



Bowls Canada Boulingrin

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January 30, 2017

Dear Canadian Bowls Enthusiasts,

Please find following the **Competition Review & Restructuring Analysis Report**. This document was compiled by representatives of the Competition Review working group. It presents a summary of the analysis of information compiled from the extensive two-year consultation process regarding the competition structure of bowls in Canada. Although many options were considered and reviewed through this comprehensive process, the report summarizes only those options that were considered to be the best fit for bowls with respect to developmental appropriateness and sport sustainability at all levels.

The recommendations outlined in this document recognize that it is next to impossible to design a competition structure that will meet with the approval of every Canadian bowler. As such, the recommendations contained in this report have been carefully considered to best represent a balanced approach to:

- providing a clear pathway for bowler development,
- address existing concerns with the current competition structure,
- meet the priority competition principles as validated over the course of the review process, and
- create a model that will help clubs, PSOs and BCB develop a bowler development pathway that will help grow the sport.

This report has been circulated through Provincial Bowls Associations.

Bowls Canada will be working with each Provincial Bowls Association to implement an appropriate consultation process regarding the various options contained within this report. Recognizing that many Canadian bowlers may not be familiar with long-term athlete development principles and how they apply to bowls competition, part of this process will include a webinar session to address specific questions and provide further clarification around the report's contents.

Please contact your Provincial Bowls Association representatives for more information on this consultation process.

I look forward to engaging with all of the Provincial Bowls Associations as we take this next step in our competition review and restructuring process.

Sincerely,

Anna Mees
Executive Director



BOWLS CANADA BOULINGRIN



COMPETITION REVIEW & RESTRUCTURING ANALYSIS REPORT

January 30, 2017

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Competition Restructuring Analysis

Preface

This document was compiled by a Competition Review working group. It presents a summary of the analysis of information compiled from the two-year consultation process regarding the competition structure of bowls in Canada. Although many options were considered and reviewed through a comprehensive process, this document summarizes only those options that were considered to be the best fit for bowls with respect to developmental appropriateness and sport sustainability at all levels.

The recommendations outlined in this document recognize that it is next to impossible to design a competition structure that will meet with the approval of every Canadian bowler. As such, the recommendations contained in this report have been carefully considered to best represent a balanced approach to:

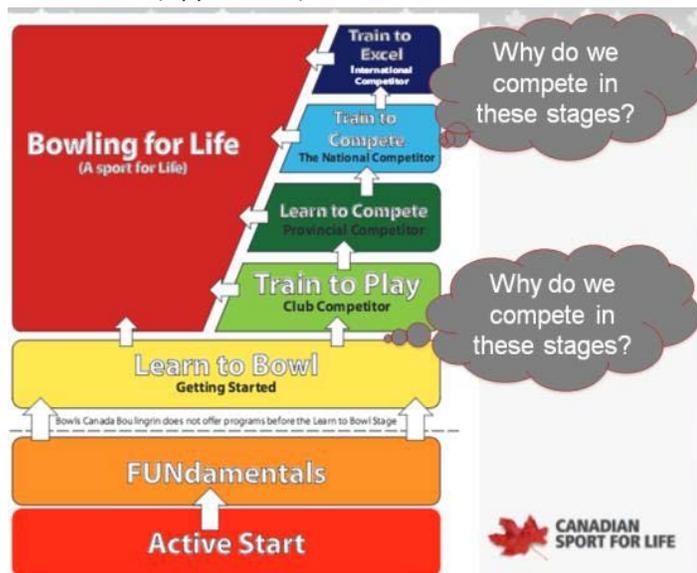
- providing a clear pathway for bowler development,
- address existing concerns with the current competition structure,
- meet the priority competition principles as validated over the course of the review process, and
- create a model that will help clubs, PSOs and BCB develop a bowler development pathway that will help grow the sport.

Purpose

The purpose of this document is to present recommendations for a restructured national competition model for the sport of bowls in Canada that clearly aligns with a pathway for bowler development.

Background

- Along with all Canadian national sport organizations, Bowls Canada Boulingrin (BCB) is required to complete a review and restructuring of our competition model to ensure that it aligns with Long-term Athlete Development (LTAD) principles in general and with the specific Bowls LTAD pathway (Appendix C).



What is meaningful competition?



- A competition review is defined as the process of *analyzing* a sport's competition structure, rules, and calendar to determine whether it supports the athlete development pathway outlined in your LTAD framework.
- Competition restructuring is defined as the process of *selectively changing* competition structure, rules, and calendar to address the issues you found, optimizing the role of competition in serving athlete development.
- An initial review of the bowls competition structure in Canada identified the following:
 - Currently, the overall participation in bowls national and provincial championships is on a downward trend. Fewer bowlers are entering provincial playdowns and consequently there are less participants in national events.
 - There is no clear link between the national competition structure and athlete development or bowler retention.
 - For many national events there is not a clear understanding of whether the purpose of the event should be to celebrate domestic excellence or to provide a step in an international qualification process.
 - Finding hosts for both provincial and national championships is becoming more of a struggle each year as clubs cite deteriorating facilities, volunteer burnout and lack of funding as reasons for not hosting events.
 - It is becoming increasingly difficult to find qualified umpires to officiate at national events.
- A Competition Review and Restructuring Summit was held in Toronto, Ontario in February, 2016 to identify the various competition review and restructuring options, rationales, and next steps.
- A key outcome from this Summit was a national recognition that while it would not be possible to find a single model that met the need of every Canadian bowler, it was possible to identify a set of guiding principles that a competition structure must meet. Principles were established at the Summit and later validated for a priority ranking electronically. (See Table 1 "Principles for a Bowls Competition Model")
- All provincial bowls associations were invited to host a "Mini" Competition Review and Restructuring Summit that was specific to their provincial circumstances either as a face to face workshop or a webinar. Bowls Manitoba took advantage of this opportunity and hosted a "Mini" one-day Summit in early June.
- A "Call for Proposals" was sent out in August 2016 to all of the Provincial Associations and to all participants of the National Summit requesting proposals that would improve the competition structure of bowls in Canada. Formal proposals were received from Bowls Manitoba, Darryl Fitzgerald, Nick Watkins, and Dave Cox. Informal feedback was provided by Bowls New Brunswick and Gary Laurence.
- The Competition Review Committee identified a group of four representatives to come together to produce the recommendations. The Working Group was concerned with covering as many key areas as possible for consideration and wanted to ensure that the participants had knowledge and experience in areas of long-term athlete development, umpiring at events, high performance bowls, club development, facilities, coaches, event organizers, competition experts and administration at various levels. Dave Cox (AB), Darryl Fitzgerald (ON), Anna Mees (BCB), and Jake Schuknecht (BCB) were the resultant members who were nominated to attend the meeting.

- A face-to-face *Recommendations Meeting* was held in Ottawa, Ontario on November 18-20, 2016 where the subset of the Working Group analyzed all information, feedback and proposals gathered to date and, using the “Principles for a Bowls Competition Model”, established recommendations for a national bowls competition model.

