



Canadian Championships Policies

BOWLS CANADA BOULINGRIN

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CONDITIONS OF PLAY

Introduction

This document contains policies that apply to the following events:

1. Canadian National Championships (Majors)
2. Canadian Para-bowls Championships
3. Canadian Youth & Junior Championships – Under 18 and Under 25

All Bowls Canada Boulingrin events are to be conducted under the Laws of the Sport of Bowls, Crystal Mark Fourth Edition, 2022.

All Bowls Canada Boulingrin events will also be governed by a set of Conditions of Play.

Definitions

Bowls Canada Boulingrin will be referred to as 'BCB';

The "Laws of the Sport of Bowls (Crystal Mark Fourth Edition)" as adopted by BCB in 2022, will be referred to as the 'Laws of the Sport';

Residency Eligibility Policy

1. Players in Canadian Championships shall have their principal residence in the province they represent, as of January 1 of the year of the event. Principal residence as defined by their tax returns or other supporting document.
2. Exceptions and Clarifications:
 - a. In the situation where a Province is unable to field a provincial team, a provisional exception may be requested to allow that Province to join with another Province who is also unable to send a team. The team formed would have athletes from both Provinces play as one team entry representing the joint Provinces. The request must be made by both Provincial Associations, and athletes would only need to be a member of their own Provincial Association.
 - i. For example: if PEI is unable to field a team to compete against New Brunswick in a qualification process, PEI and New Brunswick may request to form a joint team whereby athletes on the 5-a-side team are a combination of bowlers from PEI and New Brunswick.
 - b. Certain players who reside in one province, may join a club in their local area which is in a neighboring province.
 - i. Players who reside in one province and are a member of a club in their province of residence, as well as a member of a club in a neighboring province, shall only be able to compete in their province of residence.
 - ii. The player, if only a member of a club in the neighboring province, shall be able to compete in their province of residence, but must become a member of the provincial association of their province of residence. The player may, instead, compete in the neighboring province upon application to the provincial associations of both their province of residence and to the neighboring province where they are a member of a club. Upon approval of both provincial associations, the player may then compete in the neighboring province playdowns and be considered a resident of that neighboring province for these purposes. Should either, or both, provincial associations, reject the application, then the player may not compete in the neighboring province playdowns.
 - iii. Players may not compete in provincial playdowns in more than one province in any calendar year.
 - c. Certain players may relocate their principal residence from one province (the “original” province) to another province (the “new” province) during the year.
 - i. Players whose principal residence was in their “original” province, may compete in that province throughout the year.
 - ii. The player, having moved their principal residence to another province may, if the player has not already competed in an “original” province playdown, instead, compete in the “new” province upon application to the provincial associations of both their “original” province of residence and to the “new” province of residence. Upon approval of both provincial associations, the player may then compete in the “new” province

playdowns and be considered a resident of that “new” province for these purposes. Should either, or both, provincial associations, reject the application, then the player may not compete in the “new” province playdowns.

- iii. Players may not compete in provincial playdowns in more than one province in any calendar year.

Canadian Championships' Entries Policy

Each Provincial Association shall determine their representatives for national championships. In the case of New Brunswick & PEI, they will work together to determine their joint representatives.

Preliminary Entry Deadline

1. Each Provincial Association must confirm with the BCB Office, on or before the Preliminary Entry Deadline, which entries will be filled. Such entries require only the specific events (*i.e.*, women's Pairs, men's Fours, etc.) in which it will field entries, not necessarily the names of the competitors.
2. Any Provincial Association that fails to observe such preliminary entry requirement, and/or effects a change in entries (*i.e.*, withdrawal or addition of an entry) after the Preliminary Entry Deadline, shall be subject to a fine of \$200.00. This must be paid prior to allowing any participant from that province to compete in the event in current and future competition years until the fine is paid.
3. The Preliminary Entry Deadline shall be no later than 60 days prior to the opening round of the event.

Final Entry Deadline

1. The Provincial Association shall forward the name, address, and event entered of the players entitled to represent their province in the event to the BCB Office immediately upon the completion of the Provincial Association playdowns. This must be received no later than 30 days prior to the commencement of each of the respective events.

Withdrawn Entries

1. If an entry is withdrawn after the Final Entry Deadline, the entry fee will be forfeited and the Provincial Association will be fined \$200.00.
2. In extenuating circumstances, an application may be submitted to BCB requesting the fine be recovered partially or in its entirety. The application must include the reason for the late withdrawal with supporting documents.
3. In all events, any vacancies created by a late withdrawal after the Final Entry Deadline for entries will not be filled. If this occurs before the draw schedule has been completed, the draw schedule will be adjusted. If this occurs after the draw schedule has been completed, byes will occur.

