



2026 AUSTRALIAN SIDES CHAMPIONSHIPS

CONDITIONS OF PLAY

2026 Australian Senior Sides Championships

Updated: August, 2026

Distributed by: Bowls Australia

Controlling body: Bowls Australia Ltd.

Event: 2026 Australian Senior Sides Championships

Dates: Saturday, 10th October – Tuesday, 13th October, 2026

Venue: Osborne Park Bowling Club, Western Australia

1. ENTRY CONDITIONS

1.1. Eligibility

As a condition of entry to compete in this event, all competitors must:

- 1.1.1 Not be currently under disqualification or suspension by their STA or their national authority.
- 1.1.2 Satisfy the eligibility criteria of their member state/territory association (STA).
- 1.1.3 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.
- 1.1.4 Be registered as a member of an affiliated club with a State or Territory Association (STA) that is affiliated to Bowls Australia.
- 1.1.5 Be 60 years of age or above as of the first day of the event (October 10, 2026).
- 1.1.6 Be eligible for Australian selection as per World Bowls’ regulations – section 9 and Bowls Australia’s National Team Selection Policy- section 3.2. A player who has represented a country other than Australia in a World Bowls-sanctioned international event in twenty-four months prior to the first day of the event is not eligible to compete.
- 1.1.7 Furthermore, due to unforeseeable reasons if no international events have been played in the past twenty- four months a player will be ineligible to play if they have represented another country in World Bowls sanctioned event twenty-four months prior to the last held Australia Sides Championships.

1.2. Side Selection

- 1.2.1 State or Territory Associations will select the below delegation to attend the Australian Senior Sides Championships from their affiliated members, giving a total of 24 players, two accredited coaches and two team officials per STA. All players and coaches must comply with section 1.1.
 - 1.2.1.1 12 male players, 1 coach and 1 team manager;
 - 1.2.1.2 12 female players 1 coach and 1 team manager;
- 1.2.2 All coaches at the event must hold a valid coaching accreditation with Bowls Australia under the NCAG accreditation system.

2. EVENT STRUCTURE

2.1. Side Composition

- 2.1.1 The event shall be played annually between sides from each State and Territory Association.
- 2.1.2 Each side shall consist of three teams, each of four players making a total of 12 players per gender. A maximum of two reserves may be nominated.
- 2.1.3 Competitor's names must be nominated to Bowls Australia by way of uploading to Bowlslink by Monday, August 17 2026.
- 2.1.4** Team combinations must be nominated to Bowls Australia by way of uploading to Bowlslink by Monday, September 14 2026.
- 2.1.5 The order of play within each rink may be altered prior to the commencement of the event; any changes to the order of play must be noted on the relevant scorecard.
- 2.1.6 The composition of each rink **may not** be amended following the submission of teams by a STA without the approval of the Controlling Body. For clarity, players must compete within the same team of four for the duration of the competition.
 - 2.1.6.1 If a player or players are substituted under Section 3, they must only return to play with their original rink.

2.2. Match Format

Each match shall be 21 ends for each team. Players must play singly and in turn two of a set of bowls.

Alterations to the format and length of games

- 2.2.1 The Controlling Body reserves the right to alter the format, times of play and greens to suit local unforeseen circumstances, giving as much notice as practical.
- 2.2.2 Where a program is interrupted or cannot be completed due to inclement weather or local conditions, the Jury of Appeal may amend the format and length of games to achieve a result or postpone the event where an outcome cannot be achieved.
- 2.2.3 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 should be declared dead and thus the end in play at that time will be replayed.
- 2.2.4 The game shall proceed under artificial lights, if necessary, to achieve a result. The controlling body will nominate the number of ends to be played by each rink depending on the conditions.

2.3. Trial Ends

2.3.1 One trial end in each direction will be allowed for all games in accordance with Law 5.1. In trial ends players can use any combination of bowls taken from different sets so long as all bowls carry a registered World Bowls stamp of either the current year or a future year.

2.4. Arrangement for practice

2.4.1 Teams will be permitted to practice at the host clubs on the day of the commencement of the event. BA will distribute a practice schedule prior to the event commencing, and any organised test matches shall be included in this schedule. No other practice times are permitted on the host club greens.

