CONDITIONS OF PLAY

Updated June, 2012

Bowls Australia

Controlling bodies:	Qualifying – Host State/Territory Association in conjunction with Bowls Australia. Australian Open – Bowls Australia
Event:	**2013 Australian Open**
Dates:	Qualifying – Various (State/Territory dependent) Australian Open – February 17 – 23, 2013
Venues:	Qualifying - Various (State/Territory dependent) Australian Open – Darebin International Sports Centre (Darebin City Bowls Club)

1. ENTRY CONDITIONS

Open to all bowlers affiliated with a State or Territory Association that is affiliated to Bowls Australia or affiliated to an international body that is a member of World Bowls

2. QUALIFYING EVENTS

Players must enter through the host State/Territory Association or Bowls Australia's *Last Chance Qualifying (see 2.2)* by the nominated closing date. Late entries will not be accepted into the event but placed on waiting lists should withdrawals occur. Waiting lists will be prioritised based on the time entries are received. Once the draw has been published, no late entries will be accepted. Players/teams on a waiting list may only be considered up until 48 hours prior to the commencement of the event to replace a withdrawn player/team only.

2.1. State/Territory qualifying

Player may attempt to qualify in more than one qualifying event around Australia, with the exception of Last Chance qualifying. An entry fee will be required to be paid for each qualifying event entered. *Once a player has qualified in a particular discipline for the Australian Open, that player may not enter in any further qualifying events for that discipline.* Attempting to qualify with a secondary team will result in that team being disqualified from that event.

2.2. Last Chance qualifying

Bowls Australia's Last Chance Qualifying event is only open to players who have **not** tried to qualify in that discipline previously through any State/Territory association qualifying event.

2.3. Direct entries

Bowls Australia will maintain a set number of positions in the main draw for the following players:

- 2.3.1. Wild Cards: International players will be invited to participate in the Australian Open and will be given direct entry into the main draw.
- 2.3.2. Ranked Players (Singles only): The top 12 men and top 8 womens singles players as at the December 31, 2012 will received direct entry into the event.

2.4. **Australian Open – Main Draw**

Bowlers wishing to enter the event must qualify through one of the State/Territory association based qualifying events, BA's Last Chance Qualifying or be given direct entry by Bowls Australia.

2.5. **Australian Open – Over 60s**

Players in the over 60s pairs must enter through Bowls Australia by January 16, 2013. Late entries will not be accepted into the event but placed on a waiting list should withdrawals occur. Waiting list players will be prioritised based on the time entries are received. Once the draw has been published no late entries will be accepted.

2.6. **Australian Open – Under 18**

Under 18 State Championships winners (singles only) and the single representative at the Australian Under 18 Championship, in the preceding year, will be invited to play in this event and entry fees will be waivered. In the event that this is the same player no additional position will be granted.

All other players wishing to enter the event must submit an entry form through Bowls Australia by January 16, 2013. Late entries will not be accepted into the event but placed on a waiting list should withdrawals occur. Waiting list players will be prioritised based on the time entries are received. Once the draw has been published no late entries will be accepted.

2.7. **Australian Open – Mixed Pairs**

Bowlers wishing to enter the event must qualify through a State/Territory association qualifying event.

2.8. **Australian Open – Bowlers with a disability (BWD)**

Each State and Territory Association (STA) will select representatives from within their state in conjunction with appropriate organisation for persons with a disability. Each state can enter one male and one female per disability category (hearing impaired, visually impaired, wheelchair athletes, and athletes with an intellectual disability), for men's singles and women's singles.

3. ELIGIBILITY

As a condition of entry to compete in a Bowls Australia event, all competitors must:

3.1. not be currently under disqualification or suspension by their state/territory association or their national authority.

3.2. satisfy the eligibility criteria of the member state/territory association;

3.3. comply with all applicable Laws of the Sport, Domestic Regulations and policies of Bowls Australia.

3.4. For Bowlers with a disability entrants only - must be affiliated with their MOU partner.

3.5. For Under 18 entrants, playing in the Under 18's , must be under 18 as of February 25, 2012 including invited players.

3.6. Players within teams **do not** have to be affiliated with the same club.

3.7. Players may enter multiple disciplines within the Australia Open. The controlling body with endeavour to avoid clashes, but in some instances it will be

unavoidable and players will have to choose which discipline they will have to forfeit.

4. FORMAT

All events, except for Bowlers with a Disability – Vision Impaired, will be played in sets play as outlined in Law 15 of the Laws of the Sport of Bowls.

