

Gildredge Park Bowls Club

Helpful guidance for markers 2023

1. The formal markers duties as described by the World Bowls Laws of the Sport of Bowls
2. Key points when marking
3. Advice on measuring
4. Dealing with a driving or firing shot

I. The Markers Duties –World Bowls Laws of the Sport of Bowls

42.2.1 check the mat is placed on the centre line of the rink;

42.2.2 centre the jack;

42.2.3 make sure that the jack is at least 23 metres from the mat line after it has been centred;

42.2.4 place a jack that comes to rest less than 2 metres from the front ditch as described in law 9.2;

42.2.5 stand to one side of the rink, behind the jack and away from the head;

42.2.6 answer any specific question about the state of the head which is asked by the player in possession of the rink;

42.2.7 when asked, tell or show the player in possession of the rink the position of the jack;

42.2.8 when asked, tell or show the player in possession of the rink which bowl or bowls the marker considers to be shot;

42.2.9 when authorised by the Controlling Body, signal to players and spectators (using the appropriate number and colour of shot indicators or some other suitable method) which player's bowl or bowls the marker considers to be shot; - NOT APPLICABLE IN THE EOBT

42.2.10 mark all touchers with chalk and remove the chalk marks from non touchers as soon as they come to rest;

42.2.11 stop any bowl that is from a neighbouring rink that could move a jack or bowl that is at rest;

42.2.12 if both players agree, remove all dead bowls from the rink of play;

42.2.13 mark the position of a jack and any touchers which are in the ditch

42.2.14 Do not move, or cause to be moved, either the jack or any bowls until the players have agreed the number of shots scored; and

42.2.15 measure any disputed shot or shots when asked to do so by either player. If the players are not satisfied with the marker's decision, the marker must ask the umpire to do the measuring. If the Controlling Body has not appointed an umpire, the marker must choose a competent neutral person to act as the umpire. The umpire's decision is final.

42.3 When each end has been completed, the marker must record the score on the score card;

42.3.2 if scoreboards are not being used, tell the players the running totals of the scores

42.3.3 remove from the rink the mat used during the previous end, if necessary.

42.4 When the game has been completed, the marker must make sure that the score card:

42.4.1 contains the names and signatures of the players;

42.4.2 Contains the time at which the game was completed; and is dealt with in line with the Conditions of Play

2. Key points when Marking

Equip yourself with; Chalk/Spray; Box Measure; 4 Wedges; Pen/Pencil; Coin; Cloth for kneeling on or grouping bowls; ScoreCard Holder; (other equipment in Umpires Kit)

Start of Game; Introduce yourself to both of the players – Inform them you will mark touchers before the next bowl is delivered – Request players to inform you if they intend to play a driving/firing shot – this information should be conveyed to players on adjacent rinks

Trial Ends; Indicate to player the distance of the bowl in front or past the Jack, using hand signals or a clear voice. Move the bowls to the back of the rink near, each person's in a separate group. Shake the players hand, wish them well.

Where to stand; Check mat is centered and centre the delivered Jack with your hand NOT your foot. Ensure that the Jack when centred is a minimum of 23metres from the front of the Mat. Stand approx. 1 or 2 metre to the side of the Jack and 1 or 2 metres back from the Head. Do NOT block the player's view of the rink number or the rink marker. Do NOT move when the player is about to bowl. Anticipate questions by being aware of bowls distances from the Jack and which players bowls are holding shot. Concentrate on the player's bowls in the Head and who is holding shots. Do NOT engage with any spectators or watch adjacent rinks.

Answering Players questions about Distances; If a players bowl at rest is 18 inches from the Jack – if asked Do NOT say 2 feet short – always say 18” or 24” as it sounds more accurate. Understand distances in relation to Jack High (see the diagram below).

Answering questions about the Head; The player must have possession of the Mat.

Player: “Am I holding shot”? Your answer is either “Yes” or “No” Don't answer questions not asked.

Player: “Am I holding I shot” ? Your answer would be “No your I down” or “Yes your I up” indicating either shots with your hand. If you are ever unsure about the holding shot, don't guess – indicate a measure - the player can visit the Head to check himself if he wants.

