

Changing the way you look at sport . . .

The Laws of Bowling

**World Bowls Board (WBB)
World Indoor Bowls Council (WIBC)
International Women's Bowling Board (IWBB)
Joint LAWS of the GAME**

Definitions

1. Controlling Body, means the body having immediate control of the conditions under which a match is played. The order shall be:

- (i) The World Bowls Board (W.B.B.), the World Indoor Bowls Council (W.I.B.C.), the International Women's Bowling Board (I.W.B.B.).
- (ii) The National Bowling Authority or grouping of National Bowls Authorities.
- (iii) Divisions within National Authorities
- (iv) The Club on whose Green the Match is played.

Skip means the Player who is in charge of the team.

Team means either a Four, Triples or a Pair.

Side means any agreed number of Teams and/or Singles Players, whose combined scores determine the results of the match.

Four means a team of four players whose positions in order of playing are named, Lead, Second, Third, Skip.

Bowl in its original Course" means a Bowl from the time of its delivery until it comes to rest, regardless of how many times it may be deflected before coming to rest.

End means the placing of the Mat, the delivery of the Jack and the playing of all the required Bowls of all the opponents in the same direction on a rink

Head means the Jack and such Bowls as have come to rest within the boundary of the rink and are not dead. (See Laws 35 and 40).

Mat Line means the edge of the Mat which is nearest to the front ditch. From the centre of the Mat Line as necessary measurements to Jack or Bowls shall be taken.

Reference Bowl means a Bowl which has been approved by the W.B.B. as having the minimum bias required, as well as in all other respects complying with the Laws of the Game and is engraved with the words "Reference Bowl".

- (i) A Reference Bowl shall be kept in the custody of each National Authority.
- (ii) A Reference Bowl shall be provided for the use of each official Licensed Tester.

Jack High means that the nearest portion of the Bowl referred to is in line with and at the same distance from the Mat Line as the nearest portion of the Jack.

Pace of Green means the number of seconds taken by a Bowl from the time of its delivery to the moment it comes to rest, approximately 27m from the Mat Line.

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Displaced as applied to a Jack or Bowl means "disturbed" by any agency that is not sanctioned by these Laws.

A Set of Bowls means four Bowls all of a matched set which are of the same manufacture, and of the same size, weight, colour, bias and where applicable serial number and engraving. In all games each player shall play with the appropriate number of Bowls from the same set.

Holding Surface means a product to stop the Jack or Bowl from running along the ditch.

Set means a pre-determined number of shots or ends, forming part of the overall match.

Delivery means when the Jack or Bowl is released intentionally from the hand.

Domestic means any play under the control of a Controlling Body other than the World Bowls Board, World Indoor Bowls Council, International Women's Bowling Board.

Former Position means the location of a Bowl or Jack at rest on the rink of play or in the ditch immediately prior to being displaced.

The Green, Ditch and Banks

2. The Green - Area and Surface

The Green shall be a rectangle, have a suitable level playing surface and be provided with suitable boundaries in the form of a ditch and bank.

The length shall not be less than 34m and not more than 40m in the direction of play.

3. The Ditch

The Green shall be surrounded by a ditch which shall have a holding surface which is free from obstacles, and is not injurious to Jack or Bowls. The ditch shall not be less than 200mm nor more than 380mm wide and it shall not be less than 50mm nor more than 200mm deep. In the case of Indoor Greens only the end ditches in the direction of play must comply with the afore-mentioned standards.

4. The Bank

The bank shall be not less than 230mm above the level of the green, preferably upright, or alternatively at an angle of not more than 35 degrees from the perpendicular. The surface of the face of the bank shall be not-injurious to Jack or Bowls. No steps likely to interfere with play shall not be cut into the bank.

5. Division of the Green

The Green shall be divided into spaces called rinks.

Outdoor Green

Rinks shall be not less than 5.5m nor more than 5.8m wide. The rinks shall be numbered consecutively, the centre line of each rink being marked on the bank at each end by a wooden peg or other suitable device. The four corners of the rink shall be marked by pegs made of wood or other suitable material, painted white or distinctly coloured and fixed to the face of the bank and flush therewith or alternatively fixed on the bank not more than 100mm back from the face thereof. The corner pegs may be connected by a green thread drawn tightly along the surface of the green, with sufficient loose thread to reach the corresponding pegs on the face or surface of the bank, in order to define the boundary of the rink. The centre line of each rink may be defined upon the surface of the green for a distance of 4m starting 2m from each ditch.

White or distinctive coloured pegs or discs shall be fixed on the side of the banks to indicate a clear distance of 25m from the ditch on the line of play. Under no circumstances shall the boundary thread be

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lifted while the Bowl is in motion. The boundary pegs of an outside rink shall be placed at least 600mm from the side ditch.

Indoor Green

Rinks used for play under the direct control of the W.I.B.C. shall be not less than 4.6m nor more than 5.8m wide. The rinks shall be numbered consecutively and the numbers may be placed on the face of the bank, on top of the bank, or on the wall behind the bank, but shall always be on the centre line of the rink. The centre of the rink shall be clearly indicated. The four corners of the rink shall be indicated by markers, affixed to the face of the bank and flush therewith, or alternatively fixed on the bank not more than 100mm back from the face thereof. These markers shall be of a material which cannot cause damage to Bowls or Jack. The marker shall be not more than 25mm in width, and the centre of the marker shall be clearly marked by a thin black line. The boundary pegs of an outside rink shall be placed at least 460mm from the side ditch. Similar markers shall be fixed to the side banks to indicate a clear distance of 25m from the end ditch on the line of play. An unobtrusive marker in the form of a "T" may be affixed to the carpet with the short leg of the "T" being parallel to and 2m from the edge of the ditch, the junction indicating the centre line of the rink.

The W.I.B.C. reserve the right to put additional marks/markers on the green to assist with the positioning of the mat and/or centring the Jack. In the event of part of the Green being used to accommodate spectators, side ditches may be dispensed with, but the distance markers must be brought forward and fixed in a suitable manner. They must be clearly visible to all players. During the period of provision of temporary seating on the Green there must be a completely unrestricted area of the green of at least 900mm in width between the seated area and the outside boundary of the nearest rink.

