



## TO THE POINT

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### 1. ARE YOU GUILTY?

In a 4's game one bowler was in the habit of walking up to the Head as soon as the last bowl of the second was delivered, much to the annoyance of that player. What is your advice as an umpire? This surely has as much to do with the etiquette of bowls as Law 13, the only Law that covers a situation such as outlined above. Surely each bowler is entitled to the courtesy of being allowed to watch his bowl from the moment of delivery till it stops (or nearly stops) without being disturbed by the other 1 or 2 or 3 front-rankers setting off to the Head? Everyone else has had the opportunity by virtue of having played their bowls before the last bowl of the second. Best is to draw the offender's attention (and that of his skip) to his irritating habit and mention in passing

### 2. POSITION OF PLAYERS LAW 12 in relation to the rink of play

12.1.1 Players at the mat-end of the rink who are not delivering a bowl should stand at least 1 metre behind the mat. Moral of the story: Be considerate .

12.1.2 Players who are at the head-end of the rink and who are not controlling play must ;

Behind the Jack if they are members of the team which is in possession of the rink;

Behind the head and away from the Jack if they are members of the team not in possession of the rink;

### 12.2. In Relation to a neighbouring rink

#### POSSESSION OF THE RINK

13.1 is quite clear: Possession of the rink will belong to the player or team whose bowl is being played

13.2 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..TOUCHERS

On a recent occasion the bowl came to rest in the ditch. The umpire was called, one side said it was a toucher the other said it was not, the umpire did not see the bowl being played. When the umpire checked the bowl, he found that it was not chalked and removed it from the ditch. The side who played the bowl and thought it was a toucher said they did not get the opportunity to chalk the bowl because of the dispute.

What action should be taken if there is a dispute on whether a bowl touched the jack or not?

### 3. Laws of the Sport

The skips must decide whether a bowl is dead or not (first sentence of law 17.3 refers). If they cannot reach agreement they must ask the umpire to make a decision (last sentence of law 17.3 refers). Any decision made by the umpire

must be in line with the Laws of the Sport (law 43.2.5 refers).

However, if a situation arises which is not covered by the Laws of the Sport, players and umpires must use their common sense and a spirit of fair play to decide the appropriate course of action (the Introduction section of the Foreword to the Laws of the Sport refers).

### **Umpire's Approach**

The umpire should

1. Ask both teams individually to describe the path of the bowl in question from its delivery to coming to rest in the ditch (starting with the team which was in possession of the rink when the bowl was delivered).
2. Identify those aspects of the descriptions on which the skips agree and confirm these with them.
3. Identify those aspects of the descriptions on which the skips disagree and confirm these with them,
4. Gather evidence to support both skips' descriptions of the aspects on which there is disagreement – such as evidence of movement of the jack, how close both teams were to the jack when the bowl was in its course and so on. (Note that the views of spectators should not be taken into account – spectators are unlikely to offer an unbiased opinion and, in any case, law 45.3 prevents them from advising the players.)
5. Check whether, in the light of the information gathered in points 1-4, the skips are now able to reach agreement.
6. Explain what their decision will be – based on the evidence available and the Laws of the Sport.

### **Umpire's Decision**

1. If the outcome of the umpire's approach is that there is now agreement between the skips, the umpire should declare the bowl to be either dead or live in line with that agreement.
2. If the outcome of the umpire's approach is that there is still no agreement between the skips, the umpire should decide as follows:
  - a. If the bowl has neither been marked nor nominated as a toucher and further bowls have been played after it came to rest, the umpire should declare the bowl dead (law 15.3 refers).
  - b. If the bowl has neither been marked nor nominated as a toucher and it was the last bowl of the end, the umpire should declare the bowl dead (law 15.3 refers).
  - c. If, in the umpire's opinion, there is sufficient evidence to support either skip's description, the umpire should declare the bowl to be either dead or live in line with that evidence.
  - d. If there is insufficient evidence to support either skip's description, the umpire should declare the end dead.

