

NATIONAL INTERCLUB SEVENS 2026

Conditions of Play
(Updated 20 March 2026)



BOWLS
NEW ZEALAND
AOTEAROA

1. STATUS

- 1.1 These Conditions of Play are made in accordance with Law 57.2 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 event. These Conditions of Play set out the conditions for the National Interclub Sevens.
- 1.2 These Conditions of Play have been developed and issued by the Bowls New Zealand Chief Executive Officer in accordance with Bowls New Zealand's Regulations (Bowls New Zealand Events).
- 1.3 All games will be played in line with the Laws of the Sport of Bowls (Crystal Mark Fourth Edition)

2. NAME OF EVENT, DATES AND VENUES

2.1 **Event Name:** Bowls New Zealand National Interclub Sevens

2.2 **Dates:** Thursday 9th April – Sunday 12 April 2026.

2.3 VENUES

2.3.1 Administrative headquarters is to be at Johnsonville Bowling Club

2.3.2 All games (Section and Post-section) will be played at clubs to be determined within the Bowls Wellington centre.

3. CONTROLLING BODY

3.1 Bowls New Zealand is the Controlling Body.

3.2 Tournament Director: Tournament Director appointed by Bowls New Zealand.

4. DEFINITIONS

The words and phrases used in these Conditions of Play shall have the same meaning as defined in Bowls New Zealand's Regulations and the Constitution of Bowls New Zealand, unless otherwise specified in these Conditions of Play.

- 4.1.1 **Bowls New Zealand Tournament Director** means the person appointed by Bowls New Zealand for the event on such terms and conditions as Bowls New Zealand determines.
- 4.1.2 **Event** Means the Bowls New Zealand National Interclub Sevens.
- 4.1.3 **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.
- 4.1.4 **Side** refers to the collective team representing a club in the Men's or Women's National Interclub Sevens, each Side consists of three disciplines: Singles, Pairs, and Fours.
- 4.1.5 **Match** means the three games played between two competing sides.
- 4.1.6 **Game** means the individual games (disciplines) making up a match.
- 4.1.7 **Discipline** means the format of game played (Singles, Pairs or Fours)
- 4.1.8 **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.
- 4.1.9 **Uniforms** are the apparel worn by competitors and refer to: but not limited to Jackets, Jumpers, Shirts, Pants, Shorts

5. ENTRY

- 5.1 Centres must notify Bowls New Zealand by 30th January 2026 of their intention to enter this event.
- 5.2 An entry fee of \$225 (GST incl) is **applicable to both the Men's and Women's entry**. This is **payable by 20th February 2026**, an invoice will be issued to the centre by Bowls New Zealand in November.
- 5.3 The following team information must be returned to Bowls New Zealand by 14 March 2026.
 - 5.3.1 Player information form, including Code of Conduct acceptance
 - (a) See attached Appendix A.
- 5.4 All players must be full playing members of the Bowls New Zealand affiliated bowling club they are representing.
- 5.5 If a player is part of a club's Interclub Sevens team, that player is not eligible to represent another club in another centre's Interclub Sevens competition, that advances to the National Interclub Sevens Finals, or be selected to represent another club in the National Interclub Sevens Finals.

For clarity, players cannot be selected in two clubs across multiple centres in an interclub sevens pathway event. This rule only applies to an interclub event that progresses to the National Interclub Sevens Finals in April. It is the obligation of the club to ensure that its side is selected in accordance with the above requirements.

Should a club side compete in a centre event with an ineligible player included in that side, that club will be disqualified from the centre event.

Should a club side that has won their centre championship with a legitimate side but subsequently include an ineligible player in their side that competes at the National Finals, that club shall be disqualified from the National Finals.

6. PLAYING FORMAT

6.1 Men's and Women's Interclub Sevens

6.1.1 General

- (a) A Centre must conduct a competition that allows all Clubs within their Centre to enter one (or more at the Centre's discretion) side(s) in the Event.
- (b) Clubs with 10 or less financial members of the same gender may be allowed to enter a combined side with another Club of similar size and gender for the Event. Bowls New Zealand must be approached prior to the event's commencement to seek approval for a composite side to be included in the centre event.
- (c) Clubs who qualify for the National Finals may re-select their team for the National Finals from players that were full playing members of the club at the time the club won the Centre Championship. (This clause is the exemption to Domestic regulation 2.7 exempting the National Interclub Sevens from the provisions of the Original team requirements)
- (d) Only players included within the seven players listed on the official entry form are eligible to compete in the disciplines that they are selected in.
- (e) After the commencement of the first round of play players are not eligible to change disciplines.
- (f) If a Club makes any change to its listed players prior to the commencement of the first round of play, an updated player form must be submitted to the Tournament Director before play begins.

Any request for substitutes after play has commenced must be submitted to, and approved by, the Tournament Director in accordance with Bowls New Zealand Domestic Regulations.

- (g) Each side will play the following disciplines
 - i. **Singles:** First to 21 Shots.
 - ii. **Pairs:** 18 Ends.
 - iii. **Fours:** 15 Ends.