2.4.2 STA's must advise BA of any scheduled matches against other STA's on the practice day as soon as possible to ensure this is accommodated within the practice schedule.

2.4.3 Pre-series games may be arranged at alternate venues by the host State/Territory Association on request.

3. SUBSTITUTES

3.1 If a substitute is required during the course of a match the substitute shall be chosen from the reserves of that side or, if no reserves, the side manager or other nominee may act as a substitute with approval of the Tournament Director or Jury of Appeal.

3.2 Any and all substitutes must comply with all eligibility criteria for the event under sections 1 and 2, and under Domestic Regulation 2.4 (Crystal Mark 4th Edition, April 2023)

4. RESTRICTING THE MOVEMENT OF PLAYERS DURING PLAY

4.1. Starting Positions

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

- 4.1.1.1 *Leads*: after the second player in their team has delivered their second bowl;
- 4.1.1.2 *Seconds*: after the delivery of their second bowl;
- 4.1.1.3 *Third*: after the delivery of their second bowl;
- 4.1.1.4 *Skip*: after the delivery of each of their bowls.

4.1.2 At the start of each end the third may stand at the head with the skip until it is the third's turn to play. The lead and the second must always begin the end at the mat end.

4.2. Exceptional Circumstances

In exceptional and limited circumstances, 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 the opposing skips, decides that a player is deliberately delaying the delivery of their bowl or a skip is acting or issuing instructions designed to delay play they will proceed as follows:

- 5.1 On the first occasion, the umpire will warn the player in the presence of the skip and advise both the coach and the team manager that the player has received a warning.
- 5.1. If the same player or another member of the same team 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.
- 5.2. If the same player or another member of the same team offends a third time the game will be forfeited to the opponent.

6. SCORING

6.1. Side scoring

At the completion of each round, the total number of shots for each side will be the sum of shots across all teams within one side. The winning side for a round will be determined by the side with the highest number of shots and will be awarded **three** side points. In the event of a draw each side shall be awarded **one** side point.

6.2. Rink scoring

Each winning rink will be awarded **one** rink team point. In the event of a draw each rink team will be awarded **0.5** points.

6.3. Competitor/Electronic Scoring

- 6.3.1 The 2026 Australian Senior Sides Championships will be scored through the BowlsLink scoring application, no scorecards will be used for this event.
- 6.3.2 The seconds from each team are responsible for maintaining the electronic scorecard through the Bowlslink scoring application.
- 6.3.3 The seconds from each team will ensure that the names and playing positions of all players from both teams are listed correctly.
- 6.3.4 At the completion of the end, ensure the scores are entered correctly and at the same time as your opposing second. If scores are entered incorrectly an error message will appear;
- 6.3.5 At the completion of the match, ensure scores are correct before finalising the match.

- 6.3.6 Bowls Australia will offer training to all seconds in each team to ensure they understand how to use the scoring application.
- 6.3.7 Bowls Australia will have staff on hand to answer any questions that may arise and ensure players are comfortable operating the application.
- 6.3.8 The Event Manager may decide due to technical difficulties, if games need to revert back to using a hard copy scorecard.
- 6.3.9 In any instance where the second of a team is unable to perform this role, a request must be made to the controlling body prior to the event commencing with details of why the assigned scorer cannot perform the function, and provide the controlling body with the details of the proposed replacement scorer. The replacement must be a member of the same team and ideally a lead or second at the same end of the green as the opposition scorer. The controlling body has full discretion to decide if the request is accepted.
- 6.3.10 Failure to adhere to competitor scoring requirements will result in the following penalties taking place;

For the first offence, a warning should be given to the offender in the presence of the skip. The coach/team manager should also be advised of this warning.

This warning should apply to all members of the offender's team or side.

For a second offence, an instantaneous penalty should be applied. The skip and coach/team manager should be advised that the end shall be immediately regarded as completed and the opponent of the offender shall be awarded as many shots as there are bowls in use by the opponent in a singles game, or opposing team in a team game, or opposing team in a side game.

The skip and coach/team manager should also be advised that any further offence by the same offender, or a similar offence by any other player playing in the same team or side, the player shall be excluded from taking any further part in that game and no replacement or substitute player will be allowed for his/her team.

