CONDITIONS OF PLAY

2026 MEN'S OPEN

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Controlling Body:	**Bowls South Africa**
Event:	**2027 Men's Open Event**
Dates:	**1-9 May 2027**
Venue:	**Western Province Bowls**

All games shall be played in accordance with:

- THE LAWS OF THE SPORT OF BOWLS CRYSTAL MARK 4th EDITION; and
- DOMESTIC REGULATIONS OF BOWLS SOUTH AFRICA; and the following;
- CONDITIONS OF PLAY

CONTROLLING BODY

The tournament shall be under the control of Bowls South Africa through its nominated Executive Member and in association with the Tournament Committee and Jury of Appeal.

JURY OF APPEAL

The Executive will appoint the Jury of Appeal consisting of:

- A member of the Bowls SA Executive, failing that a person nominated by the Executive at their sole discretion.
- A member of the Host District's Executive Committee, who is not a Member of the Tournament Committee.
- A member of the National Standing Committee: Technical Officials (NSCTO) or, in the absence of such a member, the Convenor of the staging District's Technical Officials Standing Committee or their nominee (may not be a member of the Events Committee).
- A person with a legal background, as nominated by the Bowls SA Executive Committee. (Need not be present at the Event).

The decisions of the Jury of Appeal shall be final.

1. BOWLS – DISTINCTIVE MARKINGS, LEGALITY, REGISTRATION AND STICKERS

Bowls in a set of four must have distinctive and similar markings on each side.
Club personalised stickers may be used, however, only Controlling Body stickers will be acceptable at semi and final stages

2. GREEN FEES

R25,00 green fees per competitor per day must be paid to clubs who are hosting the sectional play in the Singles, Fours and Pairs. This fee does not include coffees, teas and lunches. Once the sectional play is concluded green fees will not be charged.

3. FORMAT OF PLAY

3.1 PAIRS

3.1.1 The Pairs Championships (3 rounds per day) shall be played with three bowls on a league system in sections of six teams, over 18 ends.

3.1.2 All ends of sectional play in the pairs are to be completed, as net shots could decide section winners. In the event of a drawn game in sectional play, 1 point is awarded to each team (no extra end). Three (3) points are awarded to the winner of each sectional game. During the knockout phase, a drawn game will result in an extra end or ends being played until a result is achieved.

3.1.3 The play-offs up to and including the final shall be in the same format on a knockout basis (18 ends).

3.1.4 Teams must play on the same green for every round of sectional play and the first round of knockout play.
The Club Tournament Official (CTO), due to logistical reasons, may request that all sectional winners at the same club play on the same green during the first round of knockout play.

3.2 SINGLES

3.2.1 The Open and Veteran Singles Championships (3 rounds per day) shall be played with four bowls to 21 shots on a league system in sections of three players. The play-offs of section winners shall be on a knockout basis.

3.2.2 The three rounds are to be played in the following sequence, and the odd player in each round shall mark:

Round 1 – Player 1 vs Player 2
Round 2 – Loser Round 1 vs Player 3
Round 3 – Winner Round 1 vs Player 3

3.2.3 Should sectional play in the open singles be completed by 15:15, the first round of the play-offs will take place thereafter at the same venue, provided that the latest start time for a play-off game will be 15:30. Players who competed in sectional play and not qualifying for the play-offs are requested to assist by marking the play-off games.

3.3 FOURS

3.3.1 The Fours Championships (3 rounds per day) shall be played with two bowls on a league system in sections of six teams, over 15 ends. The play-offs of section winners shall be on a knockout basis.

3.3.2 All games of sectional play in the fours are to be completed, as net shots could decide section winners. In the event of a drawn game in sectional play, 1 point is awarded to each team (no extra end). Three (3) points are awarded to the winner of each sectional game. During the knockout phase, a drawn game will result in an extra end or ends being played until a result is achieved.

3.3.3 In knockout play, the same format as used in section play will be used up to and including the quarter-finals. The semi-finals and finals will be played over 21 ends. In the event of a peel, an extra end or ends will be played until a result is achieved.

3.3.4 Teams must play on the same green for every round of sectional play and the first round of knockout play.
The Club Tournament Official (CTO), due to logistical reasons, may request that all sectional winners at the same club play on the same green during the first round of knockout play.

