Frequently Asked Questions around Bowls Clubs



QUESTION	LAW/RULE
1. In Pennant when 3 v 4 players who carries the card? Who signs it? Answer: The skips do, you must make sure that the duties are transferred to players whose positions, in order of play, are the same in each team. A player required to keep the card under these circumstances cannot refuse to do so. As per duties, whoever carries the scorecard signs the card at the end of the game.	Law 40.1.9, DR 3.2 and CoP 25.2
2. Can I just have one sticker on my bowls? The large ring? Answer: No, you must have two stickers, one layer either side.	Law 52.1.8
3. In pennant can a team mate use the other two bowls of my set of bowls? Answer: Yes they can, because all bowls come from the same complete set of four bowls.	Definition D3, Law 52.1.9
4. Can clubs play music during a pennant game? Answer: Yes, provided the level of sound does not impinge upon the conduct of any pennant games.	CoP 54.1
5. What happens if a player plays out of turn during a team game? Answer: The opposing skip can stop the bowl and return it. If the head is not disturbed the bowl can be returned to the player or left on the green and the opposing player plays two bowls in a row to restore the correct order. If the head is disturbed the opposing skip can decide to either leave the disturbed head then his team play two bowls, or restore the head to its former position and return the bowl or declare the end dead.	Laws 29.1.1, 29.1.2. 29.1.2.1 or 29.1.2.2 29.1.3.1 or 29.1.3.2 or 29.1.3.3
6. How do I find out how what a legal ditch should look like? Answer: Appendix B, World Bowls, Laws of the Sport Crystal Mark 3 rd Edition.	Page 101 Law 47
7. What happens if during a game, players realise the boundary peg is in the wrong position? Answer: If a player or the Umpire finds a boundary peg in the wrong position, the peg cannot be moved until the end is completed on the rinks effected. The peg must be put in the correct position by the Umpire or by agreement of the skips or opponents in singles.	Law 49.8

8. If I played 6 games in Division 1 and 5 games in Division 3 have I qualified to play in both finals?	CoP 22.2
Answer : Yes. You played more than four games in the higher numbered Side (Side 1) and played four or more games in a lower numbered Side (Side 3).	
9. Can a playing coach give instructions across the green?	Laws 44.3 and 44.4
Answer: No they cannot. Instruction must occur on the bank when the side has possession of the rink and does so from outside the boundaries of the green.	
10. The Jack has not been centred and a bowl has been delivered. Can you centre the jack?	Law 9.7
Answer: No, after the first player to play has delivered the first bowl, no one has the right to challenge the legality of the original position of the jack. The jack remains there until the completion of that end.	
11. The game has commenced and the mat has been placed off the centre line. What should happen?	Law 6.2.3.
Answer: If at any stage the mat is off the centre line it must be moved to that line.	
12. Can players proceed down the green while a bowl is in course? Answer: The player who has delivered the bowl has possession of the rink and should have the benefit of observing the progress of their bowl without being obstructed by players who may be moving down the green in front of them. The first time it happens the Umpire would warn the player. If the player offended again the last bowl played by that player or team would be declared dead.	Law 12 and 13 Penalty: Law 13.3.1
13. Where can I stand at the head of the bowls? Answer: If you are not in possession of the rink then behind the jack and away from the head and on the bank if the jack in the ditch. If you are in possession of the rink behind the jack.	Law 12.1.2.2 and Law 12.1.2.3
14. When an umpire is measuring for shot where can the players stand?	Law 12.1.2.2
Answer: Players should stand away from the head, well clear of the measure, be aware of shadows and preferably on the bank while the measure is undertaken. Players do not have to stand on the bank unless the bowl or jack were close to or in the ditch.	
15. What measurements are required to be on the edge of the banks of a green? Answer: Appendix B.4, World Bowls, Laws of the Sport Crystal Mark 3 rd Edition.	Page 105 App B4

16. Can I turn the mat over at any time to play my bowls?	Law 6.2.6
Answer: Yes. To get a better grip, you can turn the mat over and but you must put it back in its original position.	
17. I had to leave the green because I felt sick. Ten minutes went by- I wasn't feeling well enough to return at that time. What happens? Can I come back later?	Law 33.2, 33.4 and DR 2.4, 2.6
Answer : A substitute can be used, but not as Skip, if not then in a side game a team can play short of a player, Yes and when the constituted player is able to return they must take their original place at the start of the next end.	
18. Can a pennant side still wait 30 minutes to commence a game if they wish?	Law 39.2.2 DR 2.6
Answer: Yes it is still permissible to wait 30 minutes after the scheduled time for a game.	
19. If I am at the head can I use my fingers to guesstimate the distances between bowls?	Law 23.3
Answer : Yes you can. No official equipment can be placed between the jack and bowl before the end is completed. Therefore the cross fingers used by the players is perfectly legitimate, as it is purely an estimate (although a pretty good one) that is conducted above the head and not between the two objects. However mats, lifters or feet shouldn't be placed between bowl and jack as a displacement could occur.	
20. Who is responsible that all members of a pennant side are correctly attired? Are there any penalties for incorrect attire?	CoP 12.1 Penalty CoP 12.7
Answer: The Club President is responsible to ensure that members of the club are wearing correct attire. If a formal complaint is made by an opposing club then it would be investigated under BV Rule 1.3.2 which could result in a fine, loss of points or forfeiture of the Match.	
21. What is the difference between a stoppage of play and an interruption to play?	Law 32
Answer: A stoppage of play is something that is determined by the controlling body, umpire after appeal by players or an agreement amongst players if no controlling body or umpire is present.	
The game can be continued on the same day or another day. Incomplete ends must be declared dead. Interruption to play:	CoP 50.4
If a player or a group of players (on their own undertaking) decide to come off the green for whatever reason (for example, not wanting to get wet, lightning, or to get wet weather gear), and the stoppage is not invoked by Law 32 then play continues when players return to the green. Uncompleted ends are not to be declared dead. Common sense should prevail however, the umpire or controlling body can direct players to return to the game. If there is lightning play is suspended immediately.	

22. How do I know if the equipment used in our umpire's box is approved or not? Answer: The umpire must bring, or be provided with by the club on whose green the game is being played. The equipment must be suitable for the umpire to carry out their duties as described in law 43.	Law 54 Refer Chapter 6, Officiating Manual, 2014. BA Pg 54
23. I am the umpire of the day during a pennant match at my club and I am called to measure a shot on the rink I am actually playing on. What should happen? Answer: The umpire is impartial and as you are the umpire of the day you must measure any disputed shot or shots using the appropriate equipment. In this situation, and in the spirit of fairness, some umpires call for the opposition third to observe – however this is not necessary.	Law 43.2.2