



POLICY TITLE:

Affiliation, Clearance and Eligibility to Play Policy

RELATED POLICIES:

Bowls Australia - Affiliation and Eligibility to Play Policy
Bowls Australia - Player and Club Clearance Policy

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:

Chief Executive Officer

AUTHORITY:

Chief Executive Officer

APPLICABLE FORMS:

Bowls Tasmania Permit to Play Pennant
Bowls Australia Interstate Clearance
Bowls Australia Interstate Pennant Declaration

APPROVED:

20 November 2023

REVIEW DATE:

November 2026

1 STRUCTURE

Bowls Australia (BA) is officially recognised as the National Sporting Organisation (NSO) for lawn bowls in Australia by World Bowls (WB), Sport Australia (SA) and Commonwealth Games Australia (CGA).

The structure of bowls in Australia is such that:

- 1.1 State and Territory Associations (STA's), including Bowls Tasmania (BTAS) are recognised as Member States and, as such, are members of BA. Each STA is to conduct and administer bowls in its State or Territory.
- 1.2 Clubs are recognised by BA because of their affiliation with their Member STA.
- 1.3 Affiliated players (individual members as defined in the constitution) are recognised by BA because of their membership of an affiliated club and the payment of fees to its STA and on to BA and to WB.

2 AFFILIATION – CLUBS OR PLAYING VENUES

- 2.1 Bowls Clubs in Tasmanian must be affiliated with BTAS and:
 - 2.1.1 Must be an incorporated body or duly constituted legal entity under relevant legislation in Tasmania.
 - 2.1.2 Have and maintain insurance policies including public liability and professional indemnity insurance.
 - 2.1.3 Must ensure that pennant and championship players are financial, affiliated players with full playing rights.
 - 2.1.4 Must comply with responsibilities as required under the constitutions of BA and BTAS
 - 2.1.5 Must collect and forward to their regions those affiliation fees and any other fees that may be prescribed from time to time by BA in conjunction with BTAS from all members with full playing rights.
 - 2.1.6 Must collect and forward membership data to be included in the national bowls census as required.

3 AFFILIATION / MEMBERSHIP FEES

- 3.1 Affiliation or Membership Fees payable to BA are determined by the BA Board and shall be paid as and when specified through BTAS. At present, the first instalment is due in October each year and will be 50% of the total amount to be collected. The second instalment is due in February each year. The total amount payable to BA is equal to 29.71% of affiliation and membership fees paid to BTAS by regions during that financial year.
- 3.2 Affiliation or Membership Fees payable to BTAS are determined by the BTAS Board and shall be paid as and when specified to BTAS. At present the fees are payable in full in November each year.
- 3.3 BTAS must ensure that payment of fees covers all affiliated members with playing rights in Tasmania.
- 3.4 Regions must advise BTAS of the number of affiliated members with playing rights in Tasmania as of 31 March each year by 30 April each year.
- 3.5 BTAS must advise BA of the number of affiliated members with playing rights in Tasmania by 30 November each year.

4 AFFILIATION – PENNANT AND CHAMPIONSHIP PLAYERS

4.1 All pennant and championship players in Tasmania must be a financial member of an affiliated club within Tasmania.

5 DUAL REGISTRATION – DECLARATION OF NOMINATED CLUB

5.1 A player may be a member of more than one affiliated club.

5.3 A player may be a member of multiple clubs in more than one STA.

5.4 A player must declare only one of those clubs in one STA as their Nominated Club for the purpose of playing in State Championships and other championship events conducted by an STA or BA during a bowling season.

5.5 Playing in Pennant conducted by any STA shall not constitute a declaration of a player's Nominated Club under this policy. Players are permitted to play Pennant in more than one STA without requiring a change to their Nominated Club. For clarity, Pennant is not a championship event.