Substitutions Policy

1. The Provincial Association shall determine the rules of substitution for all matches leading up to and during the Provincial Association playdowns.
2. If, after the official entry has been submitted, substitutions of any nature shall only be permitted following an application to BCB and approval of that authority. If one or more of the players entitled to represent his/her province cannot participate in this event, the following will apply with respect to a substitute:
 - a. The Provincial Association concerned will provide the circumstances and reasons for substitutions to BCB.
 - b. For all Championships, substitutes will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
3. If, after commencement of the opening round, a substitute is required, the following will apply. Substitutes may be allowed, in the event of illness or any unforeseen circumstance, once approved by the Emergency Committee, as follows:
 - a. One (1) substitute will be permitted in Pairs and Triples, and two (2) in Fours.
 - b. The substitute(s) should be from the same province as the player being replaced. However, in extenuating circumstances a substitute from the list provided by the Host province to the Head Event Umpire prior to the start of the event can be used to allow a team to continue to play. The original player may return to the competition when able to do so regardless of how many games have been played. If the original player has resolved the issue before the game has been completed, the original player may return to the current game.
 - c. Prior to the first round of play, each province must provide the names of their substitute players to the Head Event Umpire if they have any. After the commencement of the opening round, should a province require a substitute but did not provide a list of substitutes to the Head Event Umpire, said province will be required to use substitutes from the Host province list of substitutes.
 - d. For a substitute to be eligible to play in the tournament, the player must meet the following requirements:
 - i. Be an individual in good standing with a club who is affiliated with BCB
 - ii. Be in good standing with BCB and their provincial association.
 - iii. Meet the age restrictions, if any, for the tournament.
 - iv. And must be of the correct gender for the team.
 - e. Substitute players must be ready to play within 20 minutes after the player in question has left the green. If a substitute player is not ready to play within 20 minutes, the game will be forfeited.
 - f. Substitutes may not play in the Skip position but may play in any other position. After playing any part of more than two consecutive games any substitute becomes a member of the team and may play in any position, including Skip. In the third consecutive game the substitute may play in any position.
 - g. Substitutes may only play continuously. For example, if a substitute is replaced by the original team member or by another substitute, then the substitute may not play again in the competition.

- h. For the first day the substitute is involved in the tournament, the substitute will be exempt from the Dress Code. If a pool of potential substitutes is made available to the Emergency Committee prior to the commencement of the tournament, the substitutes should have access to suitable bowling attire.
 - i. There are no substitutions in Singles. In the event of a Singles player being unable to participate due to illness, opponents shall receive three match points, two set wins, two set points, and a net total of shots that is equal to the average net total of shots scored by the winners of all other games played in the same round of the same event. When the Singles player is able to resume play, he/she shall carry on with his/her record (from before the illness occurred) intact.
- 4. The list of eligible of male and female substitutes provided to the Head Event Umpire by the Host province will be used as follows:
 - a. The list will include a minimum of one male and one female bowler which will be used as a pool of available substitutes.
 - b. The participants on the list will be the first used should a province require a substitute and not have one readily available.
 - c. If a Host province substitute is to be used, he/she will be chosen randomly by the Emergency Committee from players on this list who are readily available at the time. If no player from the list is readily available, then the Emergency Committee may select any other readily available player at their discretion who meets the qualifications and eligibility criteria.
 - d. Potential host province substitute players should have competed in any of the host province's provincial playdowns during the year of competition; if this is not possible then substitute players should have played in any of the host province's playdowns within the past three years. Host province substitute players must meet all of that specific event's eligibility requirements except residency requirements.

Support Personnel, Coaching and Chaperone Policy

1. At the discretion of the Provincial Association, the selection of team support personnel, be it the Coach and/or the Team Manager, must be registered with BCB 14 days prior to the start of the event for each event. BCB in turn, shall notify the Head Event Umpire and Host committee not fewer than 7 days prior to the event
2. All coaches must be NCCP Accredited Bowls Coaches and must be identified to BCB 14 days prior to the start of the event. Coaches must be a minimum of “NCCP Competition Coach – in Training” in order to coach at any national championship and have completed the appropriate Safe Sport training as required by BCB. Mental Trainers with the appropriate certifications may be granted Coach status upon formal request to BCB at least 14 days prior to the start of the event. BCB in turn, shall notify the Head Event Umpire and Host committee of all accredited Coaches approved to coach at the event not fewer than 7 days prior to the event.
3. Only the registered Coach is permitted to give advice to his/her team, or player in a Singles game, from beyond the limits of the rink of play BUT only when their team or side is in possession of the rink as per Law 44. When seeking advice, the player(s) may step off the green should he/she desire.
4. If a Coach is giving advice to their player(s), they must not disturb players on any rink. If a player on any rink is being interfered with, annoyed or distracted by the actions of a Coach, and appeals to the Umpire, the Umpire will first warn the offending Coach. If there is another occurrence during the game, the Umpire is to be called, and he/she will take immediate action to prevent any further violations of the conditions of play, which may include removal of the Coach from the surrounds of the green.
5. If a player/team believes that the volume of coaching being provided to their opposition is creating undue delay, distraction or interference with the game, they may appeal to an Umpire. The Umpire will first warn the offending Coach. If there is another occurrence during the game, the Umpire is to be called, and he/she will take immediate action to prevent any further violations of the conditions of play, which may include suspension of coaching for the remainder of the game.
6. Each Association must ensure that all competitors under the age of 18 years at the time of a national event are accompanied by a chaperone for the duration of the competition. The name and contact information of the Association’s chaperone shall be provided to BCB and the Host committee prior to the start of the event. This chaperone may be in addition to the accredited support personnel mentioned above.
7. For the Para-bowls Championships, each participant is entitled to one (1) assistant/support person. Assistants/support personnel are required to register with BCB 14 days prior to the start of the event.
 - a. Assistants/support personnel are not coaches (unless they register as a coach in addition to their role as an assistant/support person). Should an assistant/support person, who is not registered as a coach, be deemed to be coaching their team/player, Law 44 will be considered broken and Law 44.5 will apply.

Bowls Policy

1. Players will receive bowls decals prior to the start of the competition and will be responsible for removing all old decals and affixing tournament decals. All competitors for all events will receive 4 decals. If another set of bowls is required during the round robin (and prior to a round commencing), an Umpire will check the bowls and ensure new decals are affixed and that decals are removed from the original set of bowls.
2. Old disc-type bowls and bowls stamped "coaching" will not be allowed for competition.
3. Bowls of any colour shall be permitted, as will be coloured dimples and rings on bowls so long as they shall not interfere with the decals.
4. If a player qualifies for an event under the control of World Bowls, World Bowls requires bowls to carry a stamp of a specified date or later and shall specify the required date.

