

MPB Pennant Season 2019-20

Preamble

The MPB Pennant competition for season 2019-20 was almost completed but was severely interrupted by the COVID-19 outbreak and the restrictions placed on the playing of lawn bowls.

On Monday 16th March 2020, the MPB Match Committee, in consultation with the MPB Board, advised the MPB clubs that all pennant matches, along with other proposed programs and events, were suspended 'until further notice'.

The Saturday and Midweek Grand Finals, and the Saturday Div 2 promotion playoff game, remained unplayed.

The 'COVID-19' restrictions put in place by the Federal and Victorian Governments, Bowls Australia and Bowls Victoria, although now reduced to some degree, are still greatly impacting the lives of all Australian residents, and especially the playing of the sport of lawn bowls in Victoria.

Over the past 10 weeks compliance with these restrictions was, and still is, essential to making sure the health and safety of the participating members of our member clubs is not compromised. This meant that the Grand Finals and promotion games were not able to be played during this period, and the time for a decision by MPB Inc regarding the next step(s) was rapidly approaching.

Completion of Season 2019-20

That time has arrived and the following decisions have been made:-

- The Grand Finals for both Saturday and Midweek Pennant, and the Saturday Div 2 promotion playoff game, for season 2019-20 have been cancelled.
- The Premiership in each Division will be awarded to the side placed in the top position on the ladder and the Runners-Up awarded to the side placed in second position on the ladder, at the end of the 14 'home and away' (sectional) rounds.
- Relegation to a lower division, will be assigned to the side placed in the bottom position (lowest 'total points') on the ladder at the end of the 14 'home and away' (sectional) rounds.
- Excepting Saturday Divisions 2 North and South and Midweek Open Divisions 2A and 2B, promotion to a higher division, will be assigned to the side placed in the top position (highest 'total points') on the ladder (where practicable) at the end of the 14 'home and away' (sectional) rounds.
- Saturday Divisions 2 North and South - promotion to Saturday Division 1 will be awarded to the 'Mornington 1' side which had the highest 'total points' across both Divisions 2 North and South, at the end of the 14 'home and away' (sectional) rounds.

- Midweek Open Divisions 2A and 2B - promotion to Midweek Open Division 1 will be awarded to the 'Rosebud Country Club 1' side which, outside City of Frankston 2 which could not be promoted to Division 1, had the highest 'total points' across both Divisions 2A and 2B, at the end of the 14 'home and away' (sectional) rounds

The abnormal circumstances required a number of options to be considered, and it is acknowledged that any decision made was not going to please everyone.

The option of playing the games pre-season 2020-21 was discounted as qualified players had in some instances moved clubs, and in other cases may not have been available in September, leading to a situation that clubs in Grand Finals may not have been able to have sufficient qualified players for that division.

The abovementioned decisions have not been taken lightly and we would like to thank everyone for their understanding and patience during these unusual and special circumstances and times of immense uncertainty.

Season 2020-21

As part of the planning for the season 2020-21, and subject to any COVID-19 'restrictions' or other unforeseen circumstances, the MPB Match Committee wish to advise all clubs of the following important dates. Hopefully this will assist you in preparing your club's calendar of events for the upcoming season.

Women's Only Pre-season (North and South)

Duration 5 weeks plus finals

Entries for Women's Only pre-season close - Monday 6th Sept 2020

Start Dates for Women's Only pre-season 2020-21:-

South - Tues 15th Sep 2020

North - Wed 16th Sep 2020

Pennant

Duration 14 weeks plus finals

Entries for Pennant close - Monday 28th Sept 2020

Start Dates for Pennant season 2020-21:-

Saturday Pennant - Sat 31st Oct 2020

Midweek Pennant - Wed 4th Nov 2020

Wed Twilight League (North and South)

Duration 10 weeks plus finals

Entries for Wed Twilight League close - Monday 8th Nov 2020

Start Date Wed Twilight League (North and South) - Wed 25th Nov 2020

