

# GREENS COMMITTEE

FAQ's



**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

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**SOME QUESTIONS SIMPLY CROP UP MORE OFTEN THAN OTHERS,  
SO, BEFORE HOURS ARE SPENT TEARING YOUR HAIR OUT,  
CHECK WHETHER THE ANSWER IS AVAILABLE HERE.**

**ANY REFERENCES TO RVBA &/OR VLBA WITHIN THIS DOCUMENT  
REMAIN APPLICABLE TO BOWLS VICTORIA**

**PLEASE NOTE:  
TOPICS ARE LISTED ALPHABETICALLY AS FAR AS POSSIBLE  
FOR EASE OF LOOKING UP.**

**IF VIEWING PAGES ON COMPUTER A "FIND BOX" SHOULD BE AVAILABLE, OR  
A SEARCH DIALOGUE BOX CAN BE ACTIVATED BY PRESSING "CTRL+F"**

**THIS DOCUMENT HAS BEEN COMPILED IN GOOD FAITH AND  
CANNOT COVER EVERY SITUATION.**

**IF YOUR QUERY ISN'T COVERED HERE FURTHER REFERENCE TO  
THE GREENS COMMITTEE SHOULD BE ABLE TO RESOLVE IT.**

**ANY FURTHER TOPICS CONSIDERED WORTHY OF INCLUSION IN THIS  
DOCUMENT WILL BE WELCOMED BY THE GREENS COMMITTEE**

No.	Subject	Comment
1	Bank height	The minimum height is 230mm as per Law 4.2. (Note that there is no maximum)
2	Boundary pegs	On the top of the bank should not be more than 100 millimetres back from its face. Law 5.3 dp 2
3	Boundary pegs - "loose" on top of the bank.	A "locating" pin should be used with pegs.
4	Boundary pegs - height	600mm min. for fixed, no height limitation for flexible pegs. Law 5.4 dp 2
5	Boundary pegs - height of fixed?	Fixed pegs should be not less than 600 millimetres high as per Law 5.4 dot point 2 (page 15 of Law Book)
6	Boundary pegs - Indoor Green	On an indoor green should be fixed to face of bank as per Law 5.3 dp1.
7	Boundary Pegs - Outside rink	The boundary pegs for an outside rink should be: - at least 600 millimetres from the side ditch for outdoor play; and - at least 460 millimetres from the side ditch for indoor play. Law 5.6
8	Bowls Assist Posts	A supplier is listed on page 46 of the 2009/2010 Information Guide.
9	Carpet pile When new 35mm carpet in a roll is unrolled about 3 metres the pile is flat.	Once it is rolled out, placed in the sun & brushed up the pile should stand up & be satisfactory but will flatten out with foot traffic & will need to be brushed up periodically.
10	Centre line - synthetic green - marking	Reference should be made to installer but an "Artline 70 marker" appears to be suitable for this purpose. A chalk spray product is also available but the chalk line marked doesn't last a long time.
11	Centre line of rink	Refer Law 5.13. While "can" in this law makes a centre line optional, Bowls Victoria prefers that a centre line be marked on the green to assist players to place the mat. Ideally, and in simple terms, this means that the centre line of each rink can be marked along the surface of the green starting 2 metres from each end ditch for a distance of 4 - 6 metres)

