



Domestic Regulations

Updated April 2019

Plain English Campaign's Crystal Mark does not apply to these domestic regulations or the index.

In all circumstances with respect to the Laws of the Sport of Bowls, the hierarchy should be adhered to as follows:

1. Laws of the Sport of Bowls – Crystal Mark Third Edition (Version 3.1)
2. Bowls Australia Domestic Regulations
3. All of sport policies
4. Conditions of Play from the event / competition

Where clarification is required, please contact your state / territory association rules / umpiring committee.

Domestic Regulations for Australia

Bowls Australia is empowered to make domestic regulations in regard to a number of matters (laws 57.1).

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New Laws Regarding Changes to Bowls

Please note manufacturers may design new smaller sizes of bowls. Bowls with a minimum size of 112mm (size 0000) and 114mm (size 000) have been now approved.

New laws relevant to changes to bowls are:

D2
52.1.3
52.1.8.4
53.1
52.1.6.1
52.1.7.1

These changes appear in Crystal Mark Version 3.1

1. Game Basics

1.1 Playing or practicing on the same rink (law 3.4)

- 1.1.1 A player must not play on a rink on which they are drawn to play in another game that day.
- 1.1.2 If a player has already played a game earlier in the day, they must not play another game on the same rink on the same day.
- 1.1.3 This regulation will not apply to televised or other Bowls Australia nominated events.
- 1.1.4 A Controlling Body can decide whether players in a side game (e.g. pennant) can practice on the same rinks in which they are drawn to play later in the day. Once the draw for rinks has been made, law 3.3 applies.

1.2 Using portable groundsheets (law 6.1.5.6)

A Controlling Body can make the decision to use portable groundsheets which can be deployed either before the start of play or at any time during play.

1.3 Minimum length end (law 10.5)

For domestic play within Australia, the jack will be improperly delivered if it comes to rest less than 21 metres from the mat line after the jack has been centred.

As provided in the Laws of the Sport of Bowls, the following distances are also changed:

A jack shall be a dead jack, or shall be re-spotted if prescribed in the Conditions of Play for that competition, if it comes to rest at a distance of less than 18 metres, as measured in a straight line, from the centre of the mat line to the nearest point of the jack (law 19.1.4)

The distances shown in appendix B.4.2 must be changed from 20 metres to 18 metres.

Before the start of play in each end, the player to play first must place the centre line of the mat lengthwise along the centre line of the rink, with the mat line at least 2 metres from the rear ditch and at least 23 metres from the front ditch (law 6.1.1).

Note that this change to 23 metres also applies to:

- the position of groundsheets (definition C.12)
- duties of a marker (law 42.2.2)
- marking of distances on the bank (law 49.12) and
- marking of centre lines (law 49.13).

Appendices B.2.1, B.4.1 and B.4.2 should be changed from 25 metres to 23 metres.

2. Game Anomalies

2.1 Definitions

- 2.1.1 **Eligible Member:** a player who satisfies the eligibility criteria, as stated in the Conditions of Play set down by the Controlling Body for that event.
- 2.1.2 **Affiliated Member:** a player who is registered with a State or Territory Association as a member of an affiliated club.
- 2.1.3 **Substitute:** a player who is appointed to take the place of a team member who is unavailable to play at any time (including the first end of any game) for a reason accepted by the Controlling Body.
- 2.1.4 **Replacement Player:** a player who is appointed to take the place of a constituted player who is physically incapable or otherwise prevented from taking further part in any end (after the first round) for a reason accepted by the Controlling Body.

The replacement player becomes a constituted member of the team.

2.2 Team Nominations

- 2.2.1 If approved by the Controlling Body, the players nominated to form a team entered in a competition may be changed before their first round in that competition.
- 2.2.2 Any player withdrawn before the first round shall be regarded as not having entered the competition and can act as a substitute or replacement player in that competition.

2.3 Constitution of Teams

- 2.3.1 A team shall become constituted when the jack is rolled in the first end of the first game to be played by that team.
- 2.3.2 Players in a team forfeiting or receiving a forfeit shall be constituted and cannot act as a substitute or replacement player in any other team in that competition.
- 2.3.3 If a player in a team becomes unavailable or is incapable of playing, the Controlling Body may authorise the use of one substitute player and / or one replacement player.

