



MEMO

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Date: 18 June 2019
To: Zone Secretaries & State Councillors
Re: Open Inter Zone – Board Decision & Proposed New Event

Open Inter Zone – Inter Zone Series

Bowls NSW has received feedback from Zones regarding the decision to move Open Inter Zone from September this year to be played in late February/early March next year (and beyond) in order to align the event with programme changes made by Bowls Australia and to continue the current chronological order of events for State Selection Committee.

Upon receipt of these, the responses were collated, in Zone order, and handed to Board for a decision to be made.

We can advise that:

7 Zones, within their feedback, opted for;

OPTION 1:

No 2019 Open Inter Zone to be held & play 2020 Inter Zone Series (Open & Senior) in March (this series would be offered to Grandviews & Olds Park).

Whilst **9 Zones**, within their feedback, opted for;

OPTION 2:

Play 2019 Open Inter Zone at Grandviews & Olds Park in September & 2020 Inter Zone Series (Open & Senior) in March (to be hosted by Clubs within Zone 3).

However, of those 9 Zones, **3 Zones** stated that they would only participate in both September & March, if there was 100% commitment from all other Zones.

The Board deliberated upon every submission of feedback from each zone and considered the comments of all zones.

As there was not a clear majority of Zones who would commit to participating in two Open Inter Zone Series' within 5 – 6 months of each other and noting that ALL Zones would commit to playing in an Open Inter Zone Series in late February/early March, it has made the decision to uphold the decision of the administration to move the annual Open Inter Zone Series to the aforementioned time of year.

The Board acknowledges the statements of some Zone Administrations regarding the prestige of the Open Inter Zone and competing against other Zones in this event each year.

It further decided that to play an Open Inter Zone in September without full participation of every Zone would damage the stature of this State event and it did not feel justified to compromise the Open Inter Zone in such a manner.

The Board also acknowledges, that Inter Zones Series' are regarded as high performance events and form a considerable component of the pathway for players to be selected for City/Country and then onto State representation and that the State Selection Committee require these events to be in a chronological order and in a time more relevant for the Committee to ensure that Bowls NSW has its strongest sides selected for Australian Championships.

From 2020, the Senior & Open Inter Zones Series' will be played consecutively, in the same area/zone and as Grandviews & Olds Park (Zone 13) were awarded the hosting of the Open Inter Zone allocated to be played in September upon release of the 2019 Season Calendar last October, Bowls NSW has remained committed to its decision and they will be the host clubs for both the Senior & Open Inter Zone Series' in 2020.

The 2021 Senior & Open Inter Zone series has been awarded to Zone 3 as the next Zone to have been allocated an Inter Zone event.

A decision on the venue(s) following the 2021 Inter Zone Series will be made after review of the opportunity for sponsorship of this series from interested Local Government Areas (Councils).

The Board of Bowls NSW also announces that the Annual City v Country Series will now be held in late May each year to bring this event into alignment with the corrected pathway of events, considering the change to the calendar for Australian Sides Championships, to be played during Bowls Australia's The Nationals event to be held each October.

It is pleased to declare that the City v Country series will now be expanded to include Senior & Over 40's divisions to be played alongside the long standing Open & Under 18 divisions.

Bowls NSW is also extremely delighted that Cabramatta Bowls Group, as part of its sponsorship and partnership with Bowls NSW will be the host venue for this series in 2020 – 2021.

Proposed New State Championship

The State Match Committee (SMC) proposes to implement a new initiative for a State Over 40's Pairs Championship.

With Open Inter Zone & City Country moving from late calendar year to early calendar year from 2020, this new State Championship would be played during the September – November period each season.

The SMC would like to instigate this Championship to commence in 2019.

It is proposed that the State Over 40's Pairs Championship will be eligible for Bowls NSW registered members aged 40 years and under 59 years as at the date of commencement of the Over 40's State Finals.

It would be a 3 Bowls Pairs Competition with SMC producing a separate COP for this event, as it does for other NSW State events.

There is, currently, approximately, 7,000 registered Bowls NSW members within this age category and it is expected to become a popular event and significant title to be achieved.

This Championship complements our other events: Under 18; Under 25; Rookies; Open & Senior.

This new State Championship is also seen as a fore-runner to help launch a pathway for this age group, with very preliminary correspondence underway with other State Associations to establish Over 40's representative matches.

This proposal will be put forward to State Councillors at their July meeting.

It is projected, subsequent to this meeting, to release all dates, entry forms, COP and other details regarding this event to all Zones and the membership in general.

It is anticipated that this new event will be the first amongst other motivating initiatives to be released to help further invigorate the many different demographics that participate in our great sport.

It is also envisaged that the 2020 – 2021 Season Calendar and COP will be released by early-mid August.

Regards,

David Ellis

David Ellis
Head of Sport & Operations – Bowls NSW