

Who is the Controlling Body? (Clause 9, BV CoP).

CONTROLLING BODY	DOMAIN
Club	Club events, social bowls, local tournaments
Region	Region events, non-metropolitan pennant
Bowls Victoria	State events, metropolitan pennant*

* The host Club becomes the Controlling Body on gameday

The overarching controlling body for metropolitan pennant and State events is Bowls Victoria (BV). However, on the day of play, Law A.4 states that it is the Club on whose green the game is being played is the Controlling Body.

In most situations, the side managers and umpires of the day make most of the decisions and this would always remain the case. However, Bowls Victoria has asked each club to nominate a person to be the controlling body for the day. This person should not be the umpire or side manager for that day due to a possible conflict of interest.

So, what would this person's responsibilities be for the day?

They could include:

- suspending play if necessary due to weather or other conditions
- approving the introduction and eligibility of a substitute
- the management of pre-game practice
- collecting the bowls and deposit in the event of a challenge to bowls
- receive complaints against an umpire's decision
- be responsible for the appointment of an umpire
- approve the carrying of a personal electronic device
- acting against spectators that are in breach of the laws
- appealing to the umpire to apply an instantaneous penalty for noncompliance with provisions relating to conduct & behaviour, smoking, personal electronic devices, or consumption of alcohol.

Ideally, each club would nominate on the day of play who are the officials for the day and who is acting as the controlling body. BV acknowledges that suitable personnel may be short in numbers and when there is no appointment, common sense should apply.

Whether it be club events and tournaments, State, or National events, each respective body needs to protect the integrity of their competition. In real terms, what does this mean in the case of disciplinary matters?

Bowls Victoria has clear guidelines around how to manage disciplinary issues.

Club/Region matters

The expectations are that clubs must handle club-level disciplinary matters. For events and tournaments, the controlling body of the day (usually the host club) need to resolve disputes as they occur. Issues at Regional events need to be managed and dealt with by Regions.

Please note that such allegations can relate to matters within club buildings, the immediate surrounds, and beyond if related to an activity in respect to bowls or an incident at bowls. This could include emails, social media, telephone calls, threats, writing, video, and any electronic transfer of materials.

It is important that all clubs and Regions establish a Disciplinary Committee in the case a disciplinary matter arises. BV must be notified the results of such disciplinary hearings within 7 days of the decision being made (Clause 3).