Game and Event Forfeiture Policy

1. It is the responsibility of each player to be aware of the start time for each game. If a start time is delayed by twenty minutes the Head Event Umpire shall declare the game a forfeit - the loss registered to the offending player/team and their opponents awarded a win.
2. An Umpire, either upon request, or having noted specific infractions of the Laws of the Sport or the Conditions of Play, will warn the offending player or players. If the Umpire then considers that the infractions are both continuing and deliberate, the game will be forfeited to the opponents.
3. When an entrant has withdrawn from an event, all remaining scheduled opponents, including an opponent of a commenced and uncompleted game, will be awarded match points for a win, subject to point 5 below.
 - a. The opponent will be credited with three match points, two set points, and shots for/shots against equal to the average of all other winning results recorded during the appropriate rounds. The entrant in default will receive no match points, no set points, and shots for/shots against equal to the average of all losing results recorded during the appropriate rounds.
4. An entrant will be considered to have withdrawn from an event if:
 - a. the entrant unilaterally terminates a game without the prior authorization of the Head Event Umpire, or
 - b. the entrant misses more than any part of two games.
5. If an entrant has withdrawn from the event for any reason, then the following shall determine the impact on the remaining entrants:
 - a. If the entrant withdraws after one half or more of their scheduled games have been fully completed, then all previously played game results will stand as played. All remaining scheduled un-played games will be considered "Forfeited" games. The impact on the scheduled opponents is explained in point 3 above.
 - b. If the entrant withdraws before one half of their scheduled games have been fully completed, then all previously played game results will be considered un-played and all results from those previously played games will not be counted in any way. All remaining scheduled un-played games, likewise, will be considered as un-played, and those games will not be counted in any way.

Alternate Entry Provisions Policy

1. Provision for Nomination

- a. In cases where a province does not stage a play-down for this event, or an Association does not declare a provincial representative, or does not otherwise submit an entry at least 60 days prior to the start of the event, those provinces

who have duly entered the event shall be given the opportunity to submit an additional entry to complete an even number as follows:

- b.** The order for selection to complete an even number draw in descending order and to a maximum of two teams per province is as follows:
- c.** Roll Down:
 - i. The Host Province will receive the first right of accepting an additional entry into the competition.
 - ii. If the host province refuses to accept an entry into the competition, the roll down list in Table 1 below will be utilized, starting with Ontario and going in descending order based on provincial membership size.

Table 1 – Roll Down List Starting in 2025

1	Host Province
2	Ontario
3	British Columbia
4	Alberta
5	Saskatchewan
6	Nova Scotia
7	Quebec
8	Manitoba
9	New Brunswick/PEI

- d.** Acceptance of Additional Entries
 - i. Acceptance of an additional entry must be confirmed in writing by the province within 2 business days of the opportunity having been formally communicated by BCB.

Draw Policy for Canadian Championships

Policy Statement

National Championship draws are created to be fair and equitable to all participating athletes. They consider the unique characteristics of each venue and the individual challenges of each Host Organizing Committee. Each draw assumes that all athletes abide by the Bowls Canada Boulingrin Code of Conduct and Ethics.

Definitions

The “*Scheduler*” refers to the individual who is creating the draw schedule.

The “*Drawmaster*” refers to the individual(s) who are conducting the random draw resulting in the assignment of participants/teams to playing positions within the draw schedule.

The “*Draw Schedule*” refers to the structure of the draw wherein the round robin format is created with the assignment of rinks and greens.

The “*Draw*” refers to the random assignment of participants/teams to playing positions within the draw schedule.

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to provide clarity and transparency around the principles and situational factors considered when a draw is created for a national championship.

Principles

The following principles must be applied when creating a national championship draw. They are listed in order of priority. When a facility does not allow for the full application of a principle, the Scheduler will apply required accommodations.

1. When creating a draw for a competition with multiple events, all teams in an individual category (e.g., Women’s Triples) should be kept together on the same green and events should rotate on a daily basis in order to ensure that all athletes enjoy the same advantages regarding green conditions.
2. Playoff rounds and medal rounds will be played on the best possible rinks. When an event is being ‘live-streamed’, playoff rounds and medal rounds will be played on the best possible rinks that can also accommodate live-streaming.
3. Players and teams should play on the same number of “good” and “poor” rinks as identified in advance by the Host Organizing Committee.
4. For each individual event (or section), players or teams should play a similar number of games on each green.

5. Mid-day travel should be reduced to a minimum and then distributed evenly amongst the players and teams.
6. Teams should not play back-to-back games on the same green on the same day unless playing an opponent who is also playing back-to-back games on the same green on the same day.

Additional Factors Considered

7. The Scheduler will have knowledge of the greens. This knowledge will either be first-hand or provided by the Host Organizing Committee.
8. The Scheduler will determine the rinks and times that each team will play during the round robin phase.
9. If possible, the direction of play (N-S or E-W) may be changed mid-day, enabling the same rink number to be played in each direction.
10. It may be possible for rink centers and boundaries to be moved laterally between games or between days. The draw schedule is prepared on the assumption that rinks will not be adjusted.
11. The Scheduler will work with the Host Organizing Committee to ensure that the schedule can be accommodated logistically.