6. Outdoor Variations of Laws 2 and 5

- I. National Authorities may admit greens not longer than 40m nor shorter than 31m in the direction of play.
- II. For domestic play the Green may be divided into Rinks, not less than 4.3m nor more than 5.8m wide. National Authorities may dispense with the use of boundary threads.
- III. National Authorities may approve artificial surfaces for domestic play.

Indoor Variations of Laws 2, 3, 4 and 5

Variations to the Laws mentioned above will only be permitted if:

- I. It can be established to the satisfaction of the Controlling Body that such variation is essential to the efficient running of the Club or;
- II. Such variation is permitted under National Competition Rules.

Mat, Jack, Bowls and Footwear

7. Mat

The mat shall be of a size 600mm long and 360mm wide.

8. Jack

The Jack shall be spherical, and white or yellow in colour.

Outdoor Specifications

The diameter of the Jack shall not be less than 63mm nor more than 64mm and not less than 225g nor more than 285g in weight.

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Indoor and Outdoor Synthetic Greens Specifications

The diameter of the Jack shall be not less than 63mm nor more than 67mm and not less than 382g nor more than 453g in weight.

9. Bowls

Composition

Bowls shall be made of wood, rubber or composition and shall be black, brown or any other colour acceptable to the W.B.B., W.I.B.C. or I.W.B.B. Each Bowl of the set shall bear an individual distinguishing mark on each side of the Bowl. The provision relating to the distinguishing marks need not apply other than in International Matches, World Bowls Championship and Commonwealth Games.

Bowls made of wood (*lignum vitae*) shall have a maximum diameter of 134mm and a minimum diameter of 116mm and the weight shall not exceed 1.59kg.

Bowls intended for play in World Championships, International Matches and Commonwealth Games Matches, and made of rubber or composition shall have a maximum diameter of 131mm and a minimum diameter of 116mm and the weight shall not exceed 1.59kg.

Subject to Bowls bearing a current stamp of the W.B.B., and provided they comply with the Laws of the Game, they may be used in all matches under the control of the W.B.B., W.I.B.C. or I.W.B.B. or any Member National Authority.

Outdoor Requirements

Notwithstanding the foregoing provisions, any Member National Authority may adopt a different scale of weights and sizes of Bowls to be used in matches under its own control - such Bowls may not be validly used in International Matches, World Bowls Championships, Commonwealth Games or other matches controlled by the Board if they differ from the Board's Laws, and unless stamped with a current stamp of the Board or any Member National Authority or the B.I.B.C.

Bias of Bowls

The Reference Bowl shall have a bias approved by the World Bowls Board. All Bowls shall have a bias of not less than that of the Reference Bowl, and shall bear the imprint of the Stamp of the International Bowling Board / World Bowls Board.

Outdoor Requirements

National Authorities may adopt a standard which exceeds the bias of the Reference Bowl. To ensure accuracy of bias and visibility of stamp, all Bowls shall be re-tested and re-stamped at least once every ten years, or earlier if the date of the stamp is not clearly legible.

Indoor Requirements

Bowls shall only require to be re-tested and re-stamped if the date of the stamp is not clearly legible.

The W.I.B.C. and other Indoor Controlling Bodies reserve the right to test Bowls intended for play in any indoor Bowls event under their direct control.

The test may be a Table Test or a Green Test depending on the availability of test facilities.

Bowls Failing Test

If a Bowl in the hands of a Licensed Tester is declared as not complying with Law 9 (b), it shall be altered, if possible, so as to comply, before being returned.

The owner of the Bowls shall be responsible for the expense involved.

If the Bowl cannot be altered to comply with Law 9 (a) and (b) any current official stamp appearing thereon shall be cancelled prior to its return. The stamp shall be cancelled by the tester stamping an X over any current official stamp.

Bowls submitted for testing must be in sets of four.

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Objection to Bowls

A challenge may be lodged by any opposing player and/or by the Official Umpire and/or the Controlling Body. A challenge or any intimation thereof shall not be lodged with any opposing player during the progress of a match. A challenge may be lodged with the Umpire at any time during a Match, provided the Umpire is not a player in that or any other match of the same competition.

If a challenge be lodged it shall be made not later than 10 minutes after the completion of the final end in which the Bowl was used.

Once a challenge is lodged with the umpire it cannot be withdrawn.

The challenge shall be based on the grounds that the Bowl does not comply with one or more of the requirements set out in Law 9 (a) and (b).

The Umpire shall request the user of the Bowl to surrender it to him for forwarding to the Controlling Body. If the owner of the challenged Bowl refuses to surrender it to the Umpire, the Match shall thereupon be forfeited to the opponent. The user or owner, or both, may be disqualified from playing in any match controlled or permitted by the Controlling Body, so long as the Bowl remains untested by a Licensed Tester.

On receipt of the Bowl, the Umpire shall take immediate steps to hand them to the Secretary of the Controlling Body, who shall arrange for a table test to be taken as soon as practicable and in the presence of a representative of the Controlling Body.

If a table test be not readily available, and any delay would unduly interfere with the progress of the competition, then, should an approved green testing device be available, it may be used to make an immediate test on the green. If a green test be made it shall be done by, or in the presence of, the Umpire over a distance of not less than 21m. The comparison shall be between the challenged Bowl and the Reference W.B.B. Test Bowl, or if it be not readily available then a Bowl bearing the current stamp, of similar size or nearly so, should be used.

The decision of the Umpire, as a result of the test, shall be final and binding for that match.

The result of the subsequent table test shall not invalidate the decision given by the Umpire on a green test.

If a challenged Bowl after an official table test, be found to comply with Law 9 (a) and (b), it shall be returned to the user or owner.

If a challenged Bowl be found not to comply with Law 9 (a) and (b), the match in which it was played shall be forfeited to the opponent.

If a Bowl in the hands of a Licensed Tester has been declared as not complying with the Law 9 (b), it shall be altered, if possible, so as to comply, before being returned. The owner of the Bowl shall be responsible for the expenses involved.

