



Bowls Wellington Tournament Review 2024

Submissions were received by numerous members and clubs throughout the Wellington Region. These were then discussed by a Tournament Review Panel who have given these recommendations.



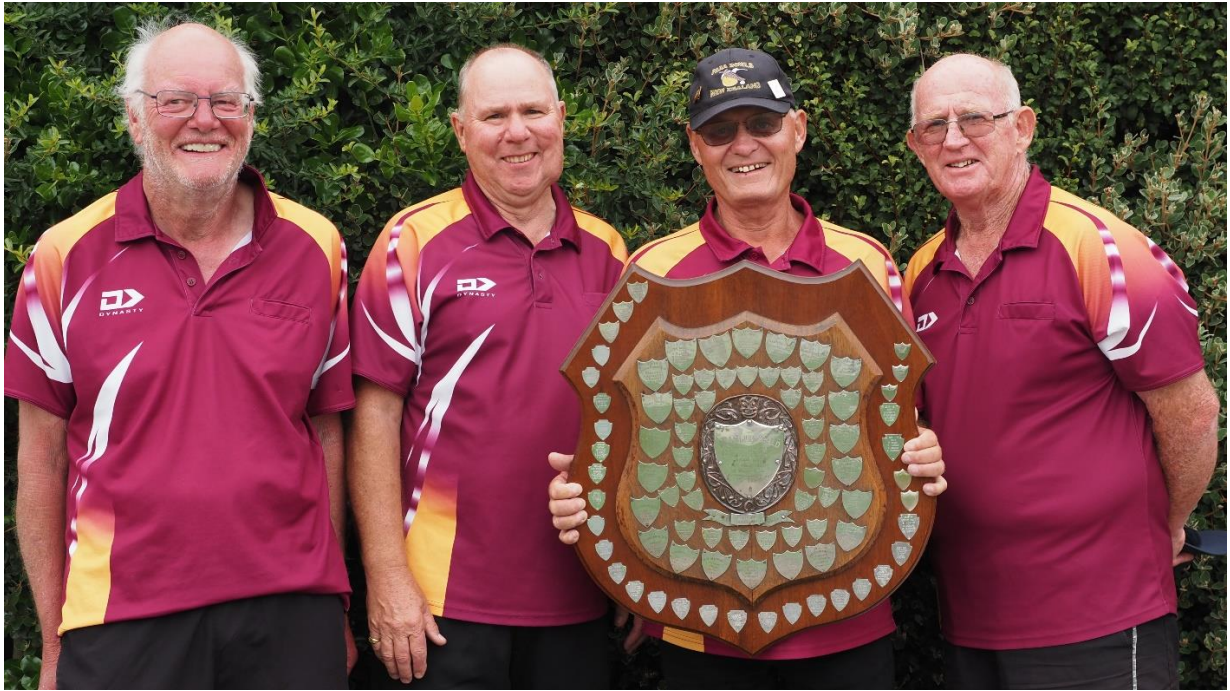
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2024 National Men's Inter-Centre Champions





Interclub Debrief

There were in total 10 submissions for changes to be made to Interclub for next season, a number of these touched on the same themes. The tournament review committee have looked at all submissions and after considerable discussions around these have come up with some key points for clubs to vote on.

Thank you to the following for their submissions for this review.

- Ian Hartley
- Grant Wakefield
- Rohan Cuff and Con Curtain
- Phil Todd
- Lou Newman
- Anne Robinson
- Brady Amer
- Upper Hutt Committee

Interclub Voting

Single Headers over Double Headers:

1. Bowls wellington to try and fit in as many singles headers as possible for the next season.

Yes / No

- Please note that due to a tight calendar there will be some doubles headers during the season that are unavoidable.

Divisions not to be put in sections:

1. Bowls wellington will not split divisions into 2 or more sections that will then require a playoff.

Split / Not Split

- Last season we had several divisions split into two sections with a playoff to find the winner at the end of the round robin.
- If there are twelve teams for a division a random draw will be completed for 9 rounds of play not split into two sections of 6.
- A new division can be created if there are more teams playing, or current divisions will combine to stop small number of teams in divisions.

2. Playoffs will only be for Division 1, not the lower divisions.

Div 1 Only / All Divisions have playoffs.



More than One Club in Divisions:

1. Bowls Wellington will not allow a club to have more than one team in All Divisions except for the lowest division: *example: 7's – Division 3 (Women) and 8's Division (Men), Quads (Open Gender).*

More than 1 team / No more than one team / No more than one team even in lowest division.

- Bowls Wellington currently does not allow a club to have more than one team in a division except for sevens Division 3 (Women), Division 4 (Men), 8's Men's, and Any Combo Quad.
- Clubs with more than 1 team in the lowest division will be expected to play within the spirit of the game when it comes to interchanging players between their teams in one division.

Interclub conditions of Play:

1. Bowls Wellington Interclub will played as the same as National Finals – Singles 21up, Pairs 18 ends, Fours 15 ends with at 2hour 45 min time limit.

