 *Fours*: 18 shots for, 10 shots against (shot margin of plus 8)
- 6.1.4 No points, and the following shot allocation for each event, for a loss by forfeit (based on average sectional scores from past Australian Open events):
 - 6.1.4.1 *Singles*: 12 shots for, 21 shots against (shot margin of minus 9)
 - 6.1.4.2 *Pairs*: 10 shots for, 17 shots against (shot margin of minus 7)
 - 6.1.4.3 *Fours*: 10 shots for, 18 shots against (shot margin of minus 8)

Should a player or team forfeit a match that has begun and in which, less than 15 ends in Singles, 10 ends in Pairs and 8 ends in Fours have been completed. The player/team receiving the win by forfeit will receive the shot allocation listed under section 6.1.3 or the score at the time of the forfeit, whichever shot margin is greater.

6.1.5 Players / teams receiving a forfeit in Sectional play, where less than 15 ends in Singles, 10 ends in Pairs and 8 ends in Fours have been completed shall incur the shot allocations under 6.1.3 and 6.1.4.

6.1.6 Final scorecards must be checked and signed by the players responsible for keeping the card (under Domestic Regulation 3.2) or the Marker in Singles, and the umpire in charge of that match prior to submission to the tournament office.

6.1.6.1 Errors in the processing of a result of any scorecard that has been signed by the participating players/teams **will not** be amended due to the impact on other results and sectional qualifiers. **All signed scorecards will be taken as final.** Exceptions will only be made if the players concerned can prove to the Tournament Director that a genuine error has occurred.

6.1.7 The Jury of Appeal may, at its discretion, apply a further penalty on any player/team that forfeits a match for any unsubstantiated reason; penalties may include but are not limited to loss of competition points, exclusion from other Australian Open events, withholding of prize money, exclusion from future Bowls Australia events or monetary penalties (fines).

6.1.8 Any player/team that forfeits a match and subsequently progresses through to a Knockout Round will be reviewed by the Jury of Appeal and may face penalties described in Section 6.1.7.

6.2. Knockout Rounds

Games points are not allocated to knockout matches as the winner automatically progresses to the next round in accordance with Law 28.

7. DETERMINATION OF WINNERS

7.1. Sectional Winners

Section winners and rankings will be decided as follows:

7.1.1 Highest number of **game points** scored will be ranked higher;

7.1.2 If game points are equal, the player/team with **the highest net total shots** over all games in the section (shots for minus shots against) will be ranked higher;

7.1.3 If game points and net total shots are equal, the Controlling Body 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;

7.1.4 If game points, net total shots and shots percentage are all equal, the player/team who **won the game** between the players or teams that are equal within their section will be ranked higher.

7.1.5 If game points, net total shots and shots percentage are all equal and the players/teams who are tied played a draw or recorded no result in their match, they will be ranked as follows:

7.1.5.1 by the **most ends won** for Pairs and Fours;

7.1.5.2 by the **least ends lost** in Singles.

7.1.6 If players/teams remain equal after using all ranking methods described in sections 7.1.1 through 7.1.5, the ranking of the teams will be determined by a Jury of Appeal.

7.2. Next Best Qualifier Rankings

In events where Next Best Qualifiers (section 2.6) are in use, all players/teams from all sections and who are **not** section winners will be ranked as follows:

7.2.1 Highest number of **game points** scored;

7.2.2 If game points are equal, they will be ranked by the **highest net total shots** (shots for minus shots against);

7.2.3 If game points and net total shots are equal, then the total shots for each player/team, will be divided by the total shots against to calculate a **shots percentage**. The player/team with the highest shots percentage will be ranked higher (law 27.4).

7.2.4 If the game points, net total shots and shots percentage are equal, then the players/teams will be ranked as follows:

7.2.4.1 by the **most ends won** for Pairs and Fours;

7.2.4.2 by the **least ends lost** in Singles.

7.2.5 If game points, net total shots, shots percentage and the methods described under 7.2.4 are all equal, the ranking of the players/teams will be determined by a Jury of Appeal.

7.3. Qualifiers into the Knockout rounds

7.3.1 Qualifiers into the knockout rounds will be made up of all sectional winners and, if applicable, the number of next best players/teams to complete the number of knockout spots, as ranked under section 7.2.

