



**Council Meeting via GoToMeeting  
July 18, 2023**

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**In attendance:** Veronica Sum President, Arthur Stewart 2<sup>nd</sup> VP, Scott Roberts Immediate Past President, Kelly Warren Treasurer, Pam Edwards Secretary.

Councilors:

- CD – no one in attendance
- NED – Doreen Alexander and Patrick Duffy
- NWD - Pam Edwards and Mike Catsi
- PIMD - Scottie Marzonie and Ginger Harris
- SCD - Dee McSparran and Brad Berg
- SED - Randy Woods
- SWD - Jan Hargraves and Gary Barnes

Guest - Melanie Vizenor, NUIC

Veronica called the meeting to order at 5:3 pm PST

**Old Business**

**Constitution Committee – Mike**

- The Committee has met twice and is reviewing the Constitution and Bylaws in detail
- The plan is to send a draft of a revised document to the Council for review early enough to be ready for a vote at the AGM in October

**Logo – Scottie**



- Scottie reviewed the Committee's process to date and the guidelines that were provided to the graphic designer
- The proposed logo image was voted upon
  - 12 votes for and 4 votes against, logo accepted (**see attached for vote**)
- Veronica will notify the membership

**TUSA Uniforms – Arthur**

- The contract offered by BLK was reviewed. The following details led to the contract being rejected by the EC

- 5 year exclusive agreement
- \$15,000 annual purchases
- Minimum orders of 10 pieces or greater
- World Championships TUSA uniforms will ship directly within Australia
  - Jackie Hogan will be the point person in managing the shipment and distribution
  - Randy asked if there is a back up plan if the shipment is delayed, Arthur will check into that
- General Discussion followed
  - Scottie asked if the existing contract offers a discounted rate, Arthur explained the discounted rate was only included if BUSA agreed to a 5-year exclusive agreement
  - Arthur thanked the Council for the quick response in the funding vote

### **US Open – Scott**

- Update
  - 192 entries from 9 countries
  - Most event registrations are about 2/3 full though Men's Singles is sold out
  - Registration closes August 31, and the draw happens on September 15
- Challenges
  - Livestream team is no longer in place and will not be pursued this year
  - Host hotel has had only 4 reservations
  - Clubs
    - Laguna Woods is unsure of their continued participation in the SWD
    - Santa Ana no longer has greens mowing provided by the city
    - Newport Harbor space use is being questioned by the city
  - No sponsor money has been contributed to date which is in stark contrast to prior years
- Opening ceremonies will be held at Newport Harbor
  - AGM will be held at Laguna Woods
- An eblast will soon go out to the BUSA membership about donations and sponsorships
- Scottie offered livestreaming services for the US Open, he will contact Scott outside of this meeting

### **National Championships – Pam**

- Councilors should remind their Division Secretaries to notify the NC Committee about playdown winners and runners up
- Veronica noted the webpage shows the participants

### **New Business**

#### **Hall of Fame – Dee**

- A reminder was sent to the Councilors to seek nominations from their Division Presidents
- Nominations should be submitted early enough that Councilors will have 30 days to review prior to the AGM
- Dee was concerned the P&P does not reflect the process used in year's past

### **National Umpire Retention Program Proposal – Melanie**

- The proposal was sent 4 days prior to this meeting
- Melanie answered questions
  - Brad asked why umpires leave, other than aging out; Melanie responded most umpires continue to recertify and participate
    - Dee noted some players don't want to be umpires because they don't want to be bothered during play
  - Randy asked if there is reciprocity between Bowls Canada and Bowls USA in certifying umpires; Melanie said several umpires certified in Canada have completed the certification process in the US
  - Scottie asked if new rule books are available, Ginger will provide him one
  - Randy noted laser measures don't work well in bright sunlight
  - Melanie reported that the Domestic Regulations specifies that laser measures must be specifically made for bowls use, and she verified this with WB
  - Brad asked about the low price of the laser measures that was quoted in the proposal; Melanie explained the quantity price is less
- A vote to fund the proposal passed unanimously
  - Melanie thanked the Council

