



# CIRCULAR

ROYAL NSW BOWLING ASSOCIATION LTD.

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**No:** C16/2019  
**Date:** 15 November 2019  
**To:** Zones, Districts & Clubs  
  
**Re:** CLARIFICATION OPEN GENDER SOCIAL/GALA BOWLS

Since 1<sup>st</sup> October 2019, over 600 females have registered with Bowls NSW at their respective Clubs.

Bowls NSW reinforces its commitment to promoting bowls as an inclusive sport and reminds all Clubs that the intention of the recent changes to the Bowls NSW Regulations to allow female membership is to enable more opportunities for women to participate in the sport, particularly on weekends.

Bowls NSW has received several enquiries seeking clarification as to whether Clubs are required to allow female bowlers to participate in 'social' or 'gala' events conducted by Clubs on days which have traditionally been 'men's' days.

The position of Bowls NSW on this matter is that any female who is accepted by an affiliated Club as a member and who registers with Bowls NSW, should be entitled to participate in regular Social or Gala events which are conducted by the Club, and given the same membership privileges as any other registered member of the Club.

Bowls NSW expects all Clubs to be aware of and comply with their legal obligations under relevant anti-discrimination legislation, including the *Sex Discrimination Act 1984* (Cth) and the *Anti-Discrimination Act 1977* (NSW).

As such, Bowls NSW recommends that any Club intending to hold gender-specific tournaments that are open to members from outside the Club, seek their own advice as to compatibility with applicable legislative compliance requirements.

Clubs are reminded that all registered Bowling Members are eligible to compete in Bowls NSW Association Events.

Greg Helm  
Chief Executive Officer

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