



Bowls Committee Procedure

5.0.0 Greens Access & Protection	Approval Date:	17/01/2022
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PURPOSE

To provide members with a comprehensive Greens access, usage and protection procedure to guide them in understanding how to use our Greens safely and effectively.

PROCEDURE SCOPE

- This Policy acknowledges that greens are the core material asset of the club and inherently expensive to repair and replace.
- This affects both our grass and artificial surface.
- This procedure relates to members, visitors and guests utilising the TBC greens.
- This Procedure is to be considered in conjunction with existing Bowls Victoria competition Conditions of Play regarding Damage to Green.

PROCEDURE INTENT

- The Torquay Bowls Club will only use qualified Greens Curators
- We adopt a "nil" tolerance of any members, visitors or guests causing undue damage to the playing surface during delivery, or "dumping".
- The Bowls Committee will ensure any members, visitors or guests who cause damage to our Greens are counselled.

DETAILED PROCEDURES

1. Definitions:

1.1 An **Official event** is:

- a) A club event listed in the fixture book on a particular day and time.
- b) A club event not listed in the Fixture Book but reserved later through the Club booking process.
- c) A club event originally listed in the Fixture Book but altered to another time and/or date and reserved through the Club booking process.
- d) A bowls or non-bowls event that has been reserved by a non-member through the Barefoot Bowls Coordinator

2.1 **Social Bowler** means any affiliated member who indicated that they were joining expressly to play Social Bowls – Twilight, Wednesday or Friday Social bowls.

3.1 **Pennant bowler** means any affiliated member.

4.1 **Barefoot bowler** is a non-affiliated player who hires rinks on a casual basis.

5.1 **A reservation occurs** when an event is listed in the club fixture book or lodged through the club booking system.

2. General Use Rules

- a) Barefoot bowlers are permitted to play on the same green as an organised social game [Managed by a club member] as an official club event provided a rink is left vacant next to the official play.



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- b) All bowlers must conform to the etiquette of the competitive play
- c) No drinks are allowed to be carried or consumed within the confines of the greens (black surrounds on top carpet green and concrete border on bottom green.) Drinks may be consumed under the Club Liquor Licence rules. The rules apply to all bowlers and visitors – Pennant, Social, Twilight, Barefoot.
- d) Players engaged in official events must wear correct attire including proper bowls shoes.
- e) If a green is not occupied by pennant play, it may be used by members for practice.
- f) If affiliated members occupy a rink whilst pennant play is in progress, they must be attired in bowls attire or the club uniform. (e.g. Bankers and Pennant reserves) with one spare rink between.

3. Greens Timetable

Monday

- Grass green unavailable – maintenance.
- Synthetic green Available for practice from 9.00 am
- **Note:** If the Grass Green has a 'Closed' sign erected, then no practice is allowed on the grass green on that Monday. If no sign erected then practice for Midweek Pennant is allowed on allocated rinks from 3.30pm to 5.00pm.

Tuesday

- Midweek pennant players have prior rights to greens from 9.00 am to 3.30 pm or when a pennant match finishes.
- Bowlers selected to play Saturday pennant may use the greens for practice on Tuesday from 3.30pm [or after Tuesday pennant ceases] to Greens closure. Other bowlers may use free rinks.

Wednesday:

- Bowlers listed to play Wednesday social bowls have prior rights to the greens from 12.00 pm until after social bowls finishes.
- Affiliated members who play Twilight bowls have prior rights to the use of the greens from 5.45pm. Other bowlers may practise until a rink is claimed by twilight players. If there are free rinks during Twilight games, members may use these rinks during twilight play.

Thursday

- Thursday Aggregate Tournament group have prior rights to the greens from 10.00 until end of play.
- Affiliated members who play Twilight bowls have prior rights to the use of the greens from 5.45pm. Other bowlers may practise until a rink is claimed by twilight players. If there are free rinks during Twilight games, members may use these rinks during twilight play.

Friday

- Bowlers listed to play Friday morning social bowls have prior rights to the greens from 10.00 am until end of play.
- Bowlers selected to play Saturday pennant may use the greens for practice on Friday from 3.30pm to Greens closure. Other bowlers may use free rinks.
- Unless a fixtured club event is scheduled to be played any group may use the greens provided that a prior booking has been made.



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Saturday

Morning:

- TBC Pennant players selected to play have prior rights to rinks.
- Other members may practise at the discretion of the Greenkeeper / Greens Manager.
- Afternoon:
- Only Saturday pennant players and Banker players/Pennant reserves may occupy the green when pennant play is in progress.
- If an entire green is vacant members may use that green for practice.
- After Saturday Pennant has ended, members may use the greens for practice.