4.0.1. **Singles** – Four bowls per player, two sets of nine ends, with a time limit of two (2) hours per match (not including trial ends)

4.0.2. **BWD singles** – Four bowls per player, two sets of seven ends, with a time limit of two (2) hours per match (not including trial ends)

4.0.3. **Pairs** – Three bowls per player, two sets of nine ends, with a time limit of two (2) hours and thirty (30) minutes per match (not including trial ends)

4.0.4. **Triples** – Two bowls per player, two sets of nine ends, with a time limit of two (2) hours and thirty (30) minutes per match (not including trial ends)

Time limits will apply to all games for all disciplines, with the exception of all finals.

Any player/team arriving after the official start time, shall lose the right to play trial ends. Any player/team arriving at the green more than 15 minutes after the official starting time shall forfeit the game and the points for that game/or not progress through to the next round

4.1. QUALIFYING COMPETITION FORMATS

The format of competition will be conducted by either knockout or sectional play with post sectional knockout play if required. The format of play will be determined by the host controlling body based on the number of entries received in each discipline. The host controlling body will determine the final winners to progress to the Australian Open. The following process will be used to determine the player to progress through to the main draw:

4.1.1. **Knockout play**

Player(s) or team(s) will be chosen based on the round reached. In the event that one or more players or teams must be selected from a round, players or teams will be ranked based on the criteria outlined in Law 15.3. Only the match where the player was eliminated will be considered. Players or teams will be ranked on:

- Sets won
- Net set points
- Net shots: shots for minus shots against (not including tie break ends)

If two or more players or teams are still equal, the above outlined ranking steps will be used for the previous round.

4.1.2. **Sectional play**

All sectional play will be conducted in accordance with Law 15.3.

In the event that a player or team must be chosen from across multiple sections where post sectional play has not been conducted, the same criteria from Law 15.3 will be used to rank the players or teams. The highest ranked player(s) or team(s) as required will then be chosen. In this instance, players who have a bye in their section will be awarded two match points, two set points, and two shots.

4.2. AVAILABLE POSITIONS

4.2.1. **Allocated positions**

The allocation of positions per discipline per qualifying event is posted on the Bowls Australia website – www.bowlsaustralia.com.au.

4.2.2. **Withdrawals**

If any qualifier(s) from State/Territory association qualifying events withdraw or is given direct entry by Bowls Australia through the ranking system prior to January 16, 2013, their position will be rolled back to the next best qualifier in that discipline from the same event.

4.2.3. **Last Chance qualifying positions**

Any unused direct entries or withdrawals after January 16, 2013 will be rolled into Last Chance qualifying positions.

4.3. AUSTRALIAN OPEN COMPETITION FORMATS

4.3.1. **Australian Open – Main draw**

The competition will be conducted in knockout play. The draw sizes will be:

	Men's	Women's
Singles	128	64
Pairs	64	32
Triples	32	32

4.3.2. **Australian Open – Over 60s**

The competition will be conducted in knockout play. The draw size will be 32 for both men and women. Should entries exceed 32, qualifying rounds will be held prior to the main draw. Dates to be advised and additional venues may be required.

4.3.3. **Australian Open – Under 18**

The competition will be conducted as sectional play followed by knockout finals. Law 15.3 will be used to determine sectional winners. Additional venues may be required dependant on entry numbers.

4.3.4. **Australian Open – Mixed pairs**

The competition will be conducted in knockout play format. The draw size will be 16.

4.3.5. **Australian Open – Bowlers with a disability**

The competition will be conducted in sectional play format followed by knockout finals. Law 15.3 will be used to determine sectional winners

4.4. TIE-BREAKER (Law 15.2)

4.4.1. If a game is tied after the two sets have been completed (each player having won one set or both sets having been drawn), a best-of-three-ends tie-breaker should be played to decide the winner.

4.4.2. The tie-breaker will be decided by the highest number of shots won in the three ends.

4.4.3. There should be no further play in the tie-breaker if, at any point, it becomes impossible for one player or team to draw or win the tie-breaker, given the number of ends left.

4.4.4. If the third end of a tie-breaker has been completed and the scores are still level, the players should play a fourth tie-breaker end to decide the winner.

4.4.5. If the fourth end of a tie-breaker is a tied end, the players will play further tie-breaker ends until a winner is found.

5. FIRST TO PLAY (Law 15.4)

5.1.1. First set: the skips or opponents in Singles should toss a coin and the winner of the toss has the options described in law 18.2.2.

