



TO THE POINT

Issue 2/2018

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1. THE QUANDARY OF THE 23 AND 25 METRE MEASURES

Law 5.3.2 states "In any end, the start of play is the delivery of the jack by the first player to play in that end".

Law 6.1.1 states "Before the start of play in each end, the player to play first should 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 25 metres from the front ditch".

Law 6.1.2 states that "If, before the jack has been delivered, a player or the marker finds that the mat has not been placed as described in law 19.1.1, the player to play first should correctly position the mat".

Law 6.1.3 states "If after the jack has been delivered but the first bowl is delivered, a player or the marker finds that the mat line has not been positioned within the distances prescribed in law 19.1.1, the opposing player should place the mat as described in law 19.1.1 and re-deliver the jack, making sure that it is centred, but the opposing player should not play first".

Law 6.1.4 states "After the first player to play has delivered the first bowl, no one has the right to challenge the legality of the original distance of the mat from the rear and front ditches.

From the above, it is clear that the mat can be positioned at any point on the centre line of the rink with the front edge of the mat being between the 2 metre mark from the rear ditch to the 25m mark from the front ditch.

The often asked question in a singles game is "Does the marker have the right to call for a 23 metre measure?" The marker, much to the consternation of many players not only has the right to call

for a measure, but in terms of **law 42.2.2**, the marker should make sure that the jack is at least 23 metres from the mat line after it has been centred. The importance of the distances between the mat line and the jack or the front ditch is stressed again in the law book in **law 43.2.3**, which states "The umpire should decide whether the distance of the mat from the rear and front ditches and the distance of the jack or a bowl from the mat line are in line with the laws of the sport of bowls.

2. POSITION ON THE MAT AND FOOT FAULTING

Law 7.1 states "Before delivery a player should be standing on the mat with all or part of at least one foot on the mat. At the moment that they deliver the jack or a bowl, the player should have all or part of one foot on or above the mat".

Law 7.2 states "Before delivery, a player using an approved wheelchair should have one wheel on the mat and, at the moment they deliver the jack or a bowl, the player should have all or part of one wheel on or above the mat.

Law 7.3 states "Any player not meeting the terms of this law is committing a foot fault and law 21 will apply.

Law 8.1 states "If the umpire, either by their own observation or on appeal by one of the skips or opponents in singles, decides that a player has not met with the terms of Law 20, the umpire should, on the first occasion, warn the player in the presence of the skip and advise the manager or the coach when they are present that a warning has been given".

Law 8.2 states "On each occasion after this the umpire should have the player's bowl stopped and declared dead.

Law 8.3 states "If it has not been possible to stop the bowl and it disturbs the head, the opponent should choose whether to: Law 8.3.1 replace the head

Law 8.3.2 leave the head as altered: or Law 8 3.3 Declare the end dead”.

Law 8.4 states “If a player has been given a warning and still fails to meet the terms of law 20 while delivering the jack, law 23.2 will apply”.

Law 10.2 states “If a player improperly delivers the jack. The opposing player should place the mat as described in law 6.1.1 and re-deliver the jack, making sure that it is centred, but the opposing player should not play first”.

From the above laws it is very clear that running onto the mat and delivering the bowl or the jack is an illegal practice as law 7.1 requires that the player should be “Standing with all or part of one foot” on the mat. The provision in law **8.1** to permit a player to appeal is justified as it is not always possible for the umpire to see everything that is happening on a green all the time – there are times that the umpire is occupied with other duties.

Contrary to the beliefs of some players, it is not the umpire’s duty to be preoccupied with only looking for foot faulting. Trained umpires will observe the stance that players adopt on the mat during the trial ends to gain an indication as to which players “could” be prone to foot faulting, and observe those players on the mat from time to time.

3. 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 **12**, 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 Law **12**, Possession of the Rink. Law **13** is quite clear: Possession of

the rink will belong to the player or team whose bowl is being played As soon as each bowl comes to rest, possession of the rink will transfer to the opposing player or team In Bullet 1 the words "is being played" do not mean "has finished being played"! In Bullet 2 the key words are: "comes to rest", and so Law **12.1.1** comes into effect: Players at the mat-end of the rink who are not delivering a bowl should stand at least 1 metre behind the mat. Note in the Crystal Mark Edition, "should" means that the action is compulsory. Moral of the story: Be considerate of the other player; rushing up the rink is not going to save much, if any, time, so why do it? Advice: Set off up the rink to the head only when the player in possession does.

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.

5. LAW CHANGES

Laws 52.1.6.1 and 52.1.7.1 April 2018 –
Board of World Bowls

The Board of World Bowls presented a proposal to the WB Council Meeting held in Helensvale, Australia following the 2018 Commonwealth Games to lower the minimum size of bowls. The minimum size at present is 116 millimetres but it was recognised that some people from both the older and younger generations had difficulty in holding even this minimum-sized bowl.

