



# TO THE POINT

Issue 19

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## THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

Learn from the mistakes of others. You can't live long enough to make them all yourself.  
(Unknown)

### LAWS OF THE SPORT OF BOWLS

So many players have commented this month that Bowls SA must be "Moggy" (daft) with the new "Laws of The Sport of Bowls". Let me put your mind at rest, Bowls SA has to apply the new laws as accepted by The World Bowls council meeting held on 25 March 2006. All bowls playing nations, no longer have a choice as Bowls is now played to one set of Laws, that being "The laws of the Sport of Bowls" the Crystal Mark Edition. The Northern Hemisphere has to implement the new laws by April 1st 2007 and the Southern Hemisphere countries had to implement them by September 1st 2006.

That means, at this stage, no other Law book may be used or quoted in SA except, **LAWS OF THE SPORT OF BOWLS (South African Edition)** with the green cover.

For the record, Laws 20, 21, 35 and 36 are the most abused Laws in the book. We hope that the majority of guilty players are doing so in ignorance, because they do not realise they are violating the "Laws of the Sport of Bowls".

### LAWS 20 and 21

Laws 20 and 21 are now very clear, and these laws should be applied strictly by umpires it should no longer be said that no advantage is gained by standing with your foot 5mm over the edge of the mat. That 5mm or even 1mm is a foot fault and will be called as such. Players should accept the consequences. It is no longer a question as to whether an advantage is gained or not, but a Law that should be applied very strictly. Players should adjust their stance on the mat.

While players have been in the habit of ignoring these infringements, umpires should in future make a point of drawing the Skip's attention to the transgression so that he is aware of what is happening. It is the only way we can guarantee that our players will not be pulled up for breaking any law when playing at clubs other than their own and bring their District and the game into disrepute.

Should an umpire penalise a player by giving him a warning it will disturb or disrupt the team. Ideally the player should adjust his stance on the mat, rather than having the team penalised. With this, all players should be assisting the team by pointing it out to players who infringe this law before the umpire intervenes.

As an umpire –don't be caught out as an official who turns a blind eye – remember, by doing so, you are siding with the defaulter, and it then becomes very difficult to enforce any of the laws of the sport of Bowls.

"Bowls is Big, and here to stay".



No other sport offers such a challenge or enjoyment & exercise for all ages, as this ancient pastime does, so please help to protect it for the future. **Silence only perpetuates transgressions.**

### LAWS 35 and 36

These two Laws are the most talked about.

Law 35, Possession of the Rink, and Law 36.2 in relation to a neighbouring rink has reference.

The law appears as follows in the Law book:

#### 35 Possession of the rink

1 Possession of the rink will belong to the player or team whose bowl is being played.

2 As soon as each bowl comes to rest, possession of the rink will transfer to the opposing player or team after allowing time for marking a toucher as soon as it comes to rest.

3 If the umpire, either by their own observation or on appeal by one of the skips or opponents in Singles, decides that the **players in possession of the rink are being interfered with, annoyed or distracted in any way by their opponents**, the umpire should, on the first occasion, warn the offending player in the presence of the skip and advise the manager or the coach when they are present that a warning has been given.

4 On each occasion after this, the umpire should have the bowl last played by the offending player or team declared dead. If that bowl has disturbed the head, the opponent should choose whether to:

- replace the head;
- leave the head as altered; or
- declare the end dead.

### 36 Position of players

#### 36.1 In relation to the rink of play

1 Players at the mat-end of the rink who are not delivering a bowl should stand at least 1 metre behind the mat.

2 Players at the head-end of the rink who are not controlling play should stand:

- behind the jack and away from the head;
- on the surrounds of the green if the jack is in the ditch; or
- well clear of the head if it is not possible to stand on the surrounds.

3 As soon as a bowl is delivered, a player who is controlling play, if they are in front of the jack, should take their position as described in paragraph 2 above.

