



Season Review 2019-2020



*See attached letter and supporting documentation for further information.

Interclub

Hubs – Tawa, Petone Central Member, Euan Wong

Playing interclub at hubs to minimise travel with 8 teams (2 hubs) or 10 teams (3 hubs) divisions.

Review Committee Recommendation

Interclub be played at hubs with 8 teams from 2021-22 season. If divisions of 10 teams remain, hubs not used. See attached proposals.

Reasoning

Although Double Headers have been successful in creating more room in the calendar for club events and reduced the number of days people need to commit, it does involve travelling during the day. Playing at hubs minimises travel and could create a greater atmosphere at a club. Clubs can then look at hosting initiatives (raffles, catering, entertainment etc) as they have certainty about people staying all day. For the proposal about how hubs would look, please refer to the supporting document. Hubs will only work if there are 8 teams in a division. It is impossible to split 10 teams over three hubs without multiple single header games, travel or extending the season.

8 team divisions – Euan Wong

Interclub be divisions of 8. This season 3 sides from Premier to be relegated to Division 1 for season 2020-21. 5 teams to then go down from Division 1 to Division 2.

Review Committee Recommendation

Move to 8-team interclub divisions for 2021-2022 and play in hubs. The three bottom ranked sides of Premier this coming season will join the winner of Division 1 in a playoff to determine who plays Premier the following season. The bottom 4 of Division 1 move to Division 2 and so forth. See attached for more details of how this could work.

Reasoning

All games within a division can be played at two hubs minimising travel and improving the overall game day experience. It would also improve the competitiveness of each division as teams will generally be of closer playing ability.

Interclub format change - Robbie Bennett

Proposal

Change the format of Wellington Interclub to mirror Bowls NZ National Interclub. Ie. Singles 21 shots, Pairs 18 ends, Fours 15 ends.

- Playing a different format unnecessarily disadvantages Wellington clubs in the nationals.

Review Committee Recommendations

Singles, Pairs and Fours be changed from 25 shots, 21 and 18 ends to 21 shots, 18 and 15 ends respectively. Time limits to be amended to 2 hours 45 minutes to also mirror Bowls NZ Conditions of Play.

Reasoning

With the winner of the Bowls Wellington Interclub Premier division going on to the Bowls NZ Interclub, it is important that the same format is used and our pathway is aligned. Using this format will also mean slightly shorter games, increasing the chances of ensuring they are completed should inclement weather or traffic become an issue, particularly in the case of double headers.

Change bonus point - Euan Wong

Change bonus point to be a win by 10 points or more rather than 11 points.

- 11 points is too large a difference.

Review Committee Recommendations

If Interclub shots/ends changes to mirror Bowls NZ Interclub, bonus points be awarded for wins of 10 shots or more.

Reasoning

With shorter games, 11+ becomes significantly more difficult to achieve. 10+ is a simple and coherent number.

Double headers - Plimmerton

Proposal

Interclub rounds 1-7 be single headers with only one double header accommodating round 8 and 9.

- Club Champs and events can be played on Saturday afternoons

Review Committee Recommendation

Double Headers to remain in the programme

Reasoning

Clubs recently voted at the conclusion of last season that Interclub move to double headers. The purpose was, among other things, to provide clubs with more time to schedule club events, which it has done by freeing up more weekends. Having only changed to double headers last season, there has not been enough time to 'bed in' and strongly recommend not flip flopping back again at this stage.

Cancellations - Tawa

Bowls Wellington make blanket cancellations in case of weather

- Difficult for Interclub co-ordinators to organise. Requires lots of calls on Friday and Saturday.

Review Committee Recommendations

Clubs to continue to govern their own green closures but Bowls Wellington look to establish a central point (perhaps via the website?) where clubs can post their green closures to assist coordinators.

Reasoning

This has been discussed previously and clubs were in favour of retaining the power over their own green cancellations. The weather in Wellington city and Eastern Suburbs is often very different from that in the Hutt Valley or the northern suburbs. Making a blanket decision across the entire region often creates issues and requires presumptions based on, often, conflicting weather reports.

It doesn't account for the differences in micro-climates nor changing weather throughout the day and the variations in greens ability to drain or cope with water.

Ultimately, clubs are in the best position to assess their localised weather and green condition. Doing so means opportunities to play are maximised, reducing the need for reserve days and future disruption to the schedule.

