STRATHMORE BOWLS CLUB
TEAM CAPTAINS AND SELECTION PHILOSOPHY POLICY 2026-27

Established 1954

Selection Committee

Strathmore Bowls Club has various committees including the Selection Sub-Committee which oversees the selection of the Clubs pennant teams.

For the 2026-2027 season, Team Captains will be appointed for each pennant side. The Team Captain will be a good leader, who can communicate, encourage and motivate team members. The Team Captain will liaise with the skips post games regarding how each rink is performing including discussion on rinks strengths, weaknesses and any areas of concern.

The Team Captains will make up the Selection Committee. There will be a individual selection committees for Saturday, Tuesday and Wednesday Night bowls. One of the Team Captains will be appointed as the Senior Team Captain who will take on the role of Chairperson of Selectors.

The Team Captain is not necessarily the Team Manager and ideally this may be delegated to other members of the Pennant side by the Team Captain, on a permanent or rotating basis.

Another new role for the 2026-2027 season will be the appointment of a Pennant Stats & Results Member. There will be one Pennant Stats & Results Member for Saturday and one for Tuesday. The Pennant Stats & Results Members responsibilities will be to maintaining all sides pennant cards post-game, record team information and results into Bowlslink and Club Website, keep a record of votes, and provide relevant information to the selection group.

Selection Philosophy (AIM)

Strathmore Bowls Club would like to be known as the most inclusive and well-respected club in the area. We have a holistic approach as well as individual aims for each team, noting these may vary from year to year.

1. **Saturday Pennant**.
- Team 1 to make finals and gain promotion,
- Team 2 to make finals and gain promotion,
- Team 3 to make finals and gain promotion, and
- Team 4 to make finals and gain promotion.

2. **Mid-Week Pennant.**
- Team 1 to make finals,
- Team 2 to make finals and gain promotion, and
- Team 3 to make finals and gain promotion.

3. **Night Pennant.**
- Team 1 to make finals.

Selection Criteria & Guidelines

The following factors will be considered when selecting teams:

1) Benchmarking players.
Players will be selected on their ability to perform at the following:
- Club championships (singles, pairs etc.)
- Intra and inter club preseason events.
- Northern Gateway Championship events.
- Scores awarded during pennant games.
- Bowls Victoria pennant results statistics.
- Club sponsored Tournaments.
- Additionally for the top two sides attendance and performance at training will be included.

2) Regular practice
Our official practicing day is every Thursday afternoon. We appreciate that some players cannot always make these sessions due to other commitments, in which case an attempt to practice on some other day or time should be made.

3) Losing Streak
Consideration will be paid to a rink in a team that is regularly losing. One possibility it to restructure the rink or move players.

4) **New Players**
The club would like to encourage new and younger players to the game and will give these players opportunity to develop in their first season by

providing coaching, mentoring and regular selection.

5) Consistency in selection

Team Selection will endeavor to be consistent with selection criteria and guidelines.

- i.e. don't have a knee jerk reaction on a single performance, whether that be individual or rink.
- If skipper is unavailable, third moves to skip unless another player is available to fill in.
- Winning rinks should be left unchanged, subject to availability. Players should not be changed if rink wins, unless the skip has requested the player be moved and can justify this to the selectors, selectors have final say; and or a player is returning after being unavailable for that team the week before.
- Emergencies should not be used if there are regular available players.

6) Post selection policy

If the event a player becomes unavailable after selection, replacement players will be decided upon by the Team Captains. If agreement cannot be reached the Senior Team Captain will have the final say providing reasons for Team Captains to pass onto the individuals.