7.4. Player of the Tournament

7.4.1 At the conclusion of the tournament, a 'Player of the Tournament' will be announced. The winner of this category will be the player that accrues the most BA Player Rankings points across all events, and can be either a male or a female. Only open events will be factored into this award (rankings points are only allocated towards open events).

7.4.2 Should two or more players finish as equal winners, all will be named as joint 'Players of the Tournament' and the prize money allocated will be split evenly amongst all winners.

8. ATTIRE AND FOOTWEAR

As per the 'Laws of the Sport including Domestic Regulation 5, as well as all Bowls Australia policies.

8.1. Footwear

Footwear must adhere to Appendix A.2 and Domestic Regulation 5.2, and must be approved for use by Bowls Australia as listed on the Bowls Australia website [Footwear - Bowls Australia](#).

8.2. Attire

Any bowler registered with a State or Territory Association that is affiliated with Bowls Australia must adhere to the BA Logo Policy. This policy is available on the Bowls Australia web site [BA-Policy National-Merchandise-Program-NMP-Logo May2018-1.pdf \(bowls.com.au\)](#). Competitors must adhere to Appendix A.3 and Domestic Regulation 5.3.

8.3. International Bowlers

International bowlers must wear either the uniform of their national team or of a club affiliated with their Member Nation or adhere to conditions stipulated under section 8.2. If none of these conditions is satisfied, the player/team must apply to the Controlling Body for permission to wear a specific uniform. In regards to footwear, international bowlers must comply with section 8.1.

8.4. Transgressions

Failure to adhere to the Attire and Footwear conditions mentioned above will result in the offending player being given a verbal warning by the Tournament Director, Event Manager or their nominee, which will be recorded for the remainder of the event. The offending player will then be given until the starting time of their subsequent game to comply with the BA Logo Policy. Failure to comply with this deadline will result in the offending player being disqualified and the game forfeited to their opponent.

8.5. Television Uniform and Equipment

It is compulsory for players to wear the uniforms supplied by Bowls Australia for any matches which may be broadcast. Players will be required to wear small microphones during the TV finals, and may be asked to wear an earpiece for communication with commentators. **There will be no exceptions to these requirements.**

9. EQUIPMENT

9.1. Stamps on Bowls

All bowls used during this event do not need to carry the World Bowls number stamp of either the current or future year, however bowls used during the competition still need to carry a World Bowls stamp.

9.2. Marking Touchers

Spray chalk will be used to mark touchers in all Singles games and is the preferred method for marking touchers in all team games.

9.3. Bowls Stickers (Stick on markings)

9.3.1 Bowls stickers will be allowed in lead up games provided all bowls within that team have identical stickers (Law 52.1.8.4).

- 9.3.2 If opposing teams or singles players have the same design or colour of stickers, the singles player or players in the team listed second in the draw must remove their stickers (Law 52.1.8.5).
- 9.3.3 Players must use any bowls stickers supplied by the Controlling Body if requested, including during the latter rounds of the event and for television matches.
- 9.3.4 Any bowls stickers that are used on bowls must not obscure the serial number or the World Bowls Stamp (Law 52.1.8.3).
- 9.3.5 Officials or the Controlling Body have the right to instruct players to remove, replace or apply alternate bowls stickers due to discolouration, damage, inappropriate placement or colour clashes.

9.4 Changing Bowls

9.4.1 A player can change their set of bowls if the game has been moved between a vegetation surface and a synthetic or indoor surface. **Law 29.3.1.2**

10. PROHIBITIONS

10.1. Anti-Doping

Bowls Australia's [Australian National Anti-Doping Policy | Sport Integrity Australia](#) shall apply.

Sport Integrity Australia (SIA) officials may carry out prohibited substance testing at the event. Any player identified by SIA officials must undergo testing as requested.

10.2. Smoking and Alcohol

Bowls Australia's [Smoke Free and Alcohol Policy](#) will be enforced during all days of the event.

