

OCEANIA CHALLENGE

2026

Conditions of Play

(27th March 2026)



1. STATUS

- 1.1 These Conditions of Play are made in accordance with the Laws of the Sport, which permits Bowls New Zealand as the Controlling Body to establish Conditions of Play to cover certain aspects of this event. These Conditions of Play set out the conditions for the World Bowls Oceania Challenge and apply to all players, organisations, and countries participating in the Event.
- 1.2 These Conditions of Play have been developed and issued by the Bowls New Zealand Chief Executive, with all games to be played under the Laws of the Sport of Bowls – Crystal Mark Fourth Edition.

2. NAME OF EVENT, DATES AND VENUES

2.1 NAME OF EVENT:

World Bowls Oceania Challenge

2.2 DATES:

Official Practice Day: Wednesday 18th November

Competition Days: Thursday 19th to Sunday 22nd November 2026 inclusive.

2.3 VENUES:

Bowls Orewa, 214 Hibiscus Coast Highway, Orewa, Auckland (2 x covered greens)

3. CONTROLLING BODY

3.1 Bowls New Zealand

- Tournament Director – Chris Lander (Bowls New Zealand)
- Chief Technical Official – Michael Johnson (Bowls New Zealand)

4. DEFINITIONS

- 4.1 **Bowls New Zealand Tournament Director** means the person appointed by Bowls New Zealand for the Championships on such terms and conditions as Bowls New Zealand determines.

Event means the World Bowls Oceania Challenge.

Game means a singles, pairs, triples or fours contest played in any match.

Laws of the Sport means the World Bowls Laws of the Sport of Bowls (Crystal Mark Fourth Edition).

Team means the individual players representing their country or organisation in each discipline.

Side means any agreed number of teams or Singles players (or a combination of teams and Singles players) whose combined scores decide the result of a competition.

5. ENTRY

- 5.1 For this event, all players are to be affiliated with their National Authority, that is a member of World Bowls.
- 5.2 The names of players and the events in which they have been selected to compete shall be received by the Tournament Director no later than 31st August 2026.
- 5.3 Like for like Player replacements in a discipline can be accepted following the entry deadline and up to the time of the first game.
- 5.4 The only substitute permitted, once the event has commenced, shall be the coach (provided they are an eligible affiliated player) of the team.

6. SIDE COMPOSITION

- 6.1 Each Side will consist of five players – both Men & Women.
- 6.2 Entered players must remain in the disciplines as confirmed in the team sheet as provided before the first bowl is bowled on the first day of play. After this time, changes will only be allowed relating to the team order within each discipline, between rounds. This must be submitted to the Tournament Director at least 30 minutes before the respective round.

7. TRIAL ENDS

- 7.1 Pursuant to the Laws of the Sport, trial ends will be allowed before the start of each game.
- 7.2 Should players be required to change greens during a game, an extra set of trial ends will be allowed.

8. PLAYING FORMAT (Applicable for both Men and Women)

- 8.1 The format for all games is as follows:
 - (a) Entries will be randomly drawn into two sections for each discipline: Singles, Pairs, Triples and Fours.
 - i. Singles: Four bowls
 - ii. Pairs: Three bowls per athlete.
 - iii. Triples: Two bowls per athlete
 - iv. Fours: Two bowls per athlete
 - (b) A round robin will be played in each section where the rinks of play will be assigned based on the pre-formatted draw. Once qualifying rounds are completed; a knockout format will apply.
 - (c) Winners of each section will contest a semi-final against the second placed team in the opposite section.
 - (d) The winners of each semi-final will contest the final and the losing team from each semi-final will contest the bronze medal game.
 - (e) The third placed team in each section will contest the fifth-place playoff.
 - (f) The fourth placed team in each section will contest the seventh-place playoff.

- (g) The fifth placed team in each section will contest the ninth-place playoff.
- (h) Each game will have the following duration with a time limit of 90 minutes:
- Singles: 16 ends
 - Pairs: 14 ends
 - Triples: 14 ends
 - Fours: 10 ends
- (i) The commencement of play and the expiry of time shall be signalled by the Umpire by a bell or some other means that is clearly audible to the players concerned. Where the time limit is not common to all games on any green, the Umpire shall notify the opponents or skips in individual games when the time limit has expired.
- (j) Re-Spotting of the Jack - If a jack in motion passes completely outside the boundaries of the rink of play, comes to rest in any hollow in the face of the bank, or rebounds to less than 20 metres from the mat line, the end should not be declared dead. Instead, the jack should be placed with the nearest point of the jack to the mat line at the central 2 metre spot. If the spot is partly or completely covered by a bowl, the jack should be placed as close as possible to the covered spot, in line with that spot and the corresponding spot at the opposite end of the rink, without touching a bowl.
- (k) The finishing position of each team in each qualifying section shall be determined as follows:
- (i) Highest match points gained in the qualifying rounds (where two points shall be awarded for each match won and one point will be awarded for each match drawn).
 - (ii) Where teams are tied on match points, the team with the highest total net shots (shots gained less shots conceded equals total net shots) shall be the superior team.
 - (iii) If, at the end of the qualifying rounds, match points and total net shots are unable to separate two or more teams, the team with the highest total of shots gained across all games in all matches shall be the superior team. If two or more teams remain equal after this calculation, the team with the least number of shots conceded across all games in all matches shall be the superior team.
 - (iv) In the unlikely event that two teams remain tied, the team that won the match when the two teams met shall be the superior team. If that match was tied, an extra end shall be played between the teams.
- (l) Absentee Players: If, 15 minutes after the scheduled start time for a game, one player is absent from one or more teams in a side, the game must continue and Law 39.2.2 applies.

