



BRISBANE NORTHSIDE ARM BOWLERS ASSOCIATION INC.

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To: Bronwyn White
Bowls Australia
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Cc: Brett Wilkie – Bowls Queensland

22nd September 2019

Hi Bronwyn,

RE: MABA Shirts and Relationship with BQ and BA

A number of our players and also a couple from other areas have raised the question to me, as President of the Brisbane Northside Arm Bowlers Association Inc, of how can MABA be allowed to have a BA logo on their shirt and have QUEENSLAND plastered all over the front of this shirt, if they are not sanctioned by BA and are not in fact Queensland Representatives.



The issues raised are that BA and BQ are stating that Arm Bowls is a social sport, as are the State and National titles, MABA and any other associations are not sanctioned by BA or BQ. We are all considered Social Clubs in the eyes of BQ and BA.

The inferences that this MABA shirt state are as follows:

1. MABA is associated with BA and therefore BQ (by default), by allowing the logo to be placed on their shirts.
2. MABA is the BA and BQ QUEENSLAND Representatives. After conversations with some other Districts this week, I believe this has been misled to Districts around Queensland and Arm Bowlers have joined MABA thinking that they are associated with BA and BQ and are going to get a fair and equitable selection process to State Championships for Arm Bowls (believing this is a BA event).
3. MABA shirt infers that all players wearing the shirt, are QUEENSLAND players and that the tournaments they play in are run and associated with BA and BQ. I know the first tournament that I went to at Broadbeach last year (2018) I thought I was up against Queensland players sanctioned by BA and BQ, as they were all wearing Queensland shirts with the BA logo on it.

4. Any BA or BQ Club in Brisbane that I know of, are not allowed to brand Queensland across their shirts for normal club games and shirts must be sanctioned by BA if they are to carry the BA logo.
5. I know that late last year I inadvertently raised funds under false pretences for MABA believing that they were BA sanctioned as the logo was on the shirt. I raised funds for the State Arm Bowlers to go to the Nationals, as I was led to believe that this was a legitimate group.

We are of the opinion that BA should step in and force the removal of the BA logo from MABA shirts, unless they condone the shirts. It is BA Branding, so you do have control of that. I believe that the BA logo is being misrepresented in this case.

We are awaiting BA response prior to placing the order for our own shirts without the logo and a number of others are watching what we are doing. As we were told by yourselves we do not require a BA logo as we are not affiliated with BA. If we go down this path we will not be keen on talking about changing back to a BA logo after the fact and will obviously consider the direction of Arm Bowls for the future for BNABAI and any sister groups that follow our lead.

BA and BQ it is high time for you take control of Arm Bowls and even consider making it what it was intended to be ... a disability sport. *By definition if a player is not able to deliver a bowl in the traditional manner then they are disabled.*

The distention being caused by the lack of action by BA and BQ amongst Arm Bowlers and non-arm bowlers to a lesser degree is harmful to the game long-term in my opinion.

We need to discuss options with BA and BQ as a matter of priority. I had an email from another District in Queensland this week asking why their arm bowlers have to remain members of BQ and BA, if BA and BQ are not supporting Arm Bowlers. I will be further discussing the issues that they raise over the coming weeks.

Again, I caution that there are 20,000+ Arm Bowlers in Australia and the way it is going a number of Districts are talking with me and discussing the possibility of forming our own Arm Bowls Association and playing out of Villages. There have been some preliminary talks with a couple of Retirement Village Groups and they are happy for this to take place from what I understand

I am totally opposed to doing this, as it would be damaging to Bowls Clubs in general to lose members. This was never our intention, but I am also passionate about Arm Bowls and if that is how we need to take it I will support it if BA and BQ do not want to support Arm Bowls. I have been talking with some Arm Bowlers in Victoria and they are of the same opinion.

BA and BQ please take control of Arm Bowls before it is too late to do so.

I look forward to your response.

Regards

Tony Watson
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