

 BOWLS NORTH WEST	Controller CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER	Effective 24 November 2024
	Authorised by BNW BOARD	Review 30 November 2025

Bowls North West Uniform Policy

1. Purpose

- 1.1. Bowls North West (BNW) requires all participants in Pennant, Championship Events, and Tournaments under its control to adhere to a consistent and professional standard of dress. Compliance with this policy ensures that players uphold the standards of the sport, reflect their club's identity, and maintain alignment with Bowls Australia (BA) uniform guidelines.
- 1.2. This policy outlines the requirements for uniforms, the responsibilities of players and clubs, and the consequences of non-compliance.

2. Uniform Requirements

Team Wear

- 2.1. Team wear refers to the clothing that players must wear during matches, encompassing both upper and lower body attire.
 - a. **Upper Body Attire:** This includes shirts, tops, jackets, and vests. All upper body garments must display the official BA Logo to indicate compliance with national standards.
 - b. **Lower Body Attire:** This includes pants, skirts, shorts, and dresses. Like upper body attire, all lower body garments must display the BA Logo.

Outerwear

- 2.2. Outerwear such as jumpers, jackets, and rainwear must also display the BA Logo. While clubs may exercise discretion regarding outerwear design, efforts should be made to ensure these garments match club colours for consistency and professionalism.

Headwear

- 2.3. Headwear includes brimmed hats, caps, visors, and bucket hats. These items must display the BA Logo unless they feature official club hatbands. Players are encouraged to select headwear that aligns with

the Bowls Australia SunSmart Policy, which promotes protection from harmful UV exposure.

Footwear

- 2.4. All footwear must be BA-approved and designed for the sport of bowls. Players are responsible for ensuring their shoes meet these standards, as non-compliant footwear is not permitted during BNW events.

Additional Items

- 2.5. Certain optional items are subject to specific requirements:
- a. **Socks:** Socks that are visible above the shoe line must be white or match club colours and display the BA Logo. Ankle socks or socks hidden by pants are exempt from this requirement.
 - b. **Undergarments:** Leggings, UV protective shirts, or similar items worn under the uniform should be in neutral tones or match club colours wherever possible. The BA Logo is optional for these garments.

3. Compliance

Player and Club Responsibilities

- 3.1. Players are expected to wear their club's approved uniform at all times during BNW events. Clubs are responsible for educating their members about uniform requirements and ensuring compliance.

4. Consequences of Non-Compliance

- 4.1. Failure to adhere to the uniform policy will result in the following actions:
- a. A first warning will be issued to the player.
 - b. For a second breach within the same season, the offending player's rink will forfeit its points for that match.
 - c. A third breach will result in the player being suspended from participating in Pennant games for a period of 3–6 weeks, as determined by the BNW Match Committee.

5. Exceptional Circumstances

- 5.1. BNW recognises that there may be circumstances where players are unable to comply with the uniform requirements due to medical or

religious reasons. In such cases, players must submit a written application for an exemption to BNW, accompanied by appropriate supporting documentation.

- 5.2. If an exemption is granted, BNW will issue a written approval that the player must carry during games and produce upon request.

6. Enforcement and Reporting

Infringement Notices

- 6.1. A Uniform Infringement Notice may be issued if a player is found to be non-compliant with this policy. Side Captains or Umpires have the authority to issue these notices but must first discuss the matter with the involved players and the opposing Side Captain to determine the reasons for the non-compliance.
- 6.2. Once an infringement notice is issued, the player has the right to provide a statement, which will accompany the report submitted to the BNW Match Committee. A copy of the notice must also be given to the player.

Investigation and Outcomes

- 6.3. The BNW Match Committee will investigate all uniform infringement reports. Depending on the findings, the Committee may:
- a. Work with the club and player to rectify the issue.
 - b. Deduct Pennant points from the club for repeated breaches.
 - c. Suspend the player from further participation until compliance is achieved.
- 6.4. Players or clubs may appeal any decisions made by the Match Committee by following the procedures outlined in the BNW Disciplinary Policy.

Final Notes

This policy is designed to uphold the values and professionalism of the sport of bowls while maintaining fairness and consistency across BNW events. All players and clubs are encouraged to take pride in their uniforms, as they represent not only their teams but the broader lawn bowls community.