

Strategic Overview – Keep the Game Rolling

Sports worldwide continues to evolve to meet the wants and needs of players, clubs and communities. Keep the Game Rolling is Bowls Auckland's commitment to ensuring bowls continues to evolve, connect and thrive at every level of the game. Aligned with our refreshed Strategic Plan, it reflects our focus on Product (the game itself) and Community (our clubs and the people within them). For 2026/27, Keep the Game Rolling is being brought to life through changes to the way Bowls Auckland events are played and delivered.

What this means

We want events to be: *more meaningful* (more time playing, less time waiting), *faster & more fluid* (reducing unnecessary delays and keeping games moving), *clearer & more consistent* (making Conditions of Play easier to understand and consistently applied), *more welcoming* (creating environments that work for players, supporters, families and the wider community), and *open to innovation* (evolving the game while respecting its traditions and integrity).

Key Changes - General Conditions of Play and Centre Event Environment

CHANGE	WHAT IS CHANGING	WHY IT MATTERS
Smoking, vaping and alcohol	Prohibited in clubhouses and on greens. Designated smoking areas apply.	A more welcoming and family-friendly environment.
Alcohol while playing	Greater emphasis on discouraging alcohol consumption during play.	Supports a positive playing environment.
Restricting movement	Skips may only visit the head after their penultimate bowl (second to last bowl). Both skips must be back at the mat end before either skip delivers their first bowl.	Reduces unnecessary movement and delays, creating a better pace and rhythm of play.
Music and atmosphere	Host clubs are encouraged to create atmosphere through appropriate music, food options and welcoming off-green spaces.	Makes events more vibrant and enjoyable for players, supporters and families.

Event Conditions of Play - Format

CHANGE	WHAT IS CHANGING	WHY IT MATTERS
Re-spotting jacks	Killed jacks will be re-spotted rather than replaying the end – <i>across all events</i> .	Less wasted time and fewer repeated ends, helping keep the game flowing.
Time limits	Time limits will apply across events, with additional playing time available in some finals only.	Encourages a positive pace and provides greater schedule certainty.
Section winners & seeding	Formats will favour section winners or clearly defined qualifying positions. Centre singles, pairs, triples and fours will all progress via section winners.	Provides simpler formats and clearer pathways through events.

Other Changes

The G-COP and E-COP also provide clearer directions around: trial ends after a bye, defaulting sides, entries and byes, scorecards, electronic devices, substitute approval, footwear, uniforms and weather attire.

This is a summary only always, refer to the final 2026-27 G-COP and relevant ECOP for the full requirements.

THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS

