



Conditions of Play 2027

V1 31/08/26

1. Controlling Body

The controlling body of the competition will be a sub-committee nominated by the established committee of the Great Bowls Challenge (GBC).

2. Laws for GBC

Current Bowls Australia laws are to be applied unless otherwise stated.

3. Player Registration

No player registration fee. All players must be affiliated prior to and throughout involvement in the Great Bowls Challenge.

4. Team Format

Each team will consist of eight players. The composition of the team will be;

- 2 x Pairs (2x2x2x2) 21 Ends
- 1 x Fours (21 Ends)

5. Divisions

All clubs will be required to enter teams that reflect their highest division Pennant team for 2026. I.e. If your club has a Division 1 team in Pennant for 2026 your club will be required to enter a team in the Alpha Section for GBC 2027. An exception to this rule is clubs that are competing in Qld Premier League or TBSC Diamond or Gold League do not have to enter a team in the Alpha Division. The purpose of the GBC is to provide a fair and equitable competition for all bowlers. Therefore, the GBC controlling body request clubs take this into account when selecting teams. I.e. Your club should select your better players in the highest division. A maximum of two players from a higher division 2026 pennant team can play one division lower. NB: Now that we are using Bowlslink we will be actively checking every week the eligibility of all players in the divisions they are selected. If any Clubs contravene the COP in their selections the opposing team will be awarded the win points with average margin for that round. The only exception will be if the GBC committee has granted dispensation if requested by the club concerned. The GBC committee's decision will be final.

1. MEN'S

There will be three divisions. These divisions being:

- Alpha
- Beta (Division 2 pennant players 2026 and lower)
- Gamma (Division 5 pennant players 2026 & lower)

2. Open

There will be one division.

- Teams must have a minimum of two female players

3. Mixed

There will be one division.

- Teams will comprise of;
 - 1 X Male pairs (2x2x2x2) 21 Ends
 - 1 x Ladies pairs (2x2x2x2) 21 Ends
 - 1 x Mixed 4's (2 x Men, 2 x Ladies) 21 Ends

6. Sections

Every effort will be made by the GBC for each division to consist of sections of four teams. Every effort will be made by the GBC to ensure that the structure of these sections limits travel to no more than approximately one-hour travel. Sections will be numbered. I.e. Alpha 1, Alpha 2 etc

To avoid byes the GBC may reform the section to more than 4 teams.

7. Travel

The aim of the GBC is to limit the travel of clubs to a maximum of one hour. The GBC will make every effort to adhere to this policy. If circumstances prevent this from happening a member of the GBC will speak with a nominated club representative to discuss the matter further.

8. Joint Clubs & Players

- I. Entries from joint clubs will be accepted.
- II. Affiliated full members of any club with approval from their club may play for another club without having to be a member of that club.

9. Rounds

There will be 6 rounds per season. Each team in the section will play an opponent club in a home and away format. Play will commence on 30 January 2027 with the Regional Final round being played on 13 March 2027. The interregional final is being played at a club to be decided on 20 March 2027. There will be no catch up round available due to Easter. If a game is washed out the effected clubs will need to play a double header at some stage prior to the 13 March 2027

10. Green Fees

Green fees are to be paid to your own club. The amount paid will be at the discretion of your club. When playing away your club still receives your players green fees (club discretion). Visiting clubs **do not** pay host club green fees.

Green fees for the final will be \$15 per player. These green fees will be deducted from the clubs round wins.

11. Game Times & Time Limit

Playing times will be at the discretion of the host club.

- I. Evening games under lights are permitted and encouraged with mutual agreement.
- II. Games can be played on Friday evening, Saturday, or Sunday.
- III. When arranging games consideration should be given to the visiting club.
- IV. Games are not permitted to commence prior to the designated time unless all players have been consulted and are in agreeance.
- V. Games will be limited to 4 hours from the commencement of play. At 4 hours a bell will ring. If an end is in play, it is to be completed. A dead end after the bell will not be replayed.
- VI. If clubs cannot come to an agreement regarding start time the default start time will be Saturday 1pm.
- VII. Club Contacts of the respected clubs are to arrange game times within 7 days of receiving the draw.
- VIII. After agreement has been established the Club Contacts shall email GBC advising of scheduled game times.

12. Umpire / Measurer

The host club will provide an umpire or a measurer. Preferably non-playing.

13. Attire

Approved club attire should be worn by all players. In the instance that a joint club has nominated a team, players are to wear respective club uniform.

14. Practice

Players may practice on any rink prior to the commencement of play, no time limit. There will be no trial ends, play to commence at scheduled time.

15. Dead Ends

Dead ends will be replayed.

16. Points

Points will be allocated at 3 points per rink win and 1 point for the highest aggregate shots. Hence 10 points will be allocated per round. If a rink is drawn at the completion of the required ends the rink points will be halved to 1.5 points each. If the aggregate shots are equal at the end of the game the points will be halved to .5 points each.

