HVBC Night Owls Program: Guidelines

What are Night Owls?

Night Owls is a social lawn bowls competition where your team can test their skills against other teams in a friendly, welcoming environment. While taking part in friendly competition, the focus is on having a good time and enjoying one another's company. Laughter is encouraged.

The Season

Play takes place between October and March each year, commencing approximately during the second week in October. Check with the HVBC for the decided start dates which may be slightly different from year to year.

A "Registration Night" is held a week prior to the first match. All teams are encouraged to attend the Registration night to:

- Have a practice before the first competitive match.
- Pay the required registration fee (see "Fees" below).
- Enable the Co-ordinator to plan the schedule of games.
- Nominate a team "contact person" with whom the Co-ordinator can communicate with by either telephone or email and who takes responsibility to communicate with the Co-ordinator (e.g. regarding cancellations due to inclement weather, or team forfeits/byes etc).

Game days

- Game days at HVBC are Tuesdays and Thursdays.
- 8 or 9 weeks from October to December.
- No play during the Christmas/New Year period.
- 8 or 9 weeks from January to March.
- Games commence at 6.45pm and finish approximately 9.00pm
- Players are to arrive no later than 6.30pm to enable a 6.45pm sharp start.

Equipment

- Casual clothing; Evenings can be cold, so bring a jacket/jumper.
- Flat sole shoes, thongs or bare feet are required to prevent damage to the surface of greens.
- A "bowls measure" is useful, but not necessary.
- Chalk to mark "touched" bowls is essential.
- A pencil/pen will be required to mark scorecards.
- 2 matching lawn bowls per person will be required.

Lawn Bowls can be loaned from the club at no cost and can be collected before 6.30pm. Please ensure that all loan bowls are returned to their correct location in the Club bowls rack after the match.

Bowls are variously sized between 0 and 5. The size is marked on each bowl. Most men find size 3 or 4 the most comfortable. Most ladies prefer sizes 0-2. Sets of lawn bowls also can be purchased; New sets cost approx. $800. Used sets are available (Ebay, Facebook Marketplace, Gumtree) for as little as $50.00. Very good sets can be bought for $200-$400. Occasionally HVBC members have sets for sale via the notice board at the rear of the Clubhouse.

Games

Upon arrival players are asked to check in and pay the weekly fee (see "Fees" below) and collect scorecards which indicate the rink allocated for their game.

- Players can either practice prior to the game or socialise in the Clubhouse until start time; the bar is open from 6.00pm and a BBQ is available adjacent to the Clubhouse.
- Players should be on the greens prepared to commence at 6.45pm.
- A bell shall ring at 6.45pm indicating the commencement of matches.
- Only the bowler and skip should be on the green at any given time.
- Skips are responsible for scoring but can delegate this.
- Leads are responsible for bringing in the mats and kitties at the completion of games.
- Thirds do the measuring, but again can delegate this if needed.
- A match comprises 16 ends.
- Each team must complete scorecards during the game and hand them in at the end of the match. To claim the first resting toucher of the evening any "resting toucher" should be indicated on the score card as "RT" with the name/initials of the bowler and the time it occurred. (e.g. "RT, Daniel, 7.43").

After the game

The bar remains open after completion of matches and most players return to the Clubhouse for refreshments and to socialise and support the Club. Those teams remaining can also win a variety of small prizes as:

- Random spins of the "Chocolate Wheel" for $1.00 per number.

- Random lead, seconds, thirds, and skips cards are drawn for a cash prize.
- The first "Resting toucher" is rewarded with a free cash prize.
- A "Jackpot" is awarded to the team whose score comes up on a random spin of the "Wheel". The Jackpot is shared if multiple teams have the same score. The prize "Jackpots" the following week if no team has the winning score.

At the end of each season one side from the Tuesday competition and a side from the Thursday competition shall be nominated to participate in the Metropolitan Bowls Night Owls Finals. This will usually be the sides finishing in top position on the win/loss ladder (if they are interested and available to participate). Note that participating teams are only permitted to play pennant bowlers as leads or seconds.

Byes and Forfeits

A team comprises 4 members who bowl 2 bowls each.

It is each team's responsibility to field 4 bowlers every week.

A team can play with only 3 bowlers. In this case the lead and second bowl 3 bowls and the skip bowls 2. No bowler is permitted to bowl 3 bowls consecutively; leads/seconds bowl their 2 bowls, then bowl one bowl each of the "third's" bowls.

If a team has only 2 or fewer bowlers, they will forfeit the match.

Teams are required to notify the Night Owls co-ordinator as early as possible if they know they will be unable to field a full side. The co-ordinator may be aware of casual bowlers who can "fill-in" for absent players negating the need to forfeit.

Use of "Regular Pennant bowlers"

It is a fallacy that all "Pennant" bowlers are better than Night Owlers. Many Night Owlers have recently started playing Pennant bowls and HVBC encourages their continued participation in Night Owls.

1. Not more than 2 Regular Pennant Bowlers can play in any side.

2. Regular Pennant Bowlers shall not play in the "skip" position unless agreement has been reached with the opposition.

3. If the Regular Pennant Bowlers do play "skip" during the season then their team shall not be eligible for selection to the State finals.

Teams are asked to self-regulate these conditions.

Inclement Weather/Extreme Heat

Announcements around inclement weather will be made as early as possible and contact will be made by phone with each team's "contact person".

If there is sufficient time, then notification of cancellation shall be published on the Club website. (https://www.hvhornets.com.au/).

It is the responsibility of each individual to check with their team contact person to confirm whether or not a match is proceeding.

Smoking

The Clubhouse and Greens at HVBC are non-smoking areas.

Smoking is allowed in the two designated areas at the northern and southern ends of the bowling club car park. Large yellow bins are located in each smoking vicinity for ease of identification.

Fees

A “Night Owls player registration fee” for each player of $50.00 is payable prior to the Club prior to the season (or a player’s first game if he/she starts the season later).

A weekly match fee of $5.00 per player is payable prior to the commencement of each game.