

BY – LAWS

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1. BFV Competitions

There are (6) forms of BFV competition formats as listed below. All participating clubs and players must be current financial members of the BFV. The BFV is responsible for the draws and the organization of the Federation and Club Championship competitions.

Clubs that allow non-BFV members to participate will not be allowed to hold any BFV championship events and will be held responsible for any injury or unacceptable behaviour incidents of non-BFV members. Clubs who allow non-BFV members to participate will lose the right to host future BFV events.

Zoning for competitions are as follows

Metro Zone 1

Affiliated clubs south of the Yarra
(Freccia Azzura, Knox, Peninsula Social Club Rosebud, Morwell, Whitehorse and Heatherton)

Metro Zone 2

Affiliated clubs north of the Yarra
(Veneto, Geelong, Istria, Calabria, Fogular Furlan, Sunshine, Lazio Marche and Casa D'Abruzzo)

Regional Associations

NEBA, Geelong, Morwell and Rosebud

Clubs that allow non-BFV members to participate will not be allowed to hold any BFV championship events and will be held responsible for any injury or unacceptable behaviour incidents of non-BFV members. Clubs who allow non-BFV members to participate will lose the right to host future BFV events.

1.1 Federation Competition

*Traditional Doubles and Singles, Doubles bowl-throw
(time limit / no time limit)*

This competition is organised by the BFV and is open to all financial members of the Federation. This is the only competition within the BFV incorporating a classification involving promotion and relegation.

This competition is divided into categories or series, in accordance to the amount of players and the points scored during each playing season. The duration of the season and the types of the competition (as listed above) will be determined by the BFV committee.

A player cannot play in two separate leagues in one season. i.e. In both metro and regional leagues simultaneously.

1.2 Club Championships

The below can be changed at the discretion of the BFV as this competition is in development stage.

1.2.1 Competition formation

- Match format to consist of 3 rounds:
R1 & R3: Triples, Doubles, Singles, Bowl/Throw. **R2:** Doubles Precision
2no. pools: A & B, One pool at each venue (minimum of 8 courts required).
- Teams must have a coach/manager, preferably non-playing.

1.2.2 Team Formation

- Each team to comprise a minimum of 7 and up to a maximum of 10 players (men and women).
- Teams must have a coach/manager, preferably non-playing.
- Compulsory team rotation in R1 and R3 (i.e. Bowl/throw player in R1 cannot play bowl/throw in R3). At least 1 player must be rotated per event in each of R1 and R3.
- Team combinations MUST be written on a scoresheet and announced by team coach/manager or tournament director before the commencement of each round.
- Opposition team combinations cannot be viewed before any round and must be kept confidential until announced.
- Players from any club can play in a team from another club. It is at the club/teams discretion if a player requires a club membership to be part of their team.

1.2.3 Rules

- Competition to be played in accordance with rules and regulation of the F.I.B. (*Playing Rules, Edition 2000*).
- Time limit of 60 minutes applies for triples, doubles, and singles games or first to 13 points.
- Accredited, non-playing referee and tournament director supplied by Bocce Victoria/Club.
- All players must be fully paid-up State & BFA members.
- 5 minutes is allocated between rounds and 60 minutes for lunch.
- Court allocation as shown on the attached fixture shall apply to maintain a fair playing field and to avoid games being played on the same court from match to match.

1.2.4 Qualification

- The top 2no. teams from each pool (North/West and South/East) will qualify and play in finals, teams are ranked in order by:
 1. Match points
 2. Game points

3. Direct encounter

4. Bowl Test (as per F.I.B. 2004 rules)

Match points = 4pts. Win, 2pts. Draw, and 0pt. Loss

A Match win is decided by the team with the most game points.

Game point = 2pts. Win, 1pts. Draw, and 0pt. Loss

1.2.5 Uniform

- Each team must adopt official Bocce Victoria playing tops. These tops may be subsidised by Bocce Victoria dependant on government grants.
- Contact Bocce Victoria for ordering of playing tops.

1.2.6 Equipment

- Each team must adopt official F.I.B. throwing mats (3no.), target balls, ball stands (2no.) and bowl/throw sticks (2no.) required for the throwing events.
- Bocce Victoria will supply additional equipment where needed.

1.2.7 Results & Prizes

- Both team's coach/manager must sign final results and hand in to director after completion of each match.
- Winning Club will receive Club Pennant Perpetual Trophy.
- Prize money or other (TBC) to be distributed to finalists (4no. clubs).

1.3 Throwing Championships Final

The below can be changed at the discretion of the BFV as this competition is in development stage.

