

Duties of players and officials



Players' Duties

Season 2025

Duties of players and officials

40 Players' duties

40.1 *The skip*

40.1.1 The skip will have sole charge of the team and all players in the team must follow the skip's instructions.

40.1.2 The skip must decide all disputed points with the opposing skip, making sure that any decision reached is in line with the Laws of the Sport of Bowls.

40.1.3 If the skips need to check any part of the Laws of the Sport of Bowls before reaching a decision, they must ask the umpire for an explanation.

40.1.4 If the umpire considers that a decision reached by the skips is not in line with the Laws of the Sport of Bowls, the umpire must overrule that decision so that it is in line with the laws.

40.1.5 If the skips cannot reach agreement on any disputed point, they must ask the umpire to make a decision. The umpire's decision is final.

40.1.6 If the Controlling Body has not appointed an umpire, the skips must choose a competent neutral person to act as the umpire.

40.1.7 The skip must:

40.1.7.1 be responsible for the score card supplied by the Controlling Body while play is in progress;

40.1.7.2 make sure that the names of all players of both teams are correctly entered on the score card;

40.1.7.3 record, on the score card, all shots scored for and against both teams as each end is completed;

40.1.7.4 compare and agree the score card with that of the opposing skip as each end is completed; and

40.1.7.5 at the end of the game, record on the score card the time that the game finished and then sign their own and the opposing skip's score cards.

40.1.8 For domestic play, Member National Authorities can decide the procedures for using a scoreboard instead of one of the score cards.

40.1.9 For domestic play, Member National Authorities can transfer the skip's duties described in law 40.1.7 to other members of the team. However, they must make sure that the duties are transferred to players whose positions, in order of play, are the same in each team.

40.1.10 Skips can, at any time, delegate their own powers and any of their own duties (except those described in law 40.1.7) to any other members of the team as long as they tell the opposing skip immediately.

40.2 *The third*

40.2.1 The third can measure any and all disputed shots.

40.2.2 The third can tell the skip the number of shots scored for or against their team as each end is completed.

40.3 *The lead*

The lead of the team to play first in an end must:

40.3.1 place the mat as described in law 6.1.1; and

40.3.2 deliver the jack and make sure that it is centred before delivering the first bowl of the end.

40.4 *Other duties*

Along with the duties mentioned in the previous paragraphs of law 40, players can carry out any other duties assigned to them by their skip as described in law 40.1.10.

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41 Players with disabilities

- 41.1 Wheelchairs must be of a type approved by both WB and the Governing Body for wheelchair bowlers in the country in which the player is playing.
- 41.2 Wheelchair bowlers can use any form of assistance necessary (including having an assistant with them) to allow them to take part in the sport of bowls, as long as the assistance is approved by the Governing Body for wheelchair bowlers in the country in which the player is playing.
- 41.3 Players who are classified partially sighted or blind by their National Governing Body for partially sighted and blind bowlers can use any form of assistance necessary (including having an assistant with them, and having a white, breakable string placed on the surface of the green, along the centre line of the rink) to allow them to take part in the sport of bowls, as long as the assistance is approved by the Governing Body for partially sighted and blind bowlers in the country in which the player is playing.
- 41.4 The person assisting a partially sighted or blind bowler will not be breaking law 13.2 or law 45.3 if the assistant:
 - 41.4.1 repeats the skip's instructions to the player;
 - 41.4.2 helps to direct the player; or
 - 41.4.3 tells the player where the jack or a bowl came to rest.
- 41.5 A player who has a physical disability will be allowed to use a support or an artificial device (or both) when delivering the jack or a bowl, or when walking on the green. The support must have a base covered with rubber or a similar material. This base must measure at least 76 millimetres across, and it can be placed on or next to the mat.
- 41.6 A player who has a physical disability will be allowed to kneel on the green to deliver the jack or their bowls. One or both knees must be positioned either in front of the mat with all or part of at least one foot on the mat, or on the mat with all or part of at least one foot on the green behind the mat.
- 41.7 Players with a hearing disability can use electronic devices to communicate with each other while on the rink of play. Electronic devices must be used in line with the regulations set out in the Conditions of Play by the Controlling Body.
- 41.8 For domestic play, Member National Authorities can approve the use of artificial devices for delivering the jack or a bowl.

