

The new Laws of the Sport of Bowls took effect January 1, 2011.

Here's a summary of the changes that are worthy of mentioning.....

1. The "hammer rule is dead and gone. Whoever wins the end must roll the jack.
2. The minimum distance for a delivered jack is reduced to 21 meters – that's 68'10 ¾". Everyone might as well memorize it now....that number will be around for a long time. And it's time for everyone to change their hog lines. (See #8.)
3. In team games, the skips will be responsible for keeping the scorecards, not the second. Yes, in pairs, the skip has *always* had that responsibility.
4. In the new laws book, every law will have its own number, For example:
 - 28.1.1.4 If the bowl is displaced by an opponent and it has disturbed the bowl should choose whether to:
 - 28.1.1.4.1 replace the head and have the bowl replayed; or
 - 28.1.1.4.2 replace the head and place the bowl where the skip believes it would have come to rest; or
 - 28.1.1.4.3 declare the end dead.
5. The "one minute rule" will be an option for Controlling Body's to invoke or not as a Condition of Play.
6. If Appendix A.4 has been invoked (restricting players' visits to the head), the skip who will roll second may remain at the head end until the other skip has delivered his first bowl.
7. At the National Championships and the U.S. Open, teams' below-the-waist attire may be colored.
8. HOW TO MEASURE FOR YOUR NEW HOG LINES: Beginning at any corner of the green, place the end of a long tape measure on the ditch side of the plinth. At 75' 5 ½" pound a nail into the top of the backboard. A hog line will go there. Proceed to the other three corners and do the same. Then do it again in the opposite direction, i.e., if you went clockwise on the first journey, go counter-clockwise on the second.

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