### **Finances – Kelly (link to [Balance Sheet](#) and [R&E Sheet](#))**

- Bank account is making 4% interest
- Income – Central Division and NE Division dues are yet to be submitted
- Expenses
  - There was a \$700 overpayment on the uniforms
  - Rule book printing expense exceeded the budgeted amount
  - NC Committee was paid \$3,300
  - US Open Committee was sent \$5,000
- Dee asked about the insurance line item, Kelly explained it is Errors and Omissions Insurance for the EC and appointed representatives of BUSA

### **PIMD Proposal to Change Eligibility Requirements – Scottie (see attached)**

- The proposal addresses eligibility requirements for the National Championships and Team USA
  - Rather than requiring US citizenship, it is proposed that permanent residency status is the criteria
- The proposal will affect the NC P&P, TUSA Selection P&P and the Constitution & Bylaws
  - PIMD will work on P&P revisions and collaborate with the existing Constitution Committee
- The plan is to provide the Council with revised documents to allow at least 30 days for review prior to the AGM so a final vote can be held at the AGM
- Several Councilors spoke in favor of the proposal

### **NWD Draft Proposal on Transgender Participation – Mike (see attached)**

- Mike explained the purpose of the proposal is to make bowls more inclusive

- Documents of several national bowls organizations were used as reference as well as that of USA Curling
- Pam asked for comments and suggestions on this draft be submitted to Mike or Pam by August 18

#### **Division Round Table**

- NED- Fernleigh LBC is having its 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary; Frick Park LBC has several youth bowlers
- NWD – Both Portland and Tacoma have increased membership; all clubs have had successful learn to bowl classes and open houses
- PIMD – Coaching development classes continue to be offered by PIMD officers with outstanding attendance; the Officers met with someone from Bowls Scotland to learn from their coaching program; all instructional clinics are free to members
- SCD – Progress is being made on the greens at Johnson LBC
- SED – activities are limited; an open house is planned for November
- SWD – playdowns are completed; focus is on the US Open; several skills camps have been offered with good attendance

#### **Announcements**

- Veronica reminded the Councilors we are still looking for a host division for the 2024 US Open

The meeting was adjourned at 7:07

**Next meeting – AGM, October 7, 2023 at Laguna Woods in California**

#### **Attachments:**

Logo Vote

Council Vote on Proposed New Logo

Title - <i>New Logo</i>				Date - July 18, 2023
Councilor	Division	Yay	Nay	Comments
Anna Witt	CEN	1		6/26/2023
Bob Schneider	CEN	1		7/17/2023
Doreen Alexander	NE	1		
Patrick Duffy	NE	1		
Pam Edwards	NW	1		
Mike Catsi	NW	1		
Ginger Harris	PIM	1		
Scottie Marzonie	PIM	1		
Dee McSparran	SC	1		
Brad Berg	SC	1		
Martha Nilsen	SE	1		6/29/2023
Randy Woods	SE	1		
Jan Hargraves x2	SW		2	
Gary Barnes x2	SW		2	
		12	4	



## **Building the Future of Bowls US Eligibility Criteria PIMD Proposal to BowlsUSA**

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### **Eligibility in US Bowls A Proposal to Change Provision**

#### Highlights

1. Eligibility is a factor in 3 areas of bowls in the US.
2. Citizenship is required for the US Team, the Nationals and some national managerial positions.
3. Under World Bowls provisions, permanent residents in the US would be eligible for all three.
4. Many leading countries have implemented the World Bowls provisions, e.g., England, Scotland.
5. Many bowlers living in the US permanently put a lot of energy into US bowls with no eligibility.
6. Bringing these bowlers into the eligible pool can only help the game in the US.
7. Proposal: Implement new eligibility provisions by year-end for roll out in 2024.

#### Rationale

1. Increases the size of the pool of bowlers who participate in US events.
2. Increases size of pool of candidates for managerial positions – more experienced people.
3. It's inequitable to exclude these bowlers – they pay dues, hold positions in clubs, and compete.
4. There is a very strong precedent at World Bowls and from leading bowls nations.
5. Sends a signal that the US is serious about building a strong future for bowls in this country.

#### Proposed Course of Action

1. Gain approval in July 18th Council meeting to begin drafting a proposal based on World Bowls.
2. Prepare proposal for vote at Fall meeting.
3. Reach out across divisions to seek their input.
4. Identify, validate and review all BowlsUSA provisions relating to eligibility.
5. Draft, review, finalize and socialize language for approval at the Fall BowlsUSA Council meeting.
6. Establish a plan to roll out the new provisions in time for the 2024 season.
7. Communicate new provisions to the help the divisions explain and implement the changes.