4 If a player does not meet the terms of this law, law 35 will apply.

#### 36.2 In relation to a neighbouring rink

1 A player should **not** go into a neighbouring rink where play is in progress.

2 A player should neither go into nor walk along a neighbouring rink, even if it is not being used, while an opponent is about to deliver or is actually delivering a bowl.

3 If the rink of play is an outside rink (see law 5.6), a player should neither go into nor walk along the section of green that lies between the outside side boundary of the rink and the side ditch while an opponent is about to deliver or is actually delivering a bowl.

4 If a player does not meet the terms of this law, law 35 will apply.

The critical part of the law 35 is the following;

Are players in possession of the rink being interfered with, annoyed or distracted in any way by their opponents?

*Let's look at a situation.*

*Skip A is in the head Skip B delivers his bowl and wanders up the green. Skip B cannot be penalised as Skip A is not being interfered with, as Skip A still has to get to the mat and take up his position on the mat. By that time Skip B has taken up his position behind the jack and head. The same will apply when Skip B plays the last bowl of the end, he cannot be penalised as he again is not interfering with Skip A as he has played all his bowls.*

*However Law 36.2 is very clear, at no stage of any game should any player "wander" into the adjoining rink whether it is being played on or not.*

*It is very simple "stay within the boundaries of your rink of play"*

*When playing in a side game it is easy to adhere to the law by ensuring that the two scoreboards are placed next to the boundary of the rink, then no player or skip has to wander next door, and risk the possibility of being penalised.*

### ETIQUETTE

The above two laws are actually etiquette rules, and it should not even be necessary to place them in a Law book. It has however become necessary because of the regularity that players infringe on the other players/teams rights, and do not place enough emphasis on the actual etiquette of the game.

### DIRECTION OF PLAY AFTER A "BURNT"/DEAD END.

Let's look at the law.

#### Law 31 Dead end

- 1 A dead end is not counted as a completed end even if all the bowls required to be played have been played.
- 2 A dead end should be replayed in the same direction unless the skips or opponents in Singles agree to play it in the opposite direction.
- 3 If the jack and bowls need to be transferred to the opposite end of the rink before the end is replayed, they should be carried up the rink.
- 4 If the skips or opponents in Singles or the umpire declare an end dead, the first to play in that end should also play first when the end is replayed.

**Law 31.2** is very clear that it is not the opposing skip who may decide whether the bowls should be returned to the other side; it is actually that BOTH skips must agree to restart the end in the opposite direction to the end burnt. If the skips do not agree, then it is Law that the bowls are returned, and the end is replayed in the same direction.

Should the skips decide that the bowls should be returned, to be replayed in the same direction, the bowls should be carried up the rink (Law 31.3)

However, should the jack be incorrectly delivered it is returned to the other "side" of the rink and delivered by the opposing lead, it is not carried up the green and handed to the opposing lead to deliver. The jack is sent (delivered) back, so that the opposing lead can redeliver the jack.

Why is this?

On replaying a "burnt" end, in the same direction, the bowling of all the bowls back to the original side is

disturbing to the players on the adjoining rinks. When returning all bowls to the other side it happens that bowls are returned on the wrong bias. Damage is also caused to the greens especially in very wet conditions. this law has been implemented for many years in the Northern Hemispheres.

### **SHORT AND TO THE POINT**

1. In reply to your question of whether there is a time limit for the person on the mat –

*No, provision has not been made for this. You will be breaking the Law by drawing this to his attention as “this player may not be disturbed or annoyed.”*

2. Calling for Law 35 and 36 to come into play when a “runner” is in action, is not what this law intends, so the umpire was correct when he would not intervene.

*When your opponent has possession then this law protects him as long as he is behind the head when the bowl comes to rest.*

3. Why do the same people always officiate?

*Probably because they are good at it and take pride in what they are doing and come forward when called.*

4. Ditch Measures (Law 10) We are reverting to using them - better, in our opinion, than measuring around corners. Law 10 simply states “Suitable equipment”

*You may **not use** ditch measures as they don’t measure to the nearest point ---Laws 40.4 and 40.5*

“Ditch measures” have been outlawed by World Bowls and may not be used in any game, in any situation. The international players don’t accept the ditch measure, so why do so many local players and even social bowlers, want to use them?

