

# Bowls NZ – COMPETITION STRUCTURE

Report for Centre’s – March 2018

## Introduction

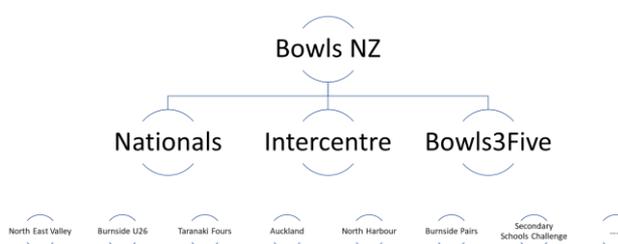
Bowls New Zealand can significantly improve on the format and delivery of its bowls tournaments and events. We have a calendar that is cluttered and cumbersome to deliver. It attracts minimal media (television, digital, radio and print) coverage, creating minimal public and club member appeal. It also presents as a financial burden on a number of smaller clubs and centre’s.

Following a significant period of consultation with club and centre officials, Bowls New Zealand will be promoting the following calendar for the summer of 2018/2019.

Bowls New Zealand will be committing to three national tournaments next summer:

1. Bowls New Zealand Nationals;
2. New Zealand Intercentre
3. Bowls3Five

Supporting this structure from a performance pathway will be a number of regionally managed ‘Bowls NZ endorsed’ tournaments (new and existing).



## The Bowls New Zealand Nationals

The 2019 Nationals will be split into two:

- Singles and Pairs taking place Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> January through Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> 2019
- Fours will be held Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> February through Monday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2019

The two events will be held in separate areas of the country. Singles and Pairs qualifying will be followed by post section play. There will be no mixed pairs format in the 2019 Nationals. Centre’s are invited to provide an expression of interest for the respective 2019 National events. Expressions of interest should be received by 30 April 2018.

## The New Zealand Intercentre

The Intercentre competition will follow the same format as previous years. This will involve all centre’s, have teams of seven (singles, pairs, fours), men’s and women’s, and played at one location over 3-4 days. Consideration will be given to seeding centre’s (based upon previous years results) and limiting entry to 24 centre’s. The 2019 Intercentre will be held in the North Harbour/Auckland region 21-24 March 2019.

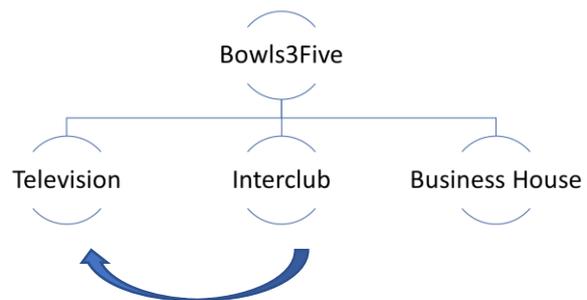
## Bowls3Five

The sport of bowls needs a short form, high profile format, similar to what Twenty20 has done for cricket internationally and locally. Bowls3Five will be promoted via a televised club based league. Bowls3Five will be accessible to club members, via a mid-week inter-club competition. Bowls3Five will be accessible to casual bowls participants by rebranding existing club twilight/business house leagues as Bowls3Five. (It is not Bowls NZ's intention to levy clubs that use the Bowls3Five brand, as was previously considered with the Mates in Bowls brand).

The **Bowls3Five televised league** will run from October to December, played at a covered facility (Auckland or Wellington at this stage) and involved teams of three (at least one female). Six clubs will be issued a licence to participate. More information on this league will be available by June 2018.

The **Bowls3Five Interclub** will be played midweek throughout New Zealand over the Nov-April period. Initially played as a round robin (based upon geography), qualifying clubs will then go into a zone knock out format, with the top six finals likely played in the week of the NZ leg of the BPL (April). The 'winning' club will gain promotion into the following years televised league, making it an attractive proposition for club entry. More information on this competition will be available by June 2018.