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12	Centre line on rinks	Bowls Victoria prefers 4 - 6 metres extending from 2-metre mark at each end of the rink.
13	Centre lines Do centre lines need to be marked on green & if so is it OK to have spaced dots.	Under the Laws of the Sport of Bowls it is optional but it is preferred that this is done. Accordingly, considered OK for dots (due to optional). Checklist is available on website.
14	Contractors & Installers of Synthetic Greens.	A list is available from website: <a href="http://www.bowlsvic.org.au/fileadmin/user_upload/rvba/Club_Support/Greens/syn_greens_suppliers__installers__Nov2008.pdf">http://www.bowlsvic.org.au/fileadmin/user_upload/rvba/Club_Support/Greens/syn_greens_suppliers__installers__Nov2008.pdf</a>
15	Couch grass greens Is any information available from Bowls Victoria?	Articles on file are currently being rewritten to reflect the latest information, particularly in relation to chemicals, etc.
16	Direction of Play Can the Greenkeeper stipulate the direction of play for practice or pennant?	Yes. Club rules may cover this but in any case club executive needs to support any of his decisions which are aimed at preserving green.
17	Distance marks on side banks	These should be in accordance with Law 5.12, i.e. 2 metres & 25 metres from end ditches.
18	Ditch Gauge	An item used by Greens Inspectors for checking the width of ditches & the height of banks.
19	Ditch widths	200mm minimum & 380mm maximum as per Law 3.2 of the Laws of the Sport of Bowls
20	Ditches - Holding Surface Can synthetic carpet be used in ditches?	Yes. Refer to correspondence on website: <a href="http://www.bowlsvic.org.au/fileadmin/user_upload/rvba/Club_Support/Greens/Holding_Surface_in_Ditches_MSC115-08.pdf">http://www.bowlsvic.org.au/fileadmin/user_upload/rvba/Club_Support/Greens/Holding_Surface_in_Ditches_MSC115-08.pdf</a>
21	Dump mats (Not to be confused with Groundsheets)	Suitable size appears to be approx. 80 - 100 centimetres wide at the rear, approximately 160 - 180 centimetres wide at the front and be approximately 180 centimetres in length.
22	Grants	Refer to Bowls Victoria Development Team members for latest information & availability.
23	Green - Advice of Proposed New or Reconstructed Green	Available from website: <a href="http://www.bowlsvic.org.au/fileadmin/user_upload/rvba/Forms_Documents/RVBA_Forms/New_or_Reconstruction_of_Green_11Aug09.pdf">http://www.bowlsvic.org.au/fileadmin/user_upload/rvba/Forms_Documents/RVBA_Forms/New_or_Reconstruction_of_Green_11Aug09.pdf</a>

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24	Green - Grass - New or Reconstructed Does it need approval or to be inspected?	If only a new top, the green will not need to be inspected. If reconstructed from drains up the green will require inspection.
25	Green - Interim approval	Interim approval may be granted prior to formal inspection if Greens Committee is unable to arrange a timely inspection.
26	Green - New or Reconstructed - Checklist	Available from website: <a href="http://www.bowlsvic.org.au/fileadmin/user_upload/rvba/Club_Support/Greens/New_or_Reconstructed_Green_Report-Checksheets_Sep09.pdf">http://www.bowlsvic.org.au/fileadmin/user_upload/rvba/Club_Support/Greens/New_or_Reconstructed_Green_Report-Checksheets_Sep09.pdf</a>
27	Green - Synthetic - New or replacement Does it need approval?	Prior approval not required but will need to advise RVBA when new or replacement of carpet is completed so that an inspection can be arranged. An Advice form "New or Reconstructed Green Report" is available on the website
28	Green approval	Pennant points may be lost if green is played on prior to being approved by Greens Committee.
29	Green Information	Various information is available from website.
30	Green Inspectors Information Kit, and Question Paper	Available for Greens Inspectors to enable issue of a certificate that outlines their role when inspecting greens. Information kits are held at Bowls Victoria.
31	Green Maintenance costs Is there a standard or guidelines for greens expenses?	No. Expenses would be dictated by individual Greenkeeper's maintenance procedures and the condition of the green.
32	Green orientation Is there a specific orientation for a bowling green?	While most clubs have their greens set up for play in a north/south direction there is no rule or law regarding orientation.
33	Green Renovation Is renovation of a green an asset or expense item?	This would be an expense item in refurbishing green which would return asset (green) to a more positive value. However, this is a bit nebulous as most clubs are "not for profit" and not subject to taxation.

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34	Green requirements Competition green - 4 rinks.	Section 2 of Laws of the Sport of Bowls sets out the requirements for the green, ditch & banks, but pennant normally requires 4 rinks to accommodate a side of four teams: 4 rinks with a minimum width of 4.3 metres; length of the green in the direction of play between 31 metres and 40 metres; the boundary pegs of an outside rink at least 600 millimetres from the side ditch. Otherwise, the Laws cover what is needed except that threads are not used on greens in Australia.
35	Green surrounds Are there any guidelines or restrictions on green surrounds, e.g. concrete, carpet, grass, paving tiles, etc?	No. Would be a club decision.
36	Green Watering Is it permissible to water in a new tif dwarf green?	Reference should be made to relevant Water Authority for latest information to ensure current restrictions or Water Conservation Plan are observed unless bore or dam water is available for use.
37	Green Approval	Bowls Victoria initial approval of the green is required to cover Pennant & Championship events but is not required for local tournaments pending formal inspection/approval of a new or reconstructed green.
38	Greenkeeper Is there a model contract & Job Description for a Contract Greenkeeper?	There cannot be a model contract as all greens are different.
39	Greens Chairman (Country)/ Committee Can play be authorised on specific rinks or does it need to be the whole green?	Authorisation can be for specific rinks only.
40	Greens Construction	"Bowling Greens - A Practical Guide" although a bit dated now, may provide useful information. This publication is available from the "AGCSA Turf Industry Bookshop", listed under "Turf & Pests" at a cost of \$35.99 + \$9.90 postage: <a href="http://www.agcsa.com.au/files/u2/AGCSA_Bookshop_List.pdf">http://www.agcsa.com.au/files/u2/AGCSA_Bookshop_List.pdf</a>

