



BDBD Pennant Planning Committee

**Recommendations for the Future of all BDBD Pennant
Competitions 2019/2020 onwards**

BDBD PENNANT PLANNING COMMITTEE

Background

Due to the partnership between Ballarat District Bowls Division and Geelong Region Premier Division ending their long term association, the BDBD Board decided that it would take the opportunity to investigate all aspects of how Pennant is played and conducted within our Division whilst incorporating the current four BDBD Premier Division teams back into our Weekend Pennant.

Committee Process

Following the decision by the BDBD Board a Pennant Planning Committee was established to review and update the current Midweek and Weekend Pennant Competitions.

The Pennant Planning Committee has a combined experience of over 150 years of both playing and administration of Bowls.

The BDBD Board agreed to canvass all 24 clubs within the Division for their ideas and thoughts. The clubs came up with 60 different ideas and those items were collated by the Pennant Planning Committee and discussed and debated over several meetings.

BDBD PENNANT PLANNING COMMITTEE

Role	Name	Position
Chairman	Geoffrey Pickering – Smeaton	BDBD Board
Deputy Chairman	Bill Moore – Sebastopol	BDBD Match Committee
Committee Members	Elizabeth Kierce – City Oval	BDBD Board
	Helene Stenning – Victoria	BDBD Board
	Jenny Harman - City Oval	BDBD Match Committee Chair
	Anne Draffen – Webbcona	BDBD Match Committee
	Fran Haddrick – Buninyong	BDBD Board
Observer	Marilyn Blake – Central Wendouree	BDBD Chair

Liaising with Bowls Australia

The Pennant Planning Committee (PPC) met with Paul Jackson our BA Regional Representative for some feedback on ideas that the PPC were considering taking into account the current playing numbers for Weekend Pennant 1336 and Midweek Pennant of 600 of which many play in the two competitions.

It was also discussed that the playing numbers in the BDBD has decreased by 7% from the previous year however that number is not huge in comparison to some other areas.

He believed that the main areas to be addressed for changes to the current pennant structure are as follows:-

- number of ends
- no afternoon tea break
- number of players in each Division
- number of players in each side
- composition of Weekend Top Division

Premier Division

Recommendations to BDBD Board are as follows:-

- current 4 teams from BDBD/Geelong Premier Division with the top 4 clubs from BDBD Division 1
- 12 players per team
- one club team only in Premier Division
- one team promoted and one team relegated
- 8 teams in Division
- 14 home and away rounds
- 21 ends
- 1 pm roll up – official start 1.15pm
- temperature to be set at 38 degrees
- 20 minute break at 2.45pm

Positive Outcomes

- higher quality standard of play
- retaining elite players within the BDBD
- strengthening Divisions below with extra players

Recommendations for both Midweek and Weekend Pennants

- renaming of Pennants to Monday and Saturday Pennants
- 8 teams in each Division – see pages 8 & 9 - For the potential make up of sides
- A Premier Division to be introduced for Monday Pennant
- rebranding of Division 1 in both competitions – to “Premier Reserves”
- 16 players per side for Saturday Pennant from Premier Reserves to Division 8 and then numbers will change as per team entries for next season
- 12 players per side to remain for Monday Pennant
- 14 rounds home and away matches
- 21 ends
- 1 pm roll up – official start 1.15pm
- compulsory 20 minute break at 2.45pm
- temperature to be set at 38 degrees
- 2 teams from 1 club permitted in each Division with exception of the Premier Division
- Finals to remain unchanged
- 2 year trial
- both Monday and Saturday Pennants would be brought into alignment with the same set of rules and regulations

Positive Outcomes for Recommendations

8 teams per Divisions

- shorter season
- longer break during Christmas/New Year
- no play on long weekends
- possible later start to season so the weather has improved
- shortens players commitment by 4 weeks
- more space in the Calendar for BDBD Events & State Events

21 ends

- earlier finish so bowlers can enjoy the hospitality of the host club before returning to their own club
- more user time friendly for families
- modernising how we play – playing shorter games as they successfully do in Metropolitan and Bendigo pennants

Monday starting time

- working players may be able to participate as afternoon play only
- Greenkeepers given more time to prepare greens
- potential to play on faster greens
- warmer playing conditions especially earlier in the season

Current Weekend Division

Competition	Teams	Proposed Saturday Comp	8 Teams per Division
Geelong/Ballarat Premier	4 Teams	Premier Division	4 Teams from Premier 4 Top Teams from Division 1
Division 1	10 Teams	Premier Reserve	6 Teams from Division 1 2 Top Teams from Division 2
Division 2	10 Teams	Division 1	8 Teams from Division 2
Division 3	10 Teams	Division 2	8 Top Teams from Division 3
Division 4	10 Teams	Division 3	2 Teams from Division 3 6 Top Teams from Division 4
Division 5	10 Teams	Division 4	4 Teams from Division 4 4 Top teams from Division 5
Division 6	10 Teams	Division 5	6 Teams from Division 5 2 Top teams from Division 6
Division 7	8 Teams	Division 6	8 Teams from Division 6
Division 8	8 Teams	Division 7	8 Teams from Division 7
Division 9	9 Teams	Division 8	Match committee to review depending on entries
		Division 9	Match committee to review depending on entries

Current Midweek Division

Competition	Number of Teams	Proposed Monday Comp 8 Teams per Division	
Division 1	10 Teams	Premier Division	8 Top Teams from Division 1
Division 2	10 Teams	Premier Reserve	2 Teams from Division 1 6 Top Teams from Division 2
Division 3	10 Teams	Division 1	4 Teams from Division 2 4 Top Teams from Division 3
Division 4	10 Teams	Division 2	6 Teams from Division 3 2 Top Teams from Division 4
Division 5	10 Teams	Division 3	8 Teams from Division 4
		Division 4	8 Teams from Division 5
		Division 5	Match Committee to review depending on entries for Division 4 and Division 5

Conclusion

The BDBD Pennant Planning Committee has spent a considerable time in reviewing all options and looking at progressing the game of bowls to be a modern game that competes against other sports.

We understand that some bowlers will not be happy with the changes but the Pennant Planning Committee is looking at the BDBD Pennant Competitions from an overall view of the game. As current participation numbers are decreasing, these proposals may start to see an increase in the number of new players and also some disillusioned bowlers may even return to the game.

The PPC would like to recommend to the BDBD Board that these recommendations be sent to the Club Secretaries **only** on Thursday 17 January 2019. Clubs will then have the opportunity to reply by Thursday 31 January 2019 if they require any clarification on any items contained within the Recommendations for Future of all BDBD Pennant Competitions 2019/2020 onwards. Replies must be on Club Letterhead and be signed by either the Club President or Club Secretary. All correspondence will be addressed at the BDBD Delegates Meeting to be held on Wednesday 6 February 2019.

The BDBD is also looking at potentially introducing another competition at the end of next season in addition to the current Pennants.

I would like to thank all the Clubs for their contributions and also the Pennant Planning Committee for their time, energy and input into the extensive review of the BDBD Pennant Competition from 2019 onwards.

Geoff Pickering
Chairman