2.4 Substitutes (see definition 2.1.3)

- 2.4.1 Only one substitute will be allowed in a team at any one time.
- 2.4.2 Substitutes shall be chosen from 'Eligible Members' who have not been constituted in that competition.
- 2.4.3 If there are no 'Eligible Members' available, the Controlling Body can approve an 'Affiliated Member' to act as a substitute.
- 2.4.4 A player acting as a substitute, may with the approval of the Controlling Body, be changed at the completion of any end during a game or between succeeding games in the same competition.
- 2.4.5 Substitutes must play in the same position as the player being substituted, except if it is the skip. If a substitute is required for a skip, then the other members of the team must rearrange their positions as necessary.
- 2.4.6 A player for whom a substitute is obtained, will, if they become available and are physically capable, rejoin the team in the player's original position at the start of the next end and the others must revert to their original positions.
- 2.4.7 A player who has played as a substitute, is eligible to again play as a substitute in that team or another team in that competition.
- 2.4.8 Substitutes are not permitted for a singles player who is not part of a sides competition.
- 2.4.9 If a replacement player is used in a pairs team, then a substitute is only permitted to take the place of a replacement player and the original team member must be skip. Otherwise a substitute cannot be permitted.
- 2.4.10 A substitute is not to be approved for a player who is unavailable to play because of a commitment to play bowls in another event they have entered.
- 2.4.11 A substitute must be permitted for a player who is unavailable to play because of their selection as a player in a recognised National, State or Divisional / Regional Representative Side.

2.5 Replacement players (see definition 2.1.4)

- 2.5.1 Only one replacement player will be allowed in a team and when approved by the Controlling Body, becomes a constituted player.
- 2.5.2 Replacement players must be chosen from available 'Eligible Members' and when approved by the Controlling Body can play in any position including skip.
- 2.5.3 Constituted players are ineligible to act as replacement players or substitutes.

2.6 Absentee players in a side game.

- 2.6.1 If, 30 minutes after the scheduled start time for a game, or sooner if the Controlling Body decides, one player is absent from one or more teams in a side and no eligible substitute is available or allowed, the game must continue, however:
 - 2.6.1.1 A team with an absent player plays as though the second is the missing player
 - 2.6.1.2 The order of play shall be maintained by the second of the complete team playing consecutive bowls
 - 2.6.1.3 Each player must use the number of bowls specified in the Conditions of Play for that event.
- 2.6.2 If a player has commenced the game, however is unable to continue the game and no eligible substitute or replacement player is available or allowed, play will continue as if one player is absent as per 2.6.1.
- 2.6.3 If an absent player arrives late, they must take their original place in the team when they arrive and enter the game at the completion of the end in progress.
- 2.6.4 If an eligible substitute or replacement player becomes available and is permitted by the Controlling Body, they may be introduced to the game at the completion of the end in progress.

3. Duties of Players

3.1 The use of a scoreboard instead of one of the scorecards

For Domestic Play in Australia, a scoreboard cannot be used instead of a scorecard (law 40.1.8).

3.1.1 The scoreboard may be updated at any time by any person but must be updated at least every second end and the Skip is responsible for ensuring it is correct as per the scorecard, except if the responsibility for the scorecard has been passed from the Skip to the Second in Fours as per DR 3.2.4, then the Second is responsible for the accuracy of the scoreboard.

3.2 Skips duties relating to scorecards (law 40.1.9)

For Domestic Play in Australia, all duties relating to the scorecard set out in law 40.1.7 (including keeping and completing the scorecard) shall be performed by:

3.2.1 In Singles; the marker is responsible for keeping, completing and dealing with the card (as per law 42)

3.2.2 In Pairs; the skip of each team

3.2.3 In Triples; the skip of each team

3.2.4 In Fours; the second of each team

4. Field of Play & Equipment

4.1 Use of synthetic surfaces (law 46.4)

Both vegetation and synthetic surfaces are approved as a playing surface for playing bowls.

4.2 Standards for green construction (law 46.5)

Bowls Australia has noted that there is no change in the standard of construction of greens.

4.3 Standards for the minimum width of a rink (law 49.1)

Bowls Australia has noted that, for Australia, there is no change in the minimum width of rinks.

