

**SUMMERSET NATIONALS
OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP
FOURS
2025**

Conditions of Play

(Updated 8th October 2024)



1. **STATUS**

- 1.1 These Conditions of Play are supplementary to Bowls New Zealand Regulation 8 – National Events.
- 1.2 These Conditions of Play are also made in accordance with Law 55.3 of the Laws of the Sport, which permits Bowls New Zealand as a Controlling Body to establish conditions of play to cover certain aspects of the sport. These Conditions of Play set out the conditions of play for the National Open Championships - Men and Women and apply to all players, Clubs and Centres participating in the Event.
- 1.3 These Conditions of Play have been developed and issued by the Bowls New Zealand Chief Executive in accordance with Regulation 8 – National Events.
- 1.4 All games will be played in line with the Laws of the Sport of Bowls.

2. **NAME OF EVENT, DATES AND VENUES**

- 2.1 **NAME OF EVENT:** Summerset National Open Championships Fours - Men and Women
- 2.2 **DATES:** 20th-23rd February 2025 inclusive.
- 2.3 **VENUE:** Clubs throughout Bowls Canterbury

3. **CONTROLLING BODY**

- 3.1 Bowls New Zealand.
- 3.2 Tournament Director – Bowls New Zealand Tournament Director.

4. **DEFINITIONS**

- 4.1 The words and phrases used in these Conditions of Play shall have the same meaning as defined in Regulation 8 – National Events and the Constitution of Bowls New Zealand, unless otherwise specified in these Conditions of Play. For avoidance of doubt, the conventions used in the Laws of the Sport shall *not* apply to these Conditions of Play unless expressly stated.

Bowls New Zealand Tournament Director means the person appointed by Bowls New Zealand for the Championships on such terms and conditions as Bowls New Zealand determines.

Event means the Bowls New Zealand Summerset National Open Fours Championships.

Laws of the Sport means the World Bowls Laws of the Sport of Bowls (Crystal Mark Fourth Edition) and includes the domestic regulations of Bowls New Zealand.

Open Tournament means a competition, tournament or event for the game of Bowls which is open for entry to any member of any Club or Centre.

Season is the period of competition for the game of Bowls which for the purposes of these Conditions of Play shall commence on 1st July and end on 30th June the following year.

5. ENTRY

- 5.1 An entry fee will be charged for each person in all disciplines. Such entry fee will be set by Bowls New Zealand in the Entry Form for each Season.
- 5.2 The entry fee for 2025 is \$49.50 (GST inclusive) per player.
- 5.3 The online Event Entry Form must be completed for all entrants.
- 5.4 Only players that are a Playing Member (as defined by the Bowls New Zealand Constitution) of a Bowls New Zealand (or other World Bowls recognised National Organisation) affiliated bowling club are eligible to enter this event.

6. TRIAL ENDS

- 6.1 Pursuant to Law 5.1 of the Laws of the Sport trial ends will be allowed before competition commences each day.
- 6.2 In the event that a player / team has a bye in the first round of the day, they will be entitled to practice (on another available rink); and to have trial ends (on the rink of play along with their opponents). If a player / team has a bye in a subsequent round then they will only be entitled to practice (on another available rink).
- 6.3 Should players be required to change greens during the day an extra set of trial ends will be allowed.

7. PLAYING FORMAT (Applicable for both Men and Women)

The format and rules for all games are as follows:

7.1 Fours

- (a) Section Play - Six qualifying games with a three hours (3 hours) time limit will be played over two days with three games being played each day. Two bowls per player. Games will be of 18 ends. Sections will be of sixteen, fourteen or twelve teams.
- (b) All post-section games shall have a three-hour (3 hour) time limit except quarter-finals, semi-finals and the final which shall have no time limit. Two bowls per player. Games will be of 18 ends.
- (c) The time signals for each game shall be as follows:

The commencement of play and the expiry of time shall be signalled by the Umpire by a bell, or some other means clearly audible to the players concerned. Where the time limit is not common to all games on any green, the Umpire shall notify the opponents or skips in individual games when the time limit has expired.

If in a time limit game, the jack has been delivered before the time signal the end continues, and if it is subsequently made dead, it should be replayed until it is completed.

- (d) Ends made dead shall be replayed in accordance with Law 20 of the Laws of the Sport.
- (e) If the game is tied at the end of the time limit an extra end(s) will be played to determine a winner.
- (f) Teams winning four or more qualifying games will qualify for post-section.
- (g) Post-section Play - Sudden death knock-out. All byes will be disposed of in Round One.

7.2 **Alteration to the Format and Length of Games:**

- (a) The Controlling Body reserves the right to alter the format, times of play and greens to suit local unforeseen circumstances, giving as much notice as practical.
- (b) Where a programme is interrupted or cannot be completed due to inclement weather or local conditions, the Controlling Body may amend the format and length of games to achieve a result. (Refer Appendix A.)

7.3 **Restricting the Movement of Players:**

Prior to the start of each end, the following players will take their positions at the mat-end of the green:

Fours: The leads and the seconds

In time limit games as per this Regulation, the movement of players during play shall be restricted as specified in Appendix A. A.4 - Laws of the Sport as follows:

- (a) After delivering their first bowl, players will only be allowed to walk up to the head under the following circumstances.
 - i Fours Game:
 - the Leads: after the second player in their team has delivered their second bowl
 - the Seconds: after delivery of their second bowl
 - the Thirds: after delivery of their second bowl
 - the Skips: after delivery of each of their bowls
- (b) In exceptional and limited circumstances, a Skip can ask that a player walks up to the head earlier than described in Appendix A.4.1, Law 13 of the Laws of the Sport.
- (c) If a player does not meet the requirements of Appendix A.4.1, Law 13 of the Laws of the Sport shall apply.

