



Memo 353.19

To: Club & District Presidents and Secretaries and all WBNSW Members

From: Women's Bowls NSW Head Office

cc: WBNSW Directors, Committees and Staff

Date: 18 December 2019

Re: **Dual Registration – Open Gender Policy**

Recently, the number of enquiries being received by Women's Bowls NSW match committee members seeking clarification in respect to "dual registration" has risen significantly following the recent adoption of open gender policy by Bowls NSW. The purpose of Memo 353.19 is to assist our members in this very important decision-making process.

By way of explanation, Women's Bowls NSW welcomes the Bowls NSW open gender policy approach which now brings Bowls NSW and Women's Bowls NSW into closer alignment on this very important subject. Women's Bowls NSW has maintained a gender-neutral constitution and by-laws since 2016.

The Women's Bowls NSW board of directors respect and support our members' rights to choose who they wish to register and play championships with. Further, the board believe they have an obligation to ensure that our membership is fully aware of **all** policies applicable before making a member decide as to which state and territory association (STA) they wish to play for.

The purpose of this memo is to provide the information necessary to our members to enable them to make an informed decision now rather than find themselves missing out on opportunities later in the new year they may wish to pursue.

Bowls Australia in their document "Affiliation and Eligibility to Play Policy" in paragraph 5 specifically refers to "dual registration" and **the need** to make a declaration in respect to **a nominated club in one (1) STA only**. Basically, it allows for our members to belong to multiple clubs but must nominate only one club **in one** STA as their nominated club for championship events for the year.



Paragraph 5 addresses the situation in respect to state and other championship events. Specifically, paragraph 5.4 states:

5.4 A player must declare only one (1) of those Clubs in one (1) STA as their Nominated Club for the purpose of playing in State Championships and other championship events conducted by an STA or BA during a Bowling Season (all to be defined by the relevant STA).

The interpretation of this paragraph is that, any of our members wishing to play in state championship and other championship events must nominate the STA they wish to play for that year and then logically, advise Women's Bowls NSW the STA they have decided upon for the year.

By way of example, members of our match committee have advised the board that since Bowls NSW announced their open gender policy they have been receiving enquiries from our members such as,

*"I am registered with Women's Bowls NSW and Bowls NSW.
Can I play in championship events in the fours and pairs
under my Bowls NSW registration and in the singles and triples
under my Women's Bowls NSW registration?"*

The Bowls Australia policy is quite clear. The answer given is usually in the terms of:

*'Unfortunately, no, you may only play for
one or the other STA and cannot mix
the same or play in both competitions under
Bowls Australia's eligibility policy'*

Bowls NSW are most likely receiving similar enquiries and responding the same as we are as both state and territory associations are bound by the same policy of Bowls Australia.

A further issue for members to consider is the state representative selection policy for Women's Bowls NSW which states, amongst other things:

"3.3 Selection Criteria

Selection Criteria should be based on all of the following:

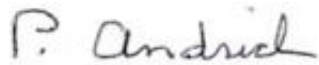
- a) Performance in District, Regional and State Championship events and designated tournaments.**
- b) Performance in previous State Representation.**

(Members should read the entire document to aid them in their decision).

Pennants is a different situation again and is specifically covered by paragraph 5.5 of Bowls Australia's eligibility to play policy. Members should acquaint themselves with the entire policy document of Bowls Australia so that they are fully informed.

Women's Bowls NSW leaves this matter for decision by individual members. Should you need further clarification then you are welcome to contact the match committee with your questions.

In closing the board wish you to be assured that whatever STA you choose to nominate, Women's Bowls NSW will not only respect your decision but continue to support you wherever possible.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "P. Andrich".

Pam Andrich
President