# BOWLS SOUTH AFRICA TECHNICAL OFFICIALS

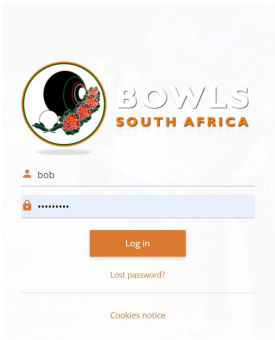
**TO THE POINT**

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## 1. Technical Officials

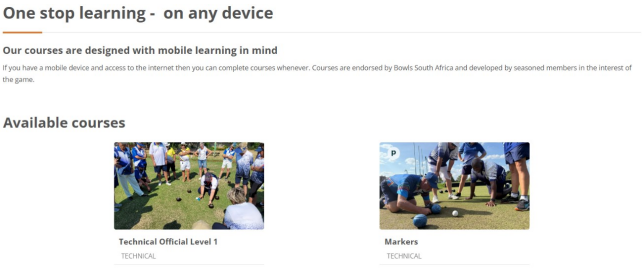
It is concerning to see the number of Umpires steadily declining. We need more members to raise their hands and give something back to our sport by qualifying as Markers and Umpires. Our clubs and districts rely on dedicated volunteers who are willing to serve in these important roles.
Markers and Level one online Courses are now available online *allowing you to complete the theory at your own pace and in the comfort of your own home.*
These courses are particularly convenient for bowlers who live far away from centres where courses are frequently held.

*To register on the BSA Website click the* ***Apply*** button *on the Bowls S A Learning Portal on the Website on the left of the menu Then you will be invited to login to the Bowls South Africa learning platform. Once you have* ***registered and paid, you can continue immediately with the course.***
*Obviously, we will be able to see if you have completed you your markers course before commencing with level1.*










***Practical assessments will be arranged for those who wish to become fully fledged Umpires after your successful completion of the theory. Should you wish to become a Laws Umpire which means you don't have to do the Measuring, these courses will also suit you,***

*The cost of either course is* ***R275.00****,*

Several candidates from Natal have already completed these courses and there are presently two courses open on the BSA Website, one for Markers and one for Level 1 Technical Officials. Obviously you cannot apply to do the Level 1 course until you have completed the Markers Course.

These courses are ideal for Coaches who wish to progress to the next level but need to have a knowledge of the Laws of the Sport of Bowls

## 2. Shoes

BSA have approved the wearing of the following Shoes. Kicking Bowls might prove to be a bit difficult with such soft shoes and be very careful you don't drop a bowl on your foot.

"Kaalvoet" Shoes ……..







**3, DRESS CODE**

The Domestic Regulations for the Dress Code in the Law Book clearly states;

1. *Headwear, if worn, may have approved insignia and/or hat-bands. Caps can to be worn with the peak facing to the front or to the back.*
2. *A bowling dress with collar, a skirt or tailored slacks of any length together with a blouse with a collar, is permissible provided they are not manufactured from Lycra or any other body clinging material. Tights are not allowed*
3. Bowls South Africa has approved the 'Skort' as acceptable apparel for female bowlers ,

Unfortunately there are ladies who are not conforming to the dress code and are wearing skin tight “tights” that are sometime so sheer that one can see right through them. In the first place this is contrary to the dress code and in the second place almost obscene. Skorts and shorts should also be of an acceptable length.
Clubs are requested to ensure that their players are dressed according to the Dress Code at all times.

**4. Quiet Guardians of the Green**

Around every bowling green in South Africa, there is a story unfolding. There is the excitement of competition, the concentration of the players, the anticipation of the next bowl and the determination to win.
But standing quietly on the sidelines is someone whose contribution is just as important to the game — the umpire.
The umpire does not deliver the winning bowl. The umpire does not celebrate the final shot or receive the applause of the crowd. Yet, when a question arises, when a measurement is needed, or when the rules must be applied, all eyes turn to the person wearing the umpire's badge.
It is a responsibility that demands knowledge, patience, confidence and integrity.
An umpire must know the Laws of the Sport of Bowls, but knowing the laws is only the beginning. The true skill lies in applying them fairly, communicating clearly and remaining calm when the pressure rises. Every decision must be made without favour, fear or personal opinion. The same standard applies whether the game is played at a small local club, a district championship or on the national stage.
Around South Africa, umpires give their time and energy to support the sport they love. They travel to competitions, prepare their equipment, keep their knowledge up to date and stand ready to assist players when called upon. Many serve without

recognition, driven by a simple belief: the game deserves to be played fairly.
There are moments when the green falls silent as a measure is taken. A few millimetres can make the difference between winning and losing. In that moment, the umpire's judgement, professionalism and impartiality matter enormously. The players may feel the pressure, but the umpire must remain composed, ensuring that the Laws are applied correctly and that the result is respected.
Being an umpire is not simply about enforcing rules. It is about earning trust. It is about treating every player with respect, explaining decisions when appropriate and remembering that the umpire is there to serve the game — not to become the centre of attention.
South African bowls needs dedicated umpires at every level. Experienced officials who can share their knowledge, new umpires willing to learn, and clubs and districts prepared to encourage and support the next generation. Without them, the integrity of our competitions would be diminished.
To every umpire who has stood around a bowling green in South Africa, in sunshine or wind, through long days of competition and difficult decisions, your contribution matters. You are part of the foundation on which fair play and confidence in our sport are built.

You may not always hear the applause. Your name may not appear on the scoreboard. But when the game is fair, the players are respected and the result is accepted, you have helped uphold the true spirit of bowls.

## 5.Your game, Your knowledge, Your Contribution

### Have you ever considered becoming an umpire?

Step onto the green. Learn the Laws. Develop your skills. Build your confidence and become part of the team that keeps South African bowls fair.

You do not have to be the best player on the green to make a difference. You need a willingness to learn, a commitment to fairness and a passion for the sport. Your journey could begin at your own club, with the support of experienced officials and the opportunity to develop through recognised training.

**Be part of the game beyond the bowl.**

**Become an umpire.**

## 6.UMPIRES KITS

Clubs should make sure that their Umpires Kits are up to date. Many of our Umpires have their own personal kits, but there are still those who do not have and its for this reason that all Kits should be checked regularly to ensure that they contain all the instruments required by an Umpire. The list is as follows:

A Copy of the current Laws of the Sport of Bowls:

i. A Tape measure of at least 25 metres long;
ii A String measure (Bullet); or Box Measure
iii Callipers
iv Feeler gauges
v Telescopic Measure
vi Wedges for supporting leaning bowls
vii A Mirror or
viii a retractable line
ix a set square and/or a Boundary Scope

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

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