Application

12. The Scheduler will be appointed by Bowls Canada Boulingrin.
13. The Drawmaster will be a staff member of Bowls Canada Boulingrin or delegate.
14. The Draw for team assignments will take place following the Preliminary Entry Deadline as the teams are confirmed.
15. For the Canadian Youth Championships, the draw will be dependent on the number of entrants.
 - a. Ever effort will be to have a full round robin for both Singles and Pairs events. However, if fewer than 8 men and 8 women register, alternative formats may be considered at BCB's discretion.
16. For the Para-bowls Championships, the draw will adhere to the following principles as best as possible:
 - a. For all events, bowlers with visual impairments will compete with or against other bowlers with visual impairments; and bowlers with physical disabilities will compete with or against other bowlers with physical disabilities.
 - b. Where possible, players should compete within their classification. However, bowlers may play in a **higher** classification.

- i. Example: a B1 player may compete in the B2 classification, but a B2 player may NOT compete in a B1 classification.
- c. There must be a minimum of four (4) entrants to hold an event for any classification. If there are fewer than four entrants, classifications may be combined while still separating the visually impaired and physically disabled groups.
 - i. Example: Two B2 players may be combined with three B3 players to create a B2/B3 combined group
- d. For Singles, priority will be given to keeping bowlers of the same classification competing against each other, which may mean combining men and women into the same section.
 - i. Example: Two B2 men and four B2 women may be combined to create a six-person B2 section.
- e. For the team event, teams will be created as fairly and equitably as possible. Each bowler will be assigned a point score based on their classification (*e.g.*, class B1 is worth 1 point, class B2 2 points, etc.). Teams will be created so that they each have cumulative point scores which are roughly equivalent.
 - i. Example: With two B5 bowlers and two B7 bowlers, two pair's teams would be created by including one B5 bowler and one B7 bowler on each team.
- f. The format and number of games played will depend on the final number of entrants.
 - i. Participants will not be expected to compete in more than four (4) games per day.
- g. Every effort will be made to have gold/silver medal matches, as well as bronze/4th place matches.

Dress Code Policy for Canadian Championships

Dress Code for Players and Designated Team Support Personnel

1. All athletes are expected to dress in an appropriate manner when participating in the Canadian Championships:
2. For all events:
 - a. Each participant shall wear shirts as approved by their Provincial Association and bottom of a similar colour. Players must be identifiable by their provincial name, association or logo.
 - b. All members of a team shall wear their provincial uniforms for the opening and closing parades. Designated Team Support Personnel shall dress the same as the players for both the opening and closing parades, and for all games played by members of their provincial team.
 - c. Long sleeves shall be permitted and shall be worn under the provincial shirts.
 - d. UV protective clothing may be worn as long as the provincial shirt/jacket is visible.
3. All Footwear must comply with the Domestic Regulation *Use of Approved Footwear* approved in 2015. Only approved footwear shall be permitted. Manufacturer colours, logos and designs are acceptable.
4. There are no restrictions on hats or visors. They can be of any colour or pattern and need not match with other team members.
5. There are no restrictions on rain gear or other outerwear, although provincial colours are encouraged.

Commercial Markings

6. BCB may require players to display BCB sponsor markings or trademarks on provincial shirts, other designated item(s) of clothing or technical equipment. In such instances, the commercial markings permitted for individual or provincial team sponsors, as outlined below, shall be considered above and beyond the markings required for BCB sponsors.
7. Players shall be permitted to display commercial markings in accordance with the following provisions.
8. Sponsor Trademarks:
 - a. Players may display on their clothing, footwear or persons, not more than a total of two trademarks for any "sponsor", commercial product, service or enterprise while competing in this event which shall include all events, practices, awards ceremonies and activities within the grounds of the event, providing that:
 - i. each trademark shall be no larger than one hundred (100) square centimeters; and
 - ii. the trademark and its location on the player are dignified; and
 - iii. the "sponsor", commercial product, service or enterprise does not conflict with BCB sponsors; it shall be the player's or provincial team's responsibility, as the case may be, to ensure that they are aware of BCB

- sponsors, and who conflicting companies, products or services may be, preferably before a prospective sponsor is approached; and
- iv. the "sponsor" is not for a tobacco, alcohol or cannabis company or related product.

9. Manufacturers' Trademarks:

- a. A manufacturer's trademark is defined as the normal identification marking or logo of the actual manufacturer or supplier of the garment, shoe, hat or item of clothing.
- b. Trademarks of the manufacturer or clothing supplier may be displayed on each item of a player's garment, shoe, hat or clothing as per all of the provisions outlined above for Sponsor Trademarks, with the following variations:
 - i. not more than two manufacturer's trademarks per garment, shoe, hat or item of clothing

10. Enforcement of Dress Code

- a. It is the responsibility of the Team Manager to ensure all their provincial players are in adherence with the Dress Code.
- b. The Head Event Umpire will be responsible for enforcement of the dress code upon teams that do not have a Team Manager.
- c. The Head Event Umpire will be responsible for enforcement of the footwear requirements

11. Penalty/Process for Violation

- a. **NOTE:** Play should continue regardless of any suggested Dress Code infractions.
- b. In the event a Team Manager is of the opinion that a member of the opposing team is not dressed properly, he/she shall immediately present a WARNING to the opposing Team Manager before the completion of the first end. Failure to do so will constitute de facto acceptance of the situation.
- c. After serving the WARNING, should the opposing Team Manager decline to take corrective action in the 20 minutes provided, the aggrieved Team Manager shall indicate that a formal COMPLAINT shall be filed.
- d. The COMPLAINT will be referred to a Committee of three persons, one nominated by the Host Committee and two drawn among the Team Managers not immediately involved in the dispute. The complainant and respondent will each nominate one Team Manager to the Committee. Once nominated, a Team Manager may not decline the request to assist.
- e. The Committee must meet and render a decision prior to the commencement of the next succeeding round of the competition. For a complaint to be successful, the decision of the Committee must be unanimous.
- f. If the complaint is denied, no similar complaints related to this matter will be considered for the duration of the competition.
- g. The first successful COMPLAINT will result in loss of provincial team points for the overall standings where applicable (*e.g.*, Cy English and Lady Alexander awards).
- h. Continued infractions may result in forfeiture of games and loss of points. If a game is forfeited, either as the result of the absence of a player or a Dress Code

violation, the non-offending player or team should be awarded three game points, (two set wins if in sets play) and a net total of shots that is equal to the average net total of shots scored by the winners of all other games played in the same round of the same event.