Sunday

- If no official Club event requires rinks, then any affiliated member may use the greens for practice on a first arrive basis.
- If rinks are needed for club or GBR events, they will be marked as reserved by the Greens Manager.
- Any group may use the greens provided that a prior booking has been made.

Use of rinks during championships etc.

- In the event that a winner of a championship event progresses to GBR regional finals, e.g. singles finals, then no social bowls should be played on the green during play. If a championship event does not progress to GBR regional finals, other players may use rinks not being used provided that one unused rink remains between the championship event and the casual bowler; and that the casual bowler is attired in neat casual wear including proper bowls shoes, and respects the nature of the Championship / Social Bowls which should be indicated, if necessary, by the championship official.

4. Greens Manager

The Board of Management shall appoint a Greens Manager who:

- a) Shall be directly responsible to the Facilities Director/Bowls President and may attend the Bowls Committee meeting by invitation or at the Greens Manager's request.
- b) Shall create a roster of Members of either gender to assist with the presentation of the greens. The roster shall state the names, times of duty and the responsibilities of the rostered Members.
- c) Shall, when required, allocate rinks.
- d) Shall [and those delegated] be responsible for liaising with the Greenkeeper, about the maintenance of the greens [who may either be contracted or employed] on behalf of the Board of Management.
- e) May delegate his/her authority with the approval of the Board of Management and/or the Bowls Committee.

5. Prevention of Play

- a) Before 10:00am, after discussion with the Greens Manager, the Greenkeeper may recommend there be no play for the day. To indicate this decision the Greens Closed sign will be displayed.
- b) After 10:00am, the Greens Manager shall have full control and supervision of the playing area, with power to prevent play at any time when it is considered the area may be damaged.
- c) In the absence of the Greens Manager, his/her deputy or a Member of the Greens Committee, or any two (2) Members of the Board of Management and Bowls Committee shall, on the advice of the Greenkeeper, have power to prevent play before 10:00am.



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- d) Once an event has commenced, a decision to prevent play is in the hands of the person(s) who are in charge of the event. This decision should be made in conjunction with the Greens Manager should he/she be present. The decision should then be conveyed by phone call or SMS to the Greens Manager/Championship Coordinator should they be absent.
- e) Any decision to prevent play prior to the commencement of an event will be indicated by the placement of a notice outside the clubhouse in an approved position, or in the case of an event in progress, by the ringing of a bell or an announcement over the PA system.
- f) The decision to stop play may be made based on protection to the green, uncomfortable playing conditions or the safety of the players. Refer to the Weather Policy.

6. Allocation of Rinks

- a) The Greens Manager shall arrange for members to be informed which rinks are available for play or practice on any particular day. Once a green or a set of rinks is known to be available, the Greens Manager or his/her delegate including the Barefoot Bowls/Bookings Manager/Coordinator or his/her delegate may allocate particular activities to each rink.

7. Practising on Rinks

For a Booking

- a) The Greens Manager shall devise a system of booking rink requirements that is known and available to green users, in order to allocate the bowling rinks to best fit the demands generated by outside Bookings and the needs of Members.
- b) The details provided in the Fixture Book shall be used as part of this plan.

Practising Simultaneous to an Event

- a) Players who are practising or competing in another event shall first choose the rink furthest from the competition and are disbarred from using the adjacent rink on each side of rinks being used for a championship semi-final or final. They shall pay due heed to the conditions required by the competitors in the championship event.

Pennant

- a) Members of a Pennant team shall have priority of use of the rinks designated by the Greens Manager at the times specified for Pennant practice.
- b) The Midweek Pennant Team will have the use of the top green for practice on each Monday of the Pennant season by arrangement with the Greens Manager.

Club Coaches

- a) The Club Coaches shall book their rink requirements in the same way as other users.
- b) If a member wishes to secure a regular coaching session, they are advised to arrange this with the coach and ensure that the time is entered into the booking system.

Social or Regular Practice by a Member of Another club

- a) Affiliated members of other clubs can participate in club organised social bowls and tournaments excepting member only events.
- b) Affiliated members of other clubs in the Geelong Bowls Region do not have practice rights at TBC. For members of other GBR clubs, a Torquay Bowls Club membership is required (full fee less bowls affiliation component). Dual membership policies are set out by Bowls Australia/Bowls Victoria.
- c) Practice facility may be offered to a member/s of a GBR club on a single occasion on request.
- d) Visiting bowlers affiliated outside the GBR are welcome to have occasional rollups, which has been a long-standing practice and is generally understood to be reciprocal. However, for those who have a holiday or dual residence in Torquay, a TBC membership would be required for regular practice.