5.1.2. Second set: the winner of the first set should place the mat, and then deliver the jack and the first bowl. If the first set is a draw, the winner of the last scoring end in that set should place the mat, and then deliver the jack and the first bowl.

5.1.3. First, fourth and any further ends of a tie-breaker: the skips or opponents in Singles should toss a coin and the winner of the toss has the options described in law 18.2.2.

5.1.4. In all ends after the first in each set (including tie-breaker ends), the winner of the previous scoring end should place the mat, and then deliver the jack and the first bowl. If, however, the first end of the first set or the first end of a tie-breaker is a tied end, the first to play in that end should also play first in the second end of the first set or the second end of the tie-breaker.

6. PROCEDURE FOR APPLYING TIME LIMITS

6.1. **Start of play**

Play will commence with the Tournament Director signalling the start time by a bell, horn, etc.

6.2. **End of play**

At the completion of the allocated time, the Tournament Director will signal the end time of play by a bell, horn, etc. At this time players will complete the current end they are playing. (The start of an end is determined by the delivery of the jack by the first player in that end).

Should the result of the game not be determined by the Laws of the Sport, the following principles will be applied:

6.3. **Sectional play**

Should a set/tie breaker not be completed as per the Laws of the Sport, then the score stands as at the completion of the end in play and the player with the

highest number of shots for that set/tie breaker will win that set/tie breaker. In the event that the scores are tied then the tie stands and each player receives one point.

6.4. **Knockout play**
Should a set/tie breaker not be completed as per the Laws of the Sport, then the score stands as at the completion of the end in play and the player with the highest number of shots for that set/tie breaker will win the set/tie breaker. If the final scores are tied, then one additional end is to be played to determine a winner.

7. TRIAL ENDS

One trial end in each direction will be allowed for all games in accordance with Law 18.1. In trial ends players can use any combination of bowls taken from different sets so long as all bowls carry a registered World Bowls stamp of either the current year or a future year. Trial ends will commence prior to the official starting time of each match/round. The tournament director will signal when players can take to the green for trail ends.

8. FOOTWEAR AND ATTIRE

As per the Laws of the Sport of Bowls, including Domestic Regulation 5. Footwear must adhere to Appendix A2. Attire must adhere to Appendix A3 and the BA logo policy. This policy is available on the Bowls Australia web site www.bowlsaustralia.com.au.

Failure to adhere to the BA Logo Policy will result in the offending player being given a verbal warning by the convening match umpire which will be lodged and recorded with the tournament director. The offending player will then be provided up until the forfeit time of their subsequent game to comply with the BA Logo Policy. Failure to comply by this deadline will result in the offending player being disqualified and the game forfeited to their opponent.

It is compulsory for players to wear the uniforms supplied by Bowls Australia for their finals match. Players may also be required to wear small microphones during the TV finals. The final of all disciplines will be televised.

9. STAMP ON BOWLS

All bowls used during the event must carry a registered World Bowls stamp of either the current year or of a future year. Random checking of bowls may occur prior to the commencement of games. Bowls Australia's bowls testing policy is available on the Bowls Australia web site www.bowlsaustralia.com.au.

10. ALTERATIONS TO THE FORMAT & LENGTH OF GAMES (Law 16.3.3)

10.1. 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.

10.2. Where a program is interrupted or cannot be completed due to inclement weather or local conditions, the Jury of Appeal may amend the format and length of games to achieve a result or postpone the event where an outcome cannot be achieved.

11. ARRANGEMENT FOR PRACTICE

See Law 13 of the Laws of the Sport of Bowls

12. REPLACEMENT / SUBSTITUTE PLAYERS

12.1. **Qualifying**

12.1.1. The singles, pairs and triples events shall be played throughout by the competitors whose names appear on the scorecard of the first game. Players may change formations prior to the start of the subsequent game. The Tournament Director must be notified of all changes. Players will be required to complete the relevant paperwork regarding the adjustments made.

12.1.2. The team may call upon an affiliated player to replace a pairs or triples team member before the commencement of the event. Replacement players will not be allowed after the team's first match has been started.

12.1.3. Substitute player(s) are not permitted.

If the player / team is unable to complete any game already commenced during the competition, then the opponent(s) shall win on forfeit. Points shall be awarded to the winning player/team in accordance with Law 15.3.

12.2. **Australian Open**

12.2.1. **Singles**

substitute players are not permitted.