21,18,15 (National Conditions) / 25,21,18 (Current Wellington Conditions)

- Only two teams go on to compete in the National Playoffs.
 - Changing would mean Interclub would potentially finish well before 12noon.
 - The National Conditions are designed for 3 rounds per day, we play no more than 2.
2. Interclub sevens only for division 1 all other divisions will play 8's or Quads.

Div 1 7's Remaining Divisions 8's / Leave Divisions as they are currently

- Markers are getting harder to find, this eliminates the need for more than 1 marker.
 - Players like playing singles in lower grades
 - Singles is a good development tool for new players
3. Interclub Postponement Days will be stated in the program and catch-ups MUST be played on or before that date.

Yes / No

- Bowls Wellington to officially schedule catchup games straight away on postponement date (if played earlier by arrangement then obviously not required).



Interclub Promotion Relegation:

Before we put conditions for this, Bowls Wellington would like to acknowledge that we made an error when writing the conditions for Promotion and Relegation. We are aware of the implications we have caused with that error and apologise for the inconvenience but will hold true to what was published in the current conditions for next year. We received a number of submissions via phone as well as in the written submissions about this error and will do our best to make sure it doesn't happen again.

1. Bowls Wellington Interclub will continue to have 2 promoted and 2 relegated with the following conditions:

2up 2down Automatic / 1up 1down Automatic with a playoff for the other spot

You must finish in top 50% to be promoted / You must finish in top 33% to be promoted

- 2 up 2 down Automatic allows for plenty movement between divisions.
- A playoff for the 2nd spot means the team needs to beat the current to be promoted making it harder to move up.
- Top 50% allows a few extra teams a chance to promotion allowing more chance of movement between divisions.
- Top 33% makes the conditions a little harder and means a team may be more well deserved to be promoted.

Interclub Playoffs:

1. Bowls Wellington Interclub Playoffs conditions to change to the following:

Current Semi Final – Final / Scattered Draw Round Robin / 1 v 2, 3 v 4 second chance (see [table](#) below)

Note: 1st placed team in round robin still gets home green advantage in all playoff formats.

Round 1	Round 2	Round 3
Game 1	No Game	Final
1 st play 2 nd	Winner of Game 1 has bye to Final	Winner of Game 1 plays Winner of Game 3
Game 2	Game 3	
3 rd play 4 th	Loser Game 1 plays winner of Game 2 (Loser of game 2 eliminated)	



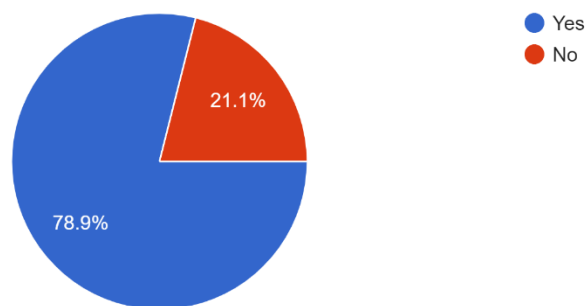
- Current format can make it a best team on the day wins, which doesn't give an advantage to the team who has won the most during the season.
 - Two rounds only required to complete compared to 3 in other options.
- Scattered Draw means all teams play 3 rounds and allows for a team to have a bad round and can make it up in further rounds.
 - Benefits: most consistent team over whole day will prosper and keeps greater number of players and supports at host club the whole day.
 - Consequences: potential dead rubber games in round 3 can adversely impact outcome.
- 1v2 3v4 gives teams who performed well in season a second chance if they lose.
 - Benefit: 1st and 2nd placed team get a 2nd life if lose in 1st round.
 - Consequence: Winner 1v2 in round 1 will have a 3 hour wait unto the final round.

Open Gender Events

We have had a few written submissions on this topic which seem to be consistent in wanting to revert back to separate Men's and Women's events for next year. This is inconsistent with one of the surveys we have conducted after one Open Gender event this season which have the majority of responders commenting on their enjoyment in playing these events. The younger players have also responded positively about Open Gender events with most stating that they wouldn't enjoy playing same sex only in competitions all the time.

Should this event be open gendered?

19 responses



Thoroughly enjoyed playing singles, which is my favourite game and the opportunity to play a singles game against some very experienced men bowlers. All my games were against men!

I would ask that clubs please talk to ALL their members around this to get a gauge on how to vote for this.

Easter 2-4-2 Pairs:

1. Should this event be which of the following:

Separate Men and Women Events / Open Gendered / Separate Ladies only event and separate Men-Open Gendered event

- Traditional event and should remain separate for Men and Women as it has always been. History of Trophies etc.
- Allowing ladies to play their own event that wish while giving an opportunity to those ladies who wish to still compete with men.

Development 2-4-2 Pairs:

1. Should this event be which of the following:

Separate Men and Women Events / Open Gendered / Separate Ladies only event and separate Men-Open Gendered event

- Not as traditional and new players that know no difference wouldn't have strong opinions on this.
- Wellington Junior Triples and Fours (Gibbons and McArthur Henry) have for many years been "Open Gendered" without any comment of fairness.
- Allowing ladies to play their own event that wish while giving an opportunity to those ladies who wish to still compete with men.

