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20 December 2019

Tony Watson  
President  
Brisbane Northside Arm Bowlers Association Inc.  
By email: [brisbanenorthsidearmbowlers@gmail.com](mailto:brisbanenorthsidearmbowlers@gmail.com)

Dear Tony,

Thank you for your letter of 22 September 2019: *RE: MABA Shirts and Relationship with BQ and BA*. Your letter and other correspondences received from you during the year have been discussed by the Directors and Senior Management of Bowls Australia.

Regarding your query concerning apparel, I direct your attention to the BA National Merchandising Program (NMP) Policy, which is available from the BA website ([https://www.bowls.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/BA-Policy\\_National-Merchandise-Program-NMP-Logo\\_May2018-1.pdf](https://www.bowls.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/BA-Policy_National-Merchandise-Program-NMP-Logo_May2018-1.pdf)).

Any shirt purchased from a BA Licensee must feature the BA NMP Logo. BA does not stipulate what other design features may be included on Bowls apparel, however, any apparel worn by bowlers participating in any District, Pennant, State event operated by the State or Territory Association or any National event operated by Bowls Australia must be compliant with the BA NMP Logo Policy.

In your letter you state, "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."

BA does not state this nor does BQ. BA has not defined Arm Bowls in any terms.

BA is the peak body of Bowls in Australia. Over the years many groups of Bowlers with a special interest often make the choice to form their own Association without wanting BA's involvement or sanction. This has been the case with the Bowlers Arm community and other groups such as Disability – Blind, Deaf - Police, Past President's and Greenkeepers to name a few. BA notes that there are a number of Armed Bowlers Associations operating in Australia. As autonomous entities, these associations are able to arrange their own events and competitions independently of BA or any of our Member State and Territory Associations. Neither BA nor BQ are required sanction events staged and managed by other, autonomous legal entities in Queensland.

The inferences you list in your letter, that you say you have drawn with respect to the MABA shirt, are your own and are not based in fact. The information that MABA stage and manage events that are not



part of the BA or BQ event schedule is public and would be able to be discovered by anyone asking the question of MABA, or BQ or BA.

On 30 July 2019 you acknowledged information provided by BA concerning the BA NMP Logo Policy and its relevance to your Association providing shirts to your Association members.

Your statement "As we were told by yourselves we do not require a BA logo as we are not affiliated with BA" is not correct. You were advised by BA that:

*"...apparel worn by players participating in any Brisbane Northside Arm Bowlers Association tournaments would not necessarily need to comply with the BA NMP Logo Policy, if the Conditions of Play for your event allow for that...Players acquiring a Brisbane Northside Arm Bowlers Association shirt to wear while playing in your events should be aware that these shirts would not be able to be worn to participate in any Queensland District, BQ (Pennant) or BA event because, without the BA NMP logo, the shirts would not be compliant with the BA NMP Logo Policy."*

BA will continue to work closely with the Bowlers Arm community in Australia as it has done for many years. BA's vision is to ensure that bowls is accessible to as many people as possible, for as long as possible. It is important that BA supports bowlers' access to such artificial devices as bowlers arms so that they can continue to be active and enjoy the great sport of bowls.

BA will continue to listen and consult with all parts of the Bowls community in formulating policy but BA will make decisions that we believe are in the best interest of the sport, and to encourage more people to play our sport. At this time, BA does not intend to manage any Armed Bowler exclusive competition events in the foreseeable future; rather BA intends to continue working to increase opportunities for people of all ages and abilities to participate in bowls during their lifetime.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Neil Dalrymple". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Neil Dalrymple**  
CEO

CC: Brett Wilkie, CEO, Bowls Queensland