7) There is no I in Team

Team Captains will listen to individual preferences i.e. I would prefer not to play Third or I would prefer to play in this team. However, at the end of the day the Team selection is greater than an individual and at times selectors will find it **difficult to please all members all the time.** So please consider the volunteer selector role and Club Philosophy if your preferences cannot be met. If you want to address selection concerns the first point of contact is your Team Captain. Please Note, if you are selected in a team and then advise the selectors you do not want to play as there is someone in the team you will not play with, the result may will be that you don't play that week. ***There is no I in TEAM.***

Senior Team Captain Responsibilities

The Senior Team Captain is responsible for:

1) **Coordinating and running the Selection Meeting with the Team Captains.**
2) **Coordinating the publishing of the Teams via:**
1) Displaying Names on White Board in clubhouse and passing team selection information to the Stats & Results Pennant Member.
3) **Coordinating Team Captain bags, cards and voting envelopes.**
4) **Managing player complaints about selection that cannot be solved by Team Captains.**
5) **Following the Strathmore and Bowls Victoria guidelines and policies.**
6) **Communication with Skippers, including:**

- During the season on occasion invite skips to the selection meeting for a preselection information exchange.

Team Captain Responsibilities

The Team Captains are responsible for:

1) **Maintaining communication with skippers.**

- Communicating one on one with skippers' weekly post-match to gain insight into how each team member bowled, supported team etc.
- Advising skippers of any changes following the selection meeting.

2) **Maintaining communication with team members.**
3) Ensuring members of their team are aware they are the first point of contact for selection queries.
4) **Notification of bowlers**.

Each week each player who has been moved from the previous week is to be spoken to by their previous Team Captain providing the reason/s why the following has occurred.

- The bowler's position in the rink has changed.
- The bowler's position in the team has changed.
- The bowler has been moved to a higher or lower side.
- The bowler has not been selected in a team.

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Pennant Stats & Results Member Responsibilities

1) Inputting Team Selection into:
    - **Bowlslink Results Portal; and**
    - Club website.
2) **Entering results for home Div 4 Pennant sides and below into Bowlslink post-game.**
3) Maintaining Pennant Scorecards and votes post-match for the season.
4) Inputting votes into a spreadsheet and providing to Team Captains prior to weekly selection meeting.
5) Prior to and from Round 10, advising Team Captains which members have qualified for finals.

Skippers Responsibilities

Each skipper is responsible for:

1) **Rink communication and morale during the game.**
2) **Rink conduct and discipline.**
3) **Mentoring newer players.**
4) **Ensuring all players of their rink arrive at the venue on time on the game day.**

Player Responsibilities

Each pennant player is responsible for:

1) **Providing positive encouragement and communication with your rink and team during competition. Remember no one wants to bowl poorly 😉.**
2) **Filling in any unavailable dates in the Unavailable Book as soon as unavailability is known.**
3) **Checking team selection via the Club white board, website or bowls link.** Note only the whiteboard may be up to date with any post selection changes.
4) **Completing the go direct paperwork if playing away and going direct.**
5) **Advising your Team Captain if unavailable post team selection.**
6) **Understanding the Club Voting system and completing votes each week.**
7) **Attending training sessions as available.**
8) **Wearing correct Club bowls attire.**
9) **Checking departure times when needing a lift to away games and being at the club prior to departure time.**
10) **Taking any issues regarding selection or your playing preferences to your Team Captain in the first instance. Team Captains cannot address what you haven't told them.**
11) **Supporting our volunteer selectors, committees and all team members.**

Pennant Voting

1) **The method applied under our voting system for 2026/27 season will be:**

- All members of the rink vote individually for the other members but not for themselves.

2) **Voting Cards**

The voting cards will be numbered from 1 - 5. When voting you should consider how the player played not the opposition or the conditions, as no one has control over these. Descriptions for each of the five votes are:

- One - substandard
- Two - needs some improvement
- Three - average
- Four - Very Good
- Five - Excellent / Outstanding.

Note if you wanted to add comments that's welcome. i.e. second had issues adjusting to shorter length, or our third draw bowling excellent, etc.

Each player is responsible for passing the votes back to their rink second, who is then responsible for passing the envelope with votes to the Team Captain after the game finishes.