4. POINTS ALLOCATION (Sectional Play)

PAIRS AND FOURS
3 Points for winning the game and 1 Point if the game is peeled.
SINGLES
1 Point for winning the game

5. POINTS ALLOCATION (Knockout Phase)

No points awarded. Team/Player who wins the game moves onto next round

6. SECTION WINNERS

The section winner shall be the team with the most points, and if a tie, the following sequential criteria will be used until a winner is determined. Net shots, shot percentage (i.e. shots for divided by shots against), the winner of the game between the two teams during section play, and if still a tie, a one end tie-breaker will be played.

7. NOTE - SINGLES

In the unlikely event that all the players record the same scores during sectional play, the winner will be decided in a one end playoff with the mat and jack placed on the respective two metre marks. Each player to deliver one bowl in the sequence prescribed in the section draw. When each player's bowl comes to rest the distance from the jack shall be recorded and the bowl removed prior to the next player delivering their bowl.
The section winner shall be the player whose bowl finishes closest to the jack.
The sequence shall be repeated should two or more players record equal distances.

8. ELIGIBILITY / MEMBERSHIP CARDS / PROOF OF MEMBERSHIP

Entry to the Pairs Fours Championships and Veteran Singles is open to players registered with a World Bowls Member National Authority.
The Open Singles Championship entry is restricted to bona fide members of Bowls South Africa.
All participants must be in possession of and shall present proof of their membership when submitting their signed declaration form. Any player participating in an event who is found to not have a current proof of membership will be disqualified together with that player's team.

9. DECLARATION FORMS

Skips must complete these forms at the commencement of the tournament. The name of the Reserve, if applicable, must be recorded. Names of the players must be PRINTED WITH FIRST NAMES AND SURNAMES plus contact telephone numbers. No nicknames are to be used. It is important that each player's Bowls South Africa Membership number is entered. After commencement of the first game no alterations to the declaration form are allowed.

10. PAIRS AND FOURS TEAMS

Teams must consist of either two or four players for the respective disciplines.
Players may enter pairs without playing in the fours.

11. RESERVES AND SUBSTITUTES

11.1 USE OF RESERVES

In both the Pairs and the Fours, a registered reserve may be used, and the reserve may skip. A substitute may only be used if a reserve is already playing or if no reserve was registered.

11.2 USE OF SUBSTITUTES

In the event that there are no reserves, or the registered reserves are already playing, the names of not more than four bowlers who have not played for any team participating in the Tournament shall be recorded and placed in a receptacle. The opposing Skip for that match shall be allowed to draw one name from the receptacle, and the Controlling Body shall accept this name.

This player will be allowed to play for the team for as many matches as required but may not skip.

NB: To obviate the necessity of having to apply the 25% Law, teams should at all times have their full complement of players. A reserve or substitute must be used in the event of a player not being able to commence a game or having to withdraw during play.

The Domestic Regulations of Law 32.9 will be applied in the extreme circumstance where no substitute is available. In that case, 25% of the shots scored must be deducted from the defaulting team for the ends played whilst a player is missing from a team.

12. WITHDRAWALS PRIOR TO THE EVENT

Should a team in Fours or Pairs, or a player in Singles, have to withdraw from these events before commencement, the Event Secretary must be advised immediately. The entry fee will not be refunded once the draw has been completed and published.

13. WITHDRAWING DURING SECTIONAL PLAY

Should a team in Fours or Pairs, or a player in Singles, withdraw without consent from the Controlling Body, suitable disciplinary action may be taken by Bowls South Africa.

13.1 PAIRS AND FOURS

Should a side withdraw at any time after the commencement of sectional play, with or without the consent of the Controlling Body, all their completed results up to the point of withdrawal shall stand. That game and the remainder of the games shall be forfeited, and the opposing team/s for that and the remaining games not played shall be allocated three points and a net total of shots equal to the average net total of shots scored by the winners of all the other games played in the same round/s of the same section.

13.2 SINGLES

Should a player in Singles withdraw, with or without consent from the Controlling Body, the winner of the game between the two remaining players shall be declared the section winner.

14. DRESS AND FOOTWEAR

14.1 DRESS

All competitors must appear on the green dressed in compliance with the Laws of the Sport of Bowls. Discriminatory messaging or graphics regarding sex, race or religion is not allowed. Coloured clothing may be worn subject to all members of a team being uniformly dressed. It is acceptable for individual members in a team to wear either long pants or shorts in the same team during competitive play. Players reaching the final stages may be required to wear special shirts issued by the Controlling Body.

