



To all Member Authorities due to participate in the 2021 World Bowls Championships, Gold Coast, Australia

Colleagues

I refer to our communication dated 5 February 2021 advising that the 2021 World Bowls Championships (originally the 2020 World Bowls Championships) would not now go ahead in 2021. This communication requested your response by a deadline date of 5 March to a proposal to further postpone the event to October 2022. Our request sought your confirmation that you would still be prepared to participate in October 2022 in the disciplines in which you had qualified, together with any comments you considered appropriate. Our communication of 5 February also made it absolutely clear that the event could only be postponed to October 2022 if the responses from participating nations exhibited a viable level of reconfirmed entries.

World Bowls, in consultation with Bowls Australia's Host Organising Committee, has considered the responses received and has decided that it is not feasible to stage a credible World Championships in 2022. As our email of 5 February indicated, the proposal to postpone the event to October 2022 was the final proposal to reschedule.

As such, it has been decided that the event is now officially cancelled.

However, as Member Authorities will be aware from the minutes of the meetings of the Board of World Bowls distributed to all Member Authorities, World Bowls established an Events Review Working Group consisting of vastly experienced World Bowls officials and over recent months the Working Group has been conducting a thorough review of World Bowls events through an intense consultation process with key Member Authorities. The review has included thorough consideration of all aspects of the current World Bowls Championships and their current qualifying events.

As a result, World Bowls has resolved that a rebranded and refreshed World Bowls Championships will now be held every two years in the odd numbered years commencing in 2023 with ALL Member Nations being eligible to enter, thus dispensing with any future requirement to stage qualifying events for the World Bowls Championships. As such, the Atlantic and Asia Pacific Championships will no longer be played and are terminated with immediate effect. It is proposed that the 2023 and 2025 World Bowls Championships will be staged on Gold Coast, Australia and in Hong Kong, China respectively, pending confirmation of funding approval from the various national/state tourism bodies to support the staging of these events.

Further announcements to all Member Nations will follow over the next few weeks and months regarding these exciting developments.

9 March 2021