12. Other

- a. It is the responsibility of Designated Team Support Personnel, as applicable, to ensure that all provincial players attending the event are aware of the "Dress Code for Players" prior to leaving their home province.

13. Dress Code for Officials

- a. Umpires
 - i. All umpires shall wear an approved BCB "Umpire" shirt with white, cream or black bottoms.
 - ii. When working as a Marker, Umpires may wear the BCB approved umpire shirt.
 - iii. Umpires may wear white, cream or red outerwear in the event of inclement weather.
- b. Markers
 - i. Markers shall wear suitable bowls attire.
- c. Uniformity
 - i. To provide for uniformity on the green, the Head Event Umpire shall ensure that all umpires and markers are dressed in accordance with this Dress Code with the exception of shoes.
 - ii. Acceptable footwear for officials is outlined under Dress Code for Players in section 3.

Tobacco, Cannabis, Alcohol, Cell Phone and Verbal Abuse Policy

1. Smoking, including electronic cigarettes is only allowed in designated areas. This includes: competitors, umpires and markers.
2. Should an infraction occur, the respective Team Manager and player will be notified. Upon a further occurrence the offending player will be subject to a fine of \$100.00, to be immediately levied towards that player. If the player persists in violating this policy, and the fine has already been levied, the player shall be disqualified from further play during the current event. Should the tobacco and alcohol policy of the host club differ from that describe in this paragraph the most stringent policy shall apply.
3. No alcoholic beverages are to be consumed during play.
4. Cannabis is a banned substance in accordance with the Canadian Anti-Doping Policy and as such, Cannabis is not to be consumed, smoked or imbibed in any form during play.
5. Verbal abuse of an opponent or official will not be tolerated. When profanity is used, the offending player will be subject to a fine of \$100.00, for a first offence and any further occurrence will cause suspension of the player from further games during the current championships. It is the responsibility of the Provincial Association to ensure that the fine is paid immediately, before the next round commences.
6. The use of mobile phones and other electronic/communication devices on the green and surrounds during play is not permitted. Arrangements for the use of electronic/communication devices by a player with a hearing impairment, and for any other necessary communication requirement, will be made at the discretion of the Controlling Body.
7. Any disciplinary action will be addressed according to BCB's Discipline and Complaints Policy: <https://bowlscanada.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/BCB-Discipline-and-Complaints-Policy-January-2023.pdf>

Inclement Weather Policy

Electrical Storms

At the first sound of thunder or observation of lightning, play shall be suspended immediately, and all participants shall be ordered off the greens to find appropriate shelter.

Play will not resume until at least 30 minutes have passed since the last sight of lightning or the sound of thunder.

At National Competition level, the “weather watcher” will be the Duty Umpire(s) while the individual responsible for stopping play and instructing players to leave the green will be the Head Event Umpire or, if there is more than one venue, the Venue Umpire

Hot Weather Guidelines

Background

1. The National Officiating Committee has created these guidelines as steps to take in extreme hot weather conditions to protect the health of players and maintain the quality of play.
2. The following guidelines are derived from a consultative process and a literature review. They are meant to assist players, officials and event hosts in mitigating the effects of hot weather and deciding when to suspend play on the green.
3. These guidelines are based on temperature readings from the local weather station, but it is recognized that local conditions on the green may vary. Instructions on the proper set-up of a thermometer at the venue are included in these guidelines.
4. Consideration has also been given to using Humidex readings in these guidelines. The Humidex is an index used to describe how hot the weather feels to the average person, by combining the effects of heat and humidity.

General preparedness

5. Players, officials and spectators should be encouraged to wear hats or other head protection.
6. Water and/ or other drinks shall be readily available.

Procedure

7. When the temperature reaches 35 degrees Celsius at the venue, play/competition should be interrupted at 20-minute intervals (at the completion of the end in play) for a period of 5 minutes, during which time, drinks should be made available. Any time limit imposed on the interrupted game will be waived.

- i. If the Wet Bulb Globe Temperature measuring device is available, any reading in relation to an estimated risk of “High” as per Table 2 results in play interruptions at 20-minute intervals (at the completion of the end in play) for a period of 5 minutes. Any time limit imposed on the interrupted game will be waived.
8. When the temperature reaches 38 degrees Celsius at the venue, play/competition will be suspended.
 - i. If the Wet Bulb Globe Temperature measuring device is available, any reading in relation to an estimated risk of “Excessive” as per Table 2 results in play/competition being suspended.
9. It will be at the discretion of the Head Event Umpire, on behalf of the Controlling Body, to determine whether to discontinue play. Consideration should be given to all relevant factors, including the age and health of players and officials, the level of humidity, and the amount of shade or shelter available at the venue.
10. At National Competition level, the “weather watcher” will be the Duty Umpire(s) while the individual responsible for interrupting or suspending play will be the Head Event Umpire or, if there is more than one venue, the Venue Umpire.

