



**BOWLS NEW ZEALAND**

**NATIONAL**

**CHAMPION OF CHAMPIONS**

  

**SINGLES, PAIRS, TRIPLES,**

**FOURS AND MIXED PAIRS**

**2025**

**Conditions of Play**

**(Updated 13th February 2025)**

# National Finals

BOWLS NEW ZEALAND - CONDITIONS OF PLAY NATIONAL CHAMPION OF CHAMPIONS SINGLES, PAIRS, TRIPLES, FOURS AND MIXED PAIRS COMPETITION
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## 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 Bowls New Zealand National Champion of Championship Singles, Pairs, Triples, Fours and Mixed Pairs Competition Event and applies 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, DATES AND VENUES

- 2.1 The name(s) of the Event(s) is (are):

**Bowls New Zealand National Champion of Champion Singles, Pairs, Triples, Fours and Mixed Pairs.**

### 2.2 DATES:

Men's & Women's Singles:	Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> – Sunday 20 <sup>th</sup> July 2025
Men's Fours:	Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> – Sunday 27 <sup>th</sup> July 2025
Women's Fours:	Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> August – Sunday 3 <sup>rd</sup> August 2025
Men's Pairs:	Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> August – Sunday 10 <sup>th</sup> August 2025
Women's Pairs:	Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> August – Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup> August 2025
Men's & Women's Triples:	Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> August – Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup> August 2025
Mixed Pairs (2 x 4 x 2):	Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> August – Sunday 31 <sup>st</sup> August 2025

### 2.3 VENUES:

Men's & Women's Singles:	New Lynn Bowling Club, Auckland & Royal Oak Bowls, Auckland
Men's Fours:	Dunedin Lawn Bowls Stadium, Dunedin
Women's Fours:	Dunedin Lawn Bowls Stadium, Dunedin
Men's Pairs:	Frankton Junction Bowling Club, Hamilton
Women's Pairs:	Bowls Hastings, Hawke's Bay
Men's & Women's Triples:	New Lynn Bowling Club, Auckland & Royal Oak Bowls, Auckland
Mixed Pairs (2 x 4 x 2):	Tauranga South Bowling Club, Tauranga

**Other outdoor venues may be used to support a draw.** Based on entry numbers some rounds may be required to be played at a second outdoor venue to accommodate the draw.

## 3. CONTROLLING BODY

- 3.1 The Controlling Body is 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 National Finals on such terms and conditions as Bowls New Zealand determines.

**Event** means the Bowls New Zealand Champion of Champion Singles, Pairs, Triples, Fours and Mixed Pairs Competition.

**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.

#### 5. **ENTRY:**

- 5.1 Participants in each discipline shall be the affiliated Centre Champion in that discipline and must (in the case of Pairs, Triples, Fours and Mixed Pairs) be from the same club.

Bowls New Zealand's preference is that centres adopt the club – centre – national qualifying process. Special dispensation may be given to a smaller centre upon request, where the centre believes that an open centre qualifying event is warranted, based upon the number of clubs or geography of the centre.

- (a) Each Centre must hold a Centre Qualifying Competition for this Event.
- (b) If an individual player from the winning team in pairs, triples, fours or mixed pairs are unable to attend the National Final, then Bowls New Zealand Domestic Regulation 1, Clause 2 in respect of substitutes will come into effect and the Bowls New Zealand Tournament Director must be notified immediately of any such requests for substitutes or replacements. Only the winning team from each centre is entitled to represent their Club/Centre at the national finals.
- (c) Bowls New Zealand reserves the right to cancel any of the National Finals if the number of teams entered in any discipline does not reach a minimum of 12 entries from the 27 eligible centres.

If a player and / or player in a team wins a club championship competition that qualifies them for a centre Champion of Champions event, which goes on to a National Champion of Champions event, they are ineligible to enter another club's competition in that discipline.

A player and / or player in a team can only win one club championship or centre Champion of Champions event per discipline in a single season. *For clarity, if a player wins any club championship, in any discipline, then they may NOT enter that same discipline at any other club, in any centre, in the same season.*

A player and / or player in a team can only play in one active club championship discipline at any one time. *For clarity, the player may enter another club's (if they are a full playing member) championship in the same discipline ONLY after the first club's championship in the same discipline has concluded and/or they are knocked out of that club's 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)**

### 7.1 Playing Format

The draw shall be determined once entry levels are confirmed.

By way of example, in 2024, teams played four games over five or six rounds with three (3) out of four (4) wins required to qualify for post section play.

(a)	Singles	21 shots	2 ½ hour time limit	4 bowls
	Pairs	18 ends	2 ½ hour time limit	3 bowls
	Triples	18 ends	2 ½hour time limit	2 bowls
	Fours	15 ends	2 ½ hour time limit	2 bowls
	Mixed Pairs	14 ends	2 ½ hour time limit	4 bowls

Mixed Pairs Format:

Player 1 (and therefore Player 2) from each team must be recorded on the scorecard no later than the delivery of the first bowl of the first end by each team.