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41	Groundsheets	<p>As per RVBA Rule for Competition 5A(ii) the use of groundsheets for pennant or above games shall not be permitted. Rule 5A(i) should still apply to any individual who is dumping, in which case a dump mat for that individual should be used.</p> <p>There are no specific guidelines for the size of "dump mats" which are usually manufactured by a talented club member but a serviceable mat would be approximately 80 - 100 centimetres wide at the rear, approximately 160 - 180 centimetres wide at the front and be approximately 180 centimetres in length.</p> <p>(Refer also to Dump Mats)</p>
42	Holding Surface in Ditches	<p>MSC No. 0115/08 dated 23 October 2008 refers and is available from the website.</p>
43	<p>Jacks</p> <p>Do heavy jacks need to be used on synthetic greens?</p>	<p>Yes.</p> <p>Law 7.3 - For outdoor synthetic greens and indoor greens, the jack should :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- measure between 63 millimetres and 67 millimetres across (the diameter); and</li> <li>- weigh between 382 grams and 453 grams.</li> </ul>
44	Lawn Bowls Surfaces Study Appendices	<p>Can be viewed at the following URL (address):</p> <p><a href="http://www.sport.vic.gov.au/web9/rwpgslib.nsf/GraphicFiles/Lawn_Bowls_Surface_Study_Appendices.pdf/\$file/Lawn_Bowls_Surface_Study_Appendices.pdf">http://www.sport.vic.gov.au/web9/rwpgslib.nsf/GraphicFiles/Lawn_Bowls_Surface_Study_Appendices.pdf/\$file/Lawn_Bowls_Surface_Study_Appendices.pdf</a></p>
45	Lawn Bowls Surfaces Study Issues and Actions	<p>Can be viewed at the following URL (address):</p> <p><a href="http://www.sport.vic.gov.au/web9/rwpgslib.nsf/GraphicFiles/Lawn_Bowls_Surface_Study_Issues_and_Actions.pdf/\$file/Lawn_Bowls_Surface_Study_Issues_and_Actions.pdf">http://www.sport.vic.gov.au/web9/rwpgslib.nsf/GraphicFiles/Lawn_Bowls_Surface_Study_Issues_and_Actions.pdf/\$file/Lawn_Bowls_Surface_Study_Issues_and_Actions.pdf</a></p>
46	Lighting Standards for Bowling Greens	<p>Bowls Victoria doesn't have standards but rather depends on installers/contractors qualified to carry out such works.</p> <p>However, reference can be made to: Australian Standard Guide to Sports Lighting - Part 2.8: Specific Recommendations - Bowling Greens. Published by Standards Australia (Standards Association of Australia), website:</p> <p><a href="http://www.standards.org.au/OurOrganisation/ContactUs.aspx">http://www.standards.org.au/OurOrganisation/ContactUs.aspx</a></p>
47	<p>Logo on green</p> <p>Use of club logo for 50th Anniversary or other special events</p>	<p>Logo can't be placed on rink playing surface - Section 7 of Council Decisions.</p> <p>Also, it can't be permanent as only the sponsor of the day can be shown.</p> <p>(Refer also to "Sponsorship logo ... )</p>