If the Bowl cannot be altered to comply with Law 9 (a) and (b), any current official stamp appearing thereon shall be cancelled prior to its return. The stamp shall be cancelled by the Tester stamping an X over any current official stamp.

Alteration to Bias

A player shall not alter, or cause to be altered, other than by an Official Bowl Tester, the bias of any Bowl, bearing the imprint of the official stamp of the W.B.B., under penalty of suspension from playing for a period to be determined by the National Authority, of which his club is a member. Such suspension shall be subject to confirmation by the Board, or a Committee thereof appointed for that purpose, and shall be operative among all Authorities in membership with the W.B.B., W.I.B.C., I.W.B.B. or W.I.B.C.L.S.

10. Footwear

Players, Umpires and Markers shall wear white, brown or black smooth-soled heelless footwear while playing on the green or acting as Umpires or Markers. The World and National Authorities reserve the right to allow the use of other colours of footwear.

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Arranging a Game and Player Status

11. General form and duration

A game of Bowl shall be played on one rink or on several rinks. It shall consist of a specified number of shots or ends, or shall be played for any period of time as previously arranged.

The ends of the game shall be played alternately in opposite directions excepting as provided in Laws 37, 41, 43, 45 and 46.

12. Selecting the rinks for play

When a match is to be played, the draw for the rinks to be played on shall be made by the Skips or their representatives or their Controlling Body.

In a match for a trophy or where competing Skips have previously been drawn, the draw to decide the number of the rink to be played on shall be made by the visiting Skips or their representatives or the Controlling Body.

No player in a competition or match shall play on the same rink on the day of such competition or match before play commences under penalty of disqualification.

This Law shall not apply in the case of Open Tournaments.

13. Play arrangements

Games shall be organised in the following arrangements:

- I. As a single game;
- II. As a team game;
- III. As a sides game;
- IV. As a series of single games, team games or sides games;
- V. As a special tournament of games.

14. A singles game shall be played between two players, each playing two, three or four of a set of Bowls singly and alternately, the number of Bowls being determined by the Controlling Body.

15. A Pairs game by two contending teams, each of two players who shall play the determined number of a set of Bowls in the order designated by the Controlling Body.

16. A Triples game shall be played by two contending teams of three players, who shall play two or three of a set of Bowls singly and in turn.

17. A Fours game shall be played by two contending teams, each of four players, who shall play two of a set of Bowls singly and in turn.

18. A side game shall be played by two contending sides, each composed of an equal number of teams / players.

19. Games in a series shall be arranged to be played on several consecutive occasions as:

- I. A series or sequence of games organised in the form of an eliminating competition, and arranged as Singles, Pairs, Triples or Fours;
- II. A series or sequence of side matches organised in the form of a league competition, or an eliminating competition, or of Inter-Association matches.

20. A special Tournament of Games

Single games and team games may also be arranged in group form as a special tournament of games in which the contestants play each other in turn, or they may play as paired-off teams of players on one of several greens in accordance with the common time-table, success being adjudged by the number of games won, or by the highest net score in shots in accordance with the regulations governing the Tournament.

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21. Championships and International Matches

Outdoor Version

For International Matches, World Bowls Championships and Commonwealth Games in matches where played.

- I. Singles shall be played 21 shots up (shots in excess of 21 shall not count), four Bowls each player played alternately;
- II. Pairs shall be 21 ends, four Bowls each player, played alternately;
- III. Triples shall be 18 ends, three Bowls each player, played alternately;
- IV. Fours shall be 21 ends, two Bowls each player, played alternately;

PROVIDED that Pairs, Triples and Fours may be of a lesser number of ends, but in the case of Pairs and Fours there shall not be less than 18 ends and in the case of Triples not less than 15 ends, subject in all cases to the express approval of the Board as represented by its most senior officer present. If there be no officer of the Board present at the time, the decision shall rest with the "Controlling Body" as defined in Law 1. Any decision to curtail the number of ends to be played shall be made before the commencement of any game, and such decision shall only be made on the grounds of climatic conditions, inclement weather, or shortage of time to complete a programme.

Indoor Version

In all forms of competitive play under the direct control of the World Indoor Bowls Council or World Indoor Bowls Council Ladies Section, each player shall play the same number of Bowls as his direct opponent. The Controlling Body shall determine in advance the number of Bowls to be played. In competitive indoor Bowls play there will normally be a time limit on play. The time restriction on play will be determined by the Controlling Body in advance of the commencement of play, and time Limits must always be taken into consideration with the following subparagraphs:

- I. Singles may be played with two, three or four Bowls each player playing alternately. Singles shall be of twenty-one (21) shots or such other format as agreed in advance by the Controlling Body. (Shots in excess of the pre-determined total shall not count).
- II. Pairs shall be twenty-one (21) ends, or such other format as agreed in advance by the Controlling Body. Two, three or four Bowls may be played, each player playing alternately.
- III. Triples shall be eighteen (18) ends, or such other format as agreed in advance by the Controlling Body. Two or three Bowls may be played. each player playing alternately.
- IV. Fours shall be twenty-one (21) ends, or sum other format as agreed in advance by the Controlling Body. Two Bowls shall be played, each player playing alternately.
- V. Side games under the direct control of the World Indoor Bowls Council or World Indoor Bowls Council Ladies Section shall be of twenty-one (21) ends, provided that pairs, triples and fours may be of a lesser number of ends, but in the case of pairs and fours these shall not be less than eighteen (18) ends, and in the case of triples not less than fifteen (15) ends, subject in all cases to the express approval of the World Indoor Bowls Council as represented by its senior officer present. If no such officer be present at the time, then the decision shall rest with the Controlling Body as defined in Law 1. Any decision to curtail the number of ends to be played shall be made before the commencement of any game, and such decision shall only be due to, or on the grounds of shortage of time to complete a programme. In the event of a power failure causing "Blackout" the Controlling Body shall determine what course of action to be taken.

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Starting the Game

22. (a) Trial ends

Before start of play in any competition, match or game or on the resumption of an unfinished competition, match or game on another day, not more than one trial end each way shall be played.