Completion of the End; Keep away and allow the players to decide the result. If you are asked to measure, make sure you know which bowls you are being asked measure. You may request players to remove any bowls in the Head that are not in contention. Do not move or touch bowls you are being asked to measure. Have wedges to hand. Wedge bowls that are upright (in a running position) Bowls lying on their side do not have to be wedged. Ensure a straight line between the box and the

string. Do not cover the box with your hands and do not keep your finger on the button, If a measure is either too short or too long for your box tape, then call the Umpire. When you have finished your measure only announce the winning bowl by pointing – Do NOT remove the bowls as the players are entitled to call an Umpire for confirmation. Always stand at the front of the head whilst the Umpire is at work in anticipation of the next end.

Scorecards: Complete with care – Check players names are correct – Record the score on completion of each end – Do this before the start of the next end – Ensure scoreboard corresponds with scorecard.

After the Game: Congratulate the Winner and commiserate with the Loser Check the scorecards and have the players sign the card under their opponent’s total score Write your name as the Marker in the scorecard. Hand scorecard to Umpire or Controlling Body.

Describing distances from the jack. How would you describe these bowls A to H? This is a set of questions from the official English Bowls Umpires Association markers awareness course. A helpful guide is the dimeters of a bowl and the jack are 5” and 2 ½”

Revision Break 2

As a marker, what distances would you give for each bowl labelled A to H?

Bowl	Distance	Bowl	Distance
A		F	

A: half a bowl short of jack high. OR 2 ½ inches short of jack High.

B; 10 inches past jack high

C: 5 inches past jack high. OR one bowl past jack high

D: 2 ½ inch gap. OR 5 inches past jack high

E: 5 inch gap. OR 10 inches short of jack high

F: jack high

G: 10 inches short of jack high

H: 2 ½ inches past jack high

Measuring – Tips for Markers

If it looks like a measurement is required, wait at the Head for the players to take a look.

Let the players make the decisions; do not suggest anything to them but get confirmation of the number of shots declared.

If the players request that you measure a shot ask for the bowls not in question to be moved from the Head and placed at the back of the green

Always return to the first bowl to check that your measurement is correct. When sure indicate which bowl is shot. NEVER touch or turn out bowls that you have deemed to be shot – the players can reject your decision and ask for a Umpire to measure

Players may wish to measure themselves; lend them your measure if they need one.

Remember the 30 second rule – the number of shots scored must not start until the last bowl required to be played in an end has come to rest, or 30 seconds after that if either Skip or Opponent ask for this 30 second period (for example, to see whether or not a upright/standing bowl lying at an angle will fall of its own accord within that time)

Do not attempt measures of less than 15cm – 6 inches – call the Umpires to use callipers

Before measuring, wedge any standing or leaning bowls. Still do so if you have to call an Umpire – Also call the Umpire if it's a close measure which you cannot call.

If the measurement is to an object in the ditch, make sure that the string crosses the ditch in a straight line between the jack and the bowl. Also make sure that the string does not cut into the Green at the point that it crosses the edge of the ditch. DO NOT place your foot in the ditch. If its difficult to measure a jack/bowl in the ditch CALL THE UMPIRE

Wedging Bowls

Any bowl that is NOT lying in a stable position on its flat surface ie the bias or non biased side, should be wedged, ideally with one or two wedges either side of the bowl. Don't be afraid to use plenty of wedges. Bowls in a upright or leaning position can easily fall. If a bowl is not lying flat then wedge it.

Dealing with a Driving or Firing Shot.

First of all the firing shot is perfectly legal. The object of this shot is to remove an opponent's bowl or the jack from an unfavourable lie, or maybe to split a group of the opponents' bowls.

Before the game starts speak to the players and ask them if at any time they intend to use a firing shot, they should inform you out of courtesy, so that you may take the necessary action to avoid injury by ricocheting bowls either striking you, or players on the adjacent rink who should be warned.

If you know that a player is about to play a firing shot you can improve your position on the rink to prepare yourself for the shot. Take a step forward so that you are almost level with the jack, and then move a couple of steps short of the jack and the head the moment the player delivers the bowl. By moving to the front of the head when the bowl is delivered you will be in a much better position to spot a toucher and to avoid being hit by a bowl. Watch the delivered bowl so you can see if it is a toucher and follow where it goes. Not do lost sight of the delivered bowls because you are distracted by watching the outcome of other collisions.