
TO THE POINT

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1. UMPIRES COURSES

Over the course of the past few months, various Districts have conducted Technical Official courses which is very pleasing to note. There are however, still some Districts who have not had any courses for a while. It is important that we keep our family of Umpires growing and I would urge Clubs to encourage their members to do an Umpires Course. Knowing the Laws of the Sport of Bowls is an advantage not only to an individual but also to the Club as these Umpires can pass on their knowledge to their club members which would alleviate a lot of misconception of the Laws and also increase the enjoyment of the game.



Westview Level 1 Course

Despatch/Uitenhage Level 1
Candidates and Facilitators

During the past months the BSA TOSC have also presented some courses with a trip to Botswana in September where we trained 8 Level 1 Umpires, 2 of whom were from Zimbabwe and 4 Level 2 Umpires. This was a most interesting and constructive trip. The Candidates were all so keen to learn the laws and the enthusiasm and co-operation was wonderful.



Botswana Candidates and Facilitators

It was a long trip to get there and back and the heat was unbelievable 38 – 42 degrees. Working on the green was not easy in that heat but in the end it was worth every moment spent there.



Measuring Practice Botswana

We were also fortunate enough to see some game while we were there at the Rhino Sanctuary and Game Park. All in all a great experience,



Rhinos at the Sanctuary

In October we presented a Level 3 course at the Kempton Park Bowling club for 23 Candidates. Here too the enthusiasm of the Candidates and their willingness to put in long hours of hard work paid off. Most of the Candidates achieved very high standards and once their dissertations are received they will be issued with their Level 3 badges.

Kempton Park once again stood up to their excellent reputation for providing a venue and lovely meals and teas. Our thanks to

their President and members for hosting us. We will return.

LEVEL 3 CANDIDATES & FACILITATORS



2.MEASURING SITUATION

At a district game in Pretoria, the umpire deemed the opposition bowl to be shot bowl as the feeler gauge went down further between jack and bowl than the other bowl which was also touching. The gauge could not get through either bowl. Should have been a no shot. Interesting that it can happen at that level and the head umpire told her to make a judgement call, apparently the players had left the head as the umpire had arrived.

This is totally unacceptable. There is no such thing as one bowl touching the Jack more than the other. If the Feeler Gauge does not pass through between the bowl and the Jack it is a No Shot!.

3.REFRESHER COURSES

Recently a Circular was sent out to Districts advising them that all Umpires are required to a Refresher Course every 5 years to keep them as Active Umpires. We have received many queries about the Refresher Course and I would like to explain the procedure.

Candidates must apply to their District Technical Officials Standing Committee to complete the Refresher Course. A document containing a large number of questions will be emailed to the Candidate who can download and print the document. This document can be completed by the Candidate in his/her

own time, at home, with the use of their Law books and on completion be returned to the Standing Committee who will then arrange for the Candidate to attend a measuring evaluation and a short multiple choice questionnaire, On completion of the assessment their credential will be updated on the database for another 5 years. We normally give the Candidates a month in which to return the document.

2.SUMMER TEMPERATURES

Umpires are reminded that with the Summer coming on, attention must be paid to the high temperatures that are experienced in some parts of the country. A Heat Chart was Circulated to all Districts a while ago and we request Umpires please to use this chart if they find that the temperatures are very high. It is very dangerous to play in temperatures above 33 degrees particularly when there is humidity involved as well. Players must be taken off the green and be allowed to cool down inside preferably in an airconditioned room.

TECHNICAL OFFICIALS STANDING COMMITTEE



Nico Taljaard from Western Province has been co-opted onto the Standing Committee. Welcome Nico we look forward to working with you.



Jeanette Williams – Convener

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