14.2 FOOTWEAR

Players, Umpires and Markers shall wear conventional shoes or sports shoes which have a continuous sole or a sole with a channel rise in the middle of the sole, as long as the sole is clearly in one piece and the heel area does not sit at a different height to the front of the sole. To assist in traction the sole can have indented grooves up to 2 mm (thickness of matchstick), but no protuberances. The width of the rear part of the shoe shall be at least 50% of the widest part of the sole. Conventional sandals are acceptable providing they have a back strap. Asics bowls shoes, which do not have a continuous sole may be worn. The National Authority reserves the right to allow or disallow the use of specific colours and brands of footwear.

15. SCORECARDS

It is essential that the names of all the players in the team (including that of the reserve if nominated) be entered on the scorecard for each match.

The Skip losing the toss shall be responsible for the scorecard and the opposing skip responsible for the scoreboard. The Skips may delegate these duties to a member of their team.

In the event of a discrepancy between the scoreboard and the score card, the two skips will agree to correct the score. If there is no consensus, the scoreboard will overrule the score card.

Both skips/singles players must sign the card and indicate time of completion of the game.

16. DIRECTION OF PLAY

16.1 PAIRS & FOURS

During sectional play, the direction of play for the first two rounds each day shall be in the morning direction and changed to the afternoon direction for the third round.

16.2 SINGLES

Play shall be in the same direction for all games played on a specific day. This will not apply when playoff games are scheduled in conjunction with other disciplines.

17. PRACTICE AND WARM UP

Teams/players not playing for whatever reason, but due to play in the next round, may practice on any rink allocated by the Controlling Body.

Any team/player may warm up before any game, time allowing and with the approval of the Controlling Body. Warm up should be in the opposite direction of expected play. Warm up should not be deliberate play and no target such as a jack may be used, but bowls may be delivered to enable the player to warm/loosen up.

18. TOSSING FOR OPENING PLAY

Skips in a team game or opponents in a Singles game, should toss with a coin. See Law 5.2 of ‘Laws of the Sport of Bowls’ Crystal Mark Edition.

19. TRIAL ENDS

One trial end in each direction may be played at the commencement of each game in all three disciplines.

20. RESTRICTING THE MOVEMENT OF PLAYERS DURING PLAY

20.1 FOURS

Leads and Seconds may not walk up to the head.

After delivering their first bowl, Thirds may be permitted to walk up to the head on being invited by the Skip.

20.2 PAIRS

Leads may not walk up to the head. Skips must walk to the mat together and can visit the head after delivery of their second and third bowl.

20.3 SINGLES

After playing their third bowl. Players may request permission from the marker to visit the head should circumstances dictate.

21. DEAD JACK (DEAD ENDS)

Ends declared dead are to be replayed in all 3 disciplines. The procedure of spotting the Jack will not apply.

22. INTERRUPTION OF PLAY

In the event of adverse weather conditions, which includes lightning activity, excessive heat and humidity, or for any other valid reason, Club Tournament Official (CTO) shall temporarily suspend play. Play shall stop immediately and only resume when authorised by the CTO. Only the Controlling Body in conjunction with Bowls SA Executive duty member may abandon play and shall have the right to curtail the number of rounds/ends to be played to achieve a result. Umpires shall not be responsible to call off players during lightning/thunderstorm activity and shall refer any appeal by the players to the CTO or in the absence of the CTO to the umpire who should stay vigilant to the weather pattern. Once the appeal is accepted all players need to vacate the green.

23. INCLEMENT WEATHER

Refer Chapter 7 “Bowls SA Inclement Weather Conditions Policy”, in Bowls SA ***Policies and Regulations*** Document Updated 1 Nov 2026

24. SMOKING.

Refer Chapter 10 “Bowls SA Smoke Free Policy”, in Bowls SA ***Policies and Regulations*** Document Updated 1 Nov 2026

25. ALCOHOL

Refer Chapter 11 “Bowls SA Smoke Free Policy”, in Bowls SA ***Policies and Regulations*** Document Updated 1 Nov 2026

26. ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Refer Chapter 12 “Bowls SA Personal Electronic Devices Policy”, in Bowls SA ***Policies and Regulations*** Document Updated 1 Nov 2026

27. DRUG TESTING

Players and their Coaches are to be aware of their responsibilities in regard to the anti- doping program and rules of the South African Institute for Drug Free Sport.

Refer Chapter 6 “Bowls SA Drug Free Sport Policy and Procedure””, in Bowls SA ***Policies and Regulations*** Document Updated 1 Nov 2026

28. GENERAL

If anything should arise that is not specifically covered in these Conditions of Play, then the Laws of the Sport of Bowls - Crystal Mark 4th Edition will apply.