



TO THE POINT

Issue 31

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TECHNICAL OFFICIALS ACHIEVED THEIR TARGET

In September 2009 just after the Bowls South Africa AGM, all the national standing committees had a workshop with the Executive and each standing committee had to set their goals for 2010. The NSCTO set their target to train 600 players on the Technical Official Courses.

The NSCTO realized that they could not achieve this on their own. They decided not to work **HARD** but to work **SMART** by ensuring that the District Standing committees were well trained and competent to assist them by achieving their set objectives, The NSCTO decided to invest in the Training of Training courses. Here are some of the results shown by our Technical Officials for this Season:

Markers	-	422 players
Level 1	-	213 players
Level 2	-	22 players
Level 3	-	18 players
TOTAL	-	675 players

The NSCTO thanks the District Technical Official Standing Committees for their commitment and hard work.

Without you we would have never achieved this target.

Our objective for 2011 is to upgrade the players who attended the Markers courses to Level 1's and the players who attended the Level 1 courses to Level 2's

NEW LAW BOOK

The current law book has been revised and the draft law book is already with the printers. When the proposed changes are approved by the World Bowls Council in India during October 2010 the printing of the law books will start and hopefully in November the new law books can be distributed to the various districts.

The new laws will be implemented in South Africa as from 01 January 2011

Here is a short Summary of the changes that can be expected

Summary of Law changes between the First and second edition of the Laws of the Sport of Bowls

1. **All laws are now numbered as per the decimal system.**

2. **Other changes**

All other changes can be placed in 3 categories:

- Positional changes
- Changes for clarification
- New or revised laws

2.1 **Positional Changes (7 changes) "Cosmetic changes"**

No change to the content, meaning or interpretation of the law. Just moved to other position in the law book where it is related to a specific law or due to re-numbering.

2.2 **Changes for clarification. (19 changes) "Cosmetic changes"**

Words or phrases were changed or extra words or elaborations were added to the law for **clarification**. The meaning or intent of the laws did not change. The changes are purely to ensure proper interpretation

2.3 **New or revised laws. (13 changes) "Actual changes"**

These changes affect the game the way it was played under the laws of the first edition.

POSSESSION OF THE RINK

For some reason this law, which is not difficult to understand, is disregarded by most bowlers. Perhaps it is ignorance of the Laws or perhaps it is just plain gamesmanship.

The law clearly states that possession of the rink belongs to the player or team whose bowl is being played. Now let's take a closer look at this part of the Law. It means that from the time a player steps onto the mat, takes his stance, delivers his bowl and waits for it to come to rest, no-one may obscure his view of the passage that his bowl is taking and of the head – simple to understand one would say.

NOW lets take a look at the leads and seconds. The leads both play their bowls in turn, then second "A" plays his first bowl. Second "B" then plays his first bowl and second "A" in turn plays his second bowl all fine and well BUT now second "B" delivers his second bowl and before the bowl is even half way up the green, both leads and second "A" start walking up to the head, sometimes obscuring second "B"s view of the head. THIS IS AGAINST THE LAW!!! The leads and Second "A" should wait for Second "B" to start walking up to the head before they do! How many bowlers know this??

Then along come the Thirds. Third "A" delivers his bowl and runs up after it. Stops halfway to watch where it is going to stop and then dawdles back to the mat side of the rink or ambles up to the head. THIS IS AGAINST THE LAW. If you are going to run up after a bowl (which invariably ends up being a bad bowl, because you jumped up to run after the bowl before your follow through was complete so it will be short anyway) PLEASE ensure that you get to the head AT LEAST by the time your bowl comes to rest. If not – YOU ARE INFRINGING THE LAW!! This applies to Third "B" as well. Now Third A has delivered his second bowl and Third "B" is on the mat delivering his bowl and Third "A" starts walking up to the head and obscures his opponents view of the head – same scenario as with the Leads and Seconds. IT IS AGAINST THE LAW.

Next point. The player controlling the head (be it Skip or Third), should retreat behind the head AS SOON AS his player delivers his bowl! This business of standing with their foot next to the jack until he bowl comes to rest and almost crashes into his foot IS AGAINST THE LAW.