6.1.2 Section Composition

- (a) Sides will be drawn into four sections, the number of sides in each section will be determined by total entries and will be a combination of either:
 - i. 5 Sides
 - ii. 6 Sides
 - iii. 7 Sides
- (b) Club Sides from centres who made Quarter finals in the 2025 National Interclub Sevens competition. will be seeded into each section.
- (c) Non seeded sides will be placed into each section by zone.

6.1.3 Section Play:

- (a) All Section play games will be played to a 2 hour 45 minute time limit.
- (a) Each section will play a full round robin.
- (b) Sides will be scheduled to compete against their opponents in all three disciplines each round.
- (c) All games drawn in Section play are to remain draws.
- (d) The top two placed sides in each section will qualify for post section play.

6.1.4 Determination of Winners

(a) The finishing position of each side in section play shall be determined as follows:

i. Highest Match Points

2 Match points awarded for each match won.

1 Match point awarded for each match drawn.

ii. Highest Game Points

1 Game points awarded for each game won.

0.5 Game points awarded for each game drawn.

iii. Highest Net total of shots

(Shots Scored less shots scored conceded)

iv. Highest total of shots scored.

(Total of shots scored across all games in all matches)

v. Lowest total of shots scored conceded.

(Total of shots conceded across all games in all matches)

vi. Should sides remain tied. (after v)

- The side that won the match when the two sides met shall be the superior side.
- If that match was drawn, an extra end shall be played between the two sides in all three disciplines. The side that wins two of those three ends shall be the superior side.

6.1.5 Post Section Play:

(a) Post section play will be sudden death knock-out.

(b) All post section matches will have no time-limit.

(c) A pre determined draw will be used for post section play.

(d) The side winning two out of three games in their match shall progress to the next knockout round.

(e) Law 28 of the Laws of the Sport will apply for post section games. If scores are equal in any game at the completion of all ends, then an extra end will be played to determine the winner of that game. Only the game with the draw will play an extra end.

6.1.6 Schedule of Play

(a) The schedule of play for each section size will be as follows

i. Sections of 5 Sides – all sides will receive one bye.

Thursday: One round

Friday: Three rounds

Saturday: One round

ii. Sections of 6 Sides – all sides will receive one bye.

Thursday: Two rounds

Friday: Three rounds

Saturday: One round

iii. Sections of 7 Sides – all sides will receive one bye.

Thursday: Two rounds

Friday: Three rounds

Saturday: Two rounds

(b) The schedule of play for Finals will be as follows:

i. **Mens:**

Quarter Finals: Saturday 11th April at 3.30pm or as soon as possible after this time.

Semi Finals: Sunday 12th April at 8.30am at Johnsonville Bowling Club.

Finals: Sunday 12th April at 12.00pm at Johnsonville Bowling Club.

ii. **Womens:**

Quarter Finals: Saturday 11th April at 12.15pm or as soon as possible after this time.

Semi Finals: Saturday 11th April at 3.30pm.

Finals: Sunday 12th April at 8.30am at Johnsonville Bowling Club.

7. GAME FORMAT

7.1 Starting the game

7.1.1 Trial Ends

- (a) One trial end in each direction will be allowed before competition commences each day in accordance with Law 5.1 of the Laws of the Sport.
- (b) In the event that a side has a bye in the first round of the day and are scheduled to play against an opponent competing in the first round, they will be entitled to practice (on another available rink); and to have trial ends (on the rink of play along with their opponents).
- (c) Should sides be required to change greens during the day an extra set of trial ends will be allowed.
- (d) All trial ends must be completed before the scheduled start time of the game they relate to.

7.1.2 Tossing for start of play

- (a) The coaches (or in their absence, representatives of the sides) must toss a coin.
- (b) The winner of the toss must choose whether to:
 - i. Place the mat and then deliver the jack and the first bowl; or
 - ii. Tell the opposing side to place the mat and deliver the first bowl.
 - iii. The option chosen by the coach or side representative who wins the toss will apply to all disciplines in the match.
 - iv. If the coin is tossed before the start of the trial ends, the option the winner of the toss chooses will apply to both the first trial end and the first end of the game.

7.2 Practice.

- 7.2.1 If a side has a bye in any given round and are scheduled to play an opponent playing in the same round as their bye then that side is entitled to practice (on another available rink).

7.3 Dead Ends.

- 7.3.1 Ends made dead shall be replayed in accordance with Law 20 of the Laws of the Sport.

7.4 Drawn Games.

- 7.4.1 In section play, if the game is drawn, no extra end will be played and the game will be recorded as a draw.
- 7.4.2 In post section play, if the game is tied at the conclusion of the allocated ends, an extra end(s) will be played to determine a winner. The coaches (or, in their absence, representatives of the sides) must toss a coin and the winner will decide who must play first.

7.5 Alterations to the Format and Length of Games.

7.5.1 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.

7.5.2 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 B.)

7.6 Restricting the Movement of Players.

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

Pairs: The leads

Fours: The leads and the seconds, the thirds may remain at the head with the skips until they are required to deliver a bowl.

