

Mt Pleasant Bowling Club

Preservation of Greens Policy – Elimination of Bowls Dumping & Dropping Bowls

POLICY RATIONALE:

The synthetic and grass greens are valuable assets that need to be protected from damage caused by the dumping of bowls from a height that results in the denting of the compacted material immediately below the green surface. Our synthetic C Green is particularly vulnerable to damage from dropped-bowls.

This policy is not intended to be considered as penalising players but is a genuine attempt to minimise green damage and maintenance costs and to prolong the useful life of the club's greens, especially C Green.

DEFINITION OF A DUMPED OR DROPPED BOWL:

A dump is defined as a bowl, when delivered, is likely to cause impact to the bowling surface. Bowls likely to cause impact are those that leave the hand or a Bowls WA approved bowling arm in excess of 15cm or 6 inches from the surface of the green.

Bowls must not be dropped onto the green when standing on the bank at the start of or during a game. Care must be taken when placing a bowl back onto the green after it has been placed onto the bank due to going out of bounds or into the ditch

All Club members have a responsibility to, identify and inform the Club appointees, of any bowlers who dump their bowls according to this definition

IDENTIFICATION AND SUPPORT FOR BOWLERS WHO HAVE DIFFICULTY COMPLYING WITH THIS DEFINITION:

The Club Executive will appoint a panel consisting of 3 or 4 members who are Umpires and Greens Committee members to identify bowlers who appear not to be complying with the requirements of the definition. These bowlers will be approached and requested to seek coaching support to correct their delivery in one of three ways:

- Changing their stance at the point of delivery so that the release of the bowl is low enough;
- Using a supporting stick, with a 75mm rubber base, to assist with balance, or
- use one of the 3 brands of approved bowling arms: Bowls WA approval is required to use during competition.

Individual bowlers who are having difficulty delivering their bowl smoothly onto the playing surface from a height of less than 15cm are asked to seek assistance. Their delivery techniques will need to be modified to comply with the requirements of this policy to ensure that they have continuing access to the greens.

MANAGING POLICY COMPLIANCE:

All club members, visiting bowlers and social players using the greens are subject to the requirements of this policy.

Those managing this policy are asked to use an empathetic, commonsense approach when called upon to adjudicate. Seeking a solution to the issue is important. After all, it is our intention to keep bowlers involved in our great game.

During individual practice sessions, pennant practice games, social games and all other Mt Pleasant Bowling Club events, the Greens Committee, Match Committees and Selection Committees will be the Controlling Bodies as is appropriate. The Match Committees can delegate authority to a Bowls Australia accredited umpire during events and club championships under their control. The Bowls Australia Umpire of the Day appointed for a Club Event, Championship or Pennant fixture has the responsibility to act in accordance with the Pennant Field of Play Rules and the Laws of the Game.

BOWLS WA FIELD OF PLAY PENNANT RULES – PLAYER DAMAGING THE GREEN:

The Controlling Body (Umpire of the Day) shall be at liberty to warn a player if in their opinion the player is causing damage to the green.

Following the warning, if the player continues to cause damage to the green, the Controlling Body may request the player to retire from the green and take no further part in the match.

The player leaving the green may be replaced by a substitute player. If there is no Substitute Player available the team may continue to play with one player short in accordance with Bowls WA Pennant conditions of Play.

If the player refuses to leave the green, the player will be considered to become a defaulting player and the game and/or match will be forfeited. The umpire's decision is final.

POLICY IMPLEMENTATION STEPS:

Step 1: The Executive Committee to do the following;

- Endorse the Preservation of Greens – Elimination of Dumping – Dropping Bowls Policy.
- Appoint a panel consisting of 3 or 4 Umpires and Greens Committee members to identify Mt Pleasant bowlers who appear to be having difficulty delivering their bowl smoothly onto the playing surface from a height of less than 15cm, if required the club will seek assistance from a qualified coach to identify the most appropriate means of correction.
- Inform the membership and visitors via posters and pre-game announcements about the policy, its purpose, and its implementation.
- Arrange to inform the Match Committees, Greens Committees and Umpires of the policy and their roles in its implementation and management.

Step 2: The appointed panel to meet and to set a plan of action to identify and refer players to the coaches for corrective action.

Step 3: The Controlling Bodies, i.e. Match, Selection and Umpires of the Day (Pennants) to implement and administer the policy.

Step 4: The appointed panel to routinely report back to the Executive Committee on the progress of its work during the Winter Bowls Program.

Step 5: The Executive Committee to oversee and monitor the implementation and success of the policy.