1.3.1 Qualification

Qualification is open to all age groups and dependant on the following.

1.3.1.1 Bowl/Throw

Top 4no. players from the Club Championships qualification game results will qualify to play in a knockout competition. Only Club Championship participants can qualify. Determination of top players are based on game scores, method of calculation is to be determined by the BFV.

1.3.1.2 Throwing Events

Aggregate of top 4no. season results are calculated for each player. A BFV official must be present in order for a score to be recorded and submitted to the BFV. All scores are to be submitted on an official Bocce Victoria scoring sheet and signed by the official present at the time of recording. There is no limit on the number of results which can be submitted by a player.

1.3.2 Events & Formate

The following are all events played in this competition

1. Bowl/Throw
2. Precision Throw
3. Progressive Throw
4. Doubles Precision Throw
5. Doubles Rapid Throw (station 4 & 2)
6. Singles Rapid Throw (station 2 only)

In season 2008/09 only Bowl/Throw, Precision & Progressive Throw will be played. Events played are dependant on participant numbers and at the discretion of the BFV.

This competition is a one day event and calendar is to be published by the BFV.

- In the Bowl/Throw event, Top 4no. players (refer to 1.2.1.1.) will play in two semi-finals. Both semi-final winners play-off for 1st place, and Runners up play for 3rd place.
- In throwing events: Two qualification rounds are played per player/team per event. Top two aggregate scores enter into a final for 1st place, bottom two aggregate scores play for 3rd place.

In case of a draw in qualification or finals, F.I.B. ruling applies.

1.3.3 Results & Prizes

- All scoresheets must be signed by a scorer appointed by the BFV and handed in to the director after the completion of each match.
- Prize money or other (TBC) is awarded to top players/teams in each event.

1.4 Junior & U/23 League

The below can be changed at the discretion of the BFV as this competition is in development stage.

1.4.1 Competition Format

The following events are to be competed:

1. Doubles
2. Singles
3. Bowl/Throw
4. Precision Throw
5. Progressive Throw

All events are to be played in a fixture style competition except for Precision and Progressive Throw events. Where by each player plays every other player in their pool once or twice per season dependant on number of participants. A custom fixture will be generated by the BFV Junior Director. For throwing events, a minimum of 4no. results will be played in one season. A typical competition will consist of 3 or 4 traditional/modern games and 1 or 2 throwing attempts.

- Doubles, Singles, and bowl/throw events are open for all players U/23 including U/14 and girl participants.
- Precision Throw is competed in two categories: U/14 & girls, & U/23.
- Progressive Throw is open for all U/23 participants.

1.4.2 Rules

Latest F.I.B. rules & regulations shall be adopted in all events. If a player is absent for a competition his/her opponent automatically wins the game and scores 7-0 points for singles & doubles, and 16-0 points for bowl/throw.

1.4.3 Ranking & Finals

The top 4no. players/teams in each of the following events: Doubles, Singles, and Bowl/Throw qualify for the finals, players/teams are ranked in order by:

1. Game points (PTS)
 2. Score difference (Pd)
 3. Direct encounter
 4. Bowl Test (as per F.I.B. 2004 rules)
- Game points = 2pts. Win, 1pts. Draw, and 0pt. Loss

In throwing events, top 4 aggregate scorers calculated from top 4no. results per player per Junior & U/23 League competition only enter into the finals. i.e. only results obtained from Junior & U/23 League competition days can qualify for finals.

1.5 Inter Clubs / Invitational / Open

(time limit /ends / no time limit)

The clubs under the rules of the BFV organises this competition. Players are required to wear their official club uniform. Teams participating in inter club competitions must be formed of members from the same club (as per BFV subscription). Teams may be made up of players from different clubs for Open competitions only. Competition cannot be scheduled on the same day as National Championships, Federation or State Championships. **One number competition is only permitted per day in metropolitan zone.**

1.5 All competitions shall be officiated by only BFV recognised accredited referees or appropriate persons as appointed by the BFV

1.6 The tournament directors are the responsibility of the hosting clubs and the BFV and shall be appropriately accredited.

2. Lodgement of competition entries

Entry to a competition shall be as follows.

- Entries close at 7.30 p.m. sharp on the Thursday prior to the both Men 'Women.
- No late entries will be accepted after the closing time.
- Entries to be provided in writing or facsimile at the BFV office.
- Entries communicated verbally or via the telephone are not permitted.
- Once a player has entered his or her name for a competition they shall pay their competition fee.
- Absent players shall notify the tournament director prior to the official starting time of competition. If they fail to do so they shall be required to pay their competition fee to the BFV
- Players will not be permitted to enter a competition if they have outstanding membership fees.