There is a precedent in this approach with Local Councils (Porirua, Wellington, Upper Hutt, Lower Hutt) deciding whether or not their respective sports fields are open for the use of football, cricket and rugby competitions. Cricket Wellington, as an example, very rarely cancel Men's Premier Cricket instead relying on the two teams to assess the conditions once they arrive at a ground. College Sport Wellington is another example of an organisation which does not blanket cancel competitions, instead relying on each individual school to assess their local weather and make a judgement on their grounds.

Pennants

21 ends - Silverstream

Hutt Valley Pennants revert to 21 ends with Wellington using 18 ends.

- HV teams don't have the traffic concerns of Wellington teams

Review Committee Recommendations

No change to Men's Pennants –18 ends for both Wellington and Hutt Valley zones.

Reasoning

While acknowledging travel to be less of an issue for some Hutt Valley teams than it is for Wellington teams, having Hutt Valley teams play 21 ends and Wellington teams play 18 ends, unnecessarily complicates the competition.

Keeping the games at 18 ends, not only provides important consistency for the competition, including when the Hutt Valley and Wellington teams meet in the final, it also makes it more accessible for those older members with physical limitations.

2 games per day – Petone Central Member

Men's Pennants play 2 games per day.

- Women play 2 games

Review Committee Recommendation

Men's Pennants to remain at 1 game per day

Reasoning

Men's Pennants should remain at one game per day as the general feedback is that it currently works well. Games commencing in the afternoon also gives clubs and coordinators time to assess the weather and avoid early morning traffic.

2-4-2 Format – Brent Slater

2-4-2 be introduced to Men's Pennants either as 4 x 2-4-2 Pairs or 1 x Four + 2 x 2-4-2 Pairs.

- 2-4-2 is a better format, especially for new players.

Review Committee Recommendation

A 2-4-2 Pairs (16 ends) and 3-Bowl Pairs (21 ends) be introduced to Men's Pennants in 'Division 4'. Other divisions to remain as 8s (2 x fours)

Reasoning

The introduction of 2-4-2 Pairs in Division 4 (currently this is the 1 x four division) provides a greater playing experience and can be argued to be a more enriching and engaging format. However, many players currently enjoy playing as part of an 8 so this provides an opportunity for both and will hopefully encourage more new players to be involved in an 'Interclub' competition. A similar format is currently used in Saturday Interclub with 2-4-2 and 3 bowl pairs 'quad' divisions.

Shorten women's Pennants - Petone Central

Women's Pennants be changed from 18 ends to 15 ends or introduce a 2 hour time limit.

- Make it easier for older players to continue playing and can avoid afternoon traffic.

Review Committee Recommendations

Women's Pennants to remain unchanged.

Reasoning

While shortening the game could help with some issues regarding traffic in the afternoon, the general feedback received anecdotally throughout the season is that the format is enjoyable and working well.

Champion of Champions

Finals Weekend – Bowls Wellington

Introduce a COC Finals Weekend

Review Committee Recommendations

A COC finals weekend should be introduced with the first 3 rounds of each tournament happening on Saturdays and Sundays.

Reasoning

This will create a highlight in the calendar and will better utilise Sundays. The 5 current COC events could actually be completed in 4 weekends rather than 5 (excluding 'Reserve Days'). See attached for details.

Bowls3Five

Final Venue – Bowls Wellington

Alternating the venue of the Bowls3Five finals between Wellington and Hutt Valley clubs.

- This is fair and clubs would know at the start of the season where it will be played.

Review Committee Recommendation

Alternate the final between the Hutt Valley and Wellington finalist each season. 2020-21 finals will be played in the Hutt Valley (Open) and in Wellington (Junior). Similarly, zonal splits (i.e Wellington/ Northern Suburbs) will alternate hosting finals if such zones are used.

Reasoning

The preference of alternating final venue rather than using 'neutral' greens is that a) clubs have surety from the start of the season b) Finalists may not be identified until the week prior to the final, when it is often too late to find a neutral venue and c) true neutral venues do not exist with travel, green type and recent playing experience are all factors impacting neutrality of a venue.

It is noted that the Wellington Bowls3Five competition is still in its infancy and as entry numbers are difficult to predict, the exact format and how the competition will look is determinant on team registrations. The preference is to play 'Zones' to mitigate travel. Bowls NZ are also considering some changes to Bowls3Five which might further impact the Wellington competition.

Tournaments

Easter Pairs over three days – Bowls Wellington

Reducing the Easter Pairs from 4 days to 3 days.

- Reduces the time commitment required of players, allowing them to spend some of the public holiday with their family or to do other things.

