

Auckland Bowls DRAFT Playing Programme

2018 – 2019

A full review of the Auckland Bowls Playing Programme has been undertaken by the staff, Operations Committee and Board of Auckland Bowls. This followed a period of consultation with players which included the following:

- Three focus group meetings – 1-8 year group; West club group; East / Central club group
- Surveys following each event this season

Thank you to those that contributed to this process. The results and outcomes of these meetings / surveys were then analysed and used to form the basis of discussions. This has resulted in several changes being proposed for the 2018 – 2019 bowls season.

The key considerations when undertaking this review were:

- Are we meeting the overall purpose and vision of Auckland Bowls?
 - o OUR PURPOSE: Lead and develop the growth of Bowls in Auckland
 - o OUR VISION: More people playing Bowls more often
- Are we meeting the needs of all levels of the sport?
- Have we considered the changes released by Bowls NZ?
- Are we providing enough time for clubs to run a meaningful programme?

It was agreed that the most important events to include on the programme were:

- Interclub (get people playing for their club)
- Auckland Championship Events (elite level bowls)
- Events for junior / youth / new bowlers to the sport (support the next generation)

The proposed Auckland Bowls Playing Programme for 2018-2019 is now open for consultation and we welcome your views. Consultation will run until the **11th May 2018** with the final programme to be released no later than the **31st May 2018**.

Please submit your feedback through the following methods:

- By email to mia@aucklandbowls.co.nz
- By post to PO BOX 74 077, Greenlane, Auckland
- In person at the following meetings:
 - o **Friday 4th May at 10am at Royal Oak Bowls (prior to the Bowls NZ Meeting)**
 - o **Tuesday 8th May at 7.30pm at Royal Oak Bowls (following the Bowls NZ Meeting)**

Please read the following notes when reviewing the attached DRAFT Playing Programme for 2018-2019.

NOTE: Do not complete your club programmes until the FINAL Auckland Bowls programme has been confirmed.

THE PLAYING PROGRAMME EXPLAINED

Weekend Days: During the 2017 – 2018 season Auckland Bowls used 51 weekend days for Centre Events between September – May inclusive. In the draft calendar for 2018 – 2019 this has been reduced to 38 weekend days over the same period. This provides an additional 13 weekend days for clubs to complete their programme.

NZ Open: The future of The Trusts New Zealand Open was considered. As a result, this event will not be held in the 2018-2019 season. A full review of the event will be undertaken with the intention of introducing a similar / revised event for the 2019-2020 season.

With Bowls NZ splitting the Nationals and scheduling the Fours at the end of February as well as other events such as Taranaki Fours, Clubs NZ Fours and Aotearoa Maori Bowls the calendar is extremely full through mid-January to late February.

Interclub: With Bowls NZ removing National Interclub we have scheduled six Saturdays for an Auckland Interclub to be held. The final format is yet to be confirmed but will involve multiple divisions of both full and half day competitions. We encourage clubs to enter as many sides as possible and maximise the participation of your club members.

Bowls3Five: We have committed to running the new Bowls3Five format that has been released by Bowls NZ. This will be run at three levels during weekday evenings:

- Interclub with a pathway through to the National Final held by Bowls NZ (replaces National Interclub)
- 1-5 Year event
- Business house / social bowls leading to an Auckland Final (in early April)

Final details of the Bowls3Five Format have not yet been released by Bowls NZ. Once this has been received we can then confirm what will happen at the Auckland level. Additional dates for regional playoffs will also need to be included.

Whilst four days have been blocked out on the calendar each week, it will only be played on one night. In consultation with clubs we will determine which night is most preferable.

Have a Go: The Have a Go Day traditionally held in mid-October will become a Have a Go Month. This will be scheduled for October and participating clubs will be asked to run a minimum of three events over this period. More details will be released by the end of June. Other events during this time have been kept to a minimum.

School Bowls: Auckland Bowls is going to put more emphasis on Secondary School bowls in 2018-2019. An expression of interest has been sent to Bowls NZ for Auckland to host a new National Secondary Schools event.

We will also be working closely with clubs and schools to ensure that regular opportunities are provided for Secondary School students to play bowls.

WPOS: The Women's Premier Open Singles has been scheduled on the weekend of the 22-23 September 2018. The format and entry criteria are currently under review. Bowls North Harbour will run the equivalent men's tournament on the same weekend.

Junior Events: The junior events will revert to 1-5 Year tournaments. At present there is no National Under 8's Intercentre which was the key reason for changing to 1-8 Year tournaments.

Championships: The Auckland Club Championship events (formally Champ of Champ) have been combined with the Auckland Championship events and spread throughout the season. This change reduces the number of weekends used by Auckland Bowls. Winners of a Club Championship will get direct entry into the post section of the equivalent Auckland Championship Event.

To take up the opportunity of direct entry, clubs will therefore be required to have completed the relevant Club Championship prior to that event being held at Auckland level. E.g. The Auckland Championship Pairs is scheduled for the 15-16 December. Clubs will need to have found their pairs winners prior to the closing date to receive the direct entry.

This option is not compulsory for clubs but provides a reward for winning the Club Championship.

Qualifying for other players will continue as normal on the Saturday of each event. Post section for most events will increase to a fixed field of 64 players to allow for the direct entries from clubs as well as a reasonable number of qualifying players / teams.

Two finals weekends have been scheduled as the events will not be completed in the scheduled weekend. Depending on the players that win through to the later stages of each tournament we may or may not need the full allocation of four days.

Gold Stars: The removal of the Auckland Club Championship events does reduce the number of events that contribute towards a gold star. A review of the criteria for gold stars will now be undertaken. This may result in other events being added to the list of eligible events.

Mixed Pairs: Mixed Pairs is not included in the above format (but will remain a gold star event). Instead we have scheduled an Open 2-4-2 Mixed Pairs event for three days over Auckland Anniversary Weekend. This will be a marquee event with promotion of the tournament throughout the upper North Island. Details to be confirmed by the end of July.

Representative: The Representative Programme is subject to a review but will include three levels as we did this season. Bowls North Harbour has submitted a request to Bowls NZ to host a National Under 8's / Development Intercentre which we support. Currently scheduled for the 15-17 March 2019.

National Events: Auckland Bowls has submitted expressions of interest with Bowls NZ to host the following National events next season:

- National Open Singles and Pairs (2-8 January 2019 - Headquarters Carlton Cornwall)
- National Intercentre (21-24 March 2019 – Headquarters to be confirmed)
- National Secondary Schools (26-28 March – date and all details to be confirmed)

Club Events: We would like to provide additional support and coverage for selected club tournaments of significance. A criteria and process for confirming these tournaments will be released by the 31st May with applications to be received by the 30th June and the tournaments to be confirmed by the 31st July.

Auckland Bowls will provide additional support and promotion for these events in consultation with the host clubs.