**Northwest Division  
Bowls USA  
PROPOSAL  
Transgender Participation Policy and Guidance**

## Purpose

1. Bowls USA is committed to preventing discrimination against any of its members, including discrimination based on gender identity and expression. Bowls USA welcomes participation from all bowlers at all levels of play and supports those who are transgender or non-binary. The purpose of this policy is to establish clear guidelines about the inclusion of transgender and nonbinary bowlers in Bowls USA events. It also provides guidance on how to support transgender and non-binary bowlers in Division and Club events that are competitive in nature. This policy does not affect recreational events where participants should be allowed to compete as their stated gender without restriction.
2. This inclusion policy is guided by the following principles:
  - a. Bowls USA seeks to respect all backgrounds, experiences, and identities and assumes from the outset that bowlers who compete under these rules are doing so not to gain a competitive advantage, but to participate with their peers and experience the joy and spirit of bowls as who they are.
  - b. Bowls USA recognizes that gender expression and/or gender identity may or may not be the same as a person's assigned sex and that gender identity does not function on a binary system.
  - c. Gender affirming surgery is not required for an individual to participate in competition and is not required by Bowls USA under any circumstances.
  - d. Each person is in control of the ways they present and express their gender identity, and as such, no person should have their identity disclosed without their express consent.
  - e. An individual's transgender or non-binary identity may be protected health information, and disclosure of personal medical information is not required beyond what is required of cisgender participants.
  - f. Bowls USA will not require any bowler to undergo any testing, of any sort, to verify a gender identity or non-gendered status.
    - 1) Bowlers will be subject to requirements of any other governing bodies when attending events hosted by those governing bodies, such as World Bowls or their Member National Authorities.

## Definitions

Transgender is an umbrella term to describe people whose gender identity does not match their sex assigned at birth. Transgender people do not seek to gain competitive advantage through the transition process; they undergo medically, emotionally, and socially necessary changes to affirm their gender identity.

Bowls USA recognizes that the following words have complex meanings, and for the purposes of this document we are using general but operational definitions:

1. Non-binary (nb or enby): An umbrella category that describes gender identities that are not exclusively masculine or feminine, in other words, gender identities that are outside the gender binary.
2. Transgender (trans): Describes a person whose gender identity differs from the sex they were assigned at birth.
3. Cisgender (cis): Describes a person whose gender identity aligns with the sex they were assigned at birth.
4. Gender: The socially constructed roles, behaviors, and attributes that society associates with one's sex assigned at birth.
5. Gender Expression: The manner in which an individual represents or expresses gender to others through behavior, outward appearance, activities, mannerisms, etc.
6. Gender Identity: An individual's deeply held sense or knowledge of their gender. Identity can be expressed as appearance or mannerisms or other gender related characteristics of a person (whether by way of medical intervention or not, with or without regard to the person's designated sex at birth).
7. Sex Assigned at Birth: The sex that is assigned to an infant at birth, usually by a doctor or medical staff, based on the infant's visible sex organs, including genitalia and other physical characteristics. Classifications made are most often male, female, or intersex.
8. Gender variance: Gender expression that does not match society's norms of female and male.
9. Gender fluid: Having a gender identity that varies over time.
10. Gender reassignment: Medically supervised program of treatment to transition a person's body to align with their gender identity through hormone therapy and/or surgery.

## Participation Guidelines

This policy should not be construed to supersede the policy of another organizing body when a bowler is competing in an event that does not fall under Bowls USA rules.

1. National Championships and Other Competitive Events Hosted by Bowls USA  
Eligibility -

The National Championships and other BUSA hosted events must follow Bowls USA policy with respect to transgender and nonbinary bowlers. For the National Championships this is specific to Men's Singles, Women's Singles, Men's Pairs and Women's Pairs.

Considering the most up-to-date medical and expert information available at the time of the implementation of this policy, participation in events hosted by Bowls USA is open to:

- a. Bowlers seeking to participate in the division based on their sex assigned at birth, regardless of their gender identity.
- b. Bowlers seeking to participate in the division based on their gender identity.
  - 1) The gender identity that is submitted to Bowls USA at time of registration for competitive events will be considered.
  - 2) A participant may not declare themselves as a member of both genders simultaneously. This is not intended to be discriminatory, but to ensure evenness of



treatment, as members who do identify as one gender or the other are only eligible to compete in one gender's events.