Table 1: Principles for a Bowls Competition Model

<p>1. Clear, “seamless” development pathway for bowlers</p>	<p>This principle refers to the need for a competition model that allows participants to compete in appropriate levels and types of competition that encourage development and bowler retention.</p> <p>Seamless: This means that there are incremental steps of competition challenges linked to LTAD stages such that the difference between levels of competition is not so great that athletes can’t make the transition, or so small that there is little to-differentiate between the different levels of competition.</p> <p>Clear: Athletes, coaches, and parents understand how athletes enter and progress through the competition system. For example, it is clear what the most appropriate types of competitions are for new bowlers and equally clear what are the most appropriate types of competitions for highly experienced and competitive bowlers.</p>
<p>2. Quality Events</p>	<p>Each competition has a level of support (e.g. coaches, officials) and infrastructures (facilities, equipment) appropriate at each athlete stage. Event quality is matched to athlete needs and abilities system-wide. In other words, a quality competition has the appropriately trained officials, coaches, volunteers and is played on a facility that allows for the athletes to compete at a level of competition appropriate for their LTAD stage of development.</p>
<p>3. Supports strong club and PSO system</p>	<p>The competition system is structured to benefit development of clubs. Event requirements and calendars are designed with club needs in mind and promote partnering with sanctioning bodies. Provincially bodies strengthen as clubs develop resulting in Provincial events that are well attended and well supported</p>
<p>4. Meaningful Competition</p>	<p>Competition should be used intentionally across the sport system to foster bowler development at all stages. Ideally, each event has a preparation or performance purpose. Meaningful competition matches the appropriate competition environment or level with the appropriate skill development of the bowler. Meaningful competition is purposeful and fun: it provides a logical skill progression for the athlete; an opportunity for learning and growth in a safe atmosphere; and rewards success and proficiency. It also means that participants experience a level of challenge – there is close competition between the participants and “blow outs” or lopsided scores rarely appear.</p>
<p>5. Bowls competition is affordable and accessible</p>	<p>This principle recognizes a system-wide progression of event fees and travel time/cost. A healthy system maximizes early stage participation by keeping the sport affordable and accessible. This principle also recognizes that as competition “level” goes up, so do the costs. This principle also recognizes the feedback from bowlers over the last few years that indicates competitions are becoming cost-</p>

	prohibitive. The competition model must look to find ways to make competition more economical at all levels.
6. Properly periodized for optimal training and performance	This principle refers to where competitions are placed in a calendar. It recognizes that performance will have peaks and valleys and that an ideal calendar will align with a period where the majority of performers will likely be at their very best performance. This also means that provincial playdown cycles align with national competitions to allow for bowlers to continue to improve in performance, “peaking” at the national competition. It also means considering that the calendar needs to allow for training to be organized and planned in advance of a competition. Finally, this principle refers to the need to consider the ‘typical’ rate of progress that can be expected over the course of a season for bowlers at each development stage.
7. Balances training and preparation	This principle refers to the need to ensure the competition calendar provides enough time to train and prepare leading up to competitions. At a high performance level, this includes considering athletes’ ability to juggle physical, mental, and emotional preparation while undertaking a course of routine exercises and proper diet to prepare for an event. At a provincial level, this means that bowlers need adequate time to train and play on the greens before heading to their first “playdown” competition. At a local level, this would mean that bowlers have the opportunity to learn and practise before playing in their first tournament.
8. Recognizes climate and geography challenges	Local, regional, national competition calendars adapted to Canadian environmental conditions. National events should be held later in the year so greens are in their best possible condition. Location must be taken into account as some provinces get heavy rain, droughts, etc. Distribution of key events among all regions is important, however, there is also a recognition that national level events must be played at facilities that are able to accommodate the volume of play and provide the quality of playing surfaces expected of a championship tournament.
9. Competition within Canada continuously improves	Competition at all levels is based on clear principles, evaluated regularly using data-based evidence against clear benchmarks, and revised as needed using innovative practices (regular competition review). In other words, are we building a model that enables us to reflect each year on how we can be better next year in both improving bowler performance overall at all levels and running quality events.
10. Aligned with multi-sport and international events	Close alignment of club, PSO, NSO calendars with each other, and with Canadian/ International Games. Efficiency and resource- sharing maximized. Rules harmonized.

Criteria for Consideration

It was recognized that there is no single model that will meet everyone’s needs and desires; therefore, the Working Group wanted more than one recommendation to be prepared for consideration. The recommendations that follow consider the overall value to Bowls Canada as an organization in terms of aligning Long-term Athlete Development principles with bowler development at all levels. The first priority of each recommendation considers how it contributes to helping Canadian bowlers develop into the best bowler they can be at the level they wish to participate....be it social or competitive. Additionally, each recommendation takes into account the health and welfare of the sport as a whole for current and future growth.

Every recommendation was also analyzed against the *Principles for A Bowls Competition Model* identified in Table 1. Finally, every recommendation was examined against the concerns that had been identified throughout the review process by stakeholders such as Provincial Bowls Associations, competitive bowlers, social bowlers, umpires, coaches, and the Directors and leaders of Bowls Canada. These concerns included:

- Recognition that overall participation is down, especially in fours.
- There is an ongoing struggle to get facilities: quantity & quality of greens, number of greens, number of volunteers, cost, and time are all major factors.
- While expectations for quality are increasing for host venues and events, financial resources are becoming more scarce.
- Provinces need to host a provincial event that leads to a meaningful national event as basic requirement for recognition by provincial government funders.
- The current model has no clear link between national competitions and athlete development
- Social and recreational bowlers feel disconnected from the current model as there is no clear link between national structure and bowler retention
- There is confusion amongst stakeholders around the “purpose” for current events
- BCB spends \$80,000 - \$100,000 each year on National competitions and this is still not enough to adequately fund venues, umpires, event, etc.

Before analyzing the proposals, the subset of the working group identified a list of what was absolutely necessary for a national competition structure based on the discussions at the National Summit. The final outcome is displayed in the Tables 2 and 3 below.

Table 2

“Must Haves”	Rationale
National events must consider the requirements of the alignment for provincial formats.	A national event must have a format that can be affordably implemented at a provincial playdown level. This contributes to the seamless athlete development pathway. It is not sensible to implement something at the national level that creates administrative stress and burdens on the provincial associations and their member bowlers.
National events and their corresponding provincial playdown events must be appropriately balanced with	Recreational bowlers represent over 90% of our membership. It is essential that facilities are available for social play and tournaments for Bowls for Life participants and for training and competition of

the needs of social and recreational bowlers when it comes to facilities and volunteers	the bowlers in the Learn to Bowl, Train to Play and Learn to Compete stages of LTAD.
National events need to move geographically around for hosting	This ensures that the costs of hosting an event are shared across the country. It also prevents volunteer and facility overuse. Finally, a sustainable competition structure should result in positive legacies for a facility and these should also be shared across the membership.
Shorten length of events (i.e. 3 games per day)	The cost of the current structure with respect to time was a common theme from all stakeholders. The most efficient way to reduce cost is to shorten the time frame. This also eases the burden on volunteers, facilities and time away from work and personal life for participants.
Format aligns with development to international play for those competitions that are identified as “Train to Compete” competitions	It is essential that we identify the purpose of our national championships. Those championships identified as part of the high performance development pathway need to provide opportunities for athletes to learn and develop. For example, three-bowl pairs is becoming a staple for international competitions, our bowlers need an opportunity to play and practice this format in a meaningful competition environment.
Be “hostable” (e.g., consider number of required quality rinks/greens, number of volunteers, costs, etc.)	A common concern echoed by stakeholders is the struggle to find hosts for provincial and national events. A restructured format must take into consideration the reality of the number of clubs across Canada that only have one or two greens and the number that have three or more. We also need to consider the stress placed on a host facility with respect to required volunteer hours and costs to prepare greens to host a national event.
Have at least one Canadian Championship every year	This doesn’t necessarily mean that every Canadian Championship needs to be held every year, but that there must be at least one. For those events that lead directly to a World Bowls event (i.e., Outdoor Singles leading to World Champion of Champions), these would need to be held every year that Canada wished to send an entry to the international event in order to comply with World Bowls eligibility standards.
Have a Canadian Championship made up of Provincial Champions	Provincial funding for many provinces is dependent on having a competition model and athlete development pathway that directly develops provincial bowlers to a national competition program. As such, in order to ensure the continued funding of our provincial members, we need to ensure they have a meaningful championship structure for which they are able to qualify bowlers.
Have Youth age-dependent event	This is a population that needs to be nurtured for growth of the sport. This is also an area that can be linked to potential for more access to provincial funding programs specific to the Learn to Compete stage of LTAD.
Have Seniors age-dependent event	This population is the majority of our membership and there continue to be many competitive senior bowlers. This population