Manufacturers had been approached to design new smaller sizes. Test bowls with a minimum size of 112 millimetres (size quadruple zero) and 114 millimetres (size triple zero) had been manufactured and trialled. The meeting was asked to approve a change to the Laws to allow these smaller-sized bowls of approved models to be used. Bowls England applauded World Bowls for this initiative and proposed acceptance - seconded by Fiji.

The meeting was unanimous in supporting the change and the written report on the subject was accepted on the proposal of Wales - seconded by India. Laws Committee Ratification: The Laws Committee has ratified the decision taken at the WB Council Meeting to lower the minimum size of bowls. It has agreed that the following changes to Laws 52.1.6.1 and

52.1.7.1 (highlighted) will come into immediate effect. 52.1.6 Bowls made of wood must: 52.1.6.1 measure between 112 millimetres and 134 millimetres across at their widest points; and 52.1.6.2 weigh up to 1.59 kilograms. 52.1.7 Bowls made of rubber or plastic resin must: 52.1.7.1 measure between 112 millimetres and 131 millimetres across at their widest points; and 52.1.7.2 weigh up to 1.59 kilograms

This is the only change to the Law Book since 2014.

6. YEAR END

Another year had passed and we look back on a satisfactory year within the TO environment in the Sport of Bowls.

Often people have a deepset desire to be appreciated . Often at Tournaments and Competitions Controlling Bodies fail to acknowledge TO's and Markers who willingly give their time for the benefit of fellow bowlers.

People must realize and I accentuate the fact that good TO's and Markers are assets to BSA, clubs, districts and add to the enjoyment of all players and spectators.

Let us all reach out to these volunteers and acknowledge, support and appreciate their involvement in our sport.

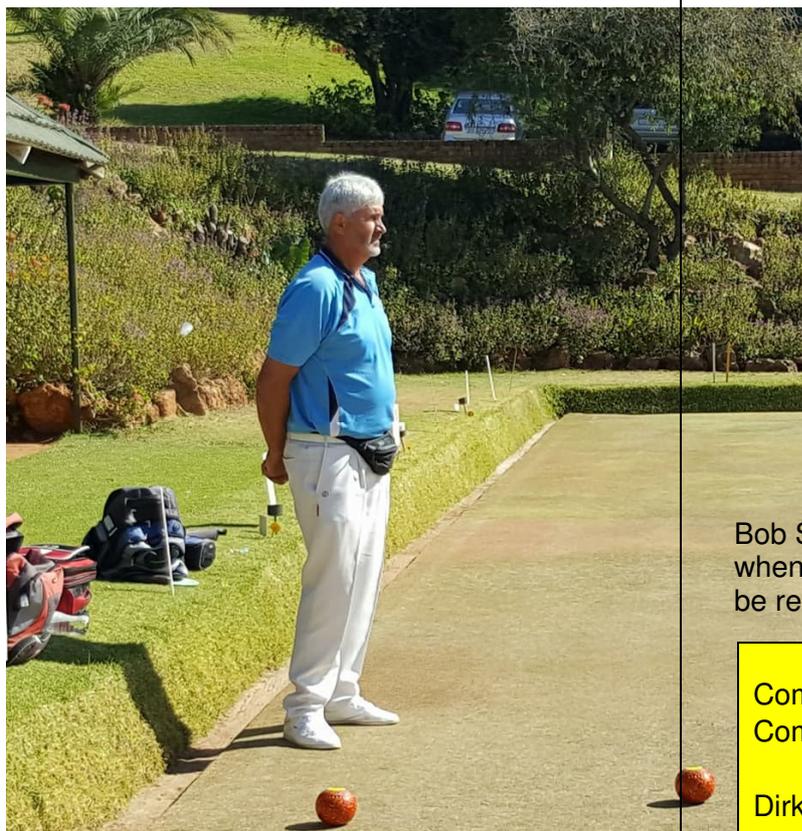
DTOSC's are facing, as in all sport, great challenges.

Clubs are closing down due to maintenance costs, municipality problems, economics and losing of members.

Despite all challenges, a busy calendar and many other obstacles the DTOSC's have excelled in their duties.

I would like to congratulate and express my utmost appreciation towards all involved for outstanding work, enthusiasm

and commitment towards our beloved sport of Bowls



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.

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

After a busy year I want to include something that concerns me. There is no doubt that standards of sporting behavior is declining in the world.... Bad sportsmanship always spoils the game and creates bad feelings amongst players, Technical Officials and spectators. The tendency is sometimes to win "at all cost". This includes over-robustness, display of temper, intimidating and ridiculing the marker/opponent, disputing the umpire's decisions, fighting, (between team mates) hooliganism on the part of team supporters, gamesmanship etc. Unfortunately we see some of our international and provincial sportsmen indulging in these practices. Let us in the Bowls fraternity make sure that this behavior is nipped in the bud

**NATIONAL STANDING COMMITTEE
TECHNICAL OFFICIALS**