Instructions on installation of a thermometer at the venue

11. The thermometer should be accurate and easy to read (preferably electronic). It must not be placed in direct sunlight and should not be under cover of bushes or trees. Ideal placement would be above a grassy area, at a height of about 5 feet above the ground, and shielded from the wind.

Other considerations

12. Health Canada has produced a chart to describe the effects of the Humidex, an index developed by Environment Canada. The Humidex readings, as outlined in Table 1, indicate the effect on the average Canadian. Bowlers are not average – they tend to be older and may have health concerns. Both age and health issues make the body less able to withstand the rigors of high heat in combination with high humidity – or in other words a high Humidex reading. Young bowlers are also at risk as their body temperature regulation mechanisms are not fully developed and many have a poor fitness levels making them more susceptible to the effects of high heat. Compounding the problem of high Humidex readings is that games last from 2.5 to 4 hours, with multiple games per day, during which players are fully exposed to the effects of heat and humidity.

Table 1 - Health Canada’s guide to Humidex readings

Humidex Reading	Degree of Comfort
20 - 29	No discomfort
30 - 39	Some discomfort
40 - 45	Great discomfort; avoid exertion
46 and over	Dangerous; possible heat stroke

13. How the human body deals with heat stress includes more than just the temperature measured from a thermometer. In addition to temperature, humidity, wind speed, sun angle and cloud cover (solar radiation) are all considered using the Wet Bulb Globe Temperature (WBGT). WBGT has been used since the 1950s and many environmental physiologists use WBGT as a more relevant method to assess the risk of heat stress. Table 2 was published in the British Journal of Sports Medicine as part of an article detailing recommendations on training and competing in the heat.

Table 2 – Corrected estimation of the risk of exertional heat illness based on the wet bulb globe temperature (WBGT) taking into account that WBGT underestimates heat stress under high humidity

Estimated Risk	WBGT (°C)	Relative humidity (%)
Moderate	24	50
Moderate	20	75
Moderate	18	100
High	28	50
High	26	75
High	24	100
Excessive	33	50
Excessive	29	75
Excessive	28	100

Taken from [Consensus recommendations on training and competing in the heat](#) published in the British Journal of Sports Medicine – June 2015

Cold Weather Guidelines

1. General Awareness and Preparedness
 - a. Exposure to cold presents an inherent risk of injury, which may result in hypothermia, or frostbite in more extreme conditions.
 - b. Air temperature, wind speed and humidity can all contribute to a cold environment.
 - c. All players, coaches and officials should be prepared for cold weather by bringing and wearing protective clothing, including hats, gloves and scarves; layered inner and outer wear; and long sleeves and pants.
 - d. Participants need to be aware that consistent hydration remains necessary in cold weather.
 - e. Event hosts must be prepared to provide food, fluids and warming facilities.
2. Procedures
 - a. These Cold Weather Guidelines are applicable when the outdoor temperature is at or below **five** degrees Celsius. All participants will be advised to dress warmly. Dress code provisions will no longer apply, with the exception of footwear.

- b. Wind chill – the combined effect of cold air and wind – will be used as a general guideline for determining subsequent procedures, in the absence of any precipitation. If there is any precipitation (*i.e.* rain or snow), further adjustments may be made.
 - c. When the wind chill drops below **minus five** (-5) degrees Celsius at the venue, play/competition will be interrupted at five (5) end intervals (at the completion of the end in play) for a period of 15 minutes, during which time players must leave the green to warm up.
 - d. When the wind chill drops below **minus nine** (-9) degrees Celsius at the venue, play/competition will be suspended.
 - e. Any time limit imposed on the interrupted game will be waived.
3. It will be at the discretion of the Head Event Umpire, on behalf of the Controlling Body, to determine whether to discontinue play. Consideration should be given to all relevant factors, including the age and health of players and officials, wind chill, and precipitation.
4. At National Competition level, the “weather watcher” will be the Duty Umpire(s) while the individual responsible for interrupting or suspending play will be the Head Event Umpire or, if there is more than one venue, the Venue Umpire.
5. Environment Canada has prepared a table to assist with estimating wind chill values, which is included below.

Wind speed (km/h)	Estimating wind speed – what to look for	Temperature (°C)									
		0	-5	-10	-15	-20	-25	-30	-35	-40	-45
10	Wind felt on face – wind vane begins to move.	-3	-9	-15	-21	-27	-33	-39	-45	-51	-57
20	Small flags extended.	-5	-12	-18	-24	-30	-37	-43	-49	-56	-62
30	Wind raises loose paper, large flags flap and small tree branches move.	-6	-13	-20	-26	-33	-39	-45	-52	-59	-65
40	Small trees begin to sway and large flags extend and flap strongly.	-7	-14	-21	-27	-34	-41	-48	-54	-61	-68
50	Large branches of trees move, telephone wires whistle and it is hard to use an umbrella.	-8	-15	-22	-29	-35	-42	-49	-56	-63	-69
60	Trees bend and walking against the wind is hard.	-9	-16	-23	-30	-36	-43	-50	-57	-64	-71

Weather forecasts: weather.gc.ca

Wind Chill information: www.ec.gc.ca/meteo-weather, Hazardous weather

[Source: Environment Canada – WIND CHILL The chilling facts, 2014]