	exemplifies why bowls is a sport for life and a championship event celebrates this aspect.
Have an event to determine a Canadian Champion for the World Bowls Champion of Champions	World Bowls eligibility requirements state that the only way an entry is eligible to enter the World Champion of Champions event is to be ‘crowned’ champion of their country through a sanctioned competition format. The potential of being the entry to this international event inspires many Canadian bowlers to participate in a competition model.
Have an Indoor Championship to determine a representative for the World Cup	While it would be possible to simply select an entry for the World Indoor Singles Cup as done by many nations, hosting an indoor championship is valuable for many reasons. Firstly, with the majority of the international competitions being held in the southern hemisphere for the foreseeable future, it is becoming essential for northern hemisphere countries to provide a meaningful indoor competition format. Hosting an indoor event is a meaningful part of our athlete development pathway.
Competitions must serve a talent identification purpose.	Specific competitions need to be clearly identified as talent identification opportunities. Scouts and/or selectors need to be present at these events with the sole purpose of watching athletes. Clearly identifying these events allows athletes to make purposeful choices about where they will choose to invest their time and finances. This also allows for a clear link in the athlete development pathway from <i>Learn to Compete</i> to <i>Train to Compete</i>

Table 3

“Want to Haves”	Rationale
High quantity greens of superior quality	While this is highly desirable, this requires substantial financial investment into local greens. This may not be immediately possible.
Have men and women at the same venue	In order to make events more “hostable”, it was recognized that hosting separate men’s and women’s events may be necessary. This would be in line with other team sports such as Curling, Hockey, Soccer, Basketball, etc.
Maximize opportunities for bowlers	It is desirable that national championships provide unique opportunities for many bowlers rather than many opportunities for a small select group of bowlers. In others words, participation will increase by providing additional opportunities instead of having the same group of bowlers attend all events. This must also be balanced with the recognition that many of the provinces currently have only a small group of competitive bowlers available to fill competition spots for all events.
Subsidies for individual bowlers	Currently BCB provides a travel subsidy to the provincial associations to contribute to the financial support of bowlers attending the national competitions. It is desirable to continue to find a way to support athletes as long as Bowls remains ineligible for “athlete carding” programs (which provide support directly to identified athletes).

Bowling for Life Festival	Hosting a festival that celebrates bowls and provides an opportunity for social and recreational participation is desirable from both a recruiting aspect and a marketing aspect. This would require a significant investment from a 'champion' facility. This is not doable within the next couple of years, but is highlighted here as a desirable goal for the future.
"Open" event where other countries can come to compete (like US Open, Australia Open, etc.)	Hosting a competitive event that attracts top bowlers from across Canada and internationally is desirable in that it provides a quality competition for Canadians to compete in and could be beneficial from a marketing aspect. This would require a significant investment from a 'champion' facility as well as dedicated administrative support. This is not doable within the next couple of years, but is highlighted here as a desirable goal for the future.

In addition to consider all of the above information, the working group also considered the formats of competitions of other bowls countries, the formats of other Canadian sports, the various proposals submitted by BCB stakeholders, the input of the provincial associations, and the ideas generated at the National Summit. The following competition model was proposed to address the different stages of long-term bowler development. The remainder of this paper details the specific details of the different proposals for each event.

National Events for Consideration

National Competition Event	LTAD Stage	Purpose
Canadian multi-event championships and corresponding provincial playdown events	Mostly <i>Train to Compete</i> but overlapping with entry to <i>Train to Excel</i>	After lengthy discussion, it was agreed that a Canadian multi-event Championships should be a proving ground for athletes aspiring to compete internationally for Canada, and as such, scouts and/or selectors should be observing this event and using it for talent identification purposes. This event should serve those athletes who aim to be high performers and would fall in the train-to-compete/train-to-excel stages of BCB's LTAD plan. As such, recommendations for these events considered formats that would best help bowlers develop along a high performance pathway.
Canadian singles events – outdoor and indoor	Mostly <i>Train to Compete</i> but overlapping with entry to <i>Train to Excel</i>	While these events identify an entrant to the respective international events (Champion

		of Champions and World Cup), they are also an important proving ground for athletes aspiring to compete internationally for Canada as a member of the national squad. As such, recommendations for these events place more emphasis on bowler development than on the respective international conditions of play.
Canadian Junior/U25 Championships	Younger ages should be <i>Learn to Compete</i> with the older category already firmly established as <i>Train to Compete</i>	The purpose of having events for youth is to help develop their skills. In order to do this, games must be meaningful for all participants. They are an important step in the bowler development pathway. This is also a way to identify a youth national team which provides significant funding opportunities for provincial associations with their respective funding partners.
Mixed Pairs Championship	<i>Bowls for Life</i>	The purpose of this event is to celebrate bowlers who are at the Bowling for Life stage of development and to provide a forum for what is the most popular format of all provincial events.
Seniors Championships	<i>Bowls for Life</i>	The purpose is to recognize the “age-experienced” demographic of our sport and offer them a meaningful championship. This demographic represents a large majority of our membership.

Canadian Multi-Event Championship and Outdoor Singles

The two proposals outlined below are for multi-event Canadian Championships. They were born out of the repeating themes that appeared throughout the various proposals for this type of event:

1. Option #1: Build on the current format of the “Majors” with revisions to better align with the competition principles and to address the identified concerns.
2. Option #2: A Championship featuring provincial teams of five men and five women who would make up respective singles, fours, pairs and triples teams.

As both of the multi-event options have a Singles component, the Outdoor Singles Championship will be addressed within this same section. An outdoor Singles Championship-needs to be run every year in order to determine a representative for the World Bowls Champion of Champions. As per World Bowls rules, the representative must be a Canadian champion and cannot be selected. Many bowlers have voiced concerns about the current open format of the Outdoor Singles, stating that it is currently just a regional tournament and should be put back into the Majors. Many other bowlers have expressed the opinion that the open format encourages competition and provides a greater opportunity for bowlers across the country to attend and thus results in a stronger “Champion” being named. As such, two options have been considered:

1. Option #1: A capped entry outdoor Singles Championship that immediately follows a multi-event Canadian Championship of Fours and Pairs
2. Option #2: The Singles championship title is determined as one event within a multi-event Canadian Championship where teams of five men and five women compete in fours, singles, triples and pairs.

Multi-Event Championships Option #1: Revised "Majors" featuring Fours/Pairs Followed by a Singles Championship

Number of Entrants

The current setup for the Majors has 180 athletes – 18 athletes across 10 provincial entries. Many of the athletes currently participating at the Majors do not fall in the train-to-compete or train-to-excel stages. Not only is 180 athletes expensive to field from the perspective of the provinces and the hosts, but it also places a strain on the provinces to find enough athletes training and competing at the Learn to Compete level who are interested and can afford to play at this level.

There was discussion as to whether or not the number of teams could be increased. However, this idea was ultimately discarded as it was determined that this would not be feasible unless sections were played. Sections do not seem to be ideal at the national level as athlete evaluations indicate that the participants feel strongly that they should be able to compete against every entry in a full round robin. Additionally, sectional play often results in feedback that the sections were unfair as there is no consistent method available to fairly rank bowlers in the Canadian system.

