

Summary of Changes to the Laws of the Sport of Bowls – 12 December 2014

The new Laws of the Sport of Bowls and the new Bowls Australia Domestic Regulations (DR) become effective on **1 January 2015** across all states in Australia.

A brief summary of the main changes are detailed here below.

In summary some common-sense changes from World Bowls (WB) & Bowls Australia (BA) in that many suggestions from our rank & file bowlers have been adopted **including the scoring duties in fours reverting back to the second from 1 January 2015.**

The information provided is a general summary only, for more detail get a copy of the new LAW book from you club or online at BV when they become available.

Both the Laws of the Sport and the BA Domestic Regulations are in the one book.

Crystal Mark Third Edition (CM3) Laws of the Sport of Bowls

LAWS HAVE ALL BEEN RENUMBERED

The Laws have been reorganised – with the aim to follow the progression of the game. The Laws have been renumbered!

SUMMARY OF CHANGES

In all Laws the word SHOULD referring to a compulsory action, has been changed to MUST.

DEFINITIONS

The definition of Delivery has been amended:

Delivery: 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.

Trial Ends

A penalty has been added for players failing to abide by trial end requirements:

LAW 5.1.4 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.

Position on the mat

Has been changed (Previously stated that a player should be standing on the mat with one foot fully on the mat)

LAW 7.1 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.

Touchers

Amended to reflect intent of the LAW 14.3

No bowl will become a toucher if it plays onto, or comes into contact with the jack when the jack is in the ditch.

Measuring for shot

Penalty for use of measuring equipment before the process of determining the number of shots starts:

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.

DEFAULTS

Authority to create a DR to provide for Absentee players in a sides game:

LAW 39.2.3 For domestic play, Member National Authorities can approve regulations which are different from those mentioned in LAW 39.2.2.

A BA DR has been created for a fours game that provides for the team with one player short to play less bowls – **e.g. the team short plays 6 bowls (lead, third & skip) against 8 bowls and there is no deduction from the score** – if an eligible substitute becomes available they may join the game at any time once the end in progress is completed.

Players' Duties

Authority to create a DR to provide for who keeps the score-card:

LAW 40.1.9 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. A BA DR has been created that provides that in fours play the score card is kept by the second of each team. Any person may update the scoreboard at any time whilst the match is in progress.

Players with Disabilities

Allowance for players who kneel on the mat:

LAW 41.6 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. This was not specifically stated in previous Laws.

Players with Disabilities

Allowance for players with hearing disability:

41.7 Players with a hearing disability can use electronic devices to communicate with each other while on the rink of play. Electronic devices must be used in line with the regulations set out in the Conditions of Play by the Controlling Body. Controlling Bodies should allow for hearing devices in their Conditions of Play.

Division of the Green

LAW 49 now makes legal the common method of marking the 2m and 25m (23m in Australia) marks on the side ditches

LAW 49.12 White or brightly coloured pegs, discs or other suitable markings must be fixed or marked vertically against the face of the side banks or fixed on top of the side banks in the direction of play to mark distances of 2 metres and 25 metres (23m in Australia under DR) from the end ditches. Wherever possible, these must be the only pegs, discs or markings visible on the side banks.

Adhesive Markings

Bowls Stickers.

LAW 52 now has specific requirements about stickers:

LAW 52.1.8 The Controlling Body can supply adhesive (stick-on) markings for players to temporarily fix to both sides of their bowls, or allow players to use their own markings.

When these markings are used:

LAW 52.1.8.3 they must not be put over the **serial number** and the **World Bowls Stamp** which are present on the bias side of the bowl; and

LAW 52.1.8.4 all bowls belonging to players within a team or side must have these markings on them and the markings must all be the same design and colour. However, players may use markings which are different in size from those used by other players in their team or side where this is necessary due to differences in the sizes of the manufacturers' rings on the bowls.

Adhesive Markings Bowls Stickers:

LAW 53.5 allows:

LAW 52.1.5 For domestic play, Member National Authorities can decide the requirements for distinguishing marks.

Under the provisions of this Law, a DR has been written that allows for the 'dot' to be used instead of a small ring (covering the small engraving) to avoid covering the WB Stamp or Serial number providing the dot comes from the same set of labels.

Re-Spots

New option for where to re-spot in matches where there are no dead ends through valid movement of the jack: LAW 56.5.3 One re-spot position 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.

Note – alternative to three re-spot positions, but needs to be specified in the Conditions of Play for the event.

BOWLERS ARM – USAGE

If there are no specific Conditions of Play in an event then the following applies to all BV Events including Pennant.

Bowlers' arms were brought into the game initially to allow persons with a medical condition the opportunity to play or continue playing bowls. There are currently three types of bowlers arms approved for use in Australia. They are known as the "The Bowling Arm", the "Bionic Bowler Arm" and the "DHB arm" (in three models). Each device is manufactured in several lengths and release mechanisms. Only approved arms (with Bowls Australia codes) can be used in Australia.

Modifications are not permitted (with exception to the rubber grip on the bottom of the arm which may need to be replaced as it wears out.) Challenge on appeal to an umpire regarding a bowlers arm could occur before the trial ends or up to 10mins after a game (but not during the game) as similar to Law 8.4.3.

1. If a player is using a bowler's arm that is not approved, the player becomes a defaulting player as per LAW 1.3.3 and will forfeit the game as per LAW 1.3.10.
2. If a player is using a bowlers arm that is approved but does not have approval to use one, the player becomes a defaulting player as per LAW 1.3.3 and will forfeit the game as per LAW 1.3.10.

3. If a player is using an approved bowlers arm but does not have an approval card/certificate with them on the day, the player must prove to the controlling body of the competition they have approval to use a bowlers arm from their state/territory within five working days of the challenge – if evidence is not provided within this 5 working days then the player becomes a defaulting player as per LAW 1.3.3 and will forfeit the game as per LAW 1.3.10.

The process for obtaining a Bowlers Arm Certificate from Bowls Victoria is to obtain medical evidence from your GP, submit it together with a letter to your Regional Secretary when once approved by Region will be submitted to Bowls Victoria and the appropriate Certificate will be issued, once issued it MUST be carried at all times if using the arm during play. A Bowlers Arm permit currently has no expiry date.

The use of a Bowlers Arm is totally up to the permit holder and there is no requirement to use it the whole game, it may be used on an ad-hoc basis as required i.e. not used at the start then used for 5-6 ends then put away – that's fine.