Air Quality Guidelines

Background

1. BCB has created these guidelines to protect the health and well-being of our participants in order to ensure that they are not placed at risk by staging an event in air quality that may adversely affect their health.
2. The following guidelines are meant to assist players, coaches, officials and event hosts in mitigating the effects of poor air quality and deciding when to suspend play on the green.
3. These guidelines are based on air quality health index readings from the Government of Canada's website:
https://weather.gc.ca/airquality/pages/index_e.html
4. The Air Quality Health Index (AQHI) is a risk management tool which describes local air quality as it relates to human health. The AQHI is a scale that lists numbers from 1 to 10+ to indicate the level of health risk associated with air quality. The higher the number, the greater the risk and the need to take precautions.
 - 1-3 = "Low" health risk
 - 4-6 = "Moderate" health risk
 - 7-10 = "High" health risk
 - Above 10 = "Very high" health risk
 - a) It is recognized that some provinces have more detailed and specific tools to assess readings (*e.g.* Alberta's AQHI platform includes more pollutants and is calculated more frequently than the Federal platform). It is at the discretion of BCB and the host organizing committee to determine whether to use a provincial AQHI platform or the Federal version; however, in most instances the Federal version should be sufficient.
5. The Federal AQHI recognizes that "at risk populations" may need to consider reducing or avoiding strenuous activities earlier than the general population. "At risk" populations may include (but are not limited to) people with increased sensitivity to air pollution, people with pre-existing conditions, seniors, pregnant women, and others.
 - a. For the purposes of these guidelines, it is assumed that a significant number of national championship participants are part of the "at risk" population demographic.

General preparedness

6. Players, coaches, officials and spectators are encouraged to monitor the Federal AQHI in advance of each day's competition.

Procedure

7. At national championships, the "air quality watcher" will be the Head Event Umpire, on behalf of the Controlling Body, who will be responsible for interrupting or suspending play; or, if there is more than one venue, each Venue Umpire.
8. When the AQHI is between 4 and 6, if any player experiences symptoms due to poor air quality, play for their specific game may be stopped for 20 minutes.

- a. After the first 10 minutes, the symptomatic player(s) will be assessed to determine whether they are able to continue to play;
 - b. If they are able to continue, play will recommence after the 20-minute break;
 - c. If they are not able to continue playing at that time, a substitute will be recruited in accordance with the BCB *Substitution Policy*, and play will recommence with the substitute after the 20-minute break;
 - d. If there is no substitute available, an additional 10 minutes may be taken (20 minutes total) for the symptomatic player to recover. If, after 20 minutes, the symptomatic player remains unable to continue, the game will be forfeited by the defaulting team.
9. When the AQHI reaches 7, all play/competition will be suspended for at least one hour, during which time, players should be encouraged to rest and/or find shelter indoors, provided the shelter has better air quality than is currently outdoors.
 - a. It will be at the discretion of the Head Event Umpire to determine when to resume play. Consideration should be given to all relevant factors, including the age and health of participants, the proximity of the venue to the nearest air quality station(s), and the predicted forecast.
10. Any time limits will be extended for any stoppages in play due to poor air quality.
11. In all instances where play is stopped or suspended, any end that has commenced must be completed before the stoppage takes effect.
 - a. Unless stopped by the Chief Umpire mid-end.

Other considerations

12. Health Canada has produced a chart to describe the health messages of the Air Quality Health Index, an index developed by Environment Canada. The air quality readings, as outlined in Table 1, indicate the messaging for the average Canadian, as well as “at risk” populations. Many bowlers tend to fall into the “at risk” demographic, as they tend to be older, and may have health concerns. Young bowlers are also at risk as their bodies are not fully developed and may make them more susceptible to the effects of high air pollution. Compounding the problem of high AQHI readings is that games last from 2 to 3 hours, with multiple games per day, during which players are fully exposed to the effects of air pollution. All of these considerations combined result in a “high risk, low reward” situation for playing bowls during anything above a low-risk AQHI reading. As such, the Head Event Umpire shall have the ability to suspend or discontinue play earlier than the guidelines listed above in order to ensure the safety of all participants.

Table 1 - Health Canada's Air Quality Health Index Messages

Health Risk	Air Quality Health Index	Health Message	
		At Risk Population*	General Population
Low Risk	1-3	Enjoy your usual outdoor activities.	Ideal air quality for outdoor activities.
Moderate Risk	4-6	Consider reducing or rescheduling strenuous activities outdoors if you are experiencing symptoms.	No need to modify your usual outdoor activities unless you experience symptoms such as coughing and throat irritation.
High Risk	7-10	Reduce or reschedule strenuous activities outdoors. Children and the elderly should also take it easy.	Consider reducing or rescheduling strenuous activities outdoors if you experience symptoms such as coughing and throat irritation.
Very High Risk	Above 10	Avoid strenuous activities outdoors. Children and the elderly should also avoid outdoor physical exertion.	Reduce or reschedule strenuous activities outdoors, especially if you experience symptoms such as coughing and throat irritation.

**Unsure if you are at risk? Consult this [health guide](#) to help you determine if you are at risk from air pollution. People with heart or breathing problems are at greater risk. Follow your doctor's usual advice about exercising and managing your condition.*

Approved Domestic Regulations

DR1. Use of Portable Groundsheets

Law 6.1.5.6 allows Member National Authorities to determine the requirements for using portable groundsheets (for outdoor play only). For domestic play in Canada, the Controlling Body can decide to use portable groundsheets either before the start of play or at any time during play. The umpire, either by their own observation or on appeal by one of the skips or opponents in Singles, may also make the decision to use portable groundsheets on any rink.

At the start of an end, the rear edge of the portable groundsheet must be placed at least 2 metres from the rear ditch and at least 23 metres from the front ditch. The groundsheet may be placed at a different position, within this range, at the start of each end, unless otherwise directed by the Controlling Body or greenkeeper. Upon completion of an end, either team or opponent in Singles can temporarily remove the groundsheet at the head end from the rink. Opponents are expected to assist with the removal and/or replacement of the groundsheet in the spirit of true sportsmanship.