5. On tabs days -teams were going to tea as soon as the bell was rung no matter at what stage they were with that head. The reasoning was that it was convenient if all players came in at the same time. Surely this is contrary to the laws???

**Reply:**

*Not sure. I would intervene in a “tabs in” game if the club has made the “condition of play” that the tea break will be taken at the bell and that all players accept the head when they return after the break. But yes, very clear if a head is left then it should be replayed, at any other competition, I would bring this to the attention to the controlling body.*

6. If a bowl is resting right on the edge of the rink and a subsequent bowl has been played and then a gust of wind drives the first bowl into the ditch, is this then a dead bowl? I know that Law 53 - Unforeseen incidents, clearly states that if the position of a bowl or jack is altered by the wind..... the skips should put it back to its former position. If they cannot agree, the

end should be declared a dead end. Would this only apply to the immediate head or also to the bowl which gets blown into the ditch?

**Reply:**

*This is a little more difficult, as if no other bowl moved, with the same wind, then, I would say that bowl is dead, and not allow it to be replaced.*

### **PROBLEMS IN THE WORKPLACE**

**(Many this month)**

Although not many problems have been experienced with the introduction of the new laws, many niggling ones have occurred. The following are some of the most common problems encountered concerning the introduction of the new laws:

**General comment on implementation of the new laws**

1. Most of the players who did not attend the Road Shows are still under the impression that the new laws were written by Bowls SA and not by World Bowls. They also seem to think that bowls in South Africa was the only place where it was played to international standards, and that the rest of the world has to adapt to the way we played and not us to the new laws.

2. The fact that umpires are now in fact enforcing the laws, has come as quite a shock to most players. Players are now forced to adhere to the laws, and this is uncomfortable from some of the comments received from players. It will take time for players and umpires to reach a new state of equilibrium where they are comfortable with the way in which the new laws are interpreted and enforced.

Law 35 Possession of the rink: Players are definitely not thinking before they act, and it seems as if this is mainly due to bad habits acquired over a period of time. Sportsman-ship and etiquette are required from players to allow other players the same privileges as those they receive. It is still commonly found that the front rank, and even the thirds, will start walking directly after the last player has played his/her last bowl, without giving this player the opportunity to watch the bowl until it has come to rest or to be satisfied with the line/strength played. Skips are also not assisting in this regard. Are they mostly unaware of the infringement due to ignorance of the law or just not paying attention to what the players are doing?. Requests from umpires are adhered to for a couple of ends and then the problem resurfaces. When steps are now taken by the umpire against the transgressing player(s), he/she feels aggrieved and blames it on the new laws being silly and killing the game. It is not only upsetting to the player, who has been warned, but also to the whole team and in some cases can cause ill feeling between the players competing.

Most of the problems pertaining to law 35 can be prevented by the skips. It is the skip's duty to know the law (else they will not be able to see any wrong doing); play the game (building the head in order to win the game); and being constantly aware of what their players are doing on the rink, in order to take corrective action as soon as they see something is going wrong. Skips can therefore prevent most of the problems before umpires need to establish order. If this can be done, most of the problems encountered with the practical implementation of law 35 will be overcome quite easily.

**Law 24.4: Touchers.** It was an eye opener to see how few district players are aware of the new way to mark a toucher in the ditch. What was more revealing was the lack of the necessary equipment to enable the players to do this. Most players do not know that the use of indicators (a brightly colored marker for each of the touchers in the ditch (law 24.4) and a white indicator to mark the jack in the ditch (law 29.2) is compulsory while the surface marking of the jack and touchers in the ditch is optional. I still prefer to use and would also recommend the use of both methods, as the following situation illustrates:

In a recent game team A had a toucher in the ditch close to the jack (also in the ditch). Both were indicated on the bank but not marked on the surface. Team B had a non-toucher close to the ditch (and possibly lying shot) which team A tried to move. During play, one of team A's bowls displaced the jack in the ditch. The lead of team A then replaced the disturbed jack. When I commented on this the third of Team A offered to replace the jack. Team B (who was unaware of the law) then complained that the jack was in an incorrect position. After explanations were given the opponents replaced the jack according to the indicator on the bank. On measuring, Team B secured the shot.