7.6.2 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. **Singles Games:**

The opponents: after delivery of their third and fourth bowls.

Pairs Games:

The Leads: after delivery of their third bowl.

The Skips: after delivery of their second and third bowls.

Fours Games:

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.

7.6.3 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 of the Laws of the Sport.

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

7.7 Absentee Players

7.7.1 If, 15 minutes after the scheduled start time, a Side is unable to field the required number of eligible players due to absentee players, any game (discipline) that cannot field its required number of players will be defaulted to its opponents.

7.8 Defaults

- 7.8.1 If a player or team defaults their score will be recorded as a loss. The non-offending team will be awarded a win.
- 7.8.2 The non-offending team will be awarded an average Winning and Losing shots scored.
 - (a) Calculated by the winning teams in the same discipline in the same round of the same section.

7.9 Coaches

- 7.9.1 It shall be permissible for any Coach to advise their player(s) during the course of the Event in accordance with Law 44 of the Laws of the Sport from outside the boundaries of the green.
- 7.9.2 The names of coaches must be given to the Umpire before the game starts.

7.10 Substitutions

- 7.10.1 Substitutions will be allowed per Bowls New Zealand Domestic Regulations.
- 7.10.2 Any substitute request must be submitted to and approved by the Tournament Director.

8. FOOTWEAR, CLOTHING AND EQUIPMENT.

- 8.1 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.
- 8.2 Any Player with a physical disability may use an appropriate support, wheelchair, scooter, or bowling aid, provided its use causes no damage to the green. All appropriate support equipment must comply with Bowls New Zealand Domestic Regulations.
- 8.3 All members of a side must wear the same uniform. Any garment may display logos; however, the Controlling Body may impose conditions to avoid conflict with Tournament Sponsors. Teams and players must also ensure uniforms and apparel do not display overseas gambling advertising logos, in accordance with the [Gambling Act 2003 – Section 16: Prohibition on Overseas Gambling Advertising](#).
- 8.4 Failure to comply with clause 8.3 will result in the offending player or side being defaulted for each round until they comply with clause 8.3.
- 8.5 Players may be required to place stickers on their bowls to assist in identifying bowls during matches that are to be broadcast. Stickers will be supplied by Bowls New Zealand.

8.6 Use of Electronic Devices

- 8.6.1 Pursuant to Law 41.7, players with a hearing disability can use electronic devices to verbally communicate with each other, or with a marker in a singles game while in possession of the rink of play.
- 8.6.2 Electronic devices should not interrupt or interfere with any other players or disrupt the flow of the game. The electronic device must be non-intrusive to other players or officials that are present on the green at any time during a game. As a guide, the use of the device should be no more intrusive (in terms of volume) than any other conversation between players in any game.

9. SMOKING, VAPING, ALCOHOL AND BETTING.

9.1 Subject to any further restrictions in specific Conditions of Play, the following smoking, alcohol and betting policies apply:

- 9.1.1 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.
- 9.1.2 The drinking of alcohol at a National Event is restricted as follows:
 - (a) 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.
 - (b) Players must not consume alcohol while involved in a game at a National Event.
- 9.1.3 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.

10. OFFICIALS

10.1 The appointed Chief Technical Official will be responsible for:

- 10.1.1 ensuring that Umpires are allocated at all venues in use for the Event.
 - (a) For post section play Umpires must be Level 2 qualified or above.

11. PRIZE MONEY AND MEDALS

11.1 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.

12. JURY OF APPEAL

12.1 A Jury of Appeal shall be appointed by the Bowls New Zealand CEO, or their appointee, 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 Bowls New Zealand Regulations – Judicial Process).

13. FINANCIAL

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

14. MEDIA

14.1 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 Interclub Sevens 2026
Registration Form**

Club Name:

Men's / Women's (Circle one)

Player Names

BowlsHub ID Number

Singles:

Pairs Skip:

Pairs (Lead):

Fours (Skip):

Fours (Third):

Fours (Second)

Fours (Lead)

Coaches Name:

Managers Details:

Name:

Mobile Number:

Email Address:

The above listed acknowledge that their involvement in the National Interclub 2026 is subject to the Bowls New Zealand Regulations (including Code of Conduct and the Conditions of Play). Please complete and return this registration form to Bowls New Zealand no later than 14 March 2026 by email to info@bowlsnewzealand.co.nz

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 risk 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:
 - a. continue on an artificial green (if available and / or previously allocated to the affected green in the event of interruption), or
 - b. 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.

APPENDIX C

Additional Information for Clubs and Players:

Catering

Not all hosting venues will have catering / food available for sale to players, so players should be aware that they need to make their own arrangements regarding their personal catering requirements.

Bar

Clubs are encouraged to open and operate their bar in line with their licence conditions, for the benefit of players, 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 provide support in this space.

Markers

Clubs are encouraged to provide markers for all singles games that they are hosting. Where a club is unable to fulfil the marker requirement for any green, players that have a bye round may be required to provide their services as a marker.