In a team game the defaulting team will forfeit the game to their opponent.

In a side game BA Domestic Regulations 2.6 will apply.

6.4 Manual Scorecards

In the advent of the Event manager declaring games shall be scored on manual, hard copy scorecards the following is applicable;

- 6.4.1 The team managers for each side will be responsible for collecting the scorecards for each of their teams from the tournament office.

6.4.2 The seconds from each team are responsible for maintaining the scorecards and should:

6.4.2.1 Ensure that the names and playing positions of all players from both teams are listed correctly;

6.4.2.2 At the completion of the match, ensure the scores are entered correctly under the “Result” section of the scorecard;

6.4.2.3 Ensure that their scorecard is signed by the opposition’s second, an umpire and themselves;

6.4.2.4 Submit their completed scorecard to their team manager.

6.4.3 Following the conclusion of each match, the Team Manager from the winning team will be responsible for submitting the completed scorecards for both competing teams to the tournament office. For clarity, six scorecards must be submitted for each match.

6.4 Forfeits and no results

In the event of a forfeit or no result, the Jury of Appeal will meet to determine an appropriate rink point and shot allocation between both sides involved in the match.

7. DETERMINATION OF WINNERS

The Australian Senior Sides Championships has two award components: ‘State vs State’ awards and ‘Top Skipped Rink’ award.

7.1. State vs. State awards

7.1.1 The ‘Men’s Championship Trophy’ will be awarded to the men’s side scoring the highest number of side points.

7.1.2 The ‘Women’s Championship Trophy’ will be awarded to the women’s side scoring the highest number of side points.

7.1.3 If side points are equal for any of the trophies under 7.1.1, and 7.1.2, sides will be ranked as follows:

7.1.3.1 If side points are equal, the side with the highest number of rink points shall be ranked higher:

7.1.3.2 If side and rink points are equal, the side with the highest net total of shots (shots for minus shots against) shall be ranked higher:

7.1.3.3 If side and rinks points and the highest net total shots are equal, the total shots for will be divided by the total shots against for each side to determine percentage. The side with the highest percentage shall be ranked higher (Law 27.4).

7.1.3.4 If side points, rink points, net total shots and shots percentage are all equal, the side which won the game between the sides that are equal.

7.2. Best Performed Rink

- 7.2.1 Each rink will be awarded one rink point for every game they win. In the event of a draw, the rink team will be awarded 0.5 points. One male and one female rink team will be awarded the 'Best Performed Rink award at the conclusion of the event for scoring the highest number of rink points.
- 7.2.2 In the event of a draw on rink points, the rink with the highest net total of shots (shots for minus shots against) for all matches will be the winner.
- 7.2.3 In the event of a tie on rink points and net total of shots, all tied rinks will be awarded the best performed rink.

8. PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

- 8.1. A perpetual 'Men's Championship Trophy' (men) and 'Women's Championship Trophy' (women) shall be presented to a representative of the winning State/Territory Authority at the conclusion of the event and that State/Territory Authority shall hold the shield until the next championships.
- 8.2. Each member of the winning side (12 players plus one team manager and one coach) for the 'Men's Championship Trophy' (men) and 'Women's Championship Trophy' (women) shall be awarded a gold medal. Runners-up will be awarded a silver medal.
- 8.3. Medals and trophies will be presented to all members of the side who played in the round seven match.
- 8.4. Best performed Men's and Women's rink will be awarded a gold medal.

9. ATTIRE

- 9.1. All playing attire must comply with the [BA NMP logo policy](#).
- 9.2. Footwear must adhere to Domestic Regulation 5.2, and must be approved for use by Bowls Australia. This policy is available on the Bowls Australia web site which can be found [here](#).
- 9.3. All players will wear any form of sponsorship material that is supplied by the sponsors of the event.
- 9.4. No player will wear any other form of sponsorship material unless it forms part of the official STA uniform.
- 9.5. Players shall wear their playing uniform at the opening and closing ceremonies.