### **Laws 17.1 and 17.2 Domestic regulations and Conditions of Play**

The requirement that all details about the Conditions of Play should be available when a competition is publicized is initially causing a lot of work for the competition secretaries, especially in light of the various formats of play available. This requirement will also affect the green keepers in terms of marking the greens for competitions and good lines of communication are now becoming essential. It is however essential that these conditions should be read by players as well as officials before the competition starts so that all are aware of the rules that will apply. That is why they are published at the time of entry.

### **Reël 31.3**

#### **Dooie skof.**

Die reël bepaal dat indien 'n skof dood is en die witte en die balle na die teenoorgestelde kant van die baan verplaas moet word om die skof oor te speel, die balle oorgedra moet word.

Weereens is die vraag - hoekom?

Omdat in die verlede die balle en witte na willekeur oor die baan teruggegooi is. Behalwe dat baie van die balle die spel op die aangrensende bane ontwig het omdat baie van die teruggegooide balle op die verkeerde swaai was, kan dit spelers wat aan die teenoorgestelde kant van die baan is beseer, omdat hulle nie vinnig genoeg uit die pad kan kom nie. (onthou heelwat van ons spelers is seniors)

Dit lyk ook baie onprofessioneel as almal skielik 'n klomp balle terug gooi.

Ek glo dat die reël ook toegepas behoort te word aan die eiende van 'n wedstryd wanneer die balle na die teenoorgestelde kant van die baan verplaas moet word om dit in die rolbalsakke te plaas, veral as daar nog spel aan die gang is op die aangrensende bane.

In die geval waar die witte verkeerdlik afgelewer is en dit terug besorg moet word sodat die opponent dit moet heraflewer, is dit sekerlik nie nodig vir die skipper om die witte terug te dra nie, aangesien dit slegs die witte is bal en al die spelers wel gefokus is op die situasie.

### **Reël 18.2**

#### **Loting vir aanvang van spel.**

In reël 18.2 word bepaal dat daar geloot moet word voor aanvang van spel deur 'n muntstuk op te skiet.

Nou ontstaan die vraag waarom nou?

“ waarom, ons het nog altyd die bal geskop, wat is verkeerd daarmee?”

Eerstens is rolbal seker een van die enigste sportsoorte waar 'n bal geskop word. In geen ander sport skop die spelers 'n bal of gooi hulle toerusting rond om te bepaal wie die loot wen nie.

Behalwe dat dit uiters onprofessioneel lyk, gebeur dit in baie gevalle dat die bal regop tot stilstand kom en dan moet daar weer oor en oor geloot word.

Om in lyn te kom met ander sport soorte en ook om meer professioneel te lyk is besluit dat daar geloot sal word deur 'n muntstuk op te skiet.

Nou met die nuwe Suid-Afrikaanse muntstukke is dit nogal moeilik om te bepaal wat is kop en wat is stert.

Ek sal dus die skippers of bestuurders wat verantwoordelik is om te loot, aanraai om 'n ou muntstuk of 'n ander muntstuk waarop die onderskeiding duidelik en maklik sigbaar is, in hul rolbalsakke aan te hou.

### **Spel in stelle.**

Met die insluiting van Reël 15 in die nuwe reëlboekie – Spel in stelle - het daar heelwat onduidelikhede en verwarring oor die interpretasies van sekere reëls wat in Reël 15 genoem word ontstaan.

Eerstens moet dit baie duidelik verstaan word dat al die reëls wat in Reël 15 is, slegs van toepassing is op Spel in Stelle, tensy die spesifieke reëls gespesifiseer word in die Spel voorwaardes van 'n kompetisie of toernooi om ook van toepassing op ander spel formate te wees.

