

Laws of the Sport of Bowls

...that every (not just new) lawn bowler needs to know.

Based on the 2007 Crystal Mark Edition from World Bowls by Conrad Melton, NUIC Rev. 05/18/09

This summary lists only a small portion of the Laws. In addition, some “language shortcuts” have been made. Only you can make the commitment to learn the Laws and honor them...and preserve the integrity of the Sport .

Trial ends are not the start of a match. Bowls from different sets may be used during trial ends. Law 18.1.5 p. 25.

The winner of an end must choose whether to (a) place the mat, deliver the jack, and roll the first bowl...OR (b) require the opposing team to perform those activities. Law 18.4 p. 26

Position On The Mat Before delivery a player should stand on the mat with at least one foot fully on the mat. At release, the player should have all or part of one foot on or above the mat. Law 20 p. 27.

Dead Bowl A bowl is dead if it is not a toucher and **rebounds** onto the rink; or if it comes to rest less than 46 feet from the mat line; or, if it is delivered on the WRONG BIAS and leaves the rink over a side boundary. Law 27.1 p. 30.

If a bowl in its original course is **displaced by an opponent** BUT it did not disturb the head before it was displaced, the skip of the team that played the bowl must choose whether to (a) have the bowl replayed; (b) place the bowl where the skip believes it would have come to rest; or (c) leave the bowl where it came to rest. Law 28.1.1 [third] o p. 31.

If a bowl in its original course is **displaced by an opponent** and disturbs the head after it was displaced, the skip of the team that played the bowl must choose: a) replace the head and have the bowl replayed; b) replace the head and place the bowl where the skip believes it would have come to rest; or c) declare the end dead. Law 28.1.1 [fourth] o p. 31.

A bowl moved while marking or measuring, if moved by a player (or his equipment), should be replaced by the opposing player; if it was moved by the umpire, it should be replaced by the umpire. If a marker causes the movement, the former position should be agreed to by the opponents. Law 28.4.1,2,3 p. 34.

If an end is ruled dead, any bowls or the jack which must move to the other end to replay the end must be “carried” to that end. This means the bowls may be either raked or carried but may not be rolled to the other end. Law 31.3 p. 36.

Position Of Players Law 36 p. 39.

(.1) Players at the mat end who are not delivering a bowl should stand at least 1 meter behind the mat.

(.2) Players at the head end of the rink who are not controlling play should stand: behind the jack and away from the head or on the bank if the jack is in the ditch or within 6’6” of the ditch.

(.3) As soon as a bowl is delivered, a player who is controlling play...should take his/her position as above.

Possession Of The Rink Law 35 p. 39.

(.1) Possession of the rink shall belong to the player or team whose bowl is being played.

(.2) As soon as each bowl comes to rest, possession of the rink will transfer to the opposing player or team after allowing time for marking a toucher as soon as it comes to rest.

(.3) The players in possession of the Rink shall not be interfered with, annoyed, or have their attention distracted in any way by their opponents.

Cell Phones The use of a **cell phone** to make or receive a call during the progress of a game shall be considered a violation of the law of *possession of the rink*. Law 65 p. 60. This law applies only in the U.S.

An unused, adjacent rink may not be walked upon by a player in a match while the other team is delivering, or is about to deliver their bowl. Law 36.2 p. 39.

Players & Their Duties Law 37 p. 40.

Skip...will have sole charge of the team and all players in the team should follow the skip’s instructions. (.2)should decide all disputed points with the opposing skip, making sure that any decision reached is in line with the LOTSOBs. (.4) If the umpire considers that a decision reached by the skips is not in line with the LOTSOBs, the umpire should overrule that decision so that it is in line with the laws. (.7)...in a pairs game should act as scorer. (.8)...can delegate any of their powers or duties (except .7 above,) to any member of his/her team as long as they tell the opposing skip.

Third...can measure any and all disputed shots.

Second...should be responsible for the score card...while play is in progress. Should enter the names of all players of both teams on the scorecard. Should record...all shots scored for and against the team as each end is completed.

Lead...shall place the mat, deliver the jack, and ensure it’s properly centered before rolling the end’s first bowl.

Playing Out Of Turn

(.1) If a player plays out of turn, the opposing skip can stop the bowl and return it to the player to lay it in the proper order.

(.2) If the bowl has come to rest and has not disturbed the head, the opposing skip should choose whether to: leave the head as it is and have their team play two bowls one after the other to get back to the proper order of play; or return the bowl and get back to the proper order of play.

(.3) If the bowl has disturbed the head, the opposing skip should choose whether to: leave the disturbed head as is and have their team play two bowls one after the other to get back to the proper order of play; replace the head in its former position, return the bowl and go back to the proper order of play; or declare the end dead. Law 47.1 p. 45.

When measuring to determine if a jack is long enough, the entire jack must be beyond the required distance. Page 58 Appendix B.4.2 (Chart)

A player has only 1 minute to deliver his or her bowl. Law 66 p. 60.

Who measures? It is suggested the team conceding shot(s) does the measuring. Law 68 p. 61.

Who writes up the score? The team that rakes should also mark the scoreboard. If the same player is responsible for raking and marking the board, it is suggested that the raking be completed before the board is marked. Law 69 p. 61.

Touchers in the ditch or a jack in the ditch should have their locations noted by an object on the bank and outlines of their positions made in the sand. Law 24.4 p. 29 and Law 29.2 p. 35.

Restrictions about walking to the head

In **singles**, a player can only walk to the head after his third and/or fourth bowls. An exception to this is when it appears the opponent may be holding game.

In **pairs**, leads can only walk to the head after s/he has bowled 3 or 4 bowls. Skips cannot go to the head until after they have rolled at least 2 bowls.

In **triples**, the leads cannot go to the head until all of their bowls have been rolled. Seconds can go to the head after they have rolled at least 2 bowls; Skips can go to the head at any time. Appendix A.4 p. 52.

. At the end of the game, hand the scorecard to the skip who should record on it the time that the game finished and then sign it.

If a bowl in motion is **disturbed by a neutral party** or object (an object that does not belong to any player on the rink of play, p. 9) and that bowl had already disturbed something on the rink, the prior disturbance is left as it is. Law 28.1.3 [second o] p. 33.

*Note: "should" and/or "will" in the 2007 Laws means the action is compulsory.

Violations can't be prevented by Clubs, Divisions, Umpires, or the USLBA.

ONLY YOU can make a commitment to follow the rules.

In the Sport of Bowls, it is the tradition for the players to know and apply the rules themselves.

Soon, as a member of the United States Lawn Bowls Association, you will receive your own copy of the Laws of the Sport of Bowls (LOTSOBs).

Footwear Players, Umpires and Markers should wear flat-soled ('heel-less') footwear when they play on the green or act as umpires or markers. Appendix A.2 p. 52.