17. Bowlslink Portal

The Great Bowls Challenge has been given permission by Bowls Australia & Bowls Qld to use the Bowlslink Portal for advising of the draw, match round results and ladder. If required appropriate training can be organised if your club is unfamiliar with Bowlslink.

1. All teams must be posted at least 24 hours prior to play
2. Teams making the final series to enter team 72 hours prior to play
3. It is the home team's responsibility to post results
4. Results must be posted ASAP after completion of the match and no later than 10am Monday
5. If an error occurs in posting of results or names notification to trevor@gr8s.com.au must be made within 24 hours to have the issue corrected
6. Result sheets listing reserve players must be emailed to trevor@gr8s.com.au as BowlsLink does not provide provisions for this.
7. Any queries regarding BowlsLink should be directed to Trevor Barbara 0412195350.

18. Inclement Weather

In the event of inclement weather, a combined rinks total of 31 ends will constitute a game. Should a round be washed out, the clubs (with mutual agreement) will reschedule the game prior to the finals. Due to early Easter in 2027, there will be no Standby/Catch up day therefore any incomplete or washed-out games are to be played/completed by the 13 March 2027 by mutual agreement. If the game is not rescheduled each team will receive 4.5 points each, no overall win point will be allocated.

19. Extreme Heat

Given that the GBC is played during the summer period it is important that an extreme heat policy be adopted. If the temperature reaches 38 degrees in the shade near the green, play should be suspended. GBC encourages games to be scheduled in the cooler parts of the day to avoid player discomfort or injury.

20. Entry Fee

Entry fee for the GBC will be \$800, per team.

21. Limitation of Entries

Clubs can nominate any number of teams in each division.

22. Prize Money

Rink wins will be 75% of entry fees guaranteed. In 2026 rink wins were \$50. After the rink wins are deducted the remainder of the entry fees plus sponsorship will be allocated to the final series. Teams making the final will be eligible for sectional rink wins plus finals prize money. The Finals prize money allocation will be available prior to the commencement of the Final Series. Prizemoney will be based on a 6-team section. Any division with less than 6 team entries will have finals prize money adjusted accordingly.

23. Final Format

The structure of the finals will be dependent upon the number of entries received for each division. All participating clubs will be advised of the finals structure prior to the commencement of the GBC. The intraregional final for 2026 will be played on Saturday 28 March on Bribie Island (TBC). The winners of each regional section will play-off to determine the overall winner. GBC will make every effort to avoid a home team advantage during the final series. The point scoring structure during the finals will be the same format used for sectional play. If both teams have 5 points each at the end of play during the final series, then each rink will be required to play one extra end. The team winning the most rinks will be declared the winner.

24. Player Qualification

Players will be required to play 2 games in the appropriate division and section to be eligible for that Division final. The GBC allows players to play in both the Great Bowls Challenge and the Taylor Bowls State Challenge (TBSC). However, a player will only be permitted to play in one competition each weekend. *ie* If a player plays in the TBSC on Friday night they will not be permitted to play in the GBC on Saturday or Sunday. If a club enters two teams in the same division, a player who has played 2 games for one team will not be able to play for the other team. A player who has played 3 games in a higher division can play one game down in the next lower division (Excluding Finals) and only one player per round, ***such player cannot skip a rink.***

However, a player playing a lower division for 3 or more games can play up in a higher division. If a player is given permission by the GBC to play in another division or team that player **cannot** skip a rink. Should extreme extenuating circumstances exist the GBC sub-committee has the right to alter this clause at their discretion.

25. Substituting Reserves

Clubs can nominate one substitute reserve player per team each week. The substitute reserve player must be present at the game. The substitute must play in the position of the player they are replacing. *ie*. If they replace a skip they must skip.

All other players must stay in their starting positions. Only one substitution is allowed per team per round. However, if a player falls ill and can no longer compete after a substitution has been made the replaced player may return to their original playing position and the substituting reserve will replace the ill member.

The substitute reserve whether playing or not will be deemed to have played that game. The substitute reserve must be listed on the result sheet to be credited with that game.

Substitutes must be of the same sex.

NB: For a reserve to be registered the result sheet with their name must be emailed to trevor@gr8s.com.au as BowlsLink does not provide provisions for listing a reserve.

26. After Game Refreshments

At the club's discretion. However, the 2025 bowlers survey had a strong preference for a sausage sizzle.

27. Sectional Positions

At the completion of the home and away sectional rounds the sectional positions will be decided on Total Points. If two teams are equal on points the team with the greater margin will be deemed to have finished superior. If these are equal, highest aggregate shots will take precedence. Clubs will be notified prior to the

commencement of the GBC of the sectional positions that will qualify for the final series.

28. Nominations

Nominations will be made electronically through the GBC website. Payment is not required at the time of nomination. The GBC will invoice clubs early January.

29. Protests

Any protests are to be submitted in writing to the GBC sub-committee within 48 hours of the completed game. The GBC sub-committee will investigate and take appropriate action. When a protest is received the GBC will notify the club involved within 24 hours.

30. Absolute Control

The GBC sub-committee shall have absolute control over all phases of the GBC.