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48	Maintenance Manual	Should be available from respective installer.
49	Pace of Green Prior belief or knowledge that a green may be running over 18 seconds.	Can lodge a written complaint subsequent to the game but must play or else they can lose their points.
50	Pace of Green What is the procedure if already timed at say 16.5 seconds & can a request be made to retime the green and what happens if outside guidelines?	Recommended pace is 13-17 seconds, as per Pennant Procedure, i.e. Timing by Senior Visiting Side Manager or at least someone from the visiting side. Although 16.5 seconds is within guidelines a request could be made to re-time the green but the club must play and lodge a complaint with Bowls Victoria if deemed appropriate.
51	Pace of Greens	MSC 117/09 dated 4 November 2009 refers, available from the website.
52	Pace of Greens - complaint	Needs to be in writing from the club to Bowls Victoria before it can be acted upon.
53	Pace of Greens Recommended speed = 13 - 17 seconds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-13 - 17 seconds recommended</li> <li>- timing to be in presence of visiting club</li> <li>- all matters are contained in correspondence to club, particularly Procedure for Pennant which Secretary should hold</li> <li>- procedure for Timing of Greens is available from the website.</li> </ul>
54	Peg holes	Boundary & rink numbers can be affixed to face of bank but if on top of bank should be no more than 100mm back from its face.
55	Play on green - Refuse to Play Can a club refuse to play on a green because it has heard or considers that the green they will be playing on is running outside the guidelines of 13 - 17 seconds?	No. This means a walkover is being given. Clubs shouldn't prejudge greens, and Bowls Victoria would need to have more than their sole complaint before considering any action with the club concerned.
56	Plinths - galvanised steel	Rounded corners are in order.
57	Rainfall Chart	Available from website.
58	Rebound problems	Can sometimes be alleviated by replacing "old rubber" or placing a timber batten (chamfer) behind the top of the bank surface material.

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59	Rebounding bowls check	Initial test is for a bowl to be delivered from about 6 - 10 metres out & if a bowl rebounds from this distance then it is necessary for the Greens Inspector or Tester to go back behind the 23 metre mark & test again. It is suggested that any club that wishes to check for rebounds gets 2 or 3 members to deliver their fastest drives from beyond 23 metres & if there are rebounds implement remedial action.
60	Rink "colour" line (mark) Can rink line (mark) be extended down over edge of bank to assist when rolling the green?	No. Marks should only be on top of the bank. See final sentence of Law 5.12
61	Rink Markers - Height	Unlike boundary pegs there is no height stipulation for rink markers.
62	Rink Markers - on block	If the rink marker (number or boundary peg) is on a block it needs to have a "locating pin" to ensure that it is positioned correctly.
63	Rink numbers	On the top of the bank should not be more than 100 millimetres back from its face. Law 5.2 dp 2
64	Rinks of play Club has grass & synthetic greens, can rinks be spread over different types of greens & is there any regulation that must play North/ South?	It is in order to split rinks over two greens even though they may be different surfaces & there is no stipulation re direction of play except green must have been approved by Greens Committee for direction of play.
65	Rinks of play Is it in order for only some rinks on an 8-rink green to be approved for play?	It is in order to do this rather than restrict a green entirely when a few rinks are playable.
66	Sign - can "no smoking" sign be painted on green, or painted on ditch banks	No on each point, in line with Council decisions - "Use of logos" Page 7 & latter would be distractive to players
67	Sponsorship logo in the middle of the synthetic green (approx. 6M <sup>2</sup> )	Logo can't be placed on the rink playing surface - Section 7 of Council Decisions. Also, it can't be permanent as only the sponsor of the day can be shown. (Refer also to "Logo on green")
68	Starweed - used in some New Zealand greens	Classed as a prohibited weed in Australia and is extremely difficult to eradicate. There is some in a Melbourne bowling green. It is a species of plantain (plantago triandra).

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69	Synthetic carpet Is it possible to install synthetic straight over top of green surface without removing soil?	Installers advise would need to remove at least 100mm to allow for cement stabilised or similar base, and probably install a new drainage system.
70	Synthetic green - sand filled Maintenance & slowing it down.	In the first instance reference should be made to the installer. However, generally, the most common method is for brushing to be carried out which breaks up the contaminated/compacted sand in the pile and frees up the surface.
71	Synthetic Green Surface levels	In accordance with WB Performance Standards for Flat Green Bowls Surfaces the tolerance for surface levels with greens is $\pm 3$ mm when measured using a 3m straight edge.
72	Synthetic green Regulations concerning installation of a new synthetic.	There are no specific regulations & an Installer will know the procedure to follow.
73	Synthetic Green Water requirements	There are no specific figures available and it is difficult to assess due to many & varied factors but it is generally accepted that a grass bowling green requires somewhere between 15K - 30K litres of water per week but this figure would be significantly less when a synthetic is installed.
74	Synthetic Greens - Listing of Clubs with Synthetic Greens	Available from website: <a href="http://www.bowlsvic.org.au/fileadmin/user_upload/rvba/Club_Support/Greens/Synthetic_Greens_Listing_30Apr2010.pdf">http://www.bowlsvic.org.au/fileadmin/user_upload/rvba/Club_Support/Greens/Synthetic_Greens_Listing_30Apr2010.pdf</a>
75	Synthetic Greens - Suppliers & Installers	A list is available on the website: <a href="http://www.bowlsvic.org.au/fileadmin/user_upload/rvba/Club_Support/Greens/syn_greens_suppliers__installers__Nov2008.pdf">http://www.bowlsvic.org.au/fileadmin/user_upload/rvba/Club_Support/Greens/syn_greens_suppliers__installers__Nov2008.pdf</a>
76	Synthetic greens publication Lawn Bowls Surfaces Study	URL for Lawn Bowls Surfaces Study: <a href="http://www.ausport.gov.au/fulltext/2004/vic/LawnBowlsVolume1Issues.pdf">http://www.ausport.gov.au/fulltext/2004/vic/LawnBowlsVolume1Issues.pdf</a>
77	Synthetic Greens Minimum Standards Workshop	Bowls Australia are producing guidelines which will be made available to clubs when completed.
78	Temperature box	Stevenson Screen weather boxes are mainly used in Country clubs from whom details can be obtained, or check the internet.