Another popular recommendation was to have the defending champions for men and women in each discipline receive an automatic entry to the event. This was discussed at length and determined this was not feasible for numerous reasons. To include a defending champion should mean that their entry is covered by BCB (flights, hotels, entry fee). This is not financially feasible at the present time, as that would cost somewhere between \$15,000 - \$18,000.

Feedback from the provincial associations indicated that having a unique provincial entry qualified to this national championship was critical to being recognized as a provincial sport eligible for funding.

Format

It is intended that this event would continue as BCB's pinnacle national competition event. This event is targeted to athletes in the *Train to Compete / Train to Excel* stages of our LTAD plan. As such, in order to effectively serve athletes aiming to compete at the highest level, the format of play should match (or closely resemble) what is played at the highest level internationally.

After much discussion, it was recommended that of the three disciplines currently in place at the Majors (pairs, triples and fours), triples and fours are much more similar than pairs and triples, or pairs and fours. One of the proposals suggested removing one of the similar events (triples or fours) to reduce the number of athletes required to field a team. The suggestion was to play either pairs and fours, pairs and triples, or alternate yearly between the two formats.

Fours is still seen as one of the marquee traditional disciplines, and to not play fours at all (just triples and pairs) was eliminated as an option. This left either strictly pairs and fours, or rotate yearly between pairs and fours, and pairs and triples. The concept of rotating was eliminated as it would lead to awkward team discussions (if you play fours one year, the next year someone would need to be cut from the team). This left pairs and fours as the only option left.

It was recommended that the pairs format be adjusted to 3-bowl pairs. This is what is played internationally and would better prepare our athletes to compete at the highest stage. It was also recommended that the re-spot rule be implemented so that a shorter time limit could be implemented and three games could be played each day. This is also consistent with international play.

Internationally, the time limit for 18 end games is three hours (180 minutes). It was recommended that for fours, we shorten the number of ends as it takes longer to complete a fours game than it does any other discipline. If it takes 180 minutes for 18 ends, that equates to about 10 minutes per end. It was agreed that a 2.5-hour time limit (150 minutes) would be acceptable, so therefore fours should be 15 ends in keeping with the logic above. For pairs, 18 ends should still be used as the re-spot rule will ensure that games could be completed in the recommended 2.5-hour time limit.

A possible schedule of games was created to see what this would look like. Games cannot start before 9:00 am due to noise bylaws in many locations (cutting the greens/rolling the greens each morning), so the following schedule is proposed.

Game 1: 9:00 – 11:30 am

Game 2: 12:45 – 3:15 pm

Game 3: 4:00 – 6:30 pm

This schedule would allow for either a 2-green or a 3-green venue to host this event. For a 2-green venue, 15 rinks would be required, it would take 4 days to complete the round robin, and there would be byes. For a 3-green venue, 20 rinks would be required, it would take three days to complete the round robin, and there would be no byes. This substantially reduces the amount of time to host the event, as it currently takes five days to complete the round robin. This also makes the event more “hostable” by allowing 2-green or 3-green facilities to host.

Alternate teams or “B” teams

The current roll-down process to determine “B” teams was discussed at great length. The term “B” team does not resonate with high quality competition. It was agreed that instead of “B” teams, any substitutes should be referred to as “Wild Cards”. This terminology, used in professional sports, implies an equal level of quality versus a “B team” which implies a team that is “less than” the “A team”.

Currently the host province is offered the first chance to fill an available entry spot. This makes sense in that it rewards the province hosting as well as provides an opportunity for a local team to compete. This is economical and also increases local appeal to watch and support the event.

Currently, Ontario has half of the population of bowlers in Canada, yet is only allowed to represent 20% of the field. It would be sensible to offer additional spots to a province that wields such a large percentage of the overall membership demographic.

The current roll-down process is ineffective and time consuming. It results in provinces often finding out last minute that an entry is available which results in more expensive air fares and difficulty finding accommodation. The process also lends itself to human error. It was discussed that if provinces could identify to their members earlier that the possibility of a ‘wild card’ entry might exist, this would allow teams to better prepare and commit in advance. To that end, it is suggested that provinces wishing to send a wild card team would submit their entry to BCB (with participant names) **30 days prior** to the start of the event. After the host province is given the chance to send a Wild Card team, a random draw would be done. This would substantially speed up the process as currently the communication between BCB and provinces takes several days to determine if a second entrant can be found. The random draw could be publicized through social media (i.e. Facebook Live) where everyone across the country could watch the “lottery” for who gets to send a wild card entrant to the Majors. By having participant names

submitted beforehand, it would also allow BCB to publicize specifically who will be attending the event much earlier.

Timing of Event in Competition Calendar

As the pinnacle competition of the BCB competition calendar, athletes need ample time to prepare and train. Provinces also need ample time to administer provincial playdowns. The current format of playing in mid to late August shortens an already short time frame. Looking at weather patterns across the country and evaluating the success of running other national championship events in mid-September, it is recommended to move the Majors to September to provide a larger preparation window and maximize the season.

It is also recommended that an Outdoor Singles Championship take place immediately following the Majors. This addresses the desire to have the Singles as part of the pinnacle event of the year. Further details on the format of this event are found in the following section.

Outdoor Singles Championships Option #1: A capped entry outdoor Singles Championship that immediately follows a Canadian Championship of Fours and Pairs

Number of Entrants

It is recognized that a Singles event with more than ten strong entries results in a more meaningful competition. However, the current open format is difficult to host as there is no cap, often resulting in almost half the field coming from local bowlers who are not in the Learn to Compete stage of development. It has also created a disconnect with the existing Provincial Singles Championships.

To that end, it is recommended that instead of an “open” event, the Singles be capped at 24 entrants per gender. This would be made up as follows:

BC: 4 entrants
AB: 3 entrants
SK: 3 entrants
MB: 2 entrants
ON: 4 entrants
QC: 2 entrants
NB: 1 entrant
NS: 2 entrants
PEI: 1 entrant
Host: 2 additional entrants

Alternate Entries

If there are any vacancies, BCB would fill them with players deemed to enhance the quality of the field. This would likely include national squad members (as well as development and youth squads), or players who the High Performance Committee deems appropriate.

Format

In order to align with BCB’s bowler development pathway, this event is intended for train-to-compete/train-to-excel athletes who wish to compete internationally. In order to determine the best player, it is suggested that the Singles format be 21 shots for sectional play, with 25 shots for the playoffs and finals. In order to ensure that games are finished in an appropriate amount of time, the

respot rule will be used. After analyzing feedback from successful international bowlers and reviewing championship formats of successful bowls nations, it is felt that the shots format provides a more comprehensive approach to overall bowler development. The feedback from the successful international bowlers also indicated that adapting to the sets play format found at the Champion of Champions tournament is much easier than adapting to the shots format found at the Under 25 Championships, Commonwealth Games and World Bowls Championships.

With 24 entrants, players can be divided into four sections of six, playing a full round robin over two days. The top two players from each pool will advance to playoffs, where it will be single knockout to determine the winner.

It is recommended that the "US Open" style of play be used, whereby as soon as a green is available, players are sent out to play. This means there is no set starting time after the official start of the day. Genders will rotate (i.e. Men play at 9:00 am, with women competing as soon as a rink is available). This means there is no official break for lunch or between games, and allows for five games to be completed per day (3 men's games/2 women's games; 3 women's games/2 men's games for days 1 & 2 of round robin).

Timing of Event in Competition Calendar

It is recommended that the Singles be played immediately after the fours/pairs at the same venue. This would allow players competing in both events the opportunity to save on costs. Both a 2-green and 3-green facility are able to host the event.