22. (b) Tossing for opening play

The Captains or Managers in a side game or Skips in a team game, or opponents in a Singles game shall toss to decide which side, team or opponent shall play First. The winner of the toss shall have the option of decision. In the event of a tied (no score) or a "dead" end, the first to play in the tied end or "dead" end shall again play first. In all ends subsequent to the first the winner of the preceding scoring end shall play first.

23. Placing the Mat

At the beginning of the first end the player to play first shall place the centre line of the mat lengthwise on the centre line of the rink, the mat line to be not less than 2m from the rear ditch and not less than 25m from the front ditch.

Outdoor Variation

Where groundsheets are in use, the Controlling Body will direct the location of the mat line for the first and every subsequent end.

24. The Mat and it's replacement

After play has commenced in any end, the mat shall not be moved from its first position except in the following circumstances:

- I. If the mat be displaced during the progress of an end it shall be replaced as near as practicable in the same position;
- II. If the mat be out of alignment with the centre line it shall be straightened;
- III. Should the mat be picked up by a player before the end has been completed, the opposing player shall have the right of replacing the mat in its original position;
- IV. After the last Bowl in each end has come to rest in play, or has sooner become dead, the mat shall be lifted and placed wholly beyond the face of the rear bank.

25. The Mat and Jack in subsequent ends

- I. In all subsequent ends mat line shall be not less than 2m from the rear ditch and not less than 25m from the front ditch and on the centre line of the rink of play.
- II. Should the Jack be improperly delivered under Law 29, the opposing player may then move the mat in the line of play, subject to Clause (I) above and deliver the Jack, ensuring that it is centred, but shall not play first. Should the Jack be improperly delivered once by each player in any end, it shall not be delivered again in that end, but it shall be centred so that the front of the Jack is a distance of 2m from the opposite ditch, and the mat placed at the option of the first to play.
If after the Jack is set at regulation Length from the ditch (2m), and both players each having improperly delivered the Jack once, the end is made dead, the winner of the preceding scoring end shall deliver the Jack when the end is played anew.
- III. No one shall be permitted to challenge the legality of the original position of the mat after the first to play has delivered the first Bowl.

26. Stance on the Mat

A player, at the moment of delivering the Jack or Bowl, shall have one foot entirely within the confines of the mat.

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27. Foot-faulting

Should a player infringe the Law of foot-faulting the Umpire shall, after having given a warning, have the Bowl stopped and declared dead. If the Bowl has disturbed the head, the opponent shall have the option of either:

- I. resetting the head;
- II. leaving the head as altered; or
- III. declaring the end dead.
- IV.

28. Delivering the Jack

The player to play first shall deliver the Jack and ensure that it is properly centred. If the Jack in its original course comes to rest at a distance of less than 2m from the front ditch, it shall be moved out to a mark at that distance and centred with the nearest portion of the Jack to the mat line being 2m from the edge of the front ditch, by setting it alongside the edge of a 2m measuring device.

If the Jack during its original course be obstructed or deflected by a neutral object or neutral person, or by a marker, Opponent, or member of the opposing team, it shall be redelivered by the same player. If it be obstructed or deflected by a member of his own team, it shall be redelivered by the Lead of the opposing team, who under these circumstances is entitled to reset the mat. No one shall be permitted to challenge the legality of the original position of the Jack after the first to play has delivered the first Bowl.

29. Jack improperly delivered

Should the Jack in any end be improperly delivered, or if it ends its original course in the ditch or outside boundary of the rink, or less than 23m in a straight line of play from the mat line, it shall be returned and the opposing player shall deliver the Jack, ensuring that it is centred, but shall not play first.

The Jack shall be returned if it is improperly delivered, but the right of the player first delivering the Jack in that end, to play the first Bowl in that end shall not be affected.

No one shall be permitted to challenge the legality of the original position of the Jack after the first to play has delivered the first Bowl.

30. Variations to Laws 23, 25, 28 and 29

Notwithstanding anything contained in Laws 23, 25, 28 and 29, any National Authority may for domestic purposes, but not in any International Matches, World Bowls Championships or Commonwealth Games, vary any of the distances mentioned in these Laws.

Movement of Bowls

31. "Live" Bowl

A Bowl which, in its original course on the Green, comes to rest within the boundaries of the rink, and not less than 14m, measured in a direct line from the front centre of the mat line, shall be accounted as a "Live" Bowl and shall be in play.

32. "Touchers"

A Bowl which, in its original course on the green touches the Jack, even though such a Bowl passes into the ditch within the boundaries of the rink, shall be counted as a "live" Bowl and shall be called a "toucher". If after having come to rest a Bowl falls over and touches the Jack before the next succeeding Bowl is delivered, or if in the case of the last Bowl of an end it falls and touches the Jack within the period of 30 seconds invoked under Law 52, such a Bowl shall also be a "toucher".

No Bowl shall be accounted a "toucher" by playing on to, or by coming into contact with, the Jack while the Jack is in the ditch. If a "toucher" in the ditch cannot be seen from the mat its position shall be marked by a white or coloured indicator about 50mm broad and not more than 100mm in height placed upright on the top or face of the bank and immediately in line with the place where the "toucher" rests.

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33. Marking a "Toucher"

A "toucher" shall be clearly marked with a chalk mark by a member of the player's team or Marker in a singles game. If, in the opinion of either Skip, or Opponent or Marker in Singles, a "toucher" or a wrongly chalked Bowl comes to rest in such a position that the act of making a chalk mark, or of erasing it, is likely to move the Bowl or to alter the head, the Bowl shall not be marked or have its mark erased but shall be "indicated" as a "toucher" or "non-toucher" as the case may be. If a Bowl is not so marked or not so "indicated" before the succeeding Bowl comes to rest it ceases to be a "toucher". If both Skips or Opponents agree that any subsequent movement of the Bowl eliminates the necessity for continuation of the "indicated" provision the Bowl shall thereupon be marked or have a chalk mark erased as the case may be. Care shall be taken to remove the "toucher" marks from all Bowls before they are played, but should a player fail to do so, and should the Bowl not become a "toucher" in the end in play, the marks shall be removed by the opposing Skip or his deputy or Marker immediately the Bowl comes to rest unless the Bowl is "indicated" as a "non-toucher" in circumstances governed by earlier provisions of this Law.

