

OPEN PENNANT – PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

CHANGES TO NOTE FOR 2024-25

SECTIONAL PLAY

- **Almost all** players can play **up to two grades** lower than their Previous Season Open Pennant Grading (*Condition of Play 13.4.10*)
- **Exceptions** are those who:
 - were **Zone winners in 2023-24** (N-graded players)
see below & Condition 13.4.11.2
 - **changed clubs since 2023-24 Open Pennant season** (i.e. since 30 June 2024)
see below & Condition 13.4.11.1
 - are in a club with **Non-consecutive Grades** – *see below & Condition 13.4.11.3*
 - are **one of three** players permitted to play **more than two grades lower** than their Previous Season Grading (*Condition of Play 13.4.11.3, paragraph 2*)
- Players will become (re)graded for the **2024-25 season** once they have played **two matches** in a grade. (*Condition of Play 13.4.13*).

This means a player can be used in a higher grade ONLY ONCE and still return to a lower grade. Once they have played in the higher grade TWICE, they cannot play in a lower grade during this season (unless it is a rescheduled match for which the player was eligible and entered into BowlsLink **before the original scheduled date of play**).

VARIATIONS

- **Non-consecutive grades**

Where a club does not have consecutive grades and there is a **gap of more than two grades** below a player's Previous Season Grading, players are eligible for the "next lowest grade" that the club has entered.

EXAMPLE: A club has grades 3, 6 & 7. Players with a Previous Season Grading "Gr 3" would all be eligible to play in the Grade 6 side, without applying for a grading variation.
- **N-graded players** (players who were graded in a side that won a Zone Open Pennant in the 2023-24 season)

Up to three N-graded players (**in total, across the club**) may play in the club's next-lowest side in the 2024-25 season. All others must play in the Grade they hold the 'N' grading in, or a higher grade.

EXAMPLE: The club won Grade 5 in 2023-24. All players who were graded in that grade during the 2023-24 season are now graded 'N5' (meaning "not lower than 5".) However, up to three of them **in total** may play in the club's next-lower grade this season.
- **Players who have changed clubs since 30 June 2024**

Where the **highest grade** at the player's new club is **more than 2 grades lower** than transferring players' Previous Season Grading, **a maximum of 3** transferring players may play in that lower grade this season.

NB A PENNANT SIDE IS LIMITED TO A MAXIMUM OF THREE PLAYERS IN TOTAL FROM THE “EXCEPTIONS” CATEGORIES.

EXAMPLE: a Side may include **two** 2023-24 Zone winners (N-Grade players) playing in a lower grade plus **one** player playing more than two grades below their Previous Season Grading, etc.

PLAYING IN MORE THAN ONE MATCH IN THE SAME ROUND

(This could occur where a match has been rescheduled.)

A player may participate in more than one match in any Round, provided they

- play in the **lower of the Grades first**, and
- are graded equal to or lower than the **second** of the matches played

GRADING AT THE END OF SECTIONAL PLAY

- Players will become (re)graded for the **2024-25 season** once they have played **two matches** in a grade.

see Table in Condition of Play 13.4.13

- A player who has not played two matches in any one Grade by the end of the 6 Rounds of Sectional Play, but who played **a total of at least two matches across multiple grades**, will become graded for the 2024-25 season in the Grade in which they played the most matches. (If they play an equal number of matches in two or more Grades, they will become graded as the lowest of the Grades in which they played.

Condition of Play 13.1.14

- A player who plays only one match (across all Grades) in the 2024-25 season will not become (re)graded, and will retain their Previous Season Grading.

Condition of Play 13.1.15

QUALIFYING FOR POST-SECTIONAL PLAY

To be eligible to play in Post-Sectional matches (i.e. Zone Finals or State Play-Offs) in a Grade, a player must have been:

- i. Graded in the 2024-25 season in **that Grade or a lower Grade**, OR
- ii. If not graded in the 2024-25 season, have a Previous Season Grading in that Grade or lower, or have never been graded in Open State Pennants.

Condition of Play 13.1.16

PENALTIES FOR USING AN INELIGIBLE PLAYER

A side playing an ineligible player shall **forfeit the match** to their opponents (*Conditions of Play 13.4.18 & 11.1.11*)

Don't risk losing your points: if in doubt, contact Region Match before using the player.

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