Financial Considerations

It is estimated that implementing option 1 for the Majors would result in a similar cost to BCB relative to the current Majors structure, but would result in a lower cost overall as the cost for hosting the Singles immediately following the Majors would allow for substantial cost savings. Furthermore, it is estimated that by hosting the Majors and the Singles at the same venue will provide host clubs with an opportunity to increase the profitability of hosting.

Multi-Event and Outdoor Singles Championships Option #2: Five-a-side Competition

The second option for the Majors and Outdoor Singles is a reflection of what is played at international competitions, such as the World Bowls Championships. Teams of five (per gender) compete by playing singles and fours for half the event, and pairs and triples for the other half.

Number of entrants

By capping teams to five participants per gender, the total number of players at the event would decrease from the original 180 to 100. This should theoretically increase the quality of competition by reducing the number of events that train-to-compete athletes can participate in while reducing overall travel costs.

Format

In order to align with international standards, 3-bowl pairs and 2-bowl triples would be used. Singles would be 21 shots for the same reasons explained in the previous option. The re-spot rule would be used for all disciplines.

It is not feasible to have a full round robin for all events, so sectional play would need to be used. Two groups of five would allow for a round robin to be completed in two days with one round of playoffs being completed the evening of day two as well.

Following World Bowls' format, the top place team from each pool would get a bye to the semi-finals, with the 2nd and 3rd place finishers of each pool being randomly drawn to compete against each other. The winner of the 2nd/3rd game would advance to the semi-finals while the loser would be out.

Similar to Option #1, the time limit for 18 end games is three hours (180 minutes). It was recommended that for fours, we shorten the number of ends as it takes longer to complete a fours game than it does any other discipline. If it takes 180 minutes for 18 ends, that equates to about 10 minutes per end. A 2.5-hour time limit (150 minutes) is being proposed to allow for three games a day to be played. Therefore, fours should be 15 ends in keeping with the logic above. 18 ends should still be used for pairs and triples with the re-spot rule being used.

A possible schedule of games was created to see what this would look like. Games cannot start before 9:00 am due to noise bylaws in many locations (cutting the greens/rolling the greens each morning prior to play), so the following schedule was proposed.

- Game 1: 9:00 – 11:30 am
- Game 2: 12:45 – 3:15 pm
- Game 3: 4:00 – 6:30 pm

Three games should be played per day, with a potential schedule looking like:

Day 1	3 rounds of singles/fours
Day 2	2 rounds of singles/fours; round of 2 nd /3 rd playoffs
Day 3	Semi-final of singles/fours; 2 rounds of triples/pairs
Day 4	3 rounds of triples/pairs
Day 5	Playoffs of 2 nd /3 rd place; semi-final of triples/pairs
Day 6	Finals of singles/fours; Finals of triples/pairs

Alternate teams

Similar to Option #1, the Wild Card term would replace “B” teams. For provinces that could not field a full team of five, BCB would determine how to fill in the gaps of teams. One potential is that the High Performance Committee could use players from national squads (and development and youth squads) to fill in the gaps.

If there were less than 10 entries needed to provide a complete draw, a random draw would be done (similar to Option #1) where provinces submit bids with team member names to BCB 30 days prior to the event indicating their intent to submit a Wild Card team. Ontario should be allowed to enter this draw as well, allowing them to potentially have three teams as outlined in Option 1.

Singles

The Singles portion of this event would be used to determine Canada’s representative at the World Bowls Champion of Champions event. This would eliminate the need for a separate Singles event.

Timing of Event in Competition Calendar

Similar to option 1, the Majors would be moved to September to maximize the playing season and allow for a larger preparation window.

Financial Considerations

It is estimated that implementing option 2 for the Majors would result in a slightly larger cost to BCB than the current Majors structure. This is partially due to fewer participants at the Majors, as well as the elimination of a separate Singles event. However, it is estimated that host clubs will have the opportunity to increase the profitability of hosting as some of the larger expenses will be reduced due to fewer participants (e.g. transportation).

Principles Comparison

Although all 10 principles outlined in Table 1 were taken into consideration, validation by the participants of the National Summit and the participants of the Manitoba Mini-Summit indicated that five principles were considered most critical. The options above were then weighed against these top five principles and is detailed Table 4

Table 4

Multi-Event and Outdoor Singles Events Weighed Against Top Five Competition Principles		
	Option #1	Option #2
Clear Pathway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meets athlete development principles • PSO to National level is simple • Does not mirror international multi-event formats • Singles event leading to Champ of Champs is clear 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meets athlete development principles • Mirrors World Bowls multi-event format, but is slightly different from Commonwealth Games format
Supports PSO system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supports existing PSO playdown structures • Easier for clubs to host (two or three greens needed instead of four) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May be difficult to run 5-person playdown formats, however provinces can consider alternative formats to determine teams • Easier for clubs to host (two or three greens needed instead of four)
Quality Events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allows for top players to compete, will have national accredited umpires, still BCB’s pinnacle event 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allows for top players to compete, will have national accredited umpires, still BCB’s pinnacle event
Meaningful Competition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No triples = more likely to have Train to Compete athletes participating 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5-person teams more likely to have Train to Compete athletes participating. • Implementing a meaningful 5-player format at the provincial level may be

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Singles as separate event = more opportunities for top provincial players • World Bowls Champion of Champions Singles representative is clearly the Canadian Singles champion 	<p>difficult for some provinces, however alternative formats could be considered</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • World Bowls Champion of Champions Canadian Singles representative is limited to a field of ten 5-person teams, which means strong singles players unable to form a 5-person team from their province would not be in the field
Affordable/Accessible	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Saves 3 or 5 days (depending on # of greens) from current format of Pairs/Triples/Fours national championships plus separate Singles championships • Eliminates separate singles event 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eliminates separate singles event • Saves 6 days at the national level over Option #1 assuming full round robin not played. <p>Provinces would need to find a workable and affordable solution for players to compete and create 5 person teams to compete at Nationals. Potential options could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Players form their own teams of 5 and compete in a multi-event playdown format that mirrors national format • Players form their own teams of 5 and compete in a multi-event playdown format modified to best suit PSO • PSOs run separate pairs and triples playdowns and send winners to play in all 4 events – teams will have to decide who will play singles and fours • Running four separate playdowns – as most provinces currently do – and sending 10 players to play in their respective events (less affordable)

Recommendation: Option 1 is recommended for the Canadian Multi-event and Open Singles Championships

It is recommended to:

- Maintain an entry of 10 provincial teams with Ontario continuing to receive two entries
- Modify the format to include only 3-bowl pairs and 2-bowl fours (no triples)
- Implement a time limit of 2.5 hours for 15-end Fours games and 18-end Pairs games
- Implement a Wild Card process to fill entry spots not filled by provincial entries. The host province would receive the first available spot, the rest would be filled by a random draw of submitted potential entries. Ontario would be allowed to submit a third entry into the random draw for the available Wild Card spot(s)
- Move the Majors to the second week of September (see proposed calendars in Appendix A) to be immediately followed by an Outdoor Singles Championship
- Entries for the Singles Championship be capped at 24 entrants per gender
- Sectional play for the Singles consist of 21 shots with post-sectional play consisting of 25 shots
- “US Open” style of play with no set starting times after the official start of the day be used for the Singles

Canadian Youth Championships

The purpose of having events for youth is to help develop their skills. In order to do this, games must be meaningful for all participants. A recurring theme amongst the participant feedback is the length of time it takes to complete separate Junior, Forster-Lang Pairs, and Under 25 events; it is costly to both participants and hosts. Another concern is the limited entries that the Under 25 event attracts even though it is a qualifier for the World Youth Championships.

Despite the limited entries of the Under 25 event, it is recommended to maintain a separate category for this event. There is too great of a development spread between someone who is barely a teen and a 24-year-old. Long-term athlete development principles indicate that we need to continue to separate these categories.