All 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 – clear as daylight

Players may also, not, go into a neighbouring rink where play is in progress, or onto the vacant strip next to end rinks – simple to understand

Players should not go into or walk along a neighbouring rink, even if it is not being used, or onto the vacant strip next to end rinks, while an opponent is about to deliver or is actually delivering his bowl – also easy to understand.

Lets now look at the penalties your team can pay for infringing this Law.

If the Umpire , either by their own observation or on appeal by one of the skips or opponents in a singles game, decides that the players in possession of the rink are being annoyed or distracted in any way by their opponents, the Umpire on the first occasion must warn the offending player in the presence of the Skip and advise the Manager or Coach when they are present that a warning has been given.

If they infringe the law again 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

Now, do you want to be responsible for your team being punished in this way because YOU did not comply with the Laws?

It is up to the Umpires to enforce this law and to start doing so at Club Level. This way bowlers will learn to obey the Laws.

ETIQUETTE IN BOWLS

WHAT IS ETIQUETTE?

Etiquette is the **essence of true sportsmanship** since it comprises the **unwritten laws** dealing with matters such as courtesy, politeness and friendliness which bowlers at all times are expected to show towards their team-mates, their opponents, any umpire or marker, not forgetting any spectator. **Etiquette means that no player will do or say anything, nor act in any way, that might be likely to upset or annoy another bowler, or distract that bowler's concentration.**

Bowls South Africa has published an excellent booklet on Etiquette which is obtainable from District offices and probably from many coaches as well.

This article, however, approaches etiquette from a slightly different angle, that of a bowler with many years' experience on the greens starting at a time when etiquette was picked up by watching and following the conduct of other bowlers - it was a good grounding.

THIS IS GOOD ETIQUETTE

At all times **behave as a true sportsman** would

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

player steps on to the mat to commence delivery.

- Players at the jack end should stand still while those at the mat end should keep quiet whenever a player is on the mat and concentrating on his delivery.
- When someone has played a good shot, other contestants may be expected to compliment the player, even when that player is a member of the opposing team.
- Congratulate the winner(s) with a smile, and accept victory modestly.
- Remember to thank the Marker at the end of a singles match; if you have won the game, invite him to join you and your opponent in taking some refreshment.
- Thank the Umpire on duty...
- Make any new member feel at home in the club.

THIS IS POOR ETIQUETTE

- When the player at the head who is in charge and is giving instructions does not immediately retire about 2 metres behind the jack when the player on the mat has delivered his bowl.
- Making excuses for a poor shot.
- Keeping your opponents waiting when is it time for the match to start.
- To argue either with a team mate or your opponent during the course of a match.
- Not to accept the decision of an Umpire with good grace.
- To make unsporting remarks which may upset your opponent.
- To deliver a running commentary on the passage of a bowl.
- To complain when your opponent gets a lucky shot.
- To utter an ironic "Thank you" when an opponent inadvertently pushes one of your team's bowls in for the shot.
- To waste time unnecessarily when it is your turn to play.

SOME ETIQUETTE FOR LEADS AND SECONDS

- If your opponents have won the end and the head is being broken up, it is a nice gesture to pick up the jack and give it to the opposing lead.
- To speed up the game, the lead of the side that won the end should at once pick up the mat and jack and get on with delivering the jack while the other three players kick up the bowls. Do this in pairs as well, but only after most of the bowls have been moved to

behind the spot where you intend to lay the mat.

- It is a much appreciated gesture if the lead places his opponent's bowl to the left of the mat when the opponent has possession.
- Thirds generally do the measuring – it is not good practice for a Skip to interfere with the determining of the score.
- Leads and Seconds do not interfere in play except in exceptional circumstances when a Third does not see a possible shot - only then may a front ranker speak to the Third about a shot to be played or tactics to be employed.

SOME ETIQUETTE FOR THIRDS

- If there are one or two experienced bowlers playing in the front rank, it is worthwhile involving them in some of the decision making, even if only to the extent of saying "What do you think?"
- Thirds should waste no time deciding which bowl is the shot. When there is the slightest doubt, measure – it saves a great deal of time and frustration.
- The Third should place the first bowl of the skip next to the mat.
- The Third should offer advice only when it is requested.
- A Third must never tell a Skip which shot to play when the Skip has just left the head.
- When the Lead or Second plays, the Third should keep quiet and refrain from giving any sign as to how the Lead or Second should play. If the Skip is uncertain, he will consult the Third.