Review Committee Recommendations

Play the tournament over three days – Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

Reasoning

On Friday most businesses are closed, whereas Monday is a normal public holiday. Playing on the Friday gives people more freedom to do things on the Monday as shops are generally open. Monday can also then be used as a postponement day rather than scheduling a weekend later in the season.

Semi and finals on Day 3 – Miramar club Member

When a final only is required on Day 3 (Monday) of an Open tournament, only 2 games should be played on the 2nd day (Sunday) not 3 games so that the semifinal and final can both be played on the final day.

Review Committee recommendations

Tournaments to continue to schedule 3 games for the first day of post section.

Reasoning

With current tournament entry numbers, there are usually two or three games (Quarters, Semis, Final) remaining for men whereas the women *may* only need to play one (the final) on Day 3. By having the women only play two games on Day 2, when three is possible exposes the tournament to unforeseen circumstances such as a change in weather which could delay or impact the completion of the tournament. Playing when the opportunity exists should remain the priority as you don't know what will happen. Day 3 is also very often a Monday, meaning twice as many people need to commit the extra day (and possibly take time off work) to participate. This is difficult to justify when 3 games could be played on Day 2.

Re-draws - Sheryl Young

Postponed events should be redrawn

- Withdrawals can mean some people may end up with direct progress to later stages of a competition giving them an advantage.

Review Committee Recommendation

If an event is postponed and post section is yet to commence, a redraw based on the original post section draw will be made 10 days prior to the resumption of the tournament. Any withdrawals after the redraw is published will not constitute further re-draws.

Should an event be rescheduled within 10 days, a decision on whether a re-draw is necessary and the deadline will be made by Bowls Wellington.

Reasoning

By doing a redraw 10 days prior to resumption, it provides players an opportunity to check their schedule and withdraw if necessary. The 10-day cut off is important as it gives players time to know where they are playing and can organise their schedules. Often withdrawals happen in the days leading up or the night before a tournament. Re-drawing at such a late stage creates confusion and miscommunication, increasing the risk of players being in the incorrect place or at the wrong time.

General

Player of the Year Points - Rob Ashton

Player of the Year Points to be reviewed.

- The system is convoluted and imbalanced.

Review Committee Recommendation

Rep points will be amended to be fairer, balanced and easier to track. See attached for details.

Reasoning

Currently, a player selected for a Blackjacks side can earn a player 100 points towards the Player of the Year regardless of whether that team is an Open, Development or age-based team. Points instead should reflect the relative achievement of being selected in these teams and be weighted more towards the Open side. The committee also recommends the introduction of points for selection for the North Island side and the discontinuing of points for rep wins as this adds an unrequired level of complexity and can be considered 'double dipping' as they have already received points for their selection.

Female/Male Player of the Year – Rob Ashton

Introduce a separate Female and Male Player of the Year award.

- The smaller pool of players in the women's tournaments means the point system unfairly disadvantages male players.

Review Committee Recommendation

Introduce a separate Female and Male Player of the Year Awards.

Reasoning

The last time a male won the Wellington Player of the Year was 2008/2009. While this is not a reason to change the award, it does highlight the relative difficulty for a male player to win the award. With Player of the Year points being allocated for tournament results, this is weighted in favour of females by way of having a smaller pool of competitors and men needing to win more games to receive the same number of points.

Remove Jacgals – Rob Ashton

- This is a confusing definition and is no longer used.

Review Committee Recommendation

Jacgals be removed from the Conditions of Play. Bowls Wellington Board to decide on 'exceptional' circumstances.

Reasoning

There seems to be confusion with regards to what Jacgals is and how the definition has been applied over the years. To avoid further confusion, this term should be removed with the Bowls Wellington Board to consider and decide on any exemptions as they arise.

Other Submissions

These submissions either have been accepted or declined by the review committee, not relevant to clubs or otherwise internal considerations for Bowls Wellington. They are listed here with comments for transparency purposes.

Include more coordinator details – Tawa

All coordinators to be included in handbook

Review Committee Comments

Coordinators for each competition will be included providing this information is submitted by clubs by the due date.

Application for substitute - Tawa

Include the Application for Substitute form in the handbook and more coordinator details

Review Committee Comments

This will be added to the handbook but strongly encourage clubs and players to do this electronically. This form will also be accessible through the website.

Inclusion of Player of the Year winners - Rob Ashton

The handbook should include winners of Bowls Wellington awards, especially Player of the Year.