3. Rules and regulations

All competitions shall follow the rules set out in the F.I.B regulations with the following exceptions

3.1 Rule 40 Penalties for lateness

Any player/teams who are absent five minutes after the starting time shall be penalised as follows

The opponent shall receive 1 point for each 5 minutes or fraction of 5 minutes in the absence of the opposition. After a total of 20 minutes (4 points), the opponent shall be declared the winner.

3.2 Referees shall intervene and prevent smoking or consumption of alcohol on the playing courts

4. Draws

BFV Federation draws shall be the responsibility of the BFV Technical Sector. There are 2 types of formats approved for federation competitions as follows

Knockout: Players/ teams shall move on into the competition on winning a game and be knocked out of the competitions once that team loses. Players / Teams receive 1 point for a win. No draws permitted in this competition. (i.e. additional end to be played if game is a draw at the end of time limit)

Round robin: Players / Teams form groups of (3) or (4) depending on number of entrants. All teams play (2) round robin games. (1) player/team qualify in groups of (3). (2) players/teams qualify in groups of (4). Draws are only permitted in the round robin games. If a tie exists between 2 or more teams the tiebreaker process shall be as follows.

- The most number of games won (1 pt for win half pt for draw)
- Best Average (points gained -points conceded)
- Direct Encounter
- Bowl Test as per FIB rule book.

Men's and Women's Federation Competition

All teams entered into the competition will be drawn randomly onto the BFV Draw sheet whether it be knock-out or round robin.

5. Uniforms

- 5.1 Clubs shall nominate for approval to the BFV, the colour of their uniform prior to 30 June of each year
- 5.2 When players are participating in games under the BFV calendar their uniform including trousers, track pant and or shorts must be of the same colour for the Team formed. In the selection of the trouser, track pant or short, must be uniform within the participating club and its participating player. For example trouser to remain the same as existing, track pants and shorts to the same colour as the trouser or a different colour as long as the team wears the same attire. Selection of the above uniform must be approved by the BFV.
- 5.3 Sponsorship on uniforms shall be permitted upon approval by the BFV
- 5.4 Players are required to wear minimum heeled or flat footwear with minimum tread. Open toed shoes are not permitted unless approved by the BFV
- 5.5 Violations of by-laws 5.2 or 5.3 will result in a reprimand for the first offence and then disqualification of the players (singles) and the team (double, triples, quads) for the second and subsequent violations.

6. Tournament Directors

The responsibilities of the tournament director are as follows.

- 6.1 To direct the competition in accordance with the BFV By-laws
- 6.2 To announce players onto the court
- 6.3 To report any absent players (as per by-law 2.5) to the referee
- 6.4 To return draw sheet and clocks on the Monday 7.30 p.m. following the competition.
- 6.5 To forward Referees reports to the Technical Sector on the Monday 7.30 p.m. following the competition.

7. Referees

The responsibilities of the referees are outlined as per the F.I.B rules and regulations.

- 7.1 The role of the referee is to ensure that the F.I.B rules and regulation are adhered to
- 7.2 All referees must be accredited or be attending a referee course.

8. Host Club

The responsibility of the host club is as follows

- 8.1 To be familiar with the BFV policies and guidelines document and ensure that all policies and guidelines are followed for the duration of any BFV competition run at the host club.
- 8.2 To maintain their bocce courts to the standards of the F.I.B regulations. If courts are not to FIB regulation, the club will be required to clearly indicate the correct position for bowling, throwing and the side lines. This is the responsibility of the host club and the game day referee. Once a competition commences the lines cannot be drawn. All venues to host competitions to be 100% smoke free for the duration of all BFV competition. Tournament directors, referees and Club Bocce committees shall enforce this policy.
- 8.3 To provide trophies or prizes where applicable. Low alcohol beer (max 6 stubbies) or (1 bottle) of wine may be awarded as prizes. (Spirits or other high alcohol beverages are not permitted as prizes). Clubs who not conform to this special request may lose the right to host future BFV events.
- 8.4 To provide meals consisting of 2 course minimum with at least 2 alternatives for first and 2 alternatives for main.
- 8.5 To provide a meal for one referee and a tournament director (2 referees and 1 tournament director)
- 8.6 To provide a meal for one referee for any competition exceeding 7.00 pm
- 8.7 To pay affiliation fees as determined by the BFV prior to the commencement of the playing season. Host Club to pay back levy per player for all BFV competitions played at their Club. Levy does not include Tournament director and the Referees