For clarity, each team shall appoint a team captain (“Skip”) who shall be identified on the scorecard as being either Player 1 or Player 2 by way of an asterisk after that person’s name. This player will assume the responsibility of completing the scorecard and other duties associated with a Skip’s traditional role.

Sequence of Play

1st End (and subsequent odd numbered ends)

- i. Team A Player 1: delivers two bowls alternatively with Team B Player 1
- ii. Team B Player 1: delivers two bowls alternatively with Team A Player 1
- iii. Team A Player 2: delivers four bowls alternatively with Team B Player 2
- iv. Team B Player 2: delivers four bowls alternatively with Team A Player 2
- v. Team A Player 1: delivers two bowls alternatively with Team B Player 1
- vi. Team B Player 1: delivers two bowls alternatively with Team A Player 1

2nd End (and subsequent even numbered ends)

- vii. Team A Player 2: delivers two bowls alternatively with Team B Player 2
- viii. Team B Player 2: delivers two bowls alternatively with Team A Player 2
- ix. Team A Player 1: delivers four bowls alternatively with Team B Player 1
- x. Team B Player 1: delivers four bowls alternatively with Team A Player 1
- xi. Team A Player 2: delivers two bowls alternatively with Team B Player 2
- xii. Team B Player 2: delivers two bowls alternatively with Team A Player 2

- (b) 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.

- (c) **Ends made dead** shall be replayed in accordance with Law 20 of the Laws of the Sport. If in a time limit game, the jack has been delivered before the time signal, the end continues and if the end is subsequently made dead the end will be replayed.

In a Mixed Pairs game, a dead end shall be played using the same player sequence.

- (d) **Time Limit** - All qualifying games will have a time limit which shall be set once entry levels are known.

- (e) **Extra End** - If an extra end is required to decide a drawn game the teams will toss to establish which team will play first.

There will be no kills on the extra end and the jack will be spotted on the 2 metre mark. If a bowl is already on the 2 metre mark the jack will be placed on the mat side of the bowl sitting on the 2 metre mark without touching the bowl.

In a Mixed Pairs game, the sequence shall be the same as the first end; Refer 7.1 (a) above.

- (f) **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.

- (g) **Default:** If a team or player defaults their score will be recorded as a loss. The non-offending team will be awarded a win.

- (h) In all **qualifying** games one point will be awarded for each game won. There are no draws, so an extra end will be played to decide the winner. The killing of ends is allowed, noting rule 7.1.e for the extra end.

- (i) **Markers** - In singles games, bye game players may be required to mark another game that round.

- (j) **Reporting** - Teams/players must report in 30 minutes before their scheduled start time, as games may start earlier than the scheduled time.

## 7.2 Post Section:

- a) The post section draw will be determined based on entry levels.

- b) All games in post section will be sudden death knockout games with a random draw.

- c) All byes will be disposed of in the first round of post section. A team which has received a bye and has to play a team that has already played that day, shall be entitled to a practice session on a neutral rink **if available**.

- d) All post section games will have a time limit (note 7.1 d), apart from the Semi-finals and Finals which will have **no time limit**.

- e) Post section times and rounds are subject to change based on the number of qualifiers.

- f) At least one round of post-section play will be scheduled for Saturday when either of the following is true:
- a. There are only five (5) rounds of qualifying scheduled.
  - b. The number of qualifiers is above eight (8)

### 7.3 Alterations to the Format & Length of Games

- (a) The Controlling Body reserves the right to alter the format, times of play and greens 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.

### 7.4 Restricting the Movement of Players

- 1) In all games, the movement of players during play shall be restricted as specified in Appendix A A.4 – Laws of the Sport.

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

- Pairs / Mixed Pairs: The leads / the “leads”
- Triples: The leads and the seconds
- Fours: The leads, the seconds and thirds

After delivering their first bowl, players will only be allowed to walk up to the head under the following circumstances.

- (i) **Singles Game:**  
The opponents: after delivery of their third and fourth bowls
- (ii) **Pairs Games (each player playing three bowls):**
  - a) the leads: after delivery of their third bowl; and
  - b) the skips; after delivery of their second and third bowls
- (iii) **Triples Games (each player playing two bowls)**
  - a) the leads: after delivery of their second bowl
  - b) the seconds: after delivery of their second bowl and
  - c) the skips: after delivery of each of their bowls
- (iii) **Fours Game:**
  - a) the leads: after the second player in their team has delivered their second bowl
  - b) the seconds: after delivery of their second bowl
  - c) the thirds: after delivery of their second bowl and
  - d) the skips: after delivery of each of their bowls
- (iv) **Mixed Pairs (2 x 4 x 2): (each player playing four bowls)**
  - a) the “Leads”: after their second bowl
  - b) the “Second and Third”: after delivery of their fourth bowl
  - c) the “Skips”: after delivery of each of their bowls

In exceptional and limited circumstances, a player can ask that their partner walks up to the head earlier than described in Appendix A.4.1 of the Laws of the Sport.