34. Movement of "Touchers"

A "toucher" in play in the ditch may be moved by the impact of a Jack in play or of another "toucher" in play, and also by the impact of a "non-toucher" which remains in play after the impact, and any movement of the "toucher" by such incidents shall be valid. However, should the "non-toucher" enter the ditch before the next succeeding Bowl is delivered, it shall be dead, and the "toucher" shall be deemed to have been displaced by a dead Bowl and the provisions of Law 37(e) shall apply.

35. Bowl Accounted "Dead"

35(a) Without limiting the application of any other of these Laws, a Bowl shall be accounted dead and removed from the rink if:

- I. not being a "toucher" it comes to rest in the ditch or rebounds on to the playing surface of the rink after contact with the bank or with the Jack or a "toucher" in the ditch; or
- II. after completing its original course, or after being moved as a result of play, it comes to rest wholly outside the boundaries of the playing surface of the rink, or within 14m, measured in a direct line from the centre of the mat line; or
- III. its original course, passes beyond a side boundary of the rink on a bias which would prevent its re-entering the rink. (A Bowl is not rendered "dead" by a player carrying it whilst inspecting the head.)

35(b) Skips or the Opponents in Singles shall agree on the question as to whether or not a Bowl is "dead". Any member of either team may request a decision from the Skips, but no member shall remove any Bowl prior to agreement by the Skips. Once their attention has been drawn to the matter, the Skips by agreement must make a decision. If they cannot reach agreement, the Umpire must make an immediate decision.

36. Bowl Rebounding

Only "touchers" rebounding from the face of the bank to the ditch or the rink shall remain in play.

37. Bowl Displacement

37(a) Displacement by rebounding "non-toucher" - Bowl displaced by a "non-toucher" rebounding from the bank shall be restored as near as possible to its former position, by a member of the opposing team or by the Marker.

37(b) Displacement by a participating player - if a Bowl, while in motion or at rest on the green, or a "toucher" in the ditch, be interfered with or displaced by one of the players, the opposing Skip shall have the option of:

- I. restoring the Bowl as near as possible to its former position;
- II. letting it remain where it rests;
- III. declaring the Bowl "dead"; or
- IV. declaring the end "dead".

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37(c) Displacement by a neutral object or neutral person (other than as provided in Clause (d) hereof):

- I. of the Bowl in its original course - if such a Bowl be displaced within the boundaries of the rink of play without having disturbed the head, it shall be replayed. If it be displaced and has disturbed the head, the Skip, or the Opponents in Singles, shall reach agreement on the final position of the displaced Bowl and on the replacement of the head, otherwise the end shall be "dead".
These provisions shall also apply to a Bowl in its original course displaced outside the boundaries of the rink of play provided such Bowl was running on a bias which would have enabled it to re-enter the rink.
- II. of a Bowl at rest, or in motion as a result of play after being at rest - if such a Bowl be displaced, the Skip or Opponents in Singles, shall come to an agreement as to the position of the Bowl and the replacement of any part of the head disturbed by the displaced Bowl, otherwise the end shall be "dead".

37(d) Displacement inadvertently produced - if a Bowl be moved at the time of it being marked or measured it shall be restored to its former position by an opponent. If such displacement is caused by a Marker or an Umpire, the Marker or Umpire shall replace the Bowl.

37(e) Displacement by dead Bowl - if a "toucher" in the ditch be displaced by a "dead" Bowl from the rink of play, it shall be restored to its former position by a player of the opposite team or by the Marker.

37(f) Displacement by a Bowl from an adjoining rink - A Bowl or Jack at rest on the rink, if in danger of being moved by a Bowl from an adjoining rink may be lifted by the Marker or any player at the head to allow the neutral Bowl to pass, and then be replaced, provided such action would not influence the outcome of the head so moved.

38. "Line Bowls"

A Bowl shall not be accounted as outside the line unless it be entirely clear of it. This shall be ascertained by looking perpendicularly down upon the Bowl or by placing a square on the green or by use of a string, mirror or other approved optical device.

Movement of Jack

39. A "live" Jack in the Ditch

A Jack moved by a Bowl in play into the front ditch within the boundaries of the rink shall be deemed to be "live". It may be moved by the impact of a "toucher" in play and also by the impact of a "non-toucher" which remains in play after the impact, any movement of the Jack by such incidents shall be valid. However, should the "non-toucher" enter the ditch at any time after impact it shall be "dead" and the Jack shall be deemed to be "displaced" by a "dead" Bowl and the provisions of Law 47 shall apply. If the Jack in the ditch cannot be seen from the mat its position shall be marked by a "white" indicator about 50mm broad and not more than 100mm in height, placed upright on the top or face of the bank and immediately in line with the place where the Jack rests.

40. A Jack accounted "Dead"

Should the Jack be driven by a Bowl in play so that it passes beyond the face of the bank or comes to rest wholly beyond the boundary of the rink, i.e. over the bank, or boundary, or into any opening or inequality of any kind in the bank, or rebound to a distance of less than 20m in direct line from the centre of the mat line to the Jack in its rebounded position, it shall be accounted "dead".

41. "Dead" End

When the Jack is "dead" the end shall be regarded as a "dead" end and shall not be accounted as a played end even though all the Bowls in that end may have been played. All "dead" ends shall be played anew in the same direction unless both Skips or Opponents in Singles agree to play in the opposite direction.

Changing the way you look at sport . . .

After a "dead" end situation the right to deliver the Jack shall always return to the player who delivered the original Jack.

42. Playing to a boundary Jack

The Jack, if driven to the side boundary of the rink and not wholly beyond its limits, may be played to on either hand and, if necessary a Bowl may pass outside the limits of the rink. A Bowl so played, which comes to rest within the boundaries of the rink, shall not be accounted "dead".

If the Jack be driven to the side boundary line and comes to rest partly within the limits of the rink, a Bowl played outside the limits of the rink and coming to rest entirely outside the boundary line, even though it has made contact with the Jack, shall be accounted "dead" and shall be removed to the bank by a member of the player's team.

