



Review of the Laws of the Sport of Bowls (Crystal Mark Second Edition)

Summary of Changes adopted by Bowls England 1st April 2015

INTRODUCTION:

In April 2013 all Member National Authorities (MNAs) of World Bowls (WB) were invited to submit their proposals for changes to the Laws of the Sport of Bowls (Crystal Mark Second Edition). Responses were received from various countries, together with proposals from the Board of WB.

This document summarises the changes that have been included within the revised Laws and published as the Laws of the Sport of Bowls (Crystal Mark Third Edition). These changes were approved at the Biennial Council Meeting held in August 2014 and introduced in England for the 2015 outdoor bowls season.

SUMMARY:

The following highlights the changes that have been accepted by the WB Laws Committee. Additional comments have been added by way of explanation where necessary.

New Law	Old Law	Change	Additional Comments
Foreword	<i>Foreword</i>	That all references to 'should' and 'will' be altered to 'must' within the laws	
C.3	1.3.2	Amend to read: "Deliberately releasing a jack or a bowl from the hand or an artificial device using an underarm movement. If the jack or bowl accidentally slips from a player's hand or artificial device during delivery, the player can pick it up and start the delivery again."	Recognition of use of artificial device added.
C.29	1.3.29	Amend to read: "The heads of the indicators match either the colours of the adhesive markings on each player's bowls or the colours of each player's bowls"	Law 52.1.8 refers to adhesive markings.

New Law	Old Law	Change	Additional Comments
3.3	12.3	Amend to read: "If, after the draw for rinks has been made, a player in a competition or game plays on the same rink before the start of play on the day of the competition or game, that player will be disqualified. This does not apply to open tournaments."	The Law is not intended to prevent a player who plays a club Singles game on rink 3 at 9am from again playing on rink 3 (if drawn to play on that rink) during another competition at 1pm. The intent of the law is to prevent a player from practising on the same rink on which they have previously been drawn to play a competitive game. The laws have been revised to remove any scope for possible misinterpretation.
5.1.4	18.1.4	Amend to read: "Each player must not use more than the number of bowls being used during the game. If a player or an umpire notices that a player is using more than the permitted number of bowls, the defaulting player will lose the right to play any bowls remaining to be played in the trial ends."	To add penalties/courses of action to those laws that do not currently have them.
6.1.5.6		Additional law reads: "For domestic play, Member National Authorities can decide the requirements for using portable groundsheets as an alternative to the fixed groundsheets mentioned in this law"	New law allowing portable groundsheets instead of fixed. Bowls England has resolved that it does not approve of the use of portable groundsheets in any matches under its jurisdiction.
7.1	20.1	Amend to read: "Before delivery a player must be standing on the mat with all or part of at least one foot on the mat. At the moment they deliver the jack or a bowl, the player must have all or part of one foot on or above the mat."	There are two situations covered by this law – position on the mat before delivery and position on the mat at the moment of delivery.

New Law	Old Law	Change	Additional Comments
20.2	31.2	Amend to read: "A dead end must be replayed in the same direction unless the skips or opponents in Singles agree to play it in the opposite direction. (If the jack and bowls need to be transferred to the opposite end of the rink before the end is replayed, they must be transferred in a way which avoids distracting players on neighbouring rinks.)"	There are various methods of transferring bowls up a rink – such as using bowls gatherers. It has, therefore, decided to change the law by replacing the requirement for players to carry bowls up the rink to include the use of alternatives.
23.3	40.3	Amend to read: "No measuring (that is, the use of equipment, such as that described in law 54, placed between the jack and bowls to decide which bowls are shot) will be allowed before the process of deciding the number of shots scored starts (as described in law 23.1). If a player measures before the process of deciding the number of shots scored starts, the defaulting team will lose the right to play any bowls remaining to be played in that end and the non-defaulting team will deliver their remaining bowls to complete the end."	Clarifies what constitutes measuring. Adds penalties/courses of action to those laws that do not currently have them.
27.3	44.3	Amend to read: "If two or more players, teams or sides are equal in line with the Conditions of Play mentioned in law 27.1, points can be awarded for games won or drawn. The player, team or side with the highest number of points will be declared the winner."	Conditions of play now specify the awarding of points for tournament games.
32.4.2	50.4.2	Amend to read: "Players, however, must not be transferred from one team to another. If players are transferred from one team to another, the defaulting team will forfeit the game to their opponents."	To add penalties/courses of action to those laws that do not currently have them.

