PERSONAL ELECTONIC DEVICES POLICY

RESPONSIBILITY:	**Governance, Risk, Integrity and Policy Committee; National Officiating Advisory Group**
AUTHORITY:	**Bowls Australia Board**
APPROVED:	**February 2025**
NEXT REVIEW DATE:	**February 2026**

Policy set in accordance with the Bowls Australia Constitution

1 PRINCIPLE

1.1. Bowls Australia (BA) believes in a fair and equitable competition and will do everything in its power to ensure that all players participate within the Laws of the Sport of Bowls.

1.2. Bowls Australia provides this Policy for use during all Bowls Australia events. This Policy can be adopted at any level to assist the Controlling Body in their decision making.

1.3 The Bowls Australia philosophy is to allow access to our sport to as many participants as possible and ensure an inclusive atmosphere for players of all abilities.

2 PERSONAL ELECTONIC DEVICES

2.1 The use of electronic devices and/or other similar sound/communication devices on the green and immediate surrounds during play is not permitted unless the player has a hearing impairment or the device is being used for scoring purposes.

2.2 Should a player have a legitimate reason (personal emergency or medical or emergency services personnel) to answer a mobile phone they must have permission from the Controlling Body and notify the 'Umpire of the Day' - prior to the start of the game.

2.2.1 In this instance, the phone can be carried on the player but must be on silent / vibrating (only) and responded to off the green, away from play.

2.3 If a Player is observed to be using an electronic device or any other sound device as described above (without permission) on the green or if they are delaying play unnecessarily while using their device off the green, the Umpire will warn the player and advise the skip, the coach/manager and/or the Controlling Body.

2.4 All devices must be used in line with the regulations set out in the Conditions of Play as set out by the Controlling Body.

2.5 Note, coaches/managers and others can use electronic devices on the banks and green surrounds to record relevant data of the players under their management, provided that they have permission to do so from the opposition player/team and the Controlling Body of the event.

2.6 If a player is found to be using any type of electronic device or any other sound device as described above (without permission) then on a second occasion the Umpire will immediately suspend the player for the remainder of the day. Should this penalty be applied, no replacement or substitute player will be allowed for their team.

2.7 In a team game the defaulting team will forfeit the game to their opponent.

2.8 In a Side game BA Domestic Regulation 2.6 will apply.

2.9 A replacement player is not permitted for a singles player, who is not part of a Side competition, under. BA Domestic Regulation 2.4.8.

2.10 Players with a hearing impairment may use communication devices provided they provide a current medical certificate from a doctor stating that the device is required. These devices may only be used when the player's team is in possession of the rink and must not disturb any other players.

2.11 Hearing aids are always permitted unless otherwise stated in the Conditions of Play.

2.12 Devices required for inputting scores to an electronic scoreboard are permitted.

2.13 Watches with communication capabilities may be worn however must not be used for communication on the green; and must be switched to silent mode.

END