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Wednesday 8th April 2020

Dear Fellow Bowlers,

It is now several weeks since the Board of Bowls Tasmania endorsed the recommendations of Bowls Australia in that all Bowls events would be suspended immediately until further notice. This was then followed up by the enforced closure of Hotels and Licensed Clubs by the Governments of the States.

Since that time, we have answered many questions from clubs, associations and individual members on the detail of these restrictions, especially in the area of informal roll ups at clubs. Our advice to all is consistent with Government (both Federal and State) and Bowls Australia directives. That is that we should all stay at home unless we need to be at work, purchase essential supplies, exercise, seek medical attention, go to school, provide care for someone. All of the previous share one thing in common, that is that it needs to meet the essential criteria. In the area of exercise, we cannot endorse a social roll-up as being of an essential nature. We can endorse the essential maintenance of your greens. Once again, we would reinforce the recommendations that essential greens maintenance can be conducted by a crew consisting of the supervising green keeper and four helpers (can be volunteers) who should be under 70 years of age.

I must also reinforce the message from CEO Rebecca Van Asch, the fact that you will not be covered by any insurance for issues that may occur at the club in relation to COVID - 19. The last thing we would want in these circumstances would be for a Club to be impacted financially for the sake of an unfortunate transference of the virus on their premises.

Bowls Tasmania has taken no pleasure out of having to make the decisions that we have made. Personally, it was probably the hardest decision I have been confronted with in my professional career. I take comfort in the knowledge that the measures taken have been for the best interests of not only Bowls and the Bowling community but that of our whole community. This terrible disease does not discriminate. It does not matter where you may be or where you pick it up. If you are where it is, you will most certainly pick it up and you will certainly spread it unless precautions and measures are put in place. It is up to us as individuals to do all in our power to reduce the likelihood of the disease to spread. This can be done by respecting the measures that have been put in place and by only doing those things outside your place of abode that are really essential and practicing good hygiene techniques and wash your hands frequently.

I implore each and every one connected to the Bowls Community in Tasmania to do all that they can to help in this matter. Stay Home and Save Lives is a simple message and an effective one if we all do our part.

In closing I will say, we will get through this. We will come out the other end, how many of us depends on the discipline that we display in the coming weeks. It will not be easy but I am sure of one thing, it will be absolutely worth it, to be able to participate in the pleasures and frustrations that our great game provides

Yours Sincerely

Graham Hay
President

