

Open Provincial Update

Back in May, during our Formats Review meeting, a few zones brought forward the idea of introducing a **Team Stepladder** to our Open Provincials.

As promised, we sent out a questionnaire in August to all bowlers, coaches, and managers who represented their zones at the Provincials over the last 3 years.

- ✓ We received **140 responses** — an amazing **80%+ reply rate**.
- ✓ The results showed **over 50% were in favor** of a Team Stepladder.
- ✓ With this feedback, and following a vote at the AGM (with only one zone voting against), the motion was carried.

Starting in the 2026 Open Provincials, the Team Event will feature a Stepladder format:

- 4 Round Robins (16 games per team)
- 3 Team Stepladder after completion of Round Robin
- Top seed must be beaten twice (double knockout)

We know this is a big change after more than 50 years of the event running the same way. It's natural for there to be strong feelings on both sides. All we ask is that comments remain **respectful**.

At the end of the day, we are a bowlers' association — we listened to the bowlers, and this change reflects your voices. We're excited to see this new format debut at the **2026 Open Provincials!**

