

Basic Measuring Procedures for Umpires



Officiating & Laws Committee

During your time as an umpire you will be called on more often to measure than to give decisions on the Laws of the Game of Lawn Bowls. Whilst you should not let your knowledge and study of the Laws become less because of this, your skills at measuring can be sharpened and therefore more appreciated by both the players and yourself if you follow these basic procedures.

Before Starting a Measure.

Preparing for a Measure.

- Confirm with the players which bowls are to be measured.
- Ask the players to remove all bowls which are *not* to be included in the measure. Do not help the players to remove the bowls or remove bowls of your own accord unless you have specifically received permission of the player / team whose bowl/s is to be removed.
- Ask the players to stand well clear of the head (preferably a few metres behind the head or beside the ditch).

Physical Position.

Adopt a position in which

- You are comfortable
- You are balanced
- Your head is over the line of the measure
- You can see the contact points at both ends of the measure without overstretching

Using an assistant.

Retain control of the measure by

- Positioning the assistant at the starting point of the measure i.e. at the bowl end if measuring from the bowl to a jack, or at the mat end if measuring from the mat to a jack or a bowl.
- Giving clear instructions to the assistant.
- Ensuring that all aspects of the measuring process are conducted properly (e.g. that the measure is in a straight line between the two objects).
- Making the decision/s.

Conducting a Measure.

General Procedures.

- Use chocks / wedges as required
- Have the full range of measuring equipment to hand when you go onto the green. (This does not mean that you have to take the full umpires box with you. You will have been given some indication of what is required when the player/s call you, but to make certain that you have what is required e.g. both large and medium trammels if the player/s indicate by moving their hands apart to give an indication of distance.) Select the most appropriate equipment for conducting the measure.
- Undertake the measuring process. When moving about the head, ensure that you walk 'around' it, rather than 'through' it. (i.e. to reduce the risk of accidentally disturbing either the jack or bowl, you should walk around the outside of them, rather than walk in between them).
- Where possible, all measurements should be made from bowl to jack. Go back to the first bowl to check the measure's original setting.
- Communicate your decision to the players.

Conducting a Three Bowl Measure. (1 Red and 2 Blue).

- Measure the red bowl.
- Measure the first blue bowl.
- Measure the second blue bowl.
- Check the measure's original setting by going back to the red bowl.
- Communicate your decision to the players.

Conducting a Four Bowl Measure. (2 Red and 2 Blue).

- Measure the first red bowl.
- Measure the second red bowl.
- Decide which red bowl is the nearer and adjust the original setting to the nearer bowl (if required). Measure the first blue bowl. Measure the second blue bowl.
- Check the measure's original setting by going back to the red bowl.
- If one or both of the blue bowls is shot, communicate your decision to the players.

If the nearer red bowl is shot:

- Measure the further red bowl and adjust the original setting. Measure the first blue bowl.
- Measure the second blue bowl.
- Check the measure's original by going back to the further red bowl.
- Communicate your decision to the players.

Communicating Your Decision.

- Turn out the shot bowl/s
- Turn out the jack if "no shot"
- Advise the players of your decision verbally e.g. "1 shot to red"
- Having turned out either the shot bowl/s or the jack as appropriate, do not move anything else in the head since, to do otherwise, may lead to confusion amongst the players and spectators as to the outcome of the measure (i.e. leave it to the players to 'kick back' the jack and bowls in readiness for the next end).

Measuring Equipment.

General Guidelines.

Wedges / Chocks

- Ensure that all bowls are secure before measuring.
- Any bowl which is not lying flat on the green should be wedged as a general rule.
- Can insert wedges after the last bowl has come to rest, with there being an elapsed period of 30 seconds if either team or player desires.
- Take care not to move the bowl whilst inserting the wedge.
- Use the most appropriate number and size of wedges.

'Jack or Bowl in Play' Decisions.

30 mtr Tape Measure.

- Use when checking the distance of the jack and/or bowls from the mat.
- Before using the tape ensure that the end of the tape is zero. This can be done by folding the tape at, say the 20cm mark, and the end of the tape should be level with the 40cm mark. If not adjust your reading until you find where zero is in relation to your check. Some tapes show zero part way up the tape not at the actual end of the tape.
- Before checking the distance of a delivered jack, ensure that the jack has been centred and that the distance of the mat line from the rear and front ditches is legal.
- The end of the tape should be held by an assistant at the mat end of the measure. The umpire should walk towards the jack carrying the tape reel. When the tape has been extended the required distance (23 metres for a delivered jack), the assistant should place the zero of the tape on the mat at the centre of the mat line. The umpire should place the tape on the ground in a direct line between the mat and the jack, ensuring that that the tape is taut and it does not disturb the jack. Should the 23 metre mark of the tape pass beyond the nearest point of the jack, then the distance of the jack is illegal.
- Similar procedures should be adopted for checking a rebounded jack (distance 20 metres) and for checking a delivered bowl (distance 14 metres).

Boundary Scope.

- Use when deciding on a “line” jack or bowl on the surface of the green or in the ditch.
- Ensure that the boundary scope is properly aligned with the rink boundary pegs on both banks.
- Hand signal to indicate whether the jack or bowl is “in play” or “out of play”.

Long / Medium / Ditch Measures.

Tape Measure.

- Use when the distance is more than 1.5 metres.
- Use when the jack and / or bowls are in the ditch.
- When a bowl in the ditch is being measured against a bowl on the surface of the green and the jack is on the green, the measure should be conducted as normal for the bowl on the green. For the bowl in the ditch the measure shall be from the jack to the bowl. Before declaring the shot the bowl in the ditch should be checked to ensure that it is a toucher.
- When measuring between a bowl or jack in the ditch and a bowl or jack on the green
 - a. ensure that the pointer and the tape are in a straight line between the object in the ditch and the edge of the ditch
 - b. ensure that the tape crosses the edge of the ditch in a straight line between the jack and the bowl.
 - c. ensure that the tape does not cut into the green at the point where it crosses the edge of the ditch.
 - d. avoid standing in the ditch unless absolutely necessary (to reduce the risk of moving the jack or bowl).
 - e. measure from the object on the green to the object in the ditch.

Trammels.

- Use when the distance is 250mm to 1.5 mtrs and the bowls and jack are on the green.
- If the jack and bowls are not on the same plane, use the flexible measure (i.e. tape) whenever it is available.
- Position and alignment of the trammel is all important – must be at correct angle, sitting flat on the green, and in a straight line between the nearest points of the jack and the bowl with the large end plate of the trammel against the bowl and a gap of around 50mm (2 inches) between the small end plate and the jack.
- Measure the distance between end plate and the jack with callipers.
- Remove the trammel from between bowl and jack before adjusting.

Short Measures.

Reflective Strips.

- Use in conjunction with feeler gauges and callipers.

Callipers.

- Use when distance is 10mm to 250mm.
- If jack and bowl are not on the same plane, use flexible measure wherever it is possible.
- Use whichever size callipers are most appropriate.
- Measure *from bowl to jack*.
- Initial width of callipers should be *less than* the distance between the jack and the bowls. The width should be increased as the measure progresses.
- Do not adjust the callipers when they are positioned between the measuring points of the jack and the
- bowl. Ensure that the callipers are at the correct angle between the nearest points of the jack and the bowl.

Feeler Gauges.

- Use when the distance is 0mm to 10mm.
- Place reflective strips on the green between the jack and the bowls.
- Ensure that the gauges are at the correct angle between the nearest points of the jack and the bowls.
- Thickness of the first gauges to be used should be *less than* the distance between the jack and the bowls. Thickness of the gauges should be increased as the measure progresses.