### **Spel in stelle vs. “Skins”**

Baie spelers is onder die indruk dat Stelle en “Skins” dieselfde is. Dit is glad nie die geval nie. Nou wat is die verskil?

### **“Skins”**

Die reël maak geen melding van “Skins” van enige aard, en bestaan nie. Skins was 'n vorm van stelle wat vir geld gespeel word. Die span/speler wat die eerste kop gewen het en dan die tweede kop gewen het, het die geld gekry wat op daardie kop was. As a speler die eerste kop gewen het en die ander speler die volgende kop gewen het is die geld oorgedra na die derde kop, todat 'n speler twee koppe namekaar gewen het, dan het hy die opgehoopde geld gewen.

### **Stelle.**

In stelle vind daar twee aparte wedstryde binne een wedstryd plaas. Na voltooiing van die eerste stel word die wenner van die stel bepaal deur die span of speler wat die meeste skote aangeteken het. Dan begin die tweede wedstryd binne die wedstryd om die wenner van die tweede stel te bepaal. Die algehele wenner van die wedstryd is die span of speler wat die meeste stelle gewen het. Die totale aantal skote wat aangeteken is gedurende die twee stelle bepaal nie die wenner nie. Indien beide opponente elk een stel gewen het, vind 'n valbylstel plaas.

Die wenner van 'n valbylstel, wat gewoonlik uit 3 skofte bestaan, is die span of speler wat die meeste van die 3 skofte wen. Die aantal skote wat behaal word in die valbylskofte speel geen rol nie.

Verder bepaal die reëls van stelle dat die witte nie dood kan gaan nie (die skof kan nie gebrand word nie). Indien die witte die speelgebied verlaat, word dit herplaas op vooraf bepaalde plekke.

Indien u Reël 15 lees sal u ook onder andere die spesifieke bepalings vir die toepassing van spel in stelle formaat sien, soos byvoorbeeld wanneer dit in 'n rondomtalie wedstryd gebruik word of in 'n uitklop kompetisie. Verder stipuleer die reëls ook hoe die wenners in 'n rondomtalie bepaal word, wie eerste speel in 'n stel en in die valbylstelle asook wanneer geloot moet word.

Spel in stelle is 'n baie opwindende rolbal formaat wat al hoe meer gespeel gaan word in Suid Afrika, so hou u maar op hoogte van die reëls van Spel in stelle.

### **MARKING OF TOUCHERS**

During league yesterday, I was informed by the opposing skip that I am allowed only to put one mark on a toucher and not the two short marks that I normally do. Upon re-checking the wording for law 25 in the new law book, I of course found no reference to the shape, length, size of the mark that I was lawfully allowed, plus it states that "the mark" should be done with chalk. What about the spray type marker?

### **Reply:**

Not sure where this is coming from but it has appeared all over, and is totally outrageous.

It is definitely not my or my committee's instruction and it was never the intention of the WB LAWS COMMITTEE to regulate down to that level. I am also not sure what the difference is if it's marked with a mark such as a line, ring, a heart or any other form. The acceptable method of marking a toucher is with a single stripe, two stripes or any mark as long as the toucher is marked. It is not the way it is marked but that it is marked.

The spray bottle is also actually chalk that is sprayed and nothing else (actually very expensive chalk)

I ask the question ---“does it matter?” as long as the toucher is marked, and both skips understand that the bowl is a toucher.

**What I like from the extract is that you marked your own toucher and that's a huge plus, for your Standing Committee as so many skips are still marking their opponent's touchers and that is not what the new laws states.**

### **REGSTELLING VAN FOUT IN AFRIKAANSE VERTALING VAN DIE REËLBOEKIE.**

Ongelukkig het daar 'n fout ingesluit met die vertaling van die nuwe reëlboekie in Afrikaans. By Reël 36.1.3 moet die tweede verwysing na die witte vervang word met die woord bal. Die reël moet as volg lees:

### **36 Posisie van spelers**

#### **36.1 Met betrekking tot die speelbaan**

1 Spelers aan die matkant van die baan wat nie besig is om 'n bal af te lewer nie, moet minstens 1 meter agter die mat staan.