43. A Damaged Jack

In the event of a Jack being damaged, the Umpire shall decide if another Jack is necessary and, if so, the end shall be regarded as a "dead" end and another Jack shall be substituted and the end shall be played anew.

44. A Rebounding Jack

If the Jack is driven against the face of the bank and rebounds on to the rink, or after being played into the ditch, it be operated on by a "toucher", so as to find its way on to the rink, it shall be played to in the same manner as if it had never left the rink.

45. Jack displacement

45(a) By a player

- I. If the Jack be diverted from its course while in motion on the green, or displaced while at rest on the green, or in the ditch, by any one of the players the opposing Skip shall have the option of:
- II. restoring the Jack to its former position;
- III. allowing it to remain where it rests and playing the end to a finish; or
- IV. declaring the end "dead".

I.

45(b) Inadvertently produced

If the Jack be moved at the time of measuring by a player it shall be restored to its former position by an opponent.

46. Jack displaced by a non-player

46(a) If the Jack, whether in motion or at rest on the rink, or in the ditch, be displaced by a Bowl from another rink, or by any object or individual not a member of the team, the two Skips or the opponents in a Singles game shall decide as to its former position, and if they are unable to agree, the end shall be declared "dead".

46(b) If the Jack is displaced by a Marker or Umpire in the process of measuring or in any other circumstances, the displaced Jack shall be restored as near as possible by the Marker or Umpire to its former position of which he shall be the sole judge.

47. Jack displaced by "non-toucher"

A Jack displaced in the rink of play by a "non-toucher" rebounding from the bank shall be restored, as near as possible, to its former position by a player of the opposing team or by the Marker in the Singles game. Should a Jack, however, after having been played into the ditch, be displaced by a "dead Bowl" it shall be restored to its marked position by a player of the opposing team or by the Marker.

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The basis of the Game of Bowls is Fours Play

48. Fours Play

48(a) Designation of players

A team shall consist of four players, named respectively, Lead, Second, Third and Skip, according to the order in which they play, each playing two Bowls.

48(b) Order of Play

The Leads shall play their two Bowls alternatively, and so on, each pair of players in succession to the end. No one shall play until his opponents' Bowl shall have come to rest. Except under circumstances provided for in Law 62, the order of play shall not be changed after the first end has been played, under penalty of disqualification, such penalty involving the forfeiture of the match or game to the opposing team.

49. Possession of the rink

Possession of the rink shall belong to the team whose Bowl is being played. The players in possession of the rink for the time being, shall not be interfered with, annoyed, or have their attention distracted in any way by their opponents.

As soon as each Bowl shall have come to rest, possession of the rink shall be transferred to the other team, time being allowed for marking a "toucher".

Should a player infringe the Law of rink possession the Umpire shall, after having given a warning, have the Bowl declared dead. If the Bowl has disturbed the head, the opponent shall have the option of

- (a) resetting the head,
- (b) leaving the head as altered, or
- (c) declaring the end "dead".

50. Position of Players

Players of each team not in the act of playing or controlling play shall stand behind the Jack and away from the head or 1m behind the mat. As soon as the Bowl is delivered, the Skip or player directing, if in front of the Jack shall retire behind it.

In cases where there is no "stand-off" room at the end of the rink. players shall stand well clear of the object Bowl or Jack, whilst a Bowl is being delivered.

51. Players and their duties

(a) The Skip

The Skip shall have sole charge of his team, and his instructions shall be observed by his players. With the opposing Skip he shall decide all disputed points, and when both agree their decision shall be final.

If both Skips cannot agree, the point in dispute shall be referred to, and considered by, an Umpire whose decision shall be final.

A Skip may at any time delegate his powers and any of his duties to other members of his team provided that such delegation is notified to the opposing Skip.

(b) The Third

The Third player may have deputed to him the duty of measuring any and all disputed shots.

(c) The Second

The Second player shall keep a record of all shots scored for and against his team and shall at all times retain possession of the score card whilst play is in progress. He shall see that the names of all players are entered on the score card; shall compare his record of the game with that of the opposing Second player as each end is declared, and at the close of the game shall hand his score card to his Skip.

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(d) The Lead

The Lead shall place the mat, and shall deliver the Jack ensuring that the Jack is properly centred before playing his first Bowl.

- (e)** in addition to the duties specified in the preceding clauses, any player may undertake such duties as may be assigned to him by the Skip in Clause 51 (a) hereof.

Result of End

52. "The Shot"

A Shot or Shots shall be adjudged by the Bowl or Bowls nearer to the Jack than any other Bowl played by the opposing player or players.

When the last Bowl has come to rest, 30 seconds shall elapse, if either team desires, before the shots are counted. Neither Jack nor Bowls shall be moved until each Skip has agreed to the number of shots, except in circumstances where a Bowl has to be moved to allow the measuring of another Bowl.

53. Measuring conditions to be observed

No measuring shall be allowed until the end has been completed.

All measurements shall be made to the nearest point of each object. If a Bowl requiring to be measured is resting on another Bowl which prevents its measurement, the best available means shall be taken to secure its position, whereupon the other Bowl shall be removed. The same course shall be followed where more than two Bowls are involved, or where, in the course of measuring, a single Bowl is in danger of falling or otherwise changing its position. When it is necessary to measure to a Bowl or Jack in the ditch, and another Bowl or Jack on the green, whenever possible, the measurement shall be made with a flexible measure.

54. "Tie" - No shot

When at the conclusion of play in any end the nearest Bowl of each team is touching the Jack, or is deemed to be equidistant from the Jack, or no live Bowls remain there shall be no score recorded.

The end shall be declared "tied" and shall be counted a played end.

After a "tied end" situation, the right to deliver the Jack shall always return to the player who delivered the original Jack.

55. Nothing in these Laws shall be deemed to make it mandatory for the last player to play his last Bowl in any end, but he shall declare to his Opponent or opposing Skip his intention to refrain from playing it before the commencement of determining the result of the end and this declaration shall be irrevocable.