10.3. Match-Fixing

Bowls Australia's [Bowls Australia Competition Manipulation and Sport Wagering Policy](#) shall apply throughout the event. All of those directly involved with the event, including but not limited to players, officials and event staff, must comply with this policy, which can be found on the Bowls Australia website.

11. JURY OF APPEAL

A jury of appeal shall be appointed for the purpose of deciding upon any matters not provided in the Conditions of Play, for dealing with any appeals from decisions made by umpires and/or event staff or volunteers, and generally for the purpose of exercising overall authority on behalf of Bowls Australia.

Any appeal against a decision made by an official relating to a Law, Domestic Regulation or a Condition of Play may be referred to the ITO appointed to that host club and/or the Tournament Director in the first instance before being referred to the Jury of Appeal.

In the event of an appeal during the playing of an event, such appeals shall be made in accordance with the Laws of the Sport of Bowls, and shall be directed to a Jury of Appeal which shall consist of:

- BA President or their nominee;
- BA CEO or their nominee;
- Tournament Director or their nominee;
- Event Manager or nominee.

12. PRIZE MONEY

12.1. Prize Money Breakdown

Prize money will be distributed across all events of the Australian Open. Distribution of the prize money will be made as per the breakdown listed on the Bowls Australia and/or event web site, and is based on the percentage of entrants in each discipline from the previous year's event.

12.2. Distribution

12.2.1 All prize money won at the event will be distributed directly to each recipient (as opposed to each team) as per the breakdown. For clarity, each player within a pairs team will receive half of the total prize money allocated for that placing, and each player within a fours team will receive a quarter of the total prize money allocated for that placing.

12.2.2 All prize money will be distributed via EFT following the event, and each recipient of prize money must complete the appropriate paperwork before the payment is approved. No prize money will be given out at the event. Players will be required to provide banking details for this payment.

12.2.3 All prize money distributions will be subject to any and all applicable legislation or charges regarding tax, exchange rate and other charges, including regulations for non-Australian residents for tax purposes.

12.2.4 Bowls Australia will endeavour to pay out all prize money within **one month** of the conclusion of the event, although participants should be aware that this may vary in certain circumstances.

12.2.5 All prize monies not claimed within 12 months of the final day of competition of this event will be donated to the Bowls Australia Disaster Relief fund.

12.2.6 Bowls Australia reserves the right to adjust the prize money schedule if the number of entries received for 2024 don't meet and/or exceed expectations. Any changes to the prize money will be communicated to the public and on the Australian Open website once a review of the entries takes place in April, 2024

13. OTHER LAWS, REGULATIONS AND POLICIES

13.1. Broadcast, Film/Video, Live- streaming and Photography

- 13.1.1 Bowls Australia (BA) reserves the right to commission, take and/or use any broadcast, film/video photographs or live-stream material taken during this event for further promotional purposes. Private individuals cannot live stream any Australian Open matches without permission from the BA Communications and Marketing Manager (or their nominee). Select matches at the event may be live streamed or broadcast through Bowls Australia's chosen communications channel at the discretion of the Controlling Body.
- 13.1.2 Upon entering the Australia Open parents and/or guardians have the right to advise BA that consent has not been given to broadcast, film/video, live-stream or photograph their child, only if this child is under the age of 18.
- 13.1.3 By entering the Australian Open all participants over the age of 18 have automatically given consent for themselves to be broadcast, filmed/videoed, live-streamed or photographed by Bowls Australia.

13.2. Laws of the Sport of Bowls

All other Laws, Regulations & Policies other than stated above shall conform to the Laws of the Sport of Bowls and Domestic Regulations for Australia, Crystal Mark 4th Edition, as published in April 2023 (Revised May 2023).

13.3. Mobile Devices

The use of personal electronic and communication devices will not be used during a match except with the expressed permission of the Controlling Body as per the [Bowls Australia Personal Electronic Devices Policy](#).

13.4. Other policies

All Bowls Australia policies will be enforced during this event. To access these, visit the BA website: <https://www.bowls.com.au/about-ba/key-documents/constitution-and-policies/>

14. CONTACT INFORMATION

For any event enquiries, please contact Bowls Australia's events team on the contact details below:

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- **Email:** pholtschke@bowls.com.au;
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Events and Competition Manager- Andrew Howie

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