- 3) It is the policy of Bowls USA to be as inclusive as possible in these events, regardless of participants' gender identity.
  - a) Male-identified bowlers will not be denied the ability to participate on men's teams or as a male member of a mixed gender team.
  - b) Female-identified bowlers will not be denied the ability to participate on women's teams or as a female member of a mixed gender team.
  - c) Members who identify themselves as non-binary (or any equivalent genderless status) may declare themselves as eligible to compete in either gender's events, but they must compete as the gender of their choosing for not less than two (2) years from their initial declaration of gender. This is not intended to be discriminatory, but to ensure evenness of treatment, as members who do identify as one gender or the other are only eligible to compete in one gender's events.
  - d) Bowlers will not be denied the ability to participate on a team that matches their sex assigned at birth providing they have not declared a different gender for competitive purposes within the prior two (2) calendar years.
  - e) Event organizers will not ask participants to prove their gender identity through hormone testing or by submitting legal documents (notwithstanding World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) mandated testing for any bowler).
- c. Bowlers competing in the National Championships leading to participation in World Bowls Champion of Champions event may be subject to WADA anti-doping testing. It is the responsibility of every bowler to know what substances are banned both in and out of competition and to seek therapeutic use exemptions (TUE) wherever necessary.

## 2. Division and Club Events

Division and Club events that are part of a Bowls USA event such as playdowns or other qualification must adhere to the rules specified for such events. The following is recommended policy for Divisions and Clubs:

- a. The Transgender policy applies to all leagues and other events where gender identity is a factor in eligibility to play, or position occupied within a team hosted by a Division/Club and operated under the Division's/Club's rules.
- b. In all events, all participants will be the gender they identify themselves as.
  - i. Registration for a gender-specific event (men's team or women's team) is, in and of itself, considered sufficient declaration.
- c. The Division/Club will not require any participant to undergo any testing, of any sort, to verify a gender identity or non-gendered status.
- d. A participant will be required to declare their preferred gender identity at the time of registration for any event where gender identity is a qualifying characteristic. This will be done in as unobtrusive a manner as possible. For example, registration for a gender-specific event (e.g., men's event, women's event, or mixed event) is, in and of itself, considered sufficient declaration.

- e. A participant may not declare themselves as a member of both genders simultaneously. This is not intended to be discriminatory, but to ensure evenness of treatment, as bowlers who do identify as one gender or the other are only eligible to compete in one gender's events.
- f. If the Division/Club is required to certify a member's eligibility for a gendered event, the Division/Club will use the member's self-identified gender. This should be consistent with any gender specific leagues the member may be playing in.
- g. All Division/Club members will treat other members' gender status with respect. Bullying, harassment, or physical challenges will not be tolerated, and any incidents which may occur will be investigated and handled in accordance with Division/Club By-Laws.

## Verification

A participant's declaration of gender identity through the process of registering for a gendered event is sufficient. Transgender and non-binary individuals may or may not have identification documents that match their gender identity and the names that they use. Although some competitions may require participants to provide identification, the name that is provided by transgender and nonbinary individuals will be the only name used in any documents, name tags, or other materials. Similarly, when competition requirements state that a bowler must have their name (first or last) on their uniform, the preferred name of the bowler is the only one that is required to be used. Bowlers are not required to have any medical intervention, nor will they be subject to any testing to affirm their declared gender identity.

Should a competitor have a legitimate concern that a bowler is misinterpreting this policy, he or she may file a formal complaint as described in the Bowls USA Disciplinary Policies and Procedures.

## Facility Use

People shall be permitted to use changing and restroom facilities according to their gender identity. In some instances, transgender and non-binary bowlers may request to increase privacy, and this should be accommodated to the best extent possible.

## Youth Participation

It is Bowls USA's position to encourage and support youth bowlers in the participation and pursuit of competitive excellence in the sport of bowling. As an organization, we recognize that medical and social interventions for adults are not always available or appropriate for youth bowlers. As such, gender non-conforming youth should be allowed to compete in the event that provides the best social and emotional support to ensure affirming and ongoing participation in the sport. Bowlers participating in events governed by other organizing bodies will abide by those organizations' policies.