From: **Colin Williams** <colin@bowlsnewzealand.co.nz>
Date: Thu, 8 Oct 2026, 8:06 am
Subject: 2027 Champion of Champions Changes
To: Colin Williams <colin@bowlsnewzealand.co.nz>

Hi all,

For 2027, Bowls New Zealand will introduce a revised National Champion of Champions programme, with the full series played across **18 playing days from Monday 21 June to Sunday 11 July 2027**.

Each discipline will be completed over two consecutive days, with the Men's events grouped together, followed by Mixed Pairs and then the Women's events. Break days are scheduled for **29 June and 4th and 5th July**.

The change is intended to create a more cohesive national championship while reducing some of the practical demands the current nine-weekend format places on players, Centres, host clubs and officials / volunteers.

- reduced travel and accommodation costs, particularly for players competing in multiple disciplines.
- less overall time away from work and family for those competing across multiple events.
- greater certainty for travel planning, with each discipline allocated a defined two-day window.
- a stronger national championship feel.
- better broadcast and streaming opportunities, including finals at more audience-friendly times.
- more efficient use of venues, volunteers and officials.
- greater opportunities for, media coverage and promotion through a concentrated championship period.

Playing schedule and venue

The Championships will be based at **Pukekohe Cosmopolitan Club, Pukekohe, Auckland.**

Daily session times will be **8:30am, 11:00am, 1:30pm, 4:00pm and 6:30pm**. Games will have a **2-hour 15 minute time limit.**

In all disciplines, if a jack is killed during play, it will be re-spotted on the centre line at the 2-metre mark and the end will continue, rather than being replayed.

Each player/team will play four qualifying games, with three wins required to qualify for post-section play. The Q1–Q6 labels in the attached indicative schedule refer to qualifying rounds, rather than the number of games each entrant will play.

The final playing schedule may vary depending on confirmed entries and qualifiers. Finals are expected to be scheduled in either the 4:00pm or 6:30pm session.

The dates for each discipline are summarised below. Please see the attached indicative schedule for session times and rounds.

Discipline	**Dates**
Men's Singles	21–22 June 2027
Men's Pairs	23–24 June 2027
Men's Triples	25–26 June 2027
Men's Fours	27–28 June 2027
Mixed Pairs	30 June–1 July 2027

Women's Fours	2–3 July 2027
Women's Triples	6–7 July 2027
Women's Pairs	8–9 July 2027
Women's Singles	10–11 July 2027

Break days: 29 June and 4–5 July 2027.

Draws and Centre qualifying events

We recognise that some Centres will not complete their qualifying events until June. Draws and playing schedules will therefore be finalised progressively by discipline as attendance is confirmed.

Where a Centre has confirmed that it will take its place, but its representative is not yet known, a Centre placeholder entry may be used in the draw. This will allow us to publish playing schedules without waiting for every Centre representative to be determined.

The intention is to give participants as much certainty as possible and assist with travel and accommodation planning.

Original teams and substitution history

Teams entering the National Champion of Champions will be required to provide their **original team** alongside the team being entered (if they are different), being the team that played End 1 of Game 1 at the beginning of their Club Champion of Champions pathway, together with any relevant substitution history through the Club and Centre levels.

The history must identify each substitute, the player replaced, the original team member to whom the substitution relates, and the stage of the pathway at which the change occurred. This includes substitutions that no longer appear in the National entry.

Any player entered as a substitute must be clearly identified as such, along with the original player they replace. Where no substitutions have occurred, teams must confirm that their National entry matches their original team.

We encourage Centres to collect and retain this information when accepting entries for their Centre Champion of Champions events. Having the complete history available will help ensure substitution regulations are applied consistently and allow subsequent requests to be considered promptly.

Hosting and review

We recognise that moving to this format means the Champion of Champions series will no longer be shared across multiple regions within the same year. Some Centres will therefore miss a hosting opportunity in a particular year, while some players may have further to travel.

Our intention is for the host region to rotate between years, sharing hosting opportunities and travel requirements across New Zealand over time.

Following the 2027 Championships, we will survey players, Centres and other key stakeholders. That feedback, alongside our review of the event, will help inform the programme for future years.

Please review the attached indicative playing schedule and let me know of any significant clashes or considerations within your existing 2027 Centre programme.

Please also share this email and the attached schedule with your Clubs, so they can include the dates in their planning and make prospective entrants aware of the programme and substitution information requirements.

Kind Regards,

BOWLS
NEW ZEALAND
AOTEAROA

Colin Williams