New Law	Old Law	Change	Additional Comments
37.2	28.2	Amend to read: "If a bowl is displaced by a disabled player's equipment or assistant as described in Law 41, the equipment or assistant must be treated as if it was the player for all purposes under Law 37.1"	Clarifies displacement of a bowl by disabled player's equipment or assistants. This include wheelchairs.
38.2	33.2	Amend to read: "If a jack is displaced by a disabled player's equipment or assistant as described in Law 41, the equipment or assistant must be treated as if it was the player for all purposes under Law 38.1."	
Section 2.4	<i>Section 11</i>	Amend heading to read: "Defaults by Players"	The previous heading was considered to be potentially misleading due to a side game potentially being a combination of disciplines
39.2.1	46.2.2.1	Amend to read: "The number of bowls played by each defaulting team must be made up by the lead and second, both playing three bowls singly and in turn."	For clarification
39.2.3		New law to read: "For domestic play, Member National Authorities can approve regulations which differ from those mentioned in law 39.2.2."	This will enable Controlling Bodies to amend the absentee players rules to fit their requirements
40.1.7.2	37.1.7.2	Amend to read: "...make sure that the names of all players of both teams are correctly entered on the score card"	In many cases skips only get to see the cards when given to them just prior to a match starting. The onus falls to the skip for checking the names.
40.1.8	37.1.8	Amend to read: "For domestic play, Member National Authorities can decide the procedures for using a scoreboard instead of one of the score cards"	

New Law	Old Law	Change	Additional Comments
40.1.9		New Law to read: “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”	Bowls England can now, if they wish, allow the delegation of the scorecard to other members of the team. The same player in opposing teams must keep the scorecard.
41.6		New Law to read: “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.”	A player with a disability can now kneel to deliver a bowl.
41.7		New Laws to read: “Players with a hearing disability can use electronic devices to communicate with each other whilst on the rink of play. Their use must be in line with the regulations set out in the Conditions of Play by the Controlling Body.”	Conditions of play can now specify that communication aids can be used by players with hearing disabilities.
42.3.2	55.3.2	Amend to read: “...if score boards are not being used, tell the players the running totals of the scores;”	To remove duty of marker to state score at conclusion of each end of singles if a score board is in operation

New Law	Old Law	Change	Additional Comments
44	57	<p>The coach Either the coach of a player, team or side or, in their absence, the coach's delegated deputy, can give advice to a player during the course of play as long as:</p> <p>44.1 the umpire is given the names of the coach or the coach's delegated deputy as appropriate before the game starts;</p> <p>44.2 only one person is present at the rink to give advice at any one time;</p> <p>44.3 the person giving the advice does so when their team or side is in possession of the rink; and</p> <p>44.4 the person giving the advice does so from outside the boundaries of the green.</p> <p>44.5 If, in the umpire's opinion, this law has been broken, the umpire must ask the coach or delegated deputy concerned to stay within the law. If they do not stay within the law, the umpire must ask the Controlling Body to take immediate action to make sure that the offender stops breaking the law.</p>	<p>The Laws Committee states it is aware that, in recent years, the manager's role has changed to the point where it is, in the main, limited to performing background tasks such as team administration and management. Consequently, the role of the coach has taken on increased significance – for example the on-field responsibilities previously undertaken by the manager are now being performed by a coach. The committee, therefore, accepts that this change in roles has led to a blurring (perhaps to the point of confusion) of the duties of the manager and coach as they are described in the laws. Given that the trend has been for the manager to no longer have on-field responsibilities, the committee has decided to remove the manager from all aspects of the laws. It has also decided to change law 57 to better reflect the duties of the coach.</p>
47.4	3.4	Amend to read: "For indoor greens and outdoor greens where play is possible in only one direction, only the end ditches in the direction of play must meet the standards mentioned in laws 47.2 and 47.3"	
49.12	5.12	Amend to read: "White or brightly coloured pegs, discs or other suitable markings must be fixed or marked vertically against the face of the side banks"	Enables markings to be fixed or marked permanently

