

MBA PENNANT STRUCTURE & REVIEW 2020

OVERVIEW PRE-AMBLE

The majority of comments & suggestions have come from our President forums and Bowls SA Management.

The impact and popularity of other competitions with their formats etc.

Bowls is still mainly a participation sport. Most of the latest innovations and playing formats have been introduced to encourage bowlers to keep playing bowls and also attract more spectator viewing of the sport.

Bowls SA introduced their Winter franchise competition in 2018. Eight franchises with 12 players per franchise but playing 6 players per match (round robin versus other teams) - playing Triples, Pairs & Singles formats. Attracted higher ranked and skilful players. Good revenue for Clubs selected by Bowls SA to host these events. PRIZE MONEY?

Bowls SA have indicated that this event will be a Annual Winter event.

SALBL - Taylor Cup summer competition - attracts over 30 Clubs - Sunday evening competition - 10 players per team playing all formats (fours, triples, pairs & singles) - finals - PRIZE MONEY.

SABAA - National bowling arm championship - now 6 States competing annually - 15 person team + 2 reserves (can play) each State plays other States with a 15 person team playing 2 rounds consisting of round 1 of 3 teams x 4's and 3 singles then round 2 of 3 teams x triples and 3 teams of pairs.

SAABA also conducts their own State Open Singles championship.

Many Clubs have their own winter bowls competitions playing on multiple days with a variety of formats.

Clubs also organize and promote their own bowls tournaments throughout the year. Although there is little liaison between Clubs when these events are scheduled to be played.

COMMENTS/SUGGESTIONS FROM MBA PRESIDENTS MEETINGS

Length of season

Some Clubs say too long - other Clubs OK with format - smaller Clubs do rely on income from pennants because it attracts twice as many players to their Clubs - a winter competition only attracts their fewer number of members.

Season starting time - too early for green keepers to get lawn greens in good playing condition especially after a wet winter.

Travel

The MBA has 51 Clubs located from Port Noarlunga/Happy Valley to Two Wells/Gawler - Sides placed in lower divisions always concerned with travel requirements. Divisions/sections of North, South, East and West plus more currently in place for lower placed Clubs.

End of season Finals

Saturday - Premier through to Division 5 : Wednesday - Premier through to Division 3 : Thursday - Premier through to Division 2

Finals for lower divisions?

Thursday Women's competition

Diminishing numbers - more opposite gender in a Club's lowest Side - Club's entering Sides that they cannot fill with Women?

Heat Policy

Currently in place 4 x BOM weather monitoring locations - Clubs are allocated by Bowls SA?

All days triggered for an early start when 36c or over is forecast. However Thursday competition ceases play when 36c is reached with Saturday and Wednesday competitions play ceases when 38c reached?

CONSIDERATIONS TO EFFECT CHANGE THAT ADDRESS MOST CONCERNS

- 1. The pennant program to have 14 minor rounds instead of 18 minor rounds.**
- 2. To achieve the above division/sections to consist of 8 Sides. Higher divisions will be stronger competitions.**
- 3. The above will enable more flexibility in respect of a season start and finish.**
- 4. Dates could be available to pick up cancelled rounds due to adverse weather conditions.**
- 5. No pennant rounds on Public Holiday weekends.**
- 6. Gives the MBA more flexibility to fit in our pennant competition better with the ever increasing tournament/competition arrangements of Bowls SA and Bowls Australia.**
- 7. The playing commitment from our bowlers that have been selected into state squads could be reduced.**
- 8. Could lead to more entries in State events.**
- 9. More division levels with an emphasis on North, South, East & West only to reduce travel time for bowlers because of the greater metropolitan area that the MBA now covers. e.g. Saturday might have division 8 etc. (It is only a number?)**
- 10. Clubs will have the opportunity to organize in house tournaments etc, extend their own winter bowls programs.**

Presidents meeting 12th January, 2020