Game Decisions

56. Games played on one occasion

- (a) In the case of a single game or a team game or a side game played on one occasion, or at any stage of an eliminating competition, the victory decision shall be awarded to the player, team. or side of players producing at the end of the game, the higher total score of shots, or in the case of a "game of winning ends", a majority of winning ends, or the winning number of sets.
- (b) In the case of competitions and/or matches played on a time basis, it shall be the responsibility of the Controlling Body to ensure that Rules are in existence to cover all such competitions and/or matches. The Controlling Body must ensure that Rules have been brought to the attention of clubs and competitors who are liable to take part in such a match or competition.

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57. Tournament games and games in a series

The Controlling Body shall set the conditions of play for such games.

58. Playing to a finish and possible drawn games

If in an eliminating competition, consisting of a stated or agreed upon number of ends, it be found, when all ends have been played, that the scores are equal, an extra end or ends shall be played until the decision has been reached.

The Captains or Managers or Skips shall toss and the winner shall have the right to decide who shall play first. The extra end shall be played from where the previous end was completed, and the mat shall be placed in accordance with Law 23.

In the case of more than one extra end being required, then the Captains or Managers or Skips shall again toss, and the winner shall have the right to decide who shall play first. In the case of an extra end being declared "dead", the provisions of Law 22 (b) shall apply.

Default of Players in Fours Play

59. Absentee players in any team or side

(a) In a single Fours game

For a trophy, prize or other competitive award, where a club is represented by only one Four, each member of such Four shall be a bona-fide member of the club.

Unless all four players appear and are ready to play at the end of the maximum waiting period of 30 minutes, or should they introduce an ineligible player, then that team shall forfeit the match to the opposing team.

(b) In a Side game

If within a period of 30 minutes from the time fixed for the game, a single player is absent from one or more teams in a side game, whether in a friendly club match or a match for a trophy, prize or other award, the game shall proceed, but in the defaulting team, the number of Bowls shall be made up by the Lead and Second players playing three Bowls each, but one-fourth of the total shots scored by each team comprising of three men shall be deducted from their score at the end of the game.

Fractions shall be taken into account.

60. Play Irregularities

(a) Playing out of turn

When a player has played before his turn, the opposing Skip shall have the right to stop the Bowl, and it shall be returned to be played in the proper sequence. If the Bowl so played has come to rest and remains "live" and has not disturbed the head, the opponent shall play two successive Bowls to restore the correct sequence. In the event of the Bowl so played having disturbed the head, the opposing skip shall have the following options:

- (i) Allow the disturbed head to remain; and have two Bowls played in succession to restore the proper sequence of play; or
- (ii) replace the head to its former position, return the Bowl so played, and restore the proper sequence of play; or
- (iii) declare the end "dead".**

(b) Playing the wrong bowl

A Bowl played by mistake shall be replaced by the player's own Bowl.

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(c) Changing Bowls

A player shall not be allowed to change his Bowls during the course of the game, or in a resumed game, unless they be objected to, as provided in Law 9(d), or when a Bowl has been so damaged in the course of play as, in the opinion of the Umpire, to render the Bowl (or Bowls) unfit for play.

(d) Omitting to play

(i) If the result of an end has been agreed upon, or the head has been touched in the agreed process of determining the result, then a player who forfeits or has omitted to play a Bowl, shall forfeit the right to play it.

(ii) A player who has neglected to play a Bowl in the proper sequence shall forfeit the right to play such Bowl, if a Bowl has been played by each team before such mistake was discovered.

61. Play Interruptions

(a) Game Stoppages

When a game of any kind is stopped, either by mutual arrangement by the Controlling Body or by the Umpire, after appeal to him on account of darkness or the conditions of the weather, or any other valid reason, it shall be resumed with the scores as they were when the game stopped. An end commenced, but not completed, shall be declared dead.

(b) Substitutes in a resumed game

If in a resumed game any one of the four original players be not available, one substitute shall be permitted as stated in Law 62. Players, however, shall not be transferred from one team to another.

Influences Affecting Play

62. Leaving the Green

If during the course of a Side, Fours, Triples or Pairs game a player has to leave the green owing to illness, or other reasonable cause, his place shall be filled by a substitute, if in the opinion of both Skips (or failing agreement by them, then in the opinion of the Controlling Body) such substitution is necessary. Should the player affected be a Skip, his duties and position in a Fours game shall be assumed by the Third player, and the substitute shall play either as Lead, Second or Third. In the case of Triples the substitute may play as Lead or Second but not as Skip and in the case of Pairs the substitute shall play as Lead only. Such substitute shall be a member of the club to which the team belongs. In domestic play National Authorities may decide the position of any substitute.

If during the course of a singles game, a player has to leave the green owing to illness, or a reasonable cause, the provision of Law 61(a) shall be observed.

No player shall be allowed to delay the play by leaving the rink or team, unless with the consent of his opponent, and then for only a period not exceeding 10 minutes. Contravention of this Law shall entitle the Opponent or opposing team to claim the match or game.

63. Objects on the Green

Under no circumstances, other than is provided in Laws 5, 28, 32 and 39, shall any extraneous object to assist the player be placed on the green, or on the bank, or on the Jack, or on the Bowl or elsewhere.

64. Unforeseen incidents

If during the course of play, the position of the Jack or Bowls be disturbed by wind, storm or any neutral object the end shall be declared "dead", unless the Skips are agreed to the replacement of Jack or Bowls.

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Domestic Arrangements

65. Powers to make Regulations

In addition to any matters specifically mentioned in these Laws, National Authorities may, in circumstances dictated by climate or other local conditions, make such other regulations as are deemed necessary and desirable, but such regulations must be submitted to the W.B.B., W.I.B.C. or I.W.B.B. as appropriate for approval. For this purpose the W.B.B., W.I.B.C. and/or I.W.B.B. shall appoint a Committee to be known as the "Laws Committee" with powers to grant approval or otherwise to any proposal, such decision being valid until the proposal is submitted to the W.B.B., W.I.B.C. or I.W.B.B. as appropriate for a final decision.

66. Local arrangements

Constituent clubs of National Authorities shall also in making their domestic arrangements make such regulations as are deemed necessary to govern their club competitions, but such regulations shall comply with the Laws of the Game and be approved by the Council of their National Authority and shall be displayed at each club.