SOME ETIQUETTE FOR SKIPS

- Pick up the mat of the opponent at the completion of the end.
- Never forget that each player in the team also wants to win – do not de-motivate the players by your frustration, your remarks, your body-language.
- Words of encouragement are essential to create harmony and to inspire the player to give of his best. This is especially true for new bowlers.
- We all play bad shots, sometimes throughout the whole game – Skips must understand and be tolerant because it is a sure bet that the player is feeling depressed, particularly if that player is playing well below his potential. Do not use gestures, body language and, worst of all, unkind words to display your frustration – psyche

yourself up to play better to make up for a weakness in the team.

- Avoid any negative or derogatory remark, always!
- Compliment your players on their good shots; try to find something good to say to console a player who is struggling to find the grass or the weight, or both.
- A good shot played by the opposition calls for a compliment, provided it is sincere.
- If the Skip cannot offer anything of worth to the player, rather say nothing.
- Avoid the temptation to state the obvious – every player can see if he is wide, narrow, short or metres through the head. Help the player by sensible suggestions and encouraging gestures and words. Really and truly all a player really needs to know from the Skip is an indication of his/her weight.
- If playing at another club, it is an appreciated gesture to thank those who prepared your tea and eats.
- Make sure that you thank the Umpire for giving up his time so that you could enjoy your match.
- The same applies to Markers in singles matches.

UMPIRES' BOXES - CONTENTS

It is often surprising what can be found in an Umpire's box at various clubs - reverse callipers, ditch measures, knitting needles to name but a few museum pieces. So, if you want to do your club a favour the following items need to be kept (Law 21) - **all the rest should be discarded** (Don't save obsolete equipment for the rainy day that is never going to come!)

- Measures: Bullet (string measure)
- Box type with a clutch (e.g. Club Hawk)
- Telescopic
- String Measure (to stretch say about 7 metres)
- 30 metre Tape Measure*
- Callipers - about 150 mm and 280 mm long (any longer than this makes for a clumsy instrument in the hands of someone not normally used to using a calliper, besides which the longer the arms of the calliper the harder it is to hold; besides which, a telescopic would then be the instrument of choice.)
- Graduated Wedge
- Feeler Gauge set
- Engineer's Square (blade about 150 to 200 mm)
- Wedges for both jack and bowls**

- 2 pieces of thin white plastic (about 30 x 70 mm)
- Law Book - Crystal Mark Edition

* A good idea is to use black insulation tape to mark the following spots on the 30-metre tape: 14, 20, 23 metre marks (a black koki pen would also do the trick)

** Perhaps the best wedges to have is a set containing 4 wedges for bowls and two semi-circular wedges for the jack obtainable from most bowls shops.

USING A TELESCOPIC

How often this has been seen - the Umpire is ready for the fine adjustment of the pointer only to find the pointer cannot be adjusted as it had been screwed against the segment of the telescopic, which means he/she has to start all over again by first of all securing some slack on the adjustable pointer. Therefore, before commencing to use the telescopic, save yourself a little embarrassment by checking that the pointer can be turned in both directions!

TOSSING FOR THE OPENING OF PLAY

The umpire on duty was called to give a decision on the following dispute:-

Before the start of the trial ends the Skips had tossed a coin to see who would have the right to deliver the jack. Skip A won the toss and gave the mat to Team B.

After the trial ends Skip A claimed the mat for the start of the game. This was queried by Skip B who asked for a ruling. Skip A maintained that he had won the toss and was therefore entitled to choose to take the mat for the first end even though he had allowed Team B to start the trial ends.

- The Laws provide for only one toss which is intended to decide who should play first in the first end [**Law 18.2**]
- Trial ends (if played) are not part of the match, and there is no provision in **Law 18.1** for a separate toss, or for any other arrangement, to decide who should play first in the trial ends only.
- It is simply for convenience that the tossing for the opening of play in the game normally takes place before the trial ends start. It is **an accepted fact** that the toss serves **both** for the trial ends **and** for the opening of play

in the match. This fact is based on common sense.