Age Limits

It is recommended that two separate age categories be created: Under 18 and Under 25. A minimum age limit of 12 years of age be required for all athletes wishing to compete in a youth championship. It is also recommended that there be no overlap between the Under 18 category and the Under 25 category so that the two categories can run concurrently. The recommended wording for Under 18 would state that players must have reached their 12th birthday by the start of the **Canadian** Youth Championships, but not have reached their 18th birthday by the start of the corresponding **World** Youth Championships. for the following year for the Juniors. The wording for the Under 25 category is recommended to be that players must have reached their 18th birthday but not their 25th birthday by the start of the corresponding World Youth Championships.

Format

It is recommended that the Under 18's play to 18 shots with a respot rule and that the Under 25s play to 21 shots with a respot rule. These two age categories would play concurrently.

It is also recommended that a training camp be implemented each year for both the Under 18 and Under 25 athletes. This camp should be run by a member of the High Performance Committee, the Performance Director, or a member of the High Performance Squad. A critical part of this camp would focus on development of team tactics and strategies that young athletes often are not exposed to in their day to day play.

As part of bowler development at this stage, it is important for athletes to be exposed to team competition. As such, it is recommended the Forster-Lang pairs event continue to be played. This gives these young bowlers the opportunity to practice and apply the team tactics and strategies introduced in the camp in a competitive setting. By mimicking the World Youth Championships format, it would be possible to play singles in the mornings and pairs in the afternoons. A potential schedule could look like the following:

Day 1:	Bowl/Shoe inspection, training camp
Days 2 & 3:	Two rounds of singles in the morning for both U18 and U25 athletes; Two rounds of Forster-Lang Pairs in the afternoon
Day 4:	Two rounds of singles in the morning for both U18 and U25 athletes; playoffs and finals for Forster-Lang Pairs in the afternoon
Day 5:	Playoffs and Finals for all singles events

*Note: This schedule may change based on number of entrants

Timing in the Event Calendar

Due to the different provincial school calendars, it is difficult to play this event in mid to late August. As such, it is recommended that it remain at the beginning of August at this time.

Financial Considerations

It is estimated that adjusting the Youth Championships would not result in a significant difference in overall cost to BCB or the host club.

Table 5

Youth Events Weighed Against Top Five Competition Principles		
	Current Format	Recommended Option
Clear Pathway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PSO to National level is simple 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better addresses bowler development needs • Mirrors international level for Under 25 event
Supports PSO system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Easy for provinces to implement • Easier for clubs to host (1 green required) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Easy for provinces to implement • Requires 2 greens instead of 1
Quality Events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allows for anyone under the age of 25 to compete • Mini-Camp included 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enforces more meaningful competition by ensuring players are at least 12 years' old • Mini-Camp included

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Easier for umpires, volunteers, etc. as there are fewer days
Meaningful Competition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No age restriction can result in non-meaningful competitions (i.e. 6-year-old vs 24-year-old) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementing a minimum age requirement ensures more meaningful matches
Affordable/Accessible	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Currently takes 8 days and is the longest event to host 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eliminates 3 days by holding events simultaneously

Recommendations: Adjust the current Canadian Youth Championships from the current format to the recommended option

It is recommended to:

- Create an open Canadian Youth Championship that has multiple age categories which run concurrently, with the Under 25 age category continuing as a qualifier for the World Youth Championships
- Create separate age categories for Under 18 and Under 25 that do not overlap
- Implement a minimum age restriction requiring athletes to be at least 12 years old
- Under 25 age eligibility continue to align with the World Youth age eligibility requirement
- Run a “mini” training camp at the start of the Youth Championship
- Have the event completed in five days with singles and team games played concurrently throughout the event

Senior Triples and Mixed Pairs

Option #1 – Mixed Pairs and Senior Triples (Status Quo with “Tweaks”)

The purpose of these events is quite different from that of the Majors. For the Mixed Pairs and the Senior Triples, the purpose is to provide meaningful competition for bowlers who are at the Bowling for Life stage of development. For the Seniors, there is an additional purpose to recognize the “age-experienced” demographic of our sport and offer them a meaningful championship. As such, the purposes and target demographics for the Mixed Pairs and the Seniors are different from that of the other events.

Number of Entrants

It is recommended that the number of entries remain at 10 provincial entries (with Ontario receiving two entries). It is further recommended that the Wild Card alternate entry system proposed in the Multi-Event Championships section be implemented.

Format

It is recommended that both events would continue with a full-round robin followed by finals.

It is recommended that Senior Triples be adjusted to 2-bowl triples with 16 ends. Three games should be completed each day. It is also recommended that the age limit for the Senior Triples be gradually increased. This is based on the many 60-year-old athletes who currently compete in the Majors and are competing at a high level. The Senior Championships are meant to honour elder bowlers who may no

longer have the endurance to compete at the same intensity as their younger peers. Therefore, it is recommended that every other year, the age limit for the Senior Triples be increased by one year until the minimum requirement is 65 years of age. This would take 10 years to complete and would look as follows:

2018 – minimum age = 60

2020 – minimum age = 61

2022 – minimum age = 62

2024 – minimum age = 63

2026 – minimum age = 64

2028 – minimum age = 65

It is recommended that Mixed Pairs would be altered to 3-bowl pairs with a schedule of three games each day, thus allowing for an overall reduction in the time required for the event.

Timing in the Competition Calendar

In order to better reach the target demographic described above, it is recommended that the Mixed Pairs and Senior Triples be held at the same time (at different locations), and participants who have competed in the Majors in the same calendar year be ineligible to compete in either the Senior Triples or the Mixed Pairs thus opening up more spots for Bowling for Life stage participants. With moving the multi-event championships to September, it is recommended that these events run in mid to late August which allows provinces time to run provincial playdowns.

Financial Considerations

It is estimated that implementing option 1 for the Senior Triples/Mixed Pairs would result in a lower cost overall due to the decreased number of days. (see Other Considerations).

Option #2 – Mixed Open-Senior Triples (no Mixed Pairs)

There were a number of proposals that looked at various combinations of combining the existing Mixed Pairs and Senior Triples to create a new event which would target the older Bowling for Life participant who wished to compete at a national level. After looking at various options such as Mixed Senior Fours, Mixed Fours, Mixed Senior Pairs, and Mixed Open Triples, it was proposed that the Senior Triples and Mixed Pairs be combined into one event: the Mixed Senior Triples. As Seniors represent a majority of our membership, it is appropriate that there be a championship available to them, but at the same time allowing non-Senior players to still participate in a national Bowling for Life event

Number of Entrants

The number of entries would be 10 provincial entries allowing for a full round robin followed by finals of the top ranked teams. Ontario would receive two entries. The Wild Card alternate entry system proposed in the Multi-Event Championships section would be implemented to ensure a full entry of 10 teams.

Format

The format would be one senior athlete per gender, with the third athlete allowed to be either gender and no age restrictions. This format would also encourage family members to compete together. The age restriction for the Senior players would increase as outlined in Option #1 for the Senior Triples. This event could then be hosted at one venue and would only require one green.

The format would consist of two-bowl triples with 16 ends and a time limit of 2.5 hours which would allow for three games to be completed in a day.

Timing in the Competition Calendar

In order to better reach the target demographic described above, it is recommended that the Senior Mixed Triples be limited to those players who have not qualified for the Majors in the same calendar year to allow for more spots for Bowling for Life stage participants. With moving the multi-event championships to September, it is recommended that this event run in mid to late August which allows provinces time to run provincial playdowns.