4.4 Standards for boundary pegs (law 49.5.1)

Bowls Australia has noted that there is no change in the standard for boundary pegs on outdoor greens other than they must be fixed to the bank in accordance with law 49.4

4.5 Centre of boundary pegs (law 49.5.2)

4.5.1 For boundary pegs fixed on top of the bank, no thin black vertical line is required to mark the centre of the peg.

4.5.2 For boundary pegs fixed to the face of the bank, the centre of the boundary peg must be marked with a thin black vertical line.

4.6 The use of boundary threads (law 49.9)

Boundary threads will not be used for domestic play in Australia.

4.7 Distinguishing marks on bowls (law 52.1.5)

- 4.7.1 For Domestic Play in Australia, each set of bowls must carry a player's individual emblem, logo or engraving as a distinguishing mark on both sides of every bowl.
- 4.7.2 In addition to the manufacturer's name, a sponsor's name and / or a personal name and / or a club name can be engraved on that same side of each bowl.
- 4.7.3 If other grooved rings and / or dimples are coloured, each bowl in the set must be coloured the same.
- 4.7.4 For Domestic play in Australia, adhesive (stick-on) markings (as permitted under law 52.1.8) may cover the distinguishing mark on the bias side of the bowl.

4.8 Re-testing and re-stamping bowls (law 52.2.3)

- 4.8.1 Bowls Australia reserves the right to randomly test a set of bowls owned by or used by a player. It is the responsibility of each bowler who participates in club championship competitions and above to ensure that all sets of bowls used by the bowler in the event(s) comply with the legal requirement that the matched sets have a bias equal to or greater than the Working Reference Bowl (law 52.2.1)

4.9 Requirement for stamps on bowls (law 53.5)

- 4.9.1 For events where Bowls Australia is the Controlling Body, as a minimum, all bowls must carry the stamp of the current or future calendar year in which the competition / event takes place.
- 4.9.2 For Domestic events where Bowls Australia is not the Controlling Body, the stamp of a current or future year is not required unless specified by the Controlling Body in the Conditions of Play for that event.

4.10 Deposit when a challenge to bowls is lodged (see law 52.4.4.3)

The current deposit is \$150. For further information, the Bowls Australia Bowls Testing policy can be upgraded from time to time and is available to be downloaded from the Bowls Australia website.

4.11 Artificial devices for delivering the jack / bowl (see law 41.8)

- 4.11.1 The manufacturer or retailer of artificial devices for the delivery of jack or bowl will submit a sample of the device to Bowls Australia for approval before offering it for the use of bowlers (see the BA website for a full list of approved devices).

- 4.11.2 For further information, the Bowls Australia Artificial Devices — Wheelchairs and Bowlers Arms policy can be upgraded from time to time and is available to be downloaded from the Bowls Australia website.

See full Policy at end of these Regulations

5. Administration

5.1 Limits on financial rewards (see law 57.2.2)

Bowls Australia has set no limit on financial rewards.

5.2 Colours for footwear and the types of sole (see appendix A.2)

Bowls Australia has adopted a policy for attire including shoes and gloves which can be upgraded from time to time and can be downloaded from the Bowls Australia website.

5.3 Colours and types of clothing (see appendix A.3)

Bowls Australia has adopted a policy for attire including shoes and gloves which can be upgraded from time to time and can be downloaded from the Bowls Australia website.



Bowls Australia Policies

April 2019

Plain English Campaign's Crystal Mark does not apply to Bowls Australia policies.

As the governing body for bowls, Bowls Australia is empowered to make policies in regard to a number of matters which are listed below. All documents can be upgraded from time to time and are available to be downloaded from the Bowls Australia website.

Only if stated in the BA policies, can States and Territories modify BA Policies to meet their requirements. Otherwise all policies must be adhered to as written.

Affiliation and Eligibility to Play Policy

This policy outlines Bowls Australia's position on matters including (but not limited to):

- Affiliation – Clubs or Playing Venues
- Affiliation fees
- Affiliation Players
- Dual registration – Declaration of Nominated Club
- Eligibility Pennant, Interstate Representation, Championships – Interstate and Intrastate
- Concurrent Events
- Pregnancy
- Gender Identity

Player and Club Clearance policy

This policy outlines Bowls Australia's position on players transferring between clubs both intrastate and interstate.

Anti-doping Policy

This policy outlines Bowls Australia's position on matters including (but not limited to):

- ASADA
- Recreational drugs; and
- Performance enhancing drugs.