2 Spelers aan die koptkant van die baan wat nie besig is om die spel te beheer nie, moet:

- Agter die witte en weg van die kop staan;
- Op die wal staan indien die witte in die sloot is; of
- Weg van die kop staan indien dit nie moontlik is om op die wal te staan nie.

3 Indien die speler wat die spel beheer voor die witte is, moet hy die posisie soos beskryf in paragraaf 2, inoem sodra die **bal** afgelewer is.

4 Indien 'n speler Reël 36.1 oortree, moet Reël 35 toegepas word.

**EXAMPLE OF HOW SETS PLAY CAN BE MODIFIED BY A CONTROLLING BODY TO INCLUDE SETS PLAY WITHIN NORMAL PLAY.**

1 The FORMAT of play will be as follows:

The Fours Championships (2 rounds per day) is to be played on a league system in sections of six teams, over 21 ends, in 3 sets of seven ends thereafter on a knock out basis.

The Triples Championships (3 rounds per day) is to be played with two bowls on a league system in sections of six teams, over 18 ends, in sets of six ends, thereafter on a knock out basis.

The Singles Championships (3 rounds per day) is to be played with four bowls on a league system in sections of six players, over 21 ends, in sets of seven ends, thereafter on a knockout basis.

In section play all sets are to be completed as net shots could decide section winners. Scorecards are to be completed progressively and not by set, set winners to be clearly shown on cards.

In knockout play no further play is necessary if one team is a clear winner before the completion of the round.

2 2.1 The teams must consist of four players, all registered at the same club.

2.2 One reserve per team will be allowed, but must be registered at time team registers prior to championships.

2.3 Clubs may enter more than one team.

3 Should a team have to withdraw from these championships before the commencement, the Tournament Secretary must be advised immediately, contact details are shown under Tournament Committee.

4 Declaration forms:

These must be completed by Skips at the commencement of the Fours and Triples Championship and by the player in the singles. For Fours and Triples the name of the Reserve, if applicable, must be recorded. They must be PRINTED WITH FIRST NAMES AND SURNAMES plus contact telephone numbers. No nicknames to be used. Names for the

Fours and the names for the Triples and Singles must agree.

5 Reserves and substitutes:

5.1 Use of reserves

In both the trips and the fours a reserve may be registered and used. A substitute may only be used if a reserve is already playing or was not registered.

5.2 Use of substitutes:

Substitutes, if required, shall be allowed as follows:-

1. In the event that there are no reserves or the registered reserves are already playing, the names of not more than four bowlers, who have not played for any team participating in the Tournament, shall be recorded and placed in a hat/container.

2. The Manager, or failing him the Captain of the opposing team concerned, shall be allowed to draw out one name from the hat/container and the Controlling Body should accept this name. This player will be allowed to play for the team for as many matches as he/she may be required but may not skip.

In any instance of absenteeism a reserve, if registered, should be used before a substitute is considered.

**NB To obviate the necessity of having to apply the 25% Law teams must at all times have their full complement of players. Reserve or substitute must be used in the event of a player not being able to commence a game or has to fall out during play. In the extreme condition where no substitute is available Law 46.2 will apply. One fourth of the shots scored must be deducted from the defaulting team. This is done at the end of each set and not only once the game has been completed.**

6 Withdrawing from the Championships:

A team withdrawing from the Championships at any time after commencement with or without the consent of the Controlling Body, shall cause all points to be expunged, and in knock out play a walk over awarded to the opponent.

**"Geen groot prestasie is ooit sonder entoesiasme behaal nie".**

Any comment preferably positive, or if negative, with the solution, may be E-mailed to me

Trevor [tpdavis@mweb.co.za](mailto:tpdavis@mweb.co.za)

Any bowler who would like to get a copy of this news letter sent directly to them just let us have your e-mail address Club and Bowls S.A. Membership Number

**"The greater the challenge, the greater the reward"**