If a player does not meet the requirements of Appendix A.4.1, Law 13 of the Laws of the Sport shall apply.

- 2) (a) In exceptional and limited circumstances, a Singles player can ask the Marker for permission to walk up to the head, or a Skip can ask that a player walks up to the head earlier than described in Appendix A.4.1.

(b) If a player does not meet the requirements of Appendix A.4.1, Law 13 of the Laws of the Sport shall apply.

3) Position of Players (Live Streaming rinks)

Only the skip and/or the third player in fours and skip and/or second player in triples may stand on the green at the head-end of the rink. All other team members must stand on the bank surround of the green.

## **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.

*For clarity, unless otherwise specified in these Conditions of Play, changes in personnel within a Pairs, Triples, Fours or Mixed Pairs team may be made prior to the initial game in a competition (i.e. the first round of a Club Championship competition) but any subsequent changes required due to a player's injury or illness (or other reason that is deemed acceptable to the Controlling Body) shall be classified as a substitution. A substitute player is permitted to compete in the place of the original player until (i) the original player returns to the team, or (ii) the team's involvement in any stage of the competition ends. In accordance with the Laws of the Sport; (i) a substitute player is not permitted to be the skip of any team, (ii) a maximum of one substitute player is permitted in a Pairs, Triples or Mixed Pairs team, and (iii) a maximum of two substitute players are permitted in a Fours team. In all cases, the Controlling Body shall determine the suitability of any request for a substitute player based upon the substitute player being an equal or lesser player than the player they are seeking to take the place of, and therefore the team not becoming a better team, in terms of playing ability, than the original team.*

## **9. FOOTWEAR & CLOTHING**

9.1 Only 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 or bowling aid, provided that the same is so made that its use causes no damage to the green.

9.3 All members of a team or side 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 or Side being defaulted for each round until they comply with clause 9.3.

**10. EQUIPMENT:**

**Bowls Stickers**

- 10.1 Players may be required to place stickers on their bowls to assist in identifying bowls during matches that are being broadcast. Stickers will be supplied by Bowls New Zealand and shall be required to be affixed to both sides of each bowl.

**11. SMOKING, ALCOHOL AND BETTING**

- 11.1 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 at a National Event. Smoking may only occur in designated smoking areas.
  - (b) The drinking of alcohol at a National Event is restricted to the Club house at each venue in accordance with the Club's licence.
  - (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.

**12. OFFICIALS**

- 12.1 The Tournament Director shall appoint the Chief Technical Official.
- 12.2 The Chief Technical Official will also be responsible for the appointment of Markers.

**13. CODE OF CONDUCT:**

- 13.1 Participants must conduct themselves in a proper manner, including maintaining a high standard of personal conduct, so as not to bring themselves, Bowls New Zealand, a Centre, Club or the game of Bowls into disrepute. Refer to Bowls New Zealand Domestic Regulation 2.

**14. JURY OF APPEAL:**

- 14.1 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).

**15. MEDALS:**

- 15.1 All players reaching the semi-finals or further will receive a Bowls New Zealand bronze or silver medal; winners in all disciplines will receive a Bowls New Zealand gold medal.

Upon request, these players may also receive a Bowls New Zealand certificate.



**16. TRAVEL, ACCOMMODATION & MEALS:**

- 16.1 All travel and accommodation costs for the National Finals will be the responsibility of the participants.
- 16.2 All meals are the players responsibility.

**17. MEDIA:**

- 17.1 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



NATIONAL CHAMPION OF CHAMPIONS FINALS 2025 REGISTRATION

CLUB / CENTRE NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ MEN'S / WOMEN'S PLAYER LIST (Delete one)

Player Names:

\_\_\_\_\_ (Singles)

\_\_\_\_\_ (Pairs)

\_\_\_\_\_ (Pairs)

\_\_\_\_\_ (Triples)

\_\_\_\_\_ (Triples)

\_\_\_\_\_ (Triples)

\_\_\_\_\_ (Fours)

\_\_\_\_\_ (Fours)

\_\_\_\_\_ (Fours)

\_\_\_\_\_ (Fours)

\_\_\_\_\_ (Mixed Pairs)

\_\_\_\_\_ (Mixed Pairs)

Team Contact Details:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mobile Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

The above listed acknowledge that their involvement in the National Champion of Champion Finals 2025 is subject to the Bowls New Zealand Regulations (including Code of Conduct and the Conditions of Play).

Please complete and return this form to Bowls New Zealand by email to [chris@bowlsnewzealand.co.nz](mailto:chris@bowlsnewzealand.co.nz) no later than 14<sup>th</sup> June 2025.

## APPENDIX B

### 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.