

CIRCULAR

No: C18/2023
Date: 25 August 2023
To: All Members
Re: State Competition Boundaries for 2024-25



Competition Playing Areas – Overview

The Bowls New South Wales Board of Directors has accepted a recommendation from the Zone & District Unification Committee in relation to Bowls NSW competition areas which will come into effect from 1 July 2024.

We would like to thank everyone who has supported and provided input into this process. With over 500 pieces of individual or collective Club, Zone or District feedback, you have helped shape the direction taken.

We would like to highlight the volume of feedback and data that has been analysed for us to reach this recommendation. This includes over 500 pieces of written feedback, many phone calls to our office and broad consultation with staff, committees and stakeholders across the State. I want to thank the Zone & District Unification Committee who have worked tirelessly to reach this outcome, for their hard work in helping us collate the feedback and data, as well as their support in communicating with various stakeholders along the way.

Defining our future playing areas is the first stage in a multi-staged process, and it is critical we make this decision now, in August. Knowing how important this process is, we are providing 310 days' notice of these changes so we can plan our competitions for 2024-25 competently. We can now focus our attention on reforming the Governance structures that will oversee these new competition areas into the future.

These competition areas are final for the purposes of the 2024-25 season, and we are no longer accepting or reviewing submitted feedback in relation to these. As always, a review will commence from the end of the 2024-25 season and these playing areas can be adjusted based off future Club feedback.

Simplification, consistency and avoiding change for the sake of change, has been at the forefront of our decision-making process and has underpinned the direction taken below.



BOWLS NEW SOUTH WALES LIMITED

PO BOX A2186, SYDNEY SOUTH NSW 1235 | PH: 1800 WE BOWL (1800 93 2695)

EMAIL: ENQUIRIES@BOWLSNSW.COM.AU | WWW.BOWLSNSW.COM.AU

Competition Playing Areas - Outlined

From 1 July 2024 onward:

- There will be 16 x competition playing areas across NSW.
- These 16 x competition playing areas will replicate the current 16 x Zone competition playing areas across New South Wales.

This means:

- For all current men's and women's bowling clubs playing under the same name but in differing District/Zone competition areas, you will be competing in the same competition area from 1 July 2024 onward.
- In each of the new playing areas, the initial stages of events will be played within smaller geographic sections wherever competitively viable (by creating "geographic sections" in a draw). This means that, in the initial stages of competition, most bowlers will notice no difference in the way events are currently played.
- Current Zone and District Administrations will change, and new Governance structures will oversee the delivery of our sport across these 16 competition areas.

Bowls NSW understands that the announcement and adoption of the 16 x new competition areas will please some members, will be impartial to others, and will upset some. As is the case with implementing any change, it is impossible to please everyone. While we acknowledge that some members may be upset, we want to emphasise that these decisions have been made in the best interest of our sport, particularly its long-term viability and success.

I would like to reiterate that this decision was based off an incredible amount of member feedback, and I am proud to have had equal male / female input and representation throughout this decision-making process.

Rationale

The below rationale was followed when determining the new competition areas:

- Existing competition structures are already in place – currently in operation and working well regarding sectional/geographical draws and existing frameworks for competition delivery.
- The reality that after reviewing all items of feedback, accepting changes to the proposed Draft boundaries provided by Clubs, and implementing these, that we found ourselves very close to the existing and current Zone competition playing areas.
- In the great majority of cases, adopting these competition areas would see women's clubs within a current "District" still being grouped within a common "geographic area", causing minimal impact to their members.
- The percentage of clubs impacted by this decision being 3.7%
- With the above knowledge and after a comprehensive review, we would simply be making change for the sake of change.



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- Many of the impacted clubs are already competing within Zone competition areas through Open Gender and Reserve events. This has been causing administrative problems.
- By limiting the “boundary-shift” to those clubs that currently straddle differing administrative areas, the existing relationships and camaraderie between most clubs, members and volunteers will remain unchanged.

For those who do find themselves having to adapt to doing things differently, we trust you will see the alignment of men’s and women’s bowls administration at this level as a natural and necessary outcome of having unified the State associations. We appreciate your patience as we work through this process, and again, thank you for your time and effort in providing us with guidance on the direction we are taking.

Attached with this announcement is an overview and Q&A document that outlines our roadmap for reform. It details specific items in relation to the creation and implementation of future Governance structures in New South Wales. This is a working document and will evolve as we move forward with this process.

I would also like to acknowledge and thank the hundreds of volunteers who readily provide their time and experience in administering our current Zones and Districts. I appreciate your support and feedback as we worked through this process. I look forward to working in partnership with you in developing our future Governance structures.

We will soon be updating our Zone and District Unification Website and publishing the 2024-25 competition playing areas, including the Clubs within each, in due course. We will make a further announcement when these details become available.

[Click here to view the Zone & District Information Pack and Q&A Document](#)

Kind regards,



Tim Rowe

CEO

Bowls New South Wales Ltd



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