6 ELIGIBILITY – PENNANT

6.1 General:

6.1.1 A player may play Pennant in more than one (1) STA within the same bowling season.

6.1.2 The player must be registered with each of the STAs in which they play.

6.1.3 An Interstate Clearance is not required unless the player intends to change their Nominated Club.

6.1.4 The player must complete and submit an approved Interstate Pennant Declaration (available on the BTAS website) prior to being permitted to play Pennant in that STA.

6.2 Interstate Transfers / Clearances

6.2.1 A player wishing to permanently transfer to a club in a different state or territory must complete an Interstate Clearance form (available on the BTAS website)

6.2.2 The completed form must be signed and sent by the player's club to their STA for approval. For example - A player transferring from a Victorian club to a Tasmanian club must be cleared by Bowls Victoria. A player transferring from a Tasmanian club to a mainland club must be cleared by BTAS.

6.2.3 Until the interstate clearance has been lodged with, and approved by, their original STA, the player is not eligible to play in any competition controlled by their new STA or regional body.

6.2.4 No interstate clearance is considered to be processed and granted until it has been approved by BTAS through BowlsLink (a BowlsLink system generated email will be sent when this has been done).

6.3. Interstate Pennant Declaration

- 6.3.1 A player wishing to play Pennant for a club in a different State or Territory – but not transfer permanently to that club – must complete an Interstate Pennant Declaration form (available on the BTAS website).
- 6.3.2 The completed form must be signed and sent by the player's club to their STA for approval. For example - A player temporarily transferring from a Victorian club to a Tasmanian club must get the form approved by Bowls Victoria. A player temporarily transferring from a Tasmanian club to a mainland club must get the form approved by BTAS.
- 6.3.3 No clearance form is required when the player transfers back to their Nominated Club.

6.4 Intrastate Transfers / Clearances:

- 6.4.1 A clearance is required for any player wishing to transfer their Primary Club to another Member Club within the same Region or in another Region in Tasmania.
- 6.4.2 Whether a region requires a hard copy signed transfer / clearance form or not is up to each individual Region in Tasmania to determine.
- 6.4.3 No intrastate clearance is considered to be processed and granted until it has been approved by BTAS through BowlsLink (a BowlsLink system generated email will be sent when this has been done).

6.5. Permit to play pennant in two Tasmanian Regions:

- 6.5.1 A player wishing to play pennant in two different Tasmanian Regions must complete the Permit to Play Pennant (TAS Competitions) form (available on the BTAS website).
- 6.5.2 The player must nominate which of the two clubs is the player's primary club.
- 6.5.3 The player may participate in the club championships of their primary club only.
- 6.5.4 The player's primary club must sign the request and send the form to the club in the other Tasmanian Region that the player wishes to play for.
- 6.5.5 The form – signed by both clubs – must be approved by BTAS before the player is eligible to play pennant with the club in the other Region.
- 6.5.6 This form is not a clearance form to a club in another Region.
- 6.5.7 Players must be registered and pay full affiliation fees in both Regions to be entitled to play pennant for both clubs. They must also be submitted by both clubs into the BowlsLink database. Club fees are the decision of individual clubs.

6.6. International Transfers / Clearances

- 6.6.1 A player transferring from overseas is considered a new player in Australia and they should be added to BowlsLink by their new club. No clearance form is required.

7 ELIGIBILITY – INTERSTATE REPRESENTATION

- 7.1 A player's eligibility to represent a particular STA in any interstate representative fixture shall be determined by the STA with which a player's Nominated Club is affiliated.
- 7.2 A player shall only be eligible to represent Tasmania if they are a member of their Nominated Club which is affiliated with BTAS at the time of event entry close.
- 7.3 In addition to complying with the criteria in 7.1 and 7.2, a player must meet the eligibility requirements within the conditions of play of the event.

8 ELIGIBILITY – CHAMPIONSHIPS (INTRASTATE AND INTERSTATE)

- 8.1 A player shall not be eligible to play in the same (or an equivalent) State Championship event or other championship event at two (2) or more clubs in any one bowling season, regardless of whether those clubs are affiliated with BTAS, or with a different STA.