Section 3.2 – Officials and their duties and spectators

42 The marker's duties

- 42.1 In the absence of an umpire, the marker must:
 - 42.1.1 make sure that all aspects of play are carried out in line with the Laws of the Sport of Bowls;
 - 42.1.2 make sure, before the game starts, that:
 - 42.1.2.1 all bowls have a clearly visible, valid World Bowls Stamp imprinted on them;
 - 42.1.2.2 the rink of play is the correct width in line with law 49.1 by measuring it; and
 - 42.1.2.3 the pegs, discs or other types of markers on the side banks in the direction of play are the correct distances in line with law 49.12 by measuring them.
- 42.2 The marker must:
 - 42.2.1 check the mat is placed on the centre line of the rink;

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- 42.2.2 centre the jack;
 - 42.2.3 make sure that the jack is at least 23 metres from the mat line after it has been centred;
 - 42.2.4 place a jack that comes to rest less than 2 metres from the front ditch as described in law 9.2;
 - 42.2.5 stand to one side of the rink, behind the jack and away from the head;
 - 42.2.6 answer any specific question about the state of the head which is asked by the player in possession of the rink;
 - 42.2.7 when asked, tell or show the player in possession of the rink the position of the jack;
 - 42.2.8 when asked, tell or show the player in possession of the rink which bowl or bowls the marker considers to be shot;
 - 42.2.9 when authorised by the Controlling Body, signal to players and spectators (using the appropriate number and colour of shot indicators or some other suitable method) which player's bowl or bowls the marker considers to be shot;
 - 42.2.10 mark all touchers with chalk and remove the chalk marks from nontouchers as soon as they come to rest;
 - 42.2.11 stop any bowl that is from a neighbouring rink and could move a jack or bowl that is at rest;
 - 42.2.12 if both players agree, remove all dead bowls from the rink of play;
 - 42.2.13 mark the position of a jack and any touchers which are in the ditch as described in laws 14.4 and 18.2;
 - 42.2.14 not move, or cause to be moved, either the jack or any bowls until the players have agreed the number of shots scored; and
 - 42.2.15 measure any disputed shot or shots when asked to do so by either player. If the players are not satisfied with the marker's decision, the marker must ask the umpire to do the measuring. If the Controlling Body has not appointed an umpire, the marker must choose a competent neutral person to act as the umpire. The umpire's decision is final.
- 42.3 When each end has been completed, the marker must:
 - 42.3.1 record the score on the score card;
 - 42.3.2 if scoreboards are not being used, tell the players the running totals of the scores; and
 - 42.3.3 remove from the rink the mat used during the previous end, if necessary.
 - 42.4 When the game has been completed, the marker must make sure that the score card:
 - 42.4.1 contains the names and signatures of the players;
 - 42.4.2 contains the time at which the game was completed; and
 - 42.4.3 is dealt with in line with the Conditions of Play.

43 The umpire's duties

- 43.1 An umpire must be appointed by, or on behalf of, the Controlling Body for the competition.
- 43.2 The umpire's duties are as follows.
 - 43.2.1 To make sure, before the game starts, that:
 - 43.2.1.1 all bowls have a clearly visible, valid World Bowls Stamp imprinted on them;
 - 43.2.1.2 the rink of play is the correct width in line with law 49.1 by measuring it; and

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- 43.2.1.3 the pegs, discs or other types of markers on the side banks in the direction of play are the correct distances in line with law 49.12 by measuring them.
- 43.2.2 The umpire must measure any disputed shot or shots using suitable measuring equipment, such as that described in law 54.
- 43.2.3 The umpire must decide whether the distance of the mat line from the rear and front ditches and the distance of the jack or a bowl from the mat line are in line with the Laws of the Sport of Bowls or not.
- 43.2.4 The umpire must decide whether a jack or a bowl is in play or not.
- 43.2.5 The umpire must make sure that all aspects of play are in line with the Laws of the Sport of Bowls.
- 43.2.6 The umpire's decision is final in all circumstances except those relating to the meaning or interpretation of a law, in which case there will be a right of appeal to the Controlling Body.