- Hence when Skip A gave the mat to Team B after winning the toss before the start of the trial ends, he surely relinquished the right of his team to play first in the first end of the match as the Laws do not provide for a separate arrangement for trial ends.

Decision: Team B should have the jack for the start of the match.

TOUCHER RESTING ON A BOWL IN THE DITCH

Skip A is several shots down and, left with no other option, plays with weight and drives the jack into the ditch, to be followed by his toucher which cannons into a bowl which in turn lands in the ditch and so prevents the toucher following after from falling into the ditch - the toucher now actually rests against the dead bowl in the ditch. The toucher appears to be the shot.

The Third of Team A argues that the non-toucher should **not** be removed. The opponent disagrees and summons the Umpire for a ruling.

- The non-toucher is a **dead** bowl and **must at once be** removed from the ditch (**Law 27.4**) notwithstanding the fact that, once it is removed, the toucher will in all likelihood fall into the ditch. [**Law 27.4**]
- If as a result the toucher does fall into the ditch, its final resting place should be marked. [**Law 24.4**]
- If the toucher has not been marked with chalk, this should be done immediately the toucher falls into the ditch or at least noted as a toucher. [**Laws 25.1 to 25.3**]

Now it is quite possible that the action of removing the dead bowl could cause the toucher to fall into the ditch **in one of two ways**. Therefore, in order to avoid dispute the action of removing the dead bowl **can** be done by the Umpire upon request provided that this action is agreed to by the players in charge of the head or by the two Skips as the case may be.

QUESTIONS MARKERS GET ASKED

1. If the jack is hidden from the view of the player in possession of the mat, may the marker show the player where the jack is if asked?

Yes, because in **Law 55.2 [The marker's duties]** it states that the marker should

- **Answer any specific question about the state of the head which is asked by the player in the possession of the rink;**
- **When asked, tell or show the player in possession of the rink the position of the jack.**

2. A favourite question is: "What is the position of the head?"

Actually this is a dumb question and players should know better. That being said, even top bowlers have been heard to ask that question! Answer (politely): "What would you like to know?"

3. Having indicated that in your (i.e. the Marker's) **opinion** there was a measure for the shot, don't fall for this question: "Which measure do you favour?" Difficult as it is to believe, this writer has been asked that question on two occasions and in each case by a different bowler of repute! Answer (thoughtfully): "I **consider** (think, believe, etc.) it is a measure" [**Law 55.2 - The Marker's duties**] states: 'When asked, tell or show the player in possession of the rink which bowl or bowls the Marker **considers** to be shot'. The operative word is "**considers**" - if the player is unhappy with that reply, he or she is entitled to visit the head after the delivery of his/her third bowl [**Appendix A 4**]. Dependant on conditions of play.

If the question is posed after the delivery of the player's **second** bowl, he/she may then ask the marker to let him/her visit the head - use your discretion on this one, but generally consent as the request is not likely to happen again during the match.

WHAT DO YOU DO IF....?

During measuring one of the following happens:

- The jack is displaced by a bullet measure.
- The jack is accidentally displaced when the player gets down to measure.
- The jack is displaced by the Marker when asked by one of the players to measure.
- The jack is displaced by the Umpire during measuring.
- The Marker (who is also an Umpire) having been asked to measure for shot instinctively picks up the jack and places it next to the

bowl to indicate the shot. This, believe it or not, is not an isolated incident!

1. When the jack is displaced by the equipment being used by a player during measuring, an **opponent** should put it back to **its former position**. [Law 33.4]

2. If the jack at rest within the rink of play is displaced by a player, the **opposing skip or opponent in Singles** should put the jack back to its **former position**. [Law 33.1.3]

3. If the jack is displaced by the equipment being used by the marker, the marker should put the jack back to a position **agreed by the opponents**. If the opponents **cannot agree, the marker should put the jack back to its former position**. [Law 33.4.2]

4. If the jack is displaced by the equipment being used by the umpire during measuring, the **umpire should put the jack back to its former position**. [Law 33.4.3]

This umpire earns a black mark for doing that, but it happens. I'd be wary of asking for his assistance the next time around!