67. National Visiting Teams or Sides

No team or side of Bowlers visiting overseas or the British Isles shall be recognised by the W.B.B., W.I.B.C. or I.W.B.B. unless it first be sanctioned and recommended by the National Authority to which the members are affiliated.

68. Contracting out

No club or club management committee or any individual shall have the right or power to contract out of any of the Laws of the Game as laid down by the W.B.B., W.I.B.C. or I.W.B.B.

Regulating Games

69. Regulating Singles, Pairs and Triples Games

The foregoing Laws, where applicable, shall also apply to Singles, Pairs and Triples games.

70. The Manager

The Manager of a team or side, or in his absence, his delegated deputy, may give advice from beyond the limits of the rink of play.

Duties of Marker

71.

- (a) In the absence of the Umpire the marker shall control the game in accordance with the Laws of the Game. He shall, before play commences, examine all Bowls for the imprint of the I.B.B / W.B.B. Stamp, or that of its National Authority, such imprint to be clearly visible, and shall ascertain by measurement the width of the rink of play.
- (b) He shall centre the Jack and shall place a full length Jack 2m from the ditch in compliance with Law 28.
- (c) He shall ensure that the Jack is not less than 23m from the mat line after it has been centered.
- (d) He shall stand at one side of the rink, and to the rear of the Jack.
- (e) He shall answer any specific questions relating to the existing state of the head while the player is in possession of the rink and, when requested, clearly indicate the shot if possible.

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- (f) He shall mark all "touchers" immediately they come to rest, and remove the chalk marks from "non-touchers". With the agreement of both Opponents he shall remove all "dead" Bowls from the green and the ditch. He shall mark the position of the Jack and "touchers" which are in the ditch. (See Laws 32 and 39).
- (g) He shall not move, or cause to be moved, either Jack or Bowls until each player has agreed to the number of shots.
- (h) He shall measure carefully all doubtful shots when requested by either player. If unable to come to a decision satisfactory to the players, he shall call in an Umpire. If an official Umpire has not been appointed, the Marker shall select one. The decision of the Umpire shall be final.
- (i) He shall enter the score at each end, and shall intimate to the players the state of the game. When the game is finished, he shall see that the score card, containing the names of the players, is signed by the players, and is disposed of according to the rules of the competition.
- (j) He shall remove the mat from the previous end, as necessary.

Duties of Umpire

72.

An Umpire shall be appointed by the Controlling Body of the Association, Club or Tournament Management Committee.

His duties shall be as follows:

- (a) He shall examine all Bowls for the imprint of the I.B.B./W.B.B. Stamp, or that of its National Authority, and ascertain by measurement the width of the rinks of play.
- (b) He shall measure any shot or shots in dispute, and for this purpose shall use a suitable measure. His decision shall be final.
- (c) He shall decide all questions as to the distance of the mat from the ditch and the Jack from the mat line.
- (d) He shall decide as to whether or not Jack and / or Bowls are in play.
- (e) He shall enforce the Laws of the Game.
- (f) His decision shall be final in respect of any breach of a Law, except that, upon questions relating to the meaning or interpretation of any Law there shall be a right of appeal to the Controlling Body.
- (g) The World Indoor Bowls Council, World Indoor Bowls Council Ladies Section and member governing bodies reserve the right to amend the duties of an Umpire to suit special circumstances.

Spectators

73.

- (a) Persons not engaged in the game shall be situated clear of and beyond the limits of the rink of play, and clear of the verges. They shall neither by word nor act disturb or advise the players.
- (b) Betting or Gambling in connection with any game or games shall not be permitted or engaged in within the grounds of any constituent club.

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By Laws

Professional Bowler

All players are eligible for selection for Commonwealth Games except those whose principal source of Income is derived from playing the Game of Bowls.

Stamping of Bowls

Manufacturers will be entitled to use the registered I.B.B / W.B.B. Stamp, to facilitate the imprint between the inner and outer rings of Bowls. Imprints on running surfaces should be avoided wherever possible.

Stamp Details

WBB - World Bowls Board

A - Denotes code letter of Manufacturer / Tester

Numerals - Denotes year of expiry

R - Denotes that the Stamp is a registered trade mark;

In 1993 a new W.B.B. Stamp was introduced, so that since 1st January 1994 all new and retested Bowls have been stamped with the W.B.B. stamp.

The I.B.B. stamp on a Bowl will remain valid until the existing stamp expires.

Equivalent Measurements

In connection with the manufacture of Bowls, there is no objection to manufacturers using imperial equivalents in lieu of the present figures, always provided that Law 9 of the Board's Laws is complied with. Furthermore, there is no objection to manufacturers indicating various sizes of Bowls by numerals, and the manufacturers will be entitled to use the following table if they so desire.

Metric sizes	Size Number	Size in inches
116	00	4-9/16
117	0	4-5/8
121	1	4-3/4
122	2	4-13/16
124	3	4-7/8
125	4	4-15/16
127	5	5
129	6	5-1/16
131	7	5-1/8

English Variations to Joint Laws of the Game

Law 2;EIBA and EWIBA

Clubs already affiliated to the EIBA and EWIBA are permitted to use greens with a playing surface of not less than 32m in length.

Law 5;EBA and EIBA

The corner pegs may be clearly marked with a thin black line of not more than 2mm running vertically down the centre of the peg.

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EIBA and EWIBA

In addition, see National Championship Rule 11 Venues (1) [EIBA] or National Championship Rule 10 [EWIBA]

Law 6(b);EBA and EWBA

For play in the National Championships and National Competitions, the minimum width of a rink may be 4.8 metres.

Law 9(b);EBA, EIBA and EWBA

Composition bowls must bear a legible stamp for 1985 or later and can continue to be used without stamping until such time as the stamp becomes illegible.

EWIBA

For all National Competition play including mixed competitions, bowls must bear a legible hexagonal stamp for 1996 or later and can continue to be used without stamping until such time as the stamp becomes illegible.

Law 28;EBA and EWBA

If a mark has not been placed on the green, the jack shall be moved so that the front edge of the jack is 2 metres from the front ditch, and centred.