9. Clubs

- 9.1 Clubs shall register and pay affiliation fees to the BFV by 31 July in order to compete in the BFV season and shall nominate a club representative to liaise with the BFV committee
- 9.2 Players shall nominate which club they are representing by 31 July. Players are not permitted to represent any other club in that season unless they apply in writing to the BFV for a transfer
- 9.3 Transfers are not permitted unless the approved by the BFV. No transfer shall be permitted after 30 December for the current playing season

10. New Clubs

- 10.1 New clubs shall apply for registration with the BFV and shall submit

- their application form by 1 April in that year
- 10.2 New Clubs shall have a minimum of 20 players to register with the BFV. Clubs with less than 20 may be admitted at the discretion of the BFV for a probationary period
 - 10.3 If accepted they shall pay a registration fee of \$100

11. Division of player categories

- 11.1 The membership of the BFV shall be divided into playing categories prior to the commencement of the BFV season
- 11.2 A Club may temporarily promote a maximum of 2 players from a lower series to substitute a absent team member for the purpose of doubles (traditional and bowl-throw).
- 11.3 If a club has an odd number of players in a series then the club has the following option to form an even number of teams for the purpose of doubles (traditional and bowl-throw)
 - 11.3.1 Promote 1 player from a lower series for the entire season
 - 11.3.2 Relegate 1 player from that series to a lower series

Clause 11.3.1/2 will be dependant on player demand and will be enforced to the discretion of the BFV committee

12. Federation points

- 12.1 One point shall be awarded for any games won or any walkover. Half a point will be awarded to each player concerned for a draw (only permitted in a round robin section of the competition)
- 12.2 Player promoted temporarily to substitute a team member will be awarded points for their respective category
- 12.3 Aggregate points to be awarded for games missed due to other International and national bocce events

13. Federation season

- 13.1 The BFV season commences on July 1 and concludes on 30 June
- 13.2 No best and fairest for men's and women's competition. The 3 highest point's scorers in each of the categories (State League and A/B grade's will receive a trophy at the end of the season. If there is a tie for any of those positions, multiple trophies will be awarded.
- 13.3 All Federation competition will commence at 9am unless other wised noted by the BFV Committee
- 13.4 If there are more than 20 minutes remaining prior to the allocated lunch, players will be required to commence their game. Players will stop for lunch and resume their game after the break. (or at the discretion of the referee)

14. State selection

- 14.1 Men's team
The 4 top point scorers in State League at the end of the Federation season will make up the state team. If required the top point scorer in the Throwing Championships (Progressive Throw) will supplement the Victorian Men's state team.

14.2 Women's team

The 3 top point scorers in A grade at the end of the Federation season will make up the state team. If required the top point scorer in the Throwing Championships (event TBC) will supplement the Victorian Women's state team.

14.3 If top point scorers as mentioned in Clause 14.1 and 14.2 are unable to participate the next highest point scorer in the relevant league will form part of that state team.

15. Promotion and regulation

15.1 At the completion of the BFV season, a system of promotion and relegation will form the groups for the next season

15.2 The BFV shall determine the number of players to be promoted and relegated

15.3 Providing the BFV is notified in writing, members may choose to defer from competition for one year only. They shall then return to the competition the following year in the series they were previously listed provided they remained financial to the BFV. Players may nominate to go into a lower series if they wish after deferring from competition for one year

15.4 The highest point's scorers in the lower series shall be promoted to the next higher series. The number of promoted players shall be confirmed by the BFV at season commencement

15.5 The Lowest point's scorers in each series shall be relegated to the next lower series. The number relegated players shall be decided by the BFV at season commencement

15.6 New members shall start the season in the lowest series

15.7 At the start of each season a Club may nominate one player to be promoted or avoid relegation to even out the number of players in that series. This application shall be forwarded to the BFV a minimum of 14 days prior to the first competition date

15.8 The top 3 point scorers in each of the Men's A-Grade competitions will be promoted into State League. No other rule shall apply to this circumstance. Players concerned must be promoted

16. Reports

16.1 Players may be reported by the referees, for any infringements of the F.I.B rules, as outlined in the F.I.B regulations. Referees have the power to order a player off the court by the use of a white, yellow and red card system. Players may be reported on or off court at anytime during the competition for breaches of rules.