Portable groundsheets must remain in use until the end of the game or until the Controlling Body decides that they are no longer needed.

DR2. Minimum Jack Length

Law 10.5 allows Member National Authorities to change the minimum jack length distance from 23 metres to 21 metres. For domestic play in Canada, the following distances are changed for outdoor greens (indoor greens are exempted, primarily for safety reasons):

Change from 23 metres to 21 metres:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The minimum distance for a delivered jack in laws 10.1.3 and 42.2.3 and appendix B.4.2 [D];
Change from 20 metres to 18 metres	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The minimum distance for a jack which is moved by a bowl in play or a rebounding jack in laws 19.1.3, 56.5.2.4 and appendix B.4.2 [C];
Change from 25 metres to 23 metres:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The minimum distance of the mat line from the front ditch in law 6.1.1 and appendix B.4.2 [F]; The positioning of markings on the side banks in relation to the end ditches in law 49.12 and appendix B.4.1; The finishing point of a marked centre line in relation to the end ditches in law 49.13 and appendix B.2.1; The minimum distance of the rear edge of a groundsheet from the front ditch in Definition C.12.

DR3. Skips Duties Regarding the Score Card

Law 40.1.9 allows Member National Authorities to transfer the skip's duties of marking the score card, as described in law 40.1.7, to another member of the team. For domestic play in Canada, the skip of each team in Pairs, Triples and Fours must be responsible for keeping and completing the score card. However, both skips can transfer their duties described in law 40.1.7 to another member of their team, by mutual agreement, and only if these duties are transferred to players whose positions, in order of play, are the same in each team.

If a situation arises where the skips cannot agree on who keeps the score card, and one skip abdicates all responsibility for keeping their score card, the use of a scoreboard will be permitted. Law 40.1.8 allows Member National Authorities to decide the procedures for using a scoreboard instead of one of the score cards. For domestic play in Canada, when one skip does not keep the score card, arrangements can be made to use a scoreboard, which must be updated by members of that skip's team. If the two skips disagree with the score during the game, the score card which is being kept by the opposing skip will be regarded as the official recorded score.

DR4. Use of Bowling Delivery Aids

Law 41.8 allows Member National Authorities to approve the use of artificial devices for delivering the jack or a bowl. Law 41.5 allows the use of a support or an artificial device (or both) when delivering the jack or a bowl or when walking on the green. Bowls Canada Boulingrin recognizes that the primary purpose of a bowling delivery aid is to enable a person with a physical disability to play the sport of bowls. We must also ensure that bowlers do not damage the playing surface while using a bowling delivery aid on the green.

For domestic play in Canada, any bowler may use a bowling delivery aid (*e.g.*, support, bowling arm, etc.) for delivery of the jack and their bowls. Bowlers may use a device which is produced by a recognized manufacturer, for use in lawn bowls, with no customized modifications and as approved by Bowls Canada Boulingrin.

For further information and types of aids that can be used, refer to the BCB policy on the use of bowling delivery aids.

DR5. Use of Approved Footwear

Appendix A.2.2 allows Member National Authorities to approve specific colours for footwear and the types of sole for footwear worn by players, umpires and markers on the green.

For further information, refer to the Bowls Canada Boulingrin policy on the approval of footwear.

Eligibility of Players

Excerpt from World Bowls Regulations adopted 2 May 2018

<http://www.worldbowls.com/about-us/regulations-in-full/>

9. Eligibility of Players

9.8. Subject to Regulation 9.9, no player shall be qualified to represent a country competing in any World Bowls sanctioned international event (including all International Events and all other Events) unless he or she:

9.8.1 is not currently under disqualification or suspension by World Bowls or the National Authority of the country they are representing;

9.8.2 satisfies the eligibility criteria of the member National Authority of the country they are representing;

9.8.3 complies with all applicable rules and regulations of World Bowls, their member National Authority and the World Anti-Doping Code as may be applied by World Bowls to ensure that the overriding principles of World Bowls are observed.

9.9 A player is qualified to represent a country competing in any World Bowls sanctioned international event (including all International Events and all other Events) if:

9.9.1 he or she was born in the country; or

9.9.2 he or she is a citizen of the country, or

9.9.3 he or she has been a permanent resident of the country for a period of twenty-four months immediately prior to the event.

9.10 A player who is eligible to represent two or more countries competing in any World Bowls sanctioned international event (including all International Events and all other Events) in terms of Regulation 9.8 and 9.9, may upon notice being given to the World Bowls Board elect to represent either country.

9.11 A player who is eligible to represent two or more countries competing in any World Bowls sanctioned international event (including all International Events and all other Events) in terms of Regulation 9.8 and 9.9, who has previously represented a country in a World Bowls sanctioned event (including all International Events and all other Events) may not represent another country;

9.11.1 for a period of at least twenty-four months; and

9.11.2 without the approval of the National Authorities of both countries that the player is eligible to represent; and

9.11.3 without the approval of the Board of World Bowls.

The Board of World Bowls shall have the power to alter or waive the provisions of Regulation 9.10 and 9.11 in any case for good reason or if circumstances warrant.

COVID-19 and other Public Health Related Concerns

BCB requires all athletes, coaches, spectators, volunteers, media, event staff and contractors on site for a BCB sanctioned national championship to comply with local public health guidelines. Not every jurisdiction has the same policies; participants are strongly recommended to have knowledge of what current public health policies are in place at the host destination.

BCB reserves the right to alter, modify, or adjust Conditions of Play at any time such that they adhere to local, provincial, or national requirements.