No.	Subject	Comment
79	Tifdwarf and other couch green installation	Some information is available from the Victorian Greenkeepers Association website: <a href="http://www.victga.com/">http://www.victga.com/</a>
80	Timing of green	Timing to be in presence of Umpire for day with Senior visiting Side Manager or member of visiting side representative scheduled to play on that green. Procedure contained in correspondence to club, particularly Procedure for Pennant which Secretary should hold. Letter needs to be submitted by Club Secretary and speed needs to be consistently outside recommended pace before Greens Committee will take any action. Procedure also loaded on website.
81	Timing of Green Correct procedure - 2 managers? Is 13 -17 seconds pace of green absolute or recommended and what happens if pace consistently above 18 seconds?	This is a duty of the Umpire for the day in conjunction with the Senior visiting Side Manager or a member of the visiting side scheduled to play on that green. 13 - 17 seconds is recommended pace of green & if outside guidelines club can write to Bowls Victoria for investigation or action to be taken.
82	Timing of Green If greens are timed before the visiting club(s) arrive can they ask for retiming?	Yes.
83	Timing of Green Is it compulsory to use the ramp to time their greens or whether the stop watch can be used?	No. Timing can be done with either the ramp or stopwatch as currently it is not mandatory to use the ramp but optional.
84	Timing of Green Needlepunch carpet	Memo on website advises clubs to use stopwatch on this type of carpet.
85	Timing Ramp	Procedure & chart is loaded on the website: <a href="http://www.bowlsvic.org.au/fileadmin/user_upload/rvba/Club_Support/Greens/Timing_Ramp_-_Revised_2006_01.pdf">http://www.bowlsvic.org.au/fileadmin/user_upload/rvba/Club_Support/Greens/Timing_Ramp_-_Revised_2006_01.pdf</a>
86	Timing Ramp	MSC 107/08 dated 6 October 2008 refers, available from the website.
87	Timing Ramp - Special Tape	The standard "long" tape is used for this purpose.
88	Timing Ramp & Chart Is it used on all types of greens?	The ramp has been found to be accurate in timing of grass and sand filled synthetic greens. However, a stopwatch should be used for carpet type greens.

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89	Water - Permanent Water Saving Plans (PWSP)	Refer to respective Water Retailer. Exempt Playing Surfaces application is available from Yarra Valley website: <a href="http://www.yarravalleywater.com.au/NR/rdonlyres/65279834-2D93-483E-BD63-80401E5152FA/0/PWSR_Exemption_Request_Form.pdf">http://www.yarravalleywater.com.au/NR/rdonlyres/65279834-2D93-483E-BD63-80401E5152FA/0/PWSR_Exemption_Request_Form.pdf</a>
90	Water quality Is recirculated water likely to kill grass particularly after disease treatment?	There doesn't appear to be any definitive findings on this but it is generally accepted that the profile acts as a very effective filter and therefore any residual should be negligible as the roots should take up most of the treatment applied.
91	Water required for bowling green	Bent/sandy loam without rain - 22-25kLpw. Double for sand based. Synthetic - 5kL pw to keep base stabilised. Couch approx. 15-18kL.
92	Water restrictions	As at 1 June 2010 Stage 3 restrictions are in place within the Melbourne Metropolitan area.
93	Watering green Is it in order to water green at lunch time break and what is position regarding players complaints that it changes playing conditions?	This is in order but it would be politic to advise visiting manager at outset that it is likely to occur (but doesn't necessarily have to be agreed) & ensure bags, etc. are clear of area. (Also, provided this is in accordance with water regulations, or have own supply).
94	World Bowls Ramp & unbiased bowl	Unit & bowl held in store at Bowls Victoria.