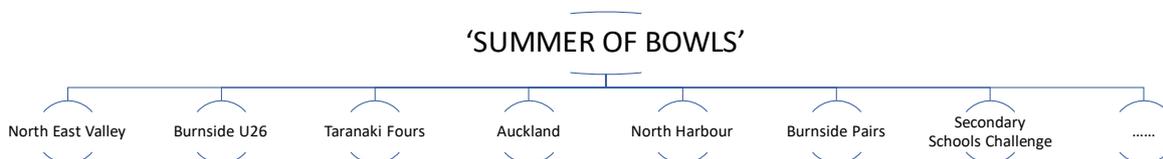
The **Bowls3Five Business House** (twilight) leagues will be a rebranding of existing social/causal weeknight club competitions. Effectively ensuring that Bowls3Five ('as seen on TV') is easily accessible to the casual participant. More information on this rebranding exercise will be available by July 2018.



## Regional Tournaments

A 'summer of bowls' calendar will be created, with Bowls New Zealand endorsing key centre/club tournaments. It will likely start with the North East Valley Singles in October and conclude with the a high profile event in Easter. To be endorsed by Bowls NZ and part of the 'summer of bowls' calendar, events must agree their entry criteria with Bowls NZ. Bowls NZ may also 'purchase' a number of entries, that may be used by Bowls NZ for talent identification and high performance needs.

The following is an example only, of a possible 'Summer of Bowls' calendar:



## Questions and Answers

1. What does this mean for existing national tournaments such as the Interclub (2-4-2, Pathways and National Interclub) and Intercentre Under 8's?

**Bowls NZ will no longer run a national interclub competition** (including pathways). Instead our investment and limited resource will go into the creation of a national Bowls3Five

interclub competition. We expect centre's (and/or zones) to continue running regional interclub competitions, in a format/structure that works for their clubs/members.

**Bowls NZ will no longer run a national Under 8's Intercentre.** We are committed to developing a sustainable and effective development pathway for new players to the game. We believe it is important this includes coaching, mentoring and the opportunity for new players to play alongside experienced players, to improve their ability, both technically and tactically. It is clear the current year 1-8 format does not deliver this and some centres are also struggling to field representative teams. We are undertaking a review of the Bowls NZ high performance programme after the 2018 Commonwealth Games, and we have also been approached by centres interested in running alternative development competitions with a national reach. In tandem we believe there is an opportunity to create an integrated approach to new player development and we will be working to develop this over the coming months."

The existing U21 tournament will be offered to a centre/club to host and manage.

The U18 tournament will revert to a Secondary Schools competition and offered to a centre/club to host and manage.

## 2. What this means for clubs and centre's?

By Bowls NZ simplifying its national calendar to three key events (Nationals, Intercentre, Bowls3Five), Bowls NZ is clearly prioritising its limited resources.

A consequence of this is that clubs and centre's will now be provided a window to review their own club tournament/competition structures without the burden of a cluttered Bowls NZ calendar.

## 3. Why is Bowls NZ doing this?

It is Bowls NZ's role to guide the future growth and capacity of the NZ bowling community. It has been universally acknowledged that bowls needs to reshape its strategy to reflect the demands of the 21<sup>st</sup> century New Zealander.

Like all organisations, Bowls New Zealand also needs to prioritise its investment. If we are committed to adopting a Bowls3Five 'fast format', we cannot also maintain the existing cluttered calendar - a calendar that creates a significant financial burden on clubs, centre's and Bowls NZ.

## SUMMARY

This paper is being circulated to clubs and centre's throughout New Zealand. Whilst it may create plenty of discussion and some minor dissent; it will also establish that Bowls NZ is being proactive in addressing the future of our sport.

Over the next couple of months, I will be visiting every centre in New Zealand, explaining the above decision and also establishing other strategies that have the aim of reinvigorating our game. Some will work, some maybe not .... At least though our sport will not be accused of sitting on its hands.

Mark Cameron,

CEO, Bowls New Zealand

Schedule One: Existing 2017/2018 competition structure



Schedule Two: Proposed 2018/2019 competition structure