### **Explanatory Notes**

1. The team that delivers a bowl is responsible for marking or nominating that bowl as a toucher in line with law 15. The opposing team should not deny them the opportunity to mark or nominate it. (They can, however, dispute whether or not it was a toucher immediately after it has been marked or nominated.)

2. Decision 2 d): Declaring the end dead when all other options have been exhausted is considered to be the common sense approach to arriving at a final solution to this particular situation. In arriving at this decision, the Laws Committee recognises that one or other of the teams may feel aggrieved as a result. One party feeling aggrieved, however, is an inevitable consequence of having to decide the outcome of any 'I said' / 'You said' situation.

#### 4. ETIQUETTE IN BOWLS

Good manners will open doors that the best education cannot. Good manners are expected when we interface with opponents on the bowling green. The problem is that good manners differ from one social group to the next and this is where etiquette comes in. Etiquette is a set of rules governing socially acceptable behaviour. As in all other sports, bowls has a written and a stated etiquette.

These basic rules are essential and are used by both serious and recreational bowlers. These rules provide a basic understanding amongst all bowlers and ensure that everyone has fun at an afternoon of bowls. We can usually identify those bowlers who are too serious. A few very serious bowlers use the rules of etiquette to restrict, discourage and exclude others. They resent anyone who threatens them in any way. The primary objective of etiquette is to ensure that every one is treated courteously and with respect. Good bowling requires concentration. Have fun but keep in mind that excessive movement or noise could be distracting when others are ready to deliver their bowl. Refrain from using abusive language; this is not the image that we wish to present.

Play the game to win but be a gracious loser. Good sportsmanship is always the key to a successful game. Be a good sport. No one wants to share time with a sore loser or someone who is angry, irritable or speaks badly of others.

The problem of poor etiquette and bad manners on a bowling green should be sorted out at club level and clubs should also see to the adherence of the laws when social bowls is played.

#### 6. SITUATION:

- The Skip in a fours game, played a drive at the head and his bowl missed completely and was only stopped by the bank, but because of the speed of the drive, the bowl rebounded from a height and came down on the edge of the ditch-board. Before the next end is started, the Skip who played the bowl called the umpire, showing him the bowl and asked if he could replace the bowl as it had a deep groove down the centre of the running surface. The other Skip objected and said his opponent should continue to play with the bowl.
- What should be the umpire's decision and why
- **Answer:**  
Law 31.1 applies, it is the umpire's decision alone if a replacement bowl is needed and the opponent has no say in the matter.
- Law 31.4 applies, the replacement bowl must be from the same set. If the player has only brought two bowls to the tournament then all bowls must be replaced with bowls from a different set.

## QUESTION

Is this Jack and Bowl live?



Answer:

The bowl is a Toucher so both the Bowl and the Jack are live as neither one is embedded in the bank and the Jack is touching the back of the ditch and is resting in the sand.

## NATIONAL STANDING COMMITTEE TECHNICAL OFFICIALS



Bob Stanton was not yet on our Committee when this photo was taken but the situation will be rectified at the earliest possible opportunity.

Comments may be E-mailed to any of the Committee Members.

Dirk Malomgre [dmalomgre@mweb.co.za](mailto:dmalomgre@mweb.co.za)  
Bob Radcliffe [radcliffe@worldonline.co.za](mailto:radcliffe@worldonline.co.za)  
Jeanette Williams [bruwenw@gmail.com](mailto:bruwenw@gmail.com)  
Rea Potgieter [Rea.potgieter@gmail.com](mailto:Rea.potgieter@gmail.com),  
Lynton Harrison [Lynton.harrison@gmail.com](mailto:Lynton.harrison@gmail.com)  
Don van Vuuren [donjvv70@gmail.com](mailto:donjvv70@gmail.com)  
Charles Levy **Bowls SA Representative**  
Bob Stanton [bobst1948@gmail.com](mailto:bobst1948@gmail.com)

Copies of this newsletter will be circulated to all District Secretaries and are available on the Bowls SA web site.