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8. Greens Booking – Barefoot Bowls Coordinator

- a) The Barefoot Bowls Coordinator is responsible for all procedures governing the booking of a rink or green for a Barefoot bowls event involving reservation of greens.
- b) In consultation with the Treasurer and Business Director, the General Manager is responsible for determining the charges to be applied and establishing a secure and efficient method for the collection of green fees by any Member. Payment is usually via the POS at the bar.
- c) The Board of Management may grant exceptions to the above policy if a large-scale booking is sought. In such cases the Business Director is responsible for informing all who are affected, should the Board of Management so decide.
- d) Any booking by a non-Member allows up to one hour of bowls with two bowls per person.
- e) The Barefoot Bowls Coordinator will organise loan bowls from the storage shed and return them to storage at the end of the session. During the COVID 19 period all loan bowls must be sanitised before and after use.

9. Care of Greens Protection

Dumping

- a. Dumping is defined as delivering a bowl which is likely to cause impact to the bowling surface and cause damage. Bowls likely to cause impact are those that leave the hand in excess of 15cm from the surface of the green. It can also occur by bowling down into the surface.
- b. Dropping bowls onto the green from the bank also can cause damage and must be avoided.
- c. The Greens Manager and/or the Controlling Body may identify those members who dump their bowls. This information is to be relayed to the Bowls Committee.
- d. Club Coaches may also identify fault with a player's delivery during their coaching activities.

Advise and Assist

On receiving such advice, the Bowls Committee will send a letter to the member outlining the following:

- a) That they have been identified as a member of the club who dumps their bowls.
- b) Offering the assistance of the Club Coaches to achieve a remedy.
- c) Requiring that help be sought before resuming bowling.
- d) Resumption of bowling at the Club can take place when the Club Coach and the Greens Manager give approval.
- e) It is not the intention of this Bowls Policy to embarrass anyone but to assist and prevent damage (which can be permanent damage) to our grass and synthetic greens.
- f) Any of the above-named officials have the power to ask a player to leave the green immediately if serious damage is being done by dumping.
- g) We encourage all members to be proactive by ensuring correct bowls delivery and being willing to seek help from a coach.

10. Rules:

The Bowls Committee will ensure that:

- a) Bowls Shoes or the "OOFOS Original Thong", as approved by Bowls Australia are preferred and encouraged.
 - For casual, barefoot hirers, bare feet may be used whilst bowling.
- b) Members are able to intervene politely and give coaching should a visitor be seen to deliver a bowl or jack in a way that will cause green damage.
- c) Sitting on the edge of the green is prohibited.
- d) Resting of feet in sand or on edge of green is absolutely prohibited.



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- e) No drinks are allowed to be carried or consumed within the confines of the greens (black surrounds on top carpet green and concrete border on bottom green). Drinks may be consumed under the Club Alcohol Licence rules. The rules apply to all bowlers and visitors – Pennant, Social, Twilight, Barefoot.
- f) Smoking is only allowed in the designated areas.

The Opening and Closing of Greens

- a) Each morning the greens will be 'set up' by a volunteer[s] appointed by the Greens Manager.
- b) Each evening the greens will be closed by a volunteer appointed by the Greens Manager.
- c) The times of closure must be adhered to unless change is approved by the Greens Manager. Volunteers may not arrange with a member to close at a time different to the above.
- d) If the greens are required beyond the stated time of closure e.g. Twilight, it becomes the responsibility of the Twilight subcommittee to collect mats and jacks and make secure overnight.
- e) Late Use: If the closing volunteer arrives at the stated time and the greens are in use then the volunteer will advise the Member in charge that they [volunteer] will close each rink not in use immediately. This then becomes the responsibility of the Member in charge to close the remaining rinks and secure the equipment.
- f) Greens may only be booked beyond the stated closure time provided that at least one full green is booked and/or the clubhouse and bar are simultaneously booked.
- g) All green bookings must remain within the stated times.
- h) The Greens Manager is empowered to change these times provided adequate advance warning is provided by first advising the Club Member who booked the green, then writing his/her information on the booking record, for the booking officers, the users and the volunteers.

11. Greens Safety

Refer to Safe bowls Procedure

12. Inclement weather

Refer to Safe bowls Procedure

PROCEDURE GOVERNANCE

The Bowls Committee will:

- Review this procedure, annually, prior to the commencement of the season and amend or enhance the procedure where necessary.
- Communicate procedure content to members through Website, newsletter, email or on the Notice Board and encourages everyone to take a role in Greens protection.