8.2 Alterations to the Format & Length of Games

- (a) 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.
- (b) Where a programme is interrupted or cannot be completed due to inclement weather or local conditions, the Controlling Body may amend the format and length of games to achieve a result.

8.3 Restricting the Movement of Players

The movement of players during play shall be restricted as follows:

- (a) After delivering their first bowl, players will only be allowed to walk up to the head under the following circumstances.

Singles Games:

- the opponents: after delivery of their third bowl

Pairs Games (each player playing three bowls):

- the Leads: after delivery of their third bowl; and
- the Skips: after delivery of their second bowl

Triples Games:

- the Leads: after the second player in their team has delivered their second bowl
- the Seconds: after delivery of their second bowl
- the Skips: after delivery of their first bowl

Fours Games:

- the Leads: after the second player in their team has delivered their second bowl
- the Seconds: after delivery of their second bowl
- the Thirds: after delivery of their second bowl
- the Skips: after delivery of their first bowl

- (b) In exceptional and limited circumstances, a Singles player can ask the Marker for permission to walk up to the head.

8.4 Defaults

If a team or player defaults their score will be recorded as a loss. The non-offending team will be awarded a win and the average winning and losing shots scored by the winning teams in the same discipline in the same round of the same section.

9. **SMOKING, VAPING, ALCOHOL AND BETTING:**

9.1 The following smoking, vaping, alcohol and sports betting policies apply:

- (a) There shall be no smoking or vaping anywhere in a clubhouse or on the greens or surrounds at this event. Smoking or vaping may only occur in designated smoking or vaping areas.

- (b) The drinking of alcohol is restricted as follows:

- a. For non-players or players when they are not involved in a game, alcohol may be consumed in accordance with the host club's licence.

- b. Players must not consume alcohol while involved in a game.

- (c) This event is one on which sports betting is permissible. All players participating in the event, Umpires/Technical Officials and all other officials officiating at the event are prohibited from placing bets and benefiting financially from bets placed by others.

10. OFFICIALS:

- 10.1 The appointed Chief Technical Official will be responsible for ensuring that Technical Officials/Umpires and Markers are allocated at all venues in use for the Event.

11. JURY OF APPEAL:

- 11.1 A Jury of Appeal shall be appointed by the Bowls NZ CEO for the purpose of deciding upon any points not provided in the Conditions of Play and/or for dealing with any referrals or appeals from decisions made by Technical Officials and referrals made by an umpire or the tournament director regarding the conduct of players.

12. OVERALL COMPETITION WINNERS:

- 12.1 The Overall Champion across all men's & women's disciplines will be declared as the Oceania Challenge Champion.

Determining the overall winner, points shall be awarded on the following basis:

- The winner in each event discipline shall score points equivalent to the total number of teams competing.
- Subsequent placings in each event shall be reduced by one point for each placing.
- Additional points will be awarded for gold medal (3 points), silver medal (2 points) and bronze medal (1 point).
- Where the total points are equal then there can be equal competition winners.

13. FINANCIAL:

- 13.1 All travel, accommodation, and meal costs will be the responsibility of the individual participants and participating countries.
- 13.2 There shall be no entry fee. Bowls New Zealand will support the venue and tournament administration.

14. BROADCASTING:

- 14.1 Bowls New Zealand will use their best endeavours to broadcast selected games for Men & Women through YouTube and any other platform they may secure to broadcast the event.

15. EQUIPMENT

15.1 Stamps on Bowls

All bowls used during the event must carry a registered World Bowls stamp of either the current year or a future year.

15.2 Footwear

Players, umpires and markers must wear flat-soled ('heel-less') footwear when they play on the green or act as umpires or markers.

- 15.3 **Clothing**
All players within a Side must wear the same uniform.

16. OTHER LAWS, REGULATIONS AND POLICIES

- 16.1 All other Laws, Regulations & Policies other than stated above shall conform to World Bowls Articles of Association, Regulations and the *Laws of the Sport of Bowls Crystal Mark Fourth Edition* as approved by World Bowls.
- 16.2 **Photography**
World Bowls reserves the right to use any photographs taken during this event for further promotional requirements.