16.2 Reporting procedure

16.2.1 If there is any misconduct by any players, the referee shall display a white, yellow or red card to the player concerned. Should the player's action of misconduct continue, the referee shall display the red card, which disqualifies the player from the remainder of the competition

- 16.2.2 Should a player receive either a yellow or a red card during a BFV competition he/she shall attend the tribunal hearing on Thursday night following the competition as this is an automatic report.
- 16.2.3 Should a player receive either a yellow or a red card during an Interclub or invitation competition he or she shall attend a Tribunal meeting at a date and time of the meeting via their club representative.
- 16.2.4 Should a player receive either a yellow or a red card during a social competition then the organising club shall organise the Tribunal meeting.
- 16.3 Reports made by referees must be received by any one of the Disciplinary Committee member or the Secretary of the BFV Committee on the Monday following the competition

Administration

17. Committees and Sub Committees

Committees of the BFV shall be formed as follows

- 17.1 BFV Committee
(As outlined in the constitution of the BFV inc.)
 - a. President
 - b. Vice-President
 - c. Secretary
 - d. Treasurer
 - e. Up to Five Committee Members

- 17.2 Sub Committees (Known as Sectors)
 - a. Women's
 - b. Technical
 - c. Referee
 - d. Coaching
 - e. Junior Development
 - f. Marketing Promotions
 - g. Community Services
 - h. Disciplinary Committee
 - i. Disciplinary Appeals

- 17.3 Sub Committee and Sector Responsibility
 - a. Women's
 - 1. Co-ordinator (appointed by the BFV Committee)
 - 2. Committee and Technical Committee member

 - b. Technical
Composed of a Chairman and six committee members appointed by the BFV

 - c. Referee
Comprises of a Coordinator appointed by the BFV all member Referees

 - d. Coaching
Comprises of a Coordinator appointed by the BFV committee

 - e. Development Officer
Comprising of Development Officer appointed by the BFV Committee

 - f. Junior Development
Comprises of a Coordinator appointed by the BFV committee

- g. Marketing and Promotions Sector
Comprises of a Coordinator appointed by the BFV committee

18. Disciplinary/Tribunal organisation and authority of the Disciplinary/Appeals Tribunal

- 18.1 If there are reports from BFV competition the Tribunal shall meet on the Thursday following the date of the report.
- 18.2 Reported players are to be notified of the report by the referee on the day and are to attend the Tribunal hearing if they wish to speak on the report.
- 18.3 Should a player be unable to attend the Tribunal hearing he/she should notify the Tribunal Chairman at least 48 hours in advance
- 18.4 If notification is received, the Chairman should attempt to arrange an alternative date, preferable before the next BFV competition. If an alternative date cannot be arranged, the hearing will be scheduled and the reported player may nominate a member of the BFV to attend in his/ hers place and present any relevant evidence
- 18.5 Referees involved in the reports shall be notified of the Tribunal hearing by the BFV committee
- 18.6 The Tribunal has the authority to suspend a player for a maximum of 1 year. Should they feel a longer suspension is required then they must seek the approval of the BFV committee
- 18.7 Players should be notified of the decision of the Tribunal preferably in writing not more than one week after the hearing
- 18.8 The player must also be informed of the period for the lodgement of an appeal. This period should be no less than 7 days and no more than 14 days following the notification of the suspension or penalty
- 18.9 Suspended players have the right to appeal to the BFV. The appeal must be received by the BFV Secretary or the Tribunal Chairman in writing within the Appeals period set by the Tribunal and must state a reason for the appeal
- 18.10 The BFV Committee will determine if the appeal should be heard. If accepted the committee will organise the Appeals Tribunal as soon as possible
- 18.11 The BFV Committee will determine a time for the Tribunal hearing for the report from any inter Club Competition as they arise
- 18.12 Tribunals organised by the host clubs for reporting occurring at social competition cannot suspend players for more than 3 months from BFV competition without the approval of the BFV. Clubs must notify the BFV of any suspensions imposed by them.

19. Changes to the Bi law

- 19.1 Changes to this By-laws shall be made at the start of the season by the BFV committee
- 19.2 The BFV members shall pass any resolution at the General Meeting providing notification of the proposed changes are received in writing to the Secretary no less than 10 days prior to the General Meeting.

- 19.3 If proposed Changes are not received within the required period then the members may pass a resolution during General Business
- 19.4 Resolution passed at General Business must be approved by the BFV Committee before being adopted
- 19.5 Changes during the season shall only be made if assed by both the BFV committee or by the BFV members at a special General Meeting.

20. Amendments

Nil

Other Related Documents

- BFV Policies and Guidelines
- F.I.B rules edition 2002 (check edition)