7.4 **Absentee Players:**

If, 15 minutes after the scheduled start time for a game, one or more players are absent from a team, the defaulting team will forfeit the game to their opponents.

7.5 **Defaults:**

If a player or team defaults their score will be recorded as a loss. The non-offending team will be awarded a win.

8. SUBSTITUTES

- 8.1 Substitutes and changes to original team members will be allowed in terms of Bowls New Zealand Domestic Regulation 1, Clause 2 (Laws of the Sport).

9. FOOTWEAR, CLOTHING AND EQUIPMENT

- 9.1 Shoes or sandals may be worn by players when playing on a bowling green. All footwear must be flat soled and heel-less. Soles may be of a non-slip material with a slightly abrasive surface.
- 9.2 Any Player with a physical disability may use an appropriate support, wheelchair, scooter, or bowling aid, provided that the same is so made that its use causes no damage to the green. All appropriate support equipment must comply with Regulation 1 clause 17.
- 9.3 All members of a team must wear the same uniform as each other. Any garment may have logos displayed, but the Controlling Body may impose conditions relating to sponsors logos to ensure there is no conflict with a Tournament Sponsor.
- 9.4 Failure to comply with clause 9.3 will result in the offending Team being defaulted for each round until they comply with clause 9.
- 9.5 Players may be required to place stickers on their bowls to assist in identifying bowls during matches that are live-streamed. Stickers will be supplied by Bowls New Zealand.

10. SMOKING, VAPING, ALCOHOL AND BETTING

- 10.1 Subject to any further restrictions in specific Conditions of Play, the following smoking, alcohol and betting policies apply:
- a) There shall be no smoking anywhere in a Club house or on the greens or surrounds at a National Event. Smoking and / or vaping may only occur in designated smoking areas.
 - b) The drinking of alcohol at a National Event is restricted as follows:
 - i. For non-players or players when they are not involved in a game at a National Event, alcohol may be consumed in accordance with the Club's licence.
 - ii. Players must not consume alcohol while involved in a game at a National Event.
 - c) This event is one on which sports betting may be supported by the New Zealand TAB. All players participating in the event, Umpires/Technical Officials and all other officials officiating at the event are prohibited from placing bets and benefiting financially from bets placed by others.

11. OFFICIALS:

- 11.1 The appointed Chief Technical Official will be responsible for ensuring that Umpires are allocated at all venues in use for the Event. For post section play Umpires must be Level 2 or above.

12. JURY OF APPEAL:

- 12.1 A Jury of Appeal shall be appointed by the Bowls NZ CEO for the purpose of deciding upon any points not provided in the conditions of play and/or for dealing with any referrals or appeals from decisions made by Technical Officials (Law 43.2.6 of the Laws of the Sport and Rule 14.4 of Regulation 8).

13. PRIZE MONEY & MEDALS

- 13.1 Prize money for the National Finals is as below:

National Fours Champions	\$ 4,400
Runners-up	\$ 1,760
Third Equal	\$ 660

- 13.2 All players reaching the semi-finals or further will receive a Bowls New Zealand certificate (on request) and a bronze or silver medal; winners in all disciplines will receive a Bowls New Zealand gold medal.

14. TRAVEL, ACCOMMODATION & MEALS

- 14.1 All travel and accommodation costs for the Event will be the responsibility of the participants.
- 14.2 All meals are the players responsibility.

15 FINANCIAL

- 15.1 Bowls New Zealand is responsible for the budgeting and financial control of the Event.

16. MEDIA:

- 16.1 Some games in this Event may be broadcast on one or more digital platforms, and some moments during the Event may be captured by photographers. By participating in the Event, each participant acknowledges the right of Bowls New Zealand to broadcast or use photographic images of any participant during the Event for the benefit of the promotion of the game at any time during or after the Event.

APPENDIX A

Interruption to Play:

In the event of play at any venue being prevented by weather (or other unforeseen circumstances) the following protocols shall assist the Tournament Director in making a fair and reasonable decision:

- a) In all circumstances, the impact of the interruption on any green shall be treated in isolation; i.e. the entire event shall not be automatically impacted by the circumstances that have caused a delay in play on any green.
- b) The greenkeeper shall have the right to close a green at any time during the scheduled day's play when the continuation of play presents a health and safety threat to players and / or, in the opinion of the greenkeeper, risks damage to the green.
- c) Where the interruption is likely to mean a significant delay in the schedule of play for the day the Tournament Director, in conjunction with the umpire(s) present and / or the venue controller, may alter the Conditions of Play for that green. These changes may allow for play to:
 - i. continue on an artificial green (if available and / or previously allocated to the affected green in the event of interruption), or
 - ii. be reduced to allow for all remaining games on the affected day to be completed once play is possible again.

Any decision relating to an interruption in play shall be made with the intention of ensuring that the integrity of the tournament is preserved, and the health and safety of players and officials is not compromised.

- d) Where the options in c) (above) do not allow for a resumption in play on the affected day, the Tournament Director shall consider a reduction in either the number of games, or the length of games, to be played in the days subsequent to the interruption.
- e) Where the affected games are part of the qualification rounds the Tournament Director may deem that a player / team shall qualify for post-section play providing they have not already lost the number of games (as per the Conditions of Play) that would make it impossible for them to qualify.

APPENDIX B

Additional Information for Clubs and Players:

Bar

Clubs are not expected to open their bar outside of the hours of their bar licence but are encouraged to operate their bar as usual for the benefit of the players and officials and supporters.

Results Recording

Host clubs shall provide a results recorder. Where a club is requires assistance for their results recorder, the appointed umpire shall be encouraged to provide support in this space.