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**TO: DISTRICT SECRETARIES  
MEDIA**

## **CIRCULAR 26/2008**

### **PRESS RELEASE**

The President of Bowls SA, Piet Breitenbach, has met with a group of prominent players to debate and canvass their views and ideas as to what they feel is required to advance the image and expand the wider appeal of the Sport of Bowls in South Africa.

The players felt that it was important to satisfy the needs of both the more social and competitive players in South Africa.

A number of issues were discussed including the format of the South African Nationals played annually. The President, in his opening remarks on this matter, stressed the need to find a solution which would appeal to the wider mass of the South African bowling fraternity.

After a number of proposals were discussed the players finally reached agreement on the following proposal.

- The event should not exceed nine days in total.
- The disciplines to be contested should include Singles, Pairs and Fours.
- That each discipline should be completed before the next was played in order to allow for contestants to return home if they had been eliminated from the tournament.

### **PAIRS**

The Pairs would be played over 15 ends. In order to align the contest with International events players would use three bowls. This would also allow for three to four rounds being completed each day.

### **FOURS**

The Fours would consist of 15 ends. This would allow for three rounds to be completed each day.

The Pairs and Fours should be considered as a "Festival of Bowls" and allow for players entered in both disciplines to enjoy a minimum of ten to eleven games at the Nationals.

**Executive Committee:**

*President:* Piet Breitenbach, *Vice President:* Debra Ferguson

**Members:** Allan Freeman, Kallie Haupt, Tys Pringle, Isabel Smith

## **SINGLES**

As the ultimate prize of this event is an automatic entry into the World Champion of Champions each year, the contest should be enhanced in status and played over the last three days of the tournament. In order to expand the appeal of the Nationals it should be billed as the finals of this discipline. Players would be expected to qualify for the tournament by progressing through their respective District Singles event. Allocations per District would be weighted according to total membership.

The total entry into the finals would not exceed 128 players. Eight entries would be reserved as a Presidents invitation or wildcard entry. The format should conform to the one used at the World Champion of Champions event.

The President intends consulting further and debating this proposal with a wider group in order to arrive at a format acceptable to the majority of interested parties before submitting a final proposal to Council.

**John Ravenscroft**  
**Operations Manager**