12.2.2. **Pairs**

teams must consist of at least one of the team members that competed in the qualifying event. Should a team wish to replace a player, after qualifying, the replacement player must not have played in any pairs qualifying events. Bowls Australia must be notified of the reason for the replacement and the name of the new player. Bowls Australia reserves the right to reject the replacement player.

12.2.3. **Triples**

teams must consist of at least two of the team members that competed in the qualifying event. Should a team wish to replace a player, after qualifying, the replacement player must not have played in any triples qualifying events. Bowls Australia must be notified of the reason for the replacement and the name of the new player. Bowls Australia reserves the right to reject the replacement player.

The singles, pairs and triples events shall be played throughout by the competitors whose names appear on the scorecard of the first game. Players may change positions prior to the start of the subsequent game. The Tournament Director must be notified of all changes. Players will be required to complete the relevant paperwork regarding the adjustments made.

Substitute player(s) are not permitted

13. DELAYING PLAY

If the umpire, either by their own observation or on appeal from one of the skips or the opponent in singles, decides that a player is deliberately delaying the delivery of the player's bowl:

13.1. On the first occasion the umpire will warn the player.

13.2. If the player commits the same offence a second time the end will be regarded as complete and the opponents of the offender will score as many shots as there are bowls in use by such opponent.

13.3. If the player offends a third time the game will be forfeited to the opponent.

14. RESTRICTING MOVEMENT OF PLAYERS DURING PLAY

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

14.1. **Singles** (each player playing four bowls)
The opponents: after delivery of their third and fourth bowls

14.2. **Pairs** (each player playing three bowls)
The leads: after delivery of their third bowl
The skips: after delivery of their second and third bowls.

14.3. **Triples** (each player playing two bowls)
The leads: after delivery of their second bowl
The seconds: after delivery of their second bowl
The skips: after delivery of each of their bowls

At the start of each end, the lead and second (in triples) will be at the mat end and on changeovers the skips (in pairs and triples) will move to the mat end together.

In exceptional and limited circumstances, a skip can ask that a player walks up to the head, or a player to the marker in singles, earlier than described above. If a player does not meet these terms, law 35 will apply.

15. MARKING TOUCHERS

In all Bowls Australia events, as per the Laws of the Sport, only chalk can be used to mark touchers. We strongly recommend the use of "spray chalk".

16. DRUG TESTING

Bowls Australia's Anti Doping Policy shall apply. See www.bowlsaustralia.com.au for details.

17. JURY OF APPEAL

A jury of appeal shall be appointed for the purpose of deciding upon any points not provided in the conditions of play, for dealing with any appeals from decisions made by umpires and/or the tournament committee, and generally for the purpose of exercising overall authority on behalf of Bowls Australia.

In the event of an appeal during the playing of the event, such appeals shall be made in accordance with the Laws of the Sport of Bowls, and shall be directed to a Jury of Appeal which shall consist of:

17.1. **Qualifying**

- Host STA President/CEO or nominee
- Tournament Chairman/Director
- Chairman of Umpires or rules committee

- BA Events and Projects Manager or nominee

17.2. **Australian Open**

- BA President
- BA CEO
- Tournament Director
- National Officiating Director

If any of the above personnel are not present at the event, the jury shall be convened by teleconference.

18. PRIZE MONEY

18.1. **Qualifying**

No prize money has been allocated for any qualifying event unless associated with another event hosted by the State/Territory association.

18.2. **Australian Open**

Prize money of $139,000 will be available for the event. Distribution of the prize money will be as allocated on the Bowls Australia web site – www.bowlsaustralia.com.au

Any player or team that is disqualified or forfeits a prize money round is ineligible to receive their prize money. Limited exceptional circumstances (forfeits only), can be applied for through written application to the Jury of Appeal.

19. OTHER LAWS, REGULATIONS & POLICIES

Bowls Australia reserves the right to alter the program as deemed necessary to complete the event satisfactorily.

Bowls Australia reserves the right to use any photographs taken during this event for further promotional requirements.

All other Laws, Regulations & Policies other than stated above shall conform to the Laws of the Sport of Bowls and Domestic Regulations for Australia, as published in January 2011 including amendments (located at www.bowlsaustralia.com.au).

The following Bowls Australia policies will apply at this event:

- Extreme Weather policy
- Smoke free policy
- Logo policy (dress regulations)
- Legal and illegal substance policy
- Member protection policy
- Betting and match fixing policy
- Affiliation, eligibility to play and player clearance policy
- Artificial devices policy
- Bowls testing policy
- Disciplinary policy