Review Committee Comments

All award winners will be included in the Handbook from this season (Greenkeeper, Administrator of the Year etc)

Diamond Buttons/Buckles - Christine Robson

Update the Diamond Buttons and Diamond Buckles Conditions of Play.

- These are old, difficult to interpret and need updating

Review Committee Comments

These will be updated with player input for next season.

Don't play 4 games in a day - Miramar Club Member

Don't play 4 games in one day as in the Junior Singles this season.

Review Committee Comments

Generally, Bowls Wellington tournaments are limited to 3 games per day. 4 games were played in the Junior Singles this season to accommodate players who were playing in the Junior Singles on the Saturday and were also entered into the Open Pairs which was resuming on the Sunday. Playing 4 games meant the tournament was down to the final, impacting at most 2 people maximising those that could play in both.

Change Interclub format due to Covid-19 – Euan Wong

Due to Covid-19 and restrictions on Fours play, change the Interclub format to 1 x singles, 2 x triples, or 2 x pairs, 2 x triples.

Review Committee Comments

We are still in the early stages of Level 2 so do not need to make a decision on what we do with the fours in Interclub at this stage. This will become clearer over the coming months and an informed decision will be able to be made closer to the season commencing.

Open Fours be moved – Euan Wong

Uncertainty around Covid-19 and the ability to play fours means these should be rescheduled.

Review Committee Comments

We are still in the early stages of Level 2 so do not need to make a decision on what do with the fours at this stage, however, the Open Fours can be staged later in the season easily by switching weekends with the Open Triples (November to February).

Remove 8s division – Euan Wong

Remove the Interclub 8s and have those teams enter teams in the quad grades.

- 8s is a redundant competition and lacks meaning

Review Committee Comments

Bowls Wellington will retain the 8s division as another option for clubs. The Interclub 8s were introduced to provide a different playing opportunity for clubs and members. It also provides an opportunity for those clubs who have difficulty finding markers. Whether this competition goes ahead each year is determined by the number of clubs entering.

More Junior Rep games – Euan Wong

More Junior Representative fixtures added to the programme

- Juniors enjoy playing these games and good for their development

Review Committee Comments

There are currently a number of Junior Representative events with the Hexagonal and Junior Quad being the two most high profile events. To avoid further pressure on the calendar, any fixtures would need to be midweek, ultimately limiting those that would be willing and able to participate. Bowls Wellington are currently undergoing a review of the Representative Programme.

Open events played only on Weekends – Euan Wong

Open events to be limited to Saturdays and Sundays only. A finals weekend be introduced.

- It makes it easier for those that work to participate and creates a pinnacle event later in the season.

Review Committee Comments

While a finals weekend is a good idea in principal, the limited space in the calendar means this is not possible. With 5 Open events and each requiring up to 3 games to be completed for both men and women on the final day, it is likely we would require two 'Finals Weekends'. Particularly as many of the same players are in the final stages for multiple tournaments. It would also then necessitate a 'Postponement' weekend for each adding up to 4 additional weekends to the calendar and significantly impacting club programmes. Noted Auckland and Christchurch Centres do run a finals weekend, however their entry numbers are significantly lower and consequently have less rounds to play.

Open Winners to go to NZ Champ of Champ – Euan Wong

Rather than the Club Champ of Champ winners progress to the Bowls NZ Champ of Champ, the winner of the Wellington Open events go forward.

- This would ensure the most deserving player/team would qualify and would encourage clubs to be supportive of new and junior players in their respective club champs.

Review Committee Comments

This is not possible under Bowls NZ Conditions of Play. Previously, each region could establish their own qualifying criteria. However, since the reintroduction of the Bowls NZ Champ of Champs, there is a requirement that it is decided via a club champ of champ format.

Monday HQs to be Porirua and Hutt Valley only – Euan Wong

For tournaments that conclude on Monday, don't play finals at Wellington clubs.

- Due to traffic concerns, playing in Wellington is difficult. Limiting tournament HQs to Wellington and Porirua clubs will mitigate any travel issues.

Review Committee Comments

The allocation of greens are shared across the region based on green availability, quality and equitability. It is important that all clubs have an opportunity to host events. By Day 3, depending on remaining teams, it is often possible for a delayed start.

Post Section Centralised - Upper Hutt

Post section of Wellington tournaments to be more centralised. For example, if HQ is in Wellington, all post section should be at Wellington clubs.

- Members who are not participating can go and watch multiple players throughout the day.

Review Committee Comments

Bowls Wellington to keep this in mind but acknowledge the availability of greens, quality of greens and equitability as considerations.