Please note there will be no voting on 60+ events as these were brand new events this season. Feedback has been received via surveys on these events and new conditions will be written before next season.

Easter 2-4-2 Qualifying Conditions

1. Should this event be which of the following:

1 Day Qualifying 2 Days Post Section (Current) / 2 Days Qualifying 2 Days Post Section

- Those who want to play want to have two days guaranteed bowls.
- It means the whole easter is taken up by bowls, tournament management may be more difficult to organise.

Natural Greens be used for events

Almost every event run by Bowls Wellington is run on Natural Greens. We have had to put a couple of events this season on artificials due to green unavailability and of course for weather. As greenkeepers struggle to match demand there will be more and more dependency on artificial surfaces. Clubs are always entitled to play their interclub games on the greens they wish and is their right as having home advantage this vote does not include interclub.



1. Bowls Wellington should only use artificial greens on exceptional circumstances:

Yes Natural Greens Only / No artificials can be used for all events

- Playing on natural surfaces enhances the enjoyment of our sport.
- It shouldn't matter what surface you play on, major events around the world play on all surfaces.

Compensation for Clubs and Centre Events

A couple of submissions have asked for compensation to clubs for using their venue for Bowls Wellington Events. It is worth noting that **any payment made to clubs by Bowls Wellington would be passed on to those entering events (The Players)** as we are already running these events to a tight budget. Increasing Prizes to 60% is also an unrealistic goal as we have already increased prizes in the last twelve months.

1. Bowls Wellington should compensate clubs for the use of their facilities for Bowls Wellington events:

Yes / No

- Clubs should take advantage of hosting events through lunches and bar revenue as well as opportunities for raffles etc.
 - Bowls Wellington have a number of outgoings for the running of events already and run to a tight budget.
2. Bowls Wellington should increase prize money for Open Events to 60% of entry fees taken in for each event:

Not to be voted on

- Events this year have seen an increase in prize money compared to previous seasons even with numbers slightly lower for some events played.
- Players do not enter Bowls Wellington Centre events to win prizemoney, rather than the opportunity to compete against other bowlers for the titles. The event cost of \$25 per person for at least a whole day's activity/entertainment is very good value in modern times.

Qualifying Standards for Event with Weather Interruptions

An event this last season was severely affected with weather interruptions and as such a submission or two have asked for this to be looked at. At present each green runs independently and conditions vary between different clubs. This can look to be seen as unfair to some teams.



1. Bowls Wellington should standardise qualifying conditions to events being affected by weather. If one club changes qualifying conditions, then all should match that club.

Each green runs independently / Qualifying standards reflect that of the worse affected club.

- Stops confusion amongst players at different venues.
- Fair for all playing in the event.
- Stops full days play at some venues meaning less value for money for those playing.

Rangatahi Age Change

Presently only bowlers under the age of 18 can play as a Rangatahi Member leaving those 19, 20 and 21 not as many opportunities to play with their peers. A submission has been made to add this age group to the Rangatahi Members.

1. To play as part of the Rangatahi Members you must be 21 or under from the 1st September of that season.

Yes 21 and under / No keep as 18 and under only.

Champ of Champ Finals Weekend

A submission about finals weekend was received and states that it is unfair on players who cannot make that weekend and deems their club championships pointless. It also stops those players from a chance to play for 5 National Titles.

1. Finals weekend be stopped, and Champ of Champ events be played on separate weekends, as in the past.

Keep Finals weekend / Stop finals weekend.

- Finals weekend is great way for Bowls Wellington to showcase the sport and our club players to a bigger and wider audience.
- It's a fantastic way to support a number of players from clubs and creates a great atmosphere for players to play in front of many people.
- Issues with scheduling this years (2024) event due to many double ups and Junior singles (reasoning for this in Other Notes), this will be looked at for the future.



Notes from other submissions

There are some submissions that have been made that don't need to be voted on as such. These are comments on this.

Junior Singles for 2024: The change in date this year was due to a late inclusion in Bowls New Zealand's calendar and forced us to make the change. We will ensure to do our best so this doesn't happen again.

Pennants: We will try our best to make sure we keep this in the better weather part of the season.

Over 60 Qualifying: Bowls Wellington trialled many different forms for these two new events and have completed surveys at the completion of these. We will aim to make the necessary changes from the feedback received.

Twilight 3 Five: Clubs can enter their teams as they wish. All clubs are made aware of the different grades. This event is still quite popular amongst some clubs and will continue.

Bowls Wellington would like to thank all those who have taken the time to send in submissions for this year's review. It is quite a task to get through but helps us know what our communities' thoughts are on the sport. We are very lucky to have such an active and invested community and we hope that we can help make our sport be more attractive and inviting to new members. If we have missed anything considerable in this document, please let us know as soon as possible.

Thanks

Blake Signal