Appeals Policy

This policy outlines Bowls Australia's position on what matters can be appealed including (but not limited to):

- Appealing against the umpire's decision
- Matters which may be appealed
- Who the appeal is lodged by and referred to
- The deposit required to lodge the appeal (where applicable)
- Procedure(s) to follow when lodging an appeal.

Artificial Devices – Wheelchairs and Bowlers Arms Policy

This policy outlines Bowls Australia's position on the use of artificial devices including (but not limited to):

- Manual and Motorised Wheelchairs
- Walking Frames
- Bowlers Arms

National Merchandise Program Logo Policy (Dress regulations)

This policy outlines Bowls Australia's position on dress regulations in accordance with the Laws of the Sport Crystal Mark Third Edition (Version 3.1) Appendix A2 and Appendix A3.

Bowls Testing Policy

This policy outlines Bowls Australia's position on the consequences of a challenge to bowls and should be read and implemented in tandem with the Laws of the Sport of Bowls - Crystal Mark Third Edition (version 3.1).

Disciplinary Policy

This policy outlines Bowls Australia's position on disciplinary matters including (but not limited to):

- Application of disciplinary regulations
- Referrals to the Judiciary Committee
- Membership of the Judiciary Committee
- Penalties
- Consequences of the penalty
- Appealing the penalty or decision.

Instantaneous Penalties Policy

This policy outlines Bowls Australia's policy on situations where players do not conduct themselves in a polite and sporting-like manner and where there is no penalty specified in the Laws of the Sport of Bowls for such actions by a player.

- 2.1 If an umpire, by observation or on appeal by the Controlling Body, a side manager, a skip or an opponent, decides that a breach of any Law or Rule has taken place, or any action by a player (where there is no penalty specified in that Law or Rule), such as:
 - 2.1.1 Acting in an abusive, threatening or intimidating manner
 - 2.1.2 Using obscene, offensive, abusive, threatening or intimidating language
 - 2.1.3 Threatening any person with physical violence or assault
 - 2.1.4 Assaulting any person has occurred.

then the end shall be immediately regarded as completed and the opponent of the offender shall be awarded as many shots as there are bowls in use by the opponent in a singles game, or opposing team in a team game, or team in a side game.
- 2.2 Upon a second such offence by the same player in the same game, the player shall be excluded from taking any further part in that game according to Laws of the Sport (Crystal Mark Third Edition – Version 3.1). C2 and C10 will apply.
- 2.3 Should this penalty be applied, no replacement or substitute player will be allowed for his / her team.
- 2.4 In a team game the defaulting team will forfeit the game to their opponent.
- 2.5 In a side game BA Domestic Regulations will apply.
- 2.6 A replacement player is not permitted for a singles player. BA Domestic Regulations will apply.
- 2.7 Serious offences may also be subject to police action. Consultation should occur between the venue manager, the Controlling Body and umpire(s) before such action is undertaken.
- 2.8 The umpire must forward a detailed written report about any incident involving an instantaneous penalty to the Controlling Body and the relevant STA(s) within seven (7) days of the incident.

Match Fixing Policy

This policy outlines Bowls Australia's position on the subject of match fixing and betting on games.

Member Protection Policy

This policy outlines Bowls Australia's position on the core values, good reputation and positive behaviours and attitudes of our members. It endeavours to ensure that every person involved in our sport is treated with respect and dignity and is safe and protected from abuse.

Personal Electronic Devices Policy

This policy outlines Bowls Australia's position on the use of electronic devices on the green and the immediate surrounds during play.

Smoke Free and Alcohol Policy

This policy reflects Bowls Australia's responsibility to recognise the importance of health and fitness:

- Philosophy
- Interpretation
- Smoke free areas
- Alcohol
- Penalties
- Reporting.

Weather Policy

This policy outlines Bowls Australia's position on suspending or discontinuing play when extreme weather strikes.

In addition to the Laws of the Sport of Bowls - Crystal Mark Third Edition (Version 3.1), Bowls Australia Domestic Regulations and Bowls Australia policies, members should also be aware of the conditions of play for each event. Conditions of play cover aspects of the event as specified in Laws of the Sport of Bowls - Crystal Mark Third Edition (Version 3.1), Appendix A1 and are publicised by the Controlling Body.