New Law	Old Law	Change	Additional Comments
49.7	<i>5.7</i>	Amend to read: "If a boundary peg is not vertical, it must be put so before a player or the umpire decides whether or not a jack or a bowl is within the boundary. (The requirement to put the peg vertical need not apply if the umpire uses a boundary scope to make the decision)."	If boundary scope is used then boundary peg does not need to be put vertical before decision taken.
52.1.1	<i>8.1.1</i>	Amend to read: "Bowls must be made of wood (<i>lignum vitae</i>), rubber or plastic resin (called composition or plastic bowls) and must be any colour or combination of colours approved by WB. The basic colours are added during the manufacturing process"	Amended to include reference to speckled bowls of more than one colour
52.1.8	<i>8.1.8</i>	Bowls marking - clarification	Various amendments regarding the use of adhesive markings due to the changes brought about by the bowls manufacturers with regard to the alteration of sizing to the inner rings on both sides of a bowl.
54.8	<i>10.8</i>	Amend to read: "equipment (for deciding whether or not the jack or a bowl is within the side boundary of the rink when the side boundary is not marked by a green thread as described in law 49.9) such as: 54.8.1 a portable, retractable line; 54.8.2 a mirror and a square (both with a levelling bubble); 54.8.3 a liner siter; or 54.8.4 a boundary scope	Although mirrors and squares are probably used elsewhere in the world, they are non-existent in Australia where liner siter and boundary scopes are the only two pieces of equipment used.

New Law	Old Law	Change	Additional Comments
55.1.5 55.3.2		New Laws to read: "There can be a time limit on play. The Controlling Body will decide the time limit before the game begins. The game will end: when the pre-arranged number of shots has been scored; when the pre-arranged number of ends has been completed; or if an end is in progress when a pre-arranged time limit is reached, when that end has been completed"	Law 16.2 currently contains provision for dealing with time-limited games during international events. These provisions are also relevant to the types of games described in laws 16.1 and 16.3.
56.3	<i>15.3</i>	Amend to read: "Three game points will be awarded for each game won. No game points are awarded for any game lost."	The 'points won' is included for guidance in line with current procedure at World level.
56.5.3	<i>15.5.3</i>	Amend to read: "A single re-spot position which is 2 metres from the front ditch and on the centre line can be used as an alternative to the three re-spot positions described in law 56.5.2."	It was felt there should be something in the Laws that allows controlling bodies to re-spot the jack at the 2-metre mark as an alternative to re-spotting at one of 3 points currently described in the laws - including in games other than sets play.
56.5.4	<i>15.5.4</i>	Amend to read: "between and in line with that spot.."	Updated to clarify the re-spot position
57.2.2	<i>17.2.2</i>	Amend to read: "Controlling Bodies that govern club competitions which are purely social or recreational (that is, competitions that do not directly or indirectly lead to the winners being awarded a club title, qualifying to compete for a district, national or international title, or receiving financial rewards within limits set by the Member National Authority) can set Conditions of Play which include aspects of play that are different from those described within the Laws of the Sport of Bowls."	The change will define the types of competition that come within the scope of this Law.

<i>New Law</i>	<i>Old Law</i>	<i>Change</i>	<i>Additional Comments</i>
A5	A 5	Amend to read: "If a Controlling Body decides that it is appropriate to include regulations for dealing with slow play, provision for this must be included within the Conditions of Play. Controlling Bodies can adopt or adapt the following regulations (which are based on a 15-end game being played within a two-and-one-quarter hour time limit) ..."	Introducing Slow play regulations.