



BOWLS
VICTORIA

REGION BOUNDARY REVIEW





BACKGROUND



- Regions and Divisions were established at the time of unification.
- A review is best business practice.
- The Board of Bowls Victoria recognizes the need to “Future Proof our Sport”.
- Bowls Victoria has received requests from Clubs, some outlining options and asking for change.
- Bowls Victoria Board appointed a Region Review Committee and the four RBMs were a part of the review process.



WE KNOW...



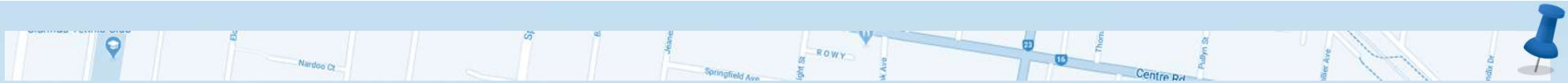
- Areas have changed particularly with the growth of urban sprawl.
- Administration methods and processes have changed with the advent of more sophisticated technology.
- Society has changed – short and sharp is what people want.
- The numbers playing the different types of bowls has changed.
- Volunteering is different now.
- Traditional bowls (ie Pennant) has decreased in the percentage of bowls played in comparison to social bowls. (Bowls Australia data)
- For some Clubs to survive we need to think outside the box.



DECISION FROM BOWLS VICTORIA



- 16 current region structure to remain.
- Alteration to some Region boundaries. This means that some Clubs will be in a different Region.
- Existing Divisions – Boards, Committees, Governance structure – **will be removed**. The 16 Regions will have one level of governance.
- Playing areas will be used to minimize disruption to current travelling patterns within the 16 Regions.
- Bowls Victoria will give support to make this happen before June 30, 2021.



THREE KEY REASONS FOR THIS DECISION



- Governance – to achieve uniformity.
- Volunteers – reduction in the number required.
- Playing areas – maximizing bowlers leisure time.



GOVERNANCE



- As a sport we have many layers of governance.
- Positions on Boards and Committees are unfilled.
- Often the same volunteers are on multiple Boards and Committees.
- There are often blurred lines between levels of governance.
- A clear, concise and readily accessible structure will bring all Regions to a comparable place of governance.
- A package of documents will be provided from Bowls Victoria.



VOLUNTEERS



- Many of our Clubs only exist because of volunteers.
- Today, most people are time poor. Therefore we rely on too few to administer and manage the operations of our sport.
- Work and family commitments limit volunteering opportunities for many.
- The age and health of volunteers is problematic.
- **Converting the multiple Divisions into a Region structure will reduce the number of volunteers required.**



PLAYING AREAS



- A playing area is a group of Clubs in a common geographical area.
- Country Regions will be able to define their own playing areas. There is no limit to playing areas.
- Conversion to playing areas will make minimal alteration for most players. Travel arrangements will stay the same for most.
- Country Regions will be in a position to offer different opportunities for teams playing at the highest, elite level, right down to the lowest level.
- Country Regions may choose to introduce a form of a “Premier level” competition.
- The success of BowlsLink allows competitions to be administered from anywhere, as communication is all electronic.



HOW WILL THIS HAPPEN?



- Bowls Victoria is meeting with every Region during March 2020.
- An achievable time-line has been set – completed by June 30th 2021.
- Some of the Clubs being moved have already asked for change.
- A package of documents will be provided at the BVRR meeting on April 17th.
- If required, Bowls Victoria will cover the cost of re-submitting the new constitution to Consumer Affairs Victoria for each Region.
- The changes are largely administrative. Administrators will be aware, but many bowlers won't notice any change.



REGION BOARD



- BV will provide a new constitution template and give guidance to implement the changes.
- BV has accessed a lot of legal advice in preparing this template. It is considered best practice. Regions still have flexibility to make changes relevant to their needs but discussion with Bowls Vic is advised.
- Divisions and current Region Boards will contribute to the establishment of each Region under the new structure.
- Role descriptions are provided in the package.
- Guidance will be given for Committees – number and roles.
- Region Boards will be able to develop their own regulations.



FORMAT OF REGION BOARD



- Region Boards will be aligned with the structure of Bowls Vic Board.
- This is the structure in the new Region Constitution.
- An odd number is best – not more than 10 on a Board is efficient and considered best practice from Sport Australia.
- Portfolios so that every Board member liaises with a committee.



COMMITTEES



- Pennant Committee
- Participation / Club Development
- Championships and Selection
- Greens
- Coaching
- Umpiring
- Sponsorship / Marketing / Media
- Junior Development



NEXT STEPS:



- BVRs to return to Divisions and advise of decision made by BV
- Current Region board to meet with the newer clubs to discuss the future.
- Division discussions to be completed by 14th April with feedback to BV
- Package of documents to be discussed at BVR meeting April 17th
- Current Region Board to discuss timeline for implementation of new structure
- Communicate to Region affiliated members process involved in appointment of Board Members and Committees
- Revised constitution for Region to be reviewed and altered as required



FAQs



- Ian Guymer has prepared a list of frequently asked questions and the Review Committee