Financial Considerations

It is estimated that implementing option 2 for the Senior Triples/Mixed Pairs would result in lower costs to BCB due to the elimination of the Mixed Pairs event. However, it is estimated that implanting option 2 would result in lower profitability potential for the host club in comparison to the host club of the current Senior Triples structure. This is partially due to fewer participants as well as a reduced hosting grant.

Option #3 – Mixed Pairs and Mixed Senior Triples

After considering the first two options for the Mixed/Senior events, a third option was discussed that combines options one and two. The Mixed Pairs is considered the most popular championship offered by Bowls Canada Boulingrin, and it was decided that altering it would not be viewed positively. However, not allowing participants of the Majors to compete in the Mixed Pairs or Senior Triples could result in less meaningful provincial playdowns. This third option leaves the Mixed Pairs as a separate tournament, but combines the men and women's Senior Triples into the Mixed Senior Triples. This third option was created in an effort to ensure that provincial playdowns, and consequently the national championships, offer meaningful competition.

Number of Entrants

The number of entries for both events would be 10 provincial entries allowing for a full round robin followed by finals of the top ranked teams. Ontario would receive two entries. The Wild Card alternate entry system proposed in the Multi-Event Championships section would be implemented.

Format

The format for the Mixed Senior Triples would be teams consisting of one male senior athlete, one female senior athlete, and one senior athlete of either sex. The age restriction for the Senior players would increase as outlined in Option #1 for the Senior Triples. This event could then be hosted at one venue and would only require one green.

The format would consist of two-bowl triples with 16 ends and a time limit of 2.5 hours which would allow for three games to be completed in a day.

The format for the Mixed Pairs would be that of Option #1.

Timing in the Competition Calendar

The Senior Mixed Triples and the Mixed Pairs would be limited to those players who have not qualified for the Majors in the same calendar year to allow for more spots for Bowling for Life stage participants. With moving the multi-event championships to September, both events would run in mid to late August at the same time at different venues.

Financial Considerations

It is estimated that implementing option 3 for the Senior Triples/Mixed Pairs would result in a lower cost overall to based on an decreased number of participants. (see Other Considerations).

Table 6

Senior/Mixed Events Weighed Against Top Five Competition Principles			
	Option #1	Option #2	Option #3
Clear Pathway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PSO to National level is simple • Provides two meaningful championships for the Bowling For Life stream 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PSO to National level is simple • Provides only one meaningful championship for the Bowling For Life stream 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PSO to National level is simple • Provides two meaningful championships for the Bowling For Life stream, but reduces the total number of spots available to Senior athletes
Supports PSO system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Easy for provinces to implement • Requires 2 separate venues (2 green & 1 green) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Easy for provinces to implement • Only requires 1 venue (1 green) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Easy for provinces to implement • Requires 2 separate venues (1 green & 1 green)
Quality Events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Separate event for Seniors and non-Seniors • More opportunity for Bowling for Life athletes to participate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Combines Seniors with non-Seniors • Less opportunity for Bowling for Life athletes to participate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Separate event for Seniors and non-Seniors • Opportunity for both Bowling for Life athletes
Meaningful Competition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing Seniors' age limit enforces more comparable skill level among Senior athletes • Making Senior and Mixed Pairs events separate and not allowing athletes to compete in both events encourages more balanced playing field per event • Does not allow for athletes who competed in the Majors to compete, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing Seniors' age limit enforces more comparable skill level among Senior athletes • Allowing non-Senior as third team member could alter skill level of the team (positively or negatively) • Does not allow for athletes who competed in the Majors to compete, making the field more balanced 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing Seniors' age limit enforces more comparable skill level among Senior athletes • Making Senior and Mixed Pairs events separate and not allowing athletes to compete in both events encourages more balanced playing field per event • Does not allow for athletes who competed in the Majors to compete,

	making the field more balanced		making the field more balanced <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Combining men with women for the Senior event could allow for more meaningful playdowns
Affordable / Accessible	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Forces athletes to only compete in one event 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eliminates an entire event 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Forces athletes to only compete in one event

Recommendation: Option 1 is recommended for the Senior/Mixed Events

It is recommended to:

- Move the events to late August with both events held at the same time at different venues
- Increase the minimum age for the Seniors gradually until a minimum age of 65 is met
- Adjust the Senior Triples to 2-bowl triples, 16 ends and complete 3 games per day
- Adjust the Mixed Pairs to 3-bowl pairs, 18 ends and complete 3 games per day
- Implement the Wild Card alternate entry system proposed in the multi-Event Championships section
- Create restriction barring participants of the Majors from competing in either event in the same calendar year

Indoor Championships

Due to the fact that there is currently only one quality indoor facility in all of Canada, the Canadian Indoor Championships will need to remain as it is. Due to the facility only having six rinks, 12 athletes per gender cannot be increased. If more indoor facilities become available in the future, this event will be reassessed.

Other Considerations

Financial Considerations

As with any changes, the financial implications of all of the aforementioned options must be taken into account. In order to make an educated decision about our national championships, the difference in terms of financial costs for each event were reviewed. It is estimated that implementing either of the proposed options would decrease the overall cost to BCB by a relatively similar amount. However, the recommended options are estimated to allow the club to make a greater profit than the other options.

It should be noted that for all of the proposed options, it is recommended to adjust the entry fee for all events to \$100 per participant. This adjustment will better reflect the rising cost of implementing a quality national championship. Furthermore, the recommendations modify the existing travel subsidy that is given to the provinces based on how far their athletes travel.

Greens Legacy

The quality of greens in Canada is largely seen as inadequate for our national championships. There are numerous causes for this: lack of funding, city officials wanting “green” greens, lack of knowledge, etc. In order for our national championships to be the best they can be, they need to be played on the best greens possible. In order to achieve that, a knowledgeable greens expert should be hired on retainer to visit host clubs two or three times a year. This greens expert would make recommendations and help the clubs create a plan to ensure their greens are in top condition. A greens expert would need to have credible expertise and experience.

Timing of National Championship Events

It was brought up by members on the east coast that for the past few years, the Singles Championship has conflicted with the Atlantic Championships. They have asked that BCB move the date of the Singles so that athletes can compete in both events.

When looking at the proposed schedule, it is recommended that the Majors be held in early September. This is when the greens are in their best condition, and allows more time for provinces to hold their playdowns. This also provides competitive bowlers with more time to train and prepare. Finally, it frees up space within the club and provincial calendars for recreational and social play during the summer season. Placing the Majors at this time has a domino impact on other events which is outlined as a potential schedule in Appendix A.

We would need to work with the other events such as Atlantic Bowls to implement a change in timing.

Combined Provincial Teams

New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island should be approached to see if they can consider combining to create one team without it affecting their provincial funding. In the past, PEI has inconsistently sent representatives to the Majors, and never a full team. New Brunswick is also inconsistent when asked to send a full team to the Majors or other team events.

Ceremonies

It is recommended that the opening ceremonies not be run immediately prior to the start of the first match. Official dignitary and other speeches/words of welcome can be said at the opening reception or at registration the day before. This would eliminate the cost of a bag-piper and also eliminate the time players stand around waiting to begin.

It is further recommended that official dignitaries be formally invited to the closing ceremonies where they could speak a few words and congratulate the winners.

Recommended Competition Models at Club and Provincial Levels

The recommended changes to national championships is a major part of the competition structure, but not all of it. The LTAD needs of bowlers who have not yet reached the national stage must still be considered. Development of bowlers is vital to the future success of the sport. In order to align all competitions within Canada with BCB's LTAD plan, the following suggestions and recommendations were put together to help clubs align with best player development practices.