5. Imagine the huge embarrassment of the marker(umpire) who spontaneously and unconsciously but wholly illegally does this and it leads to a dispute because, if the jack at rest within the rink of play is displaced by a neutral person [the **Marker is a neutral person**] or neutral object, it should be **put back to its former position**. Then, if the Skips or opponents in Singles **cannot agree** on the jack's former position, the end should be declared **dead**. [Law 33.3.3]

JUST A THOUGHT

- Shouldn't **every Skip** make a point of becoming an umpire if only to be more familiar with the laws of the game? The newly acquired knowledge will surely increase the skip's enjoyment of the game, and will provide that little extra advantage to win more games!
- Surely every **Administrator** from District level upwards should also be an umpire, the better to carry out his/her duties to this game we all love?
- **U25's**, who are honoured with District Colours and who are the future of the game - surely each should be urged to become an umpire or a Marker. After all, in their quest to become great bowlers, knowing the laws is a **MUST** for them!

CONSTERNATION ON THE GREEN!

This actually happened, and because it was a new experience for the players, no one knew what to do.

A toucher was in the (shallow) ditch resting against the ditch-board. A delivered bowl then came to rest in such a way that it was partly on the rink and partly supported by the toucher. No one knew what to do, but all agreed that the bowl would have ended up in the ditch had the toucher not been there.

The bowl was not in the ditch, therefore it was not dead. **Law 27.2** (5th bullet) states that a bowl is not dead if "**it comes to rest on top of the jack or any bowls that are at rest within the boundaries of the rink**" and **Law 1.3.27** defines the Rink as "**the section of the green on which a game is played**".

Q.E.D. the bowl is not dead.

JUST TO TEST YOU

How can a bowl that has not been delivered become a toucher?

See **Law 47.2.2 (Playing another player's bowl)** which states; "**If a player plays another player's bowl instead of their own, the other player's bowl should be replaced with the player's own bowl**". In this particular case the bowl that touched the jack is the bowl that has to be replaced!

How does one do this and at the same time be sure of replacing the bowl in the right spot especially if the bowl to be replaced is in contention for shot if measured against an opponent's bowl? Simple, use 3 or 4 wedges, and in a match call the umpire to do it!

CIRCULATION

In **To the Point** of June 2010 the leading article was an appeal to all club secretaries to circulate **To The Point** to every member via e-mail. Have you done that? If not, please do so

It is so very important to contact anyone and everyone who is a bowler (and not only those who are Technical Officials), especially those former Umpires whom we would like to upgrade to Level 1.

It is so disappointing that this writer is still waiting for the June edition to be e-mailed to him! It says something about bowls, doesn't it? Perhaps the only way to achieve a modicum of success is to persuade BSA to circularise this request to every club annually!

CONTACT PERSONS

If you need any information regarding Technical Official courses or any other bowls related queries please contact your District Technical Official Standing Committee.

If they cannot assist you or you do not know who they are or you do not have their contact numbers, you are welcome to contact your district representative on the National Standing Committee for Technical Officials who will assist you.

National Technical Official Standing Committee for 2010.



Fred Kruis (Convener)

Represents the following districts:

Northern Cape
Northern Free State
North West
Sables



Renee Venter (Secretary)

Represents the following districts:

Limpopo
Eastern Gauteng
Bowls Gauteng North



Bob Radcliffe

Represents the following Districts:

Natal Inlands
Port Natal
Kingfisher
KZN Country



Jeanette Williams

Represents the following districts:

Border
Eastern Province
Southern Cape



Neville Savage

Represents the following districts:

CGBA
Mpumalanga
Southern Free State
Sedibeng



Doreen de Power

Represents the following districts:

Boland
Western Province

The Technical Official Representative on the Bowls South Africa Executive for the next term is Isabel Smith.

Any comment preferably positive, or if negative, with the solution, may be E-mailed to any of the Committee Members.

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Any bowler who would like to get a copy of this newsletter will find it on the Bowls SA web and District Secretaries will receive a copy from October 2010