



BRISBANE NORTHSIDE ARM BOWLERS ASSOCIATION INC.

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To: Bronwyn White
Bowls Australia
bwhite@bowls.com.au

Cc: Brett Wilkie – Bowls Queensland

21st December 2019

Hi Neil,

RE: BOWLS AUSTRALIA LETTER DATED 20 December 2019

Firstly, thanks for your response to some of our letters, however, I am afraid that your letter has not addressed our letter sent on 2nd September 2019 at all, which I have reattached. This is probably the most important letter as we require BA's views on a number of matters in order to decide how we take Arm Bowls forward for 2020. We want a Fair and Equitable arrangements for ALL Arm Bowlers.

Apparel is fine, we will most likely make the decision to have **no BA logo on our shirts**, however, still seek clarification of a number of points. I will dot point them for you, if you could give your response to these questions, it would be appreciated, as we require clarification for our members.

1. **The relationship between MABA and BA and BQ.** – Your response has stated *“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.”*
 - a. This implies that BQ and BA are, in fact, supportive of MABA claiming to be sending a **State Team to the National Events** without being inclusive of all Arm Bowlers or having an appropriate selection process that is also inclusive.
2. **You State that BA will work closely with the Arm Bowlers Community in Australia.** *“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.”*
 - a. However, this excludes BA and BQ actually providing the guidance and overseeing of State and National Events for Arm Bowlers and instead you are allowing an exclusive group such as MABA to run the Queensland State and National Selection Process. However, MABA only ever send a team from their Committee and Friends.
3. **BA State they will Listen to ALL parts of the Bowls Community -** *BA will continue to listen and consult with all parts of the Bowls community*
 - a. You are listening, but not hearing what we are asking and totally ignoring the inequities that are happening in Arm Bowls.
4. **National Competition for Arm Bowlers** – NSW Woomeras refer to the National Titles as **“2020 8th Bowls Australia National Bowling Arm Sides Championships”** as advertised on our website from their brochure.
 - a. BA are claiming that this is not the case. Is this a BA sanctioned event or not?? This is where the confusion is coming from.

5. **We seek Clarification in allowing Players who are not Members of Bowling Clubs play with BNABAI** – Bowls Queensland advised that we could not do this. If, in fact, we are organising the events and have no support from BA or BQ then it would be discriminatory for BA or BQ to impose these conditions, as we carry our own insurances and that is more than Bare Foot Bowlers do. If BA are allowing us to do so, we will be approaching Villages and older players and our current members who no longer want to be competitive to join us for only \$20 per annum and play in our tournaments throughout the year, instead of paying \$100 + per year to Bowls Clubs to cover affiliation fees, if they are not required. Clubs are in favour of it as it gains them revenue in Green Fees and across the Bar.
6. **States Differ** – It is my understanding that some of the States BQ equivalents have adopted their Arm Bowlers and fully support their State and National Selections. I believe two states currently support their Arm Bowlers to State Championships and Nationals. Again, surely there should be one set of rules by the overall governing body in Bowls Australia as to whether or not Arm Bowls is being accepted as a part of the BA curriculum or it becomes discrimination, in my opinion. Maybe you could confirm this for me as I have heard it from other Arm Bowlers from other States. I am in the process of trying to gather that information myself as well.

On **September 2nd 2019** we wrote to BA and asked the following questions that have not, as yet, been answered:

1. **Medical Certificates for Arm Bowlers** – we wanted them brought back and asked why they were removed.
2. **Confusion as to who is running Arm Bowls** – You have sort of answered that, but we still seek clarification as to the National Event as to whether or not it is a BA event as stated by NSW Woomeras and inferred by MABA.
3. **Register of Arm Bowlers** – We would like to see a register of Arm Bowlers put back in place, which was run by BQ as I still have my original card.
4. **Arm Bowls Development Officers in each State** – Why can this not be achieved if you are truly trying to assist people in getting involved in Arm Bowls

I look forward to your reply and answers. Your answers will assist us in where we take our case from here.

Neil, like it or not, Arm Bowls has become a very large part of Lawn Bowls over the last decade and it is not going away ... take control of it. We are certainly not going to back down from getting a fair and equitable arrangement for **ALL** Arm Bowlers in place in the future.

I would have thought that BA and perhaps BQ could have granted us a meeting with them and perhaps MABA Committee (if they wanted to attend) to discuss taking Arm Bowls forward openly for 2020, but that has not been the case, so we have to continue to talk via email.

Regards

Tony Watson

President

Brisbane Northside Arm Bowlers Association Inc

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