10. EQUIPMENT

10.1. Stamp on Bowls

All bowls used during the event must carry a registered World Bowls stamp of either the current year or of a future year. Random checking of bowls may occur prior to the

commencement of games. Bowls Australia's bowls testing policy is available on the Bowls Australia website. Players requiring bowls testing shall be liable for the cost of the test.

10.2. Marking Touchers

In all Bowls Australia events, as per the Laws of the Sport, (Crystal Mark 4th Edition, April 2023), only chalk can be used to mark touchers. Spray chalk is the preferred method of marking at Bowls Australia's events.

10.3. Bowls Stickers (Stick on Markings)

Players must use bowls discs supplied by their STA, and these discs must be used on all bowls used for play during the event.

10.3.1 Any bowls stickers that are used on bowls must not obscure the Serial Number or the World Bowls stamp (Law 52.1.8.3).

10.3.2 Officials have the right to instruct players to replace bowls discs due to discolouration, damage or inappropriate placement.

11. National Integrity

Bowls Australia adopted Sports Integrity Australia's (SIA) National Integrity Framework which takes a proactive approach to mitigate integrity threats to sports and provide a safe, fair, and healthy environment for participants at all levels of Bowls. The National Integrity Framework is a set of rules that all members of our sport need to follow when it comes to their behaviour and conduct in Bowls. As a member of Bowls Australia, all participants agree to abide by all by-laws and policies as adopted by Bowls Australia including the National Integrity Framework Policies.

They can be found on our website.

[National Integrity Framework - Bowls Australia.](#)
[Constitution and Policies - Bowls Australia](#)

11.1. Smoking

Bowls Australia's Smoke Free Policy will be enforced during all days of the event, inclusive of the official practice day. Bowls Australia's smoking policy can be found [here](#).

11.2. Alcohol

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

The consumption of alcohol by players, coaches, official support staff or team managers is strictly prohibited during play. Please note that the [instantaneous penalty policy](#) will be enforced for breaches of this alcohol policy.

For the first offence, a warning should be given to the offender in the presence of the skip. The coach/team manager should also be advised of this warning.

- This warning should apply to all members of the offender's team or side.

For a second offence, an instantaneous penalty should be applied. The skip and coach/team manager should be advised that the end shall be immediately regarded as completed and the opponent of the offender shall be awarded as many shots as there are bowls in use by the opponent in a singles game, or opposing team in a team game, or opposing team in a side game.

The skip and coach/team manager should also be advised that any further offence by the same offender, or a similar offence by any other player playing in the same team or side, the player shall be excluded from taking any further part in that game and no replacement or substitute player will be allowed for his/her team.

- In a team game the defaulting team will forfeit the game to their opponent.
- In a side game BA Domestic Regulations 2.6 will apply.

11.3. Match-Fixing

Bowls Australia's [Match Fixing 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.

11.4 Anti-Doping

Bowls Australia's [National Integrity Framework](#) shall apply throughout the event.

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.

11.5 Integrity Education Requirements

For Bowls Australia to comply with the National Integrity Framework, it is a requirement that all Players must complete the relevant Integrity Education Courses.

12. JURY OF APPEAL

12.1 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.

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

12.3 In the event of an appeal during the playing of the 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 nominee;
- BA CEO or nominee;
- Tournament Director or nominee;
- Events & Competition Manager or nominee.

12.4 It is noted that, if any of the above members is directly involved in the matter, they shall not sit as a member of the Jury of Appeal and an appropriately skilled nominee be appointed instead.

13. OTHER LAWS, REGULATIONS AND POLICIES

13.1. Photography

Bowls Australia reserves the right to use any photographs taken during this event for further promotional requirements.

13.2. BA Policies

All Bowls Australia policies will be enforced during this event. To access these, visit the BA website: <http://bowlsaustralia.com.au/About-BA/Documents/Constitution-Policies>.

14. CONTACT INFORMATION

For any event enquiries, please contact Bowls Australia Events and Competition Manager, Troy directly:

- Troy Corba, Events and Competition Manager
- **Email:** tcorba@bowls.com.au
- **Phone:** 0418 134 292

Where the matter is urgent, and Troy is uncontactable please contact:

- Andrew Howie, General Manager - Bowls Operations
- **Email:** ahowie@bowls.com.au
- **Phone:** 0409 498 786