Artificial Devices Policy

1. PRINCIPLE

The Bowls Australia philosophy is to allow access to our sport to as many participants as possible and ensure an inclusive atmosphere from club to elite level. We must also ensure that bowlers (regardless of any requirement of a wheelchair or artificial device) must not damage the playing surface during play.

2. POLICY

- 2.1 The Laws of the Sport of Bowls – Crystal Mark Third Edition - Law 41.1 under the heading of 'Players with disabilities' states that "Wheelchairs should be of a type approved by both World Bowls and the Governing Body for wheelchair bowlers in the country in which the player is playing" (in this case Bowls Australia in conjunction with Wheelchair Sports Australia Lawn Bowls).
- 2.2 Law 41.8 states that Member National Authorities can approve the use of artificial devices such as 'Bowlers Arms'.

3. SPECIFICATIONS

3.1 Wheelchairs

- 3.1.1 The large and usually rear tyres (pneumatic or soft rubber slicks), must have a minimum width of 45mm. Tyres must be smooth "slicks" or inverted tread tyres.
- 3.1.2 The most suitable tyres for the small or front wheels are 200mm x 50mm with a pneumatic tyre or soft rubber "slicks".
- 3.1.3 Castors made of nylon or polyurethane are becoming increasingly popular and can also be used for front wheels. The recommended width of these should be a minimum of 75mm. It is a requirement that the edges, if sharp, must be rounded off.
- 3.1.4 If there are any doubts about tyre tread, duct tape can be placed over the tyre to provide a smoother surface as a temporary or precautionary measure.
- 3.1.5 The above guidelines are intended for use in all conditions, however in the case of particularly wet greens or other unusual circumstances, consultation and a common-sense approach between the wheelchair user and club administrator or greenkeeper is appropriate. To further ensure there is no undue damage to the green, players should ensure a wide circle is taken when turning their chair on the green. In the event of a dispute, the Greenkeeper and or Controlling Body / Tournament Director / relevant Official shall be the final decision maker.
- 3.1.6 The use of an electric wheelchair encompasses the above guidelines and measurements, with the additional consideration of the weight of the chair. This is of particular importance for the care of the surface where the green is wet or experiencing another unusual circumstance.

4.1 Walking Frames

4.1.1 Walking frames can be used provided the frame does not cause damage to the green. To eliminate damage that may be caused to the green, the frame must comply with the following:

4.1.1.1 Preferably wheels of 45mm and pneumatic as applied to wheelchairs or wide wheels that are smooth and without tread

4.1.1.2 If the frame has "feet", each one must have its own base covered with rubber or similar material. The base should measure at least 76mm across.

4.1.2 Players are not to sit on their frames while on the green unless each "foot" and wheel complies with the specifications above.

5.1 Bowlers Arms

5.1.1 "Bowlers Arms" have been successfully introduced into the game to allow persons with a physical restriction or impairment that would otherwise prevent them from playing the game the opportunity to play, or continue to play, bowls. There are various types of bowlers arms approved for use in Australia.

5.1.1.1 Each device is manufactured in several lengths and release mechanisms. Only approved arms (with a BA logo as part of the National Merchandising Program) 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.). For a list of approved bowlers arms refer to the Bowls Australia website at <http://www.bowlsaustralia.com.au/Club-Assist/Approved-bowlers-arms>.

5.1.2 If a player is using a bowlers arm that is not approved, the player becomes a defaulting player as per law C.2 and will forfeit the game as per law C.10.

5.1.3 A player may use any number of approved bowlers arms during trial ends for suitability. Once a game has commenced, the designated brand or style of bowlers arm chosen by the player must stay the same during the match.

5.1.4 Whenever a player commences using an approved bowlers arm in a game, the player must use it for the remainder of that game. This does not apply to the rolling of the jack, which can be rolled either by hand or by a bowlers arm.

5.1.5 A player cannot alter/change the brand or style of approved bowlers arm during the course of a game except in such circumstances where the device is rendered unplayable and in this instance, the player may change to another approved brand or style of bowlers arm on approval by the umpire or controlling body.

5.1.6 Challenge on appeal to an umpire regarding a bowlers arm could occur before the trial ends or up to 10 minutes after a game (but not during the game) as similar to law 52.4.3 and 52.4.4. 2.