Learn-to-Bowl Stage:

At this stage, potential bowlers are new to the sport and may know very little about bowls. To motivate them to join the club, they must be given the opportunity to play. Often new bowlers are bogged down with too much detail and instruction. This is not enjoyable for the bowler and will not lead to increased bowler retention. It is therefore recommended that competitions targeted at this stage of development take the following thoughts into consideration.

- Increase the time actually spent playing and reduce the time spent talking at new bowlers
- Introduce modified competition formats that encourage players to experience different positions (No player should be told they are only to be a lead for the next 5 years).
- Take physical development into consideration. For example, young juniors should have fun activities, play more team games and should play less than 25 shots in singles
- Focus on modified games that allow for the implementation and practice of specific skills and tactics -- Games such as 4-3-2-1 (cut-throat), or rotating position are ideal
- Games need to be **short** (4-8 ends max) to ensure that new bowlers are practicing good technique before they fatigue.
- Four bowl pairs provides lots of opportunity to practice and play. It also provides opportunities to practice lead and skip positions.
- Teach the basic hand signals (e.g. how to centre the jack and which hand to play) and explain the finer points of the game only when they are relevant

Train-to-Play Stage:

At this stage of development, bowlers have now joined the club and have very minimal experience in playing bowls. In order to continue their development, small amounts of frequent instruction should continue to be given. Ideally, a trained Club Coach will be able to work with these bowlers to develop their knowledge and skillset in a fun and friendly environment. Competition ideas to promote development at this stage include:

- Some form of open triples game where teams are made up of an experienced bowler and a non-experienced bowler (i.e. provincial champion with non-provincial champion)
- Purposeful practice with a qualified coach should be started here (not just competing all the time!)
- 18 shots in Singles
- Basic rules should be taught here, such as:
 - Minimum length for a jack
 - How to measure
 - touchers
 - boundaries

- etiquette in the head
- basic foot faulting
- scoring
- mat placement (2 metres)
- jack placement at the spot (2 metres)
- continue to teach hand signals

Learn-to-Compete Stage:

At this stage of development, bowlers are now getting more competitive and should be competing in regional tournaments and club leagues. There should be more emphasis on coaching and player development. It is advised that players experience every aspect of the game at this stage, and so they should be able to play in any position. No player should be pigeon-holed into a specific position yet, as their development is still largely dependent on being able to learn to play every position. Furthermore, early stage developing bowlers should not be forced to play a position they are unwilling to play in a competition setting.

- Develop in every position
- Avoid specializing in specific position
- Club leagues and tournaments
 - Aussie Pairs and Snowball style (rotate position) are ideal
- 21 shots in singles
- Should learn most of the rules by now

Train-to-Compete Stage:

At this stage of development, athletes should be competing in provincial playdowns leading to national championships. There should be a priority on training and coaching. In order to develop their skillset, less bowls should be used as they should be able to make every bowl count and not need to throw as many to adjust.

- Less bowls should be used
- 25 shots in singles
- # of ends should be similar to national/international standard
- 3-bowl pairs/2-bowl triples should be used
- Players should be competing in provincial playdowns and national championships

Train-to-Excel Competitions

This stage of development is not touched upon in the report as it lies within the jurisdiction of the international federation World Bowls and the BCB High Performance Committee. International competitors should work closely with the High Performance Committee to continue to develop their skills.

Executive Summary of the Recommended Changes to the National Championship Model

To summarize, the various proposals submitted were weighed against the competition principles, the LTAD pathway, and the various “must-haves” for national championships. After review and comparison, the Competition Review Working Group recommends the following structure effective for 2018.

Multi-Event Championships and Outdoor Singles

Change the multi-event Canadian Championships to fours/pairs followed by singles

- For fours/pairs, play 3 games/day, allowing either 2 or 3-green venues to host
- Change the format to 15 ends for fours, 18 ends for pairs, 3-bowl pairs, 2.5-hour time limit, respot rule in effect
 - i. After the conclusion of the fours/pairs, have the Outdoor Singles event at the same venue
 - ii. Cap entrants at 24 per gender, with 4 pools of 6, top 2 of each pool advancing
 - iii. Play to 21 shots in round robin play, and 25 shots for post-sectional play, with respot rule in effect
 - iv. Play 5 games per day (3 of one gender, 2 of the other) with “US Open” style scheduling to allow games to begin as soon as a green is available

Senior Triples and Mixed Pairs Championships

Change the Senior Triples/Mixed Pairs to Option #1: Have the Senior Triples and Mixed Pairs played at the same time (different venues) with participants of the Majors ineligible to compete in either event

- Change Senior Triples to 2-bowl triples, 3 games per day, 2.5-hour time limit, 16 ends
- Change the Mixed Pairs to 3-bowl pairs, 3 games per day, 2.5-hour time limit, 18 ends

Canadian Youth Championships

Change the Under 18/Under 25 Championships to a Canadian Youth Championships with separate U18 and U25 age categories that run concurrently

- Play singles in the morning and Forster/Lang Pairs in the afternoon
- Include a camp at the start of the event each year

Indoor Singles Championships

- Maintain status quo for Indoor Singles Championships

National Calendar

- Modify the calendar of competition to allow for more optimal green condition while simultaneously extending the amount of time provinces have to complete their playdowns

Appendix A – Proposed Calendar for National Championships

2-green Facilities

August 2018

August 2018						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6 Junior/Under 25 – Registration/Camp	7 Junior/Under 25	8 Junior/Under 25	9 Junior/Under 25	10 Junior/Under 25	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18 Atlantic Championships
19 Atlantic Championships	20	21	22	23	24 Mixed Pairs/Senior Triples	25 Mixed Pairs/Senior Triples
26 Mixed Pairs/Senior Triples	27 Mixed Pairs/Senior Triples	28 Mixed Pairs/Senior Triples	29	30	31	Notes:

2-green Facility hosting the Majors and Outdoor Singles

September 2018

September 2018						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3 Labour Day	4	5	6	7 Majors - Registration	8 Majors
9 Majors Majors - Registration	10 Majors Majors	11 Majors Majors	12 Majors - Finals Singles - Registration Majors	13 Singles Majors	14 Singles Majors	15 Singles Majors - Finals
16 Singles - Finals	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	Notes: If the Atlantic Championships are not able to move, the Majors will run the last week of August (for 2018, Aug 24 – Sept 2) and the Seniors/Mixed Pairs will be moved to the Friday following the Youth Championships (for 2018, Aug 17-21)					

- Option 1

- Option 2

3-green Facility hosting the Majors and Outdoor Singles

September 2018

September 2018						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3 Labour Day	4	5	6	7	8
9 Majors - Registration Majors - Registration	10 Majors Majors	11 Majors Majors	12 Majors Majors	13 Majors - Finals Singles - Registration Majors	14 Singles Majors	15 Singles Majors - Finals
16 Singles - Finals	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	Notes: If the Atlantic Championships are not able to move, the Majors will run the last week of August (for 2018, Aug 26 – Sept 2) and the Seniors/Mixed Pairs will be moved to the Friday following the Youth Championships (for 2018, Aug 17-21)					

- Option 1

- Option 2

Appendix B – Proposed Rotational Schedule

Year	Majors (2 or 3 greens)	Mixed Pairs (1 green)	Senior Triples (2 greens)	Junior/Under 25s (2 greens)
2018	ON	SK	AB	MB
2019	Prairies (SK)	ON	QC	ON
2020	BC (mainland?)	PEI	ON	AB
2021	Atlantic (NS or QC)	AB	MB	NS
2022	ON	NB	BC	SK
2023	Prairies (AB or MB)	BC	NS	QC
2024	BC (Island?)	QC	SK	ON
2025	Atlantic (NS or QC)	MB	ON	BC
2026	ON	NS	AB	SK

Appendix C – Bowler Development Pathway

