



# Domestic Regulations

Updated April 2023

Plain English Campaign's Crystal Mark does not apply to these domestic regulations or the index.

In all circumstances with respect to the Laws of the Sport of Bowls, the hierarchy should be adhered to as follows:

1. Laws of the Sport of Bowls – Crystal Mark Fourth Edition
2. Bowls Australia Domestic Regulations
3. All of Sport Policies
4. Conditions of Play from event/competition

Where clarification is required, please contact your state/territory association rules/umpiring committee.

# Domestic regulations for Australia

Bowls Australia is empowered to make domestic regulations in regard to a number of matters (law 57.1)

## CONTENTS

<b>1. Game Basics</b> .....	<b>3</b>
1.1 <i>Playing or practising on the same rink (law 3.4);</i> .....	3
1.2 <i>Using portable groundsheets (law 6.1.5.6);</i> .....	3
1.3 <i>Minimum length end (law 10.5);</i> .....	3
<b>2. Game Anomalies</b> .....	<b>3</b>
2.1 <i>Definitions</i> .....	3
2.2 <i>Team Nominations</i> .....	3
2.3 <i>Constitution of teams</i> .....	3
2.4 <i>Substitutes (see definition 2.1.3)</i> .....	4
2.5 <i>Replacement players (see definition 2.1.4)</i> .....	4
2.6 <i>Absentee players in a side game</i> .....	4
<b>3. Duties of players</b> .....	<b>5</b>
3.1 <i>The use of a scoreboard instead of one of the scorecards;</i> .....	5
3.2 <i>Skips duties relating to scorecards (law 40.1.9)</i> .....	5
<b>4. Field of Play &amp; Equipment</b> .....	<b>5</b>
4.1 <i>Use of synthetic surfaces (law 46.4)</i> .....	5
4.2 <i>Standards for green construction (law 46.5)</i> .....	5
4.3 <i>Standards for the minimum width of a rink (law 49.1)</i> .....	5
4.4 <i>Standards for boundary pegs (law 49.5.1)</i> .....	5
4.6 <i>The use of boundary threads (law 49.9)</i> .....	5
4.8 <i>Re-testing and re-stamping bowls (law 52.2.3)</i> .....	5
4.9 <i>Requirements for stamps on bowls (law 53.5)</i> .....	5
4.10 <i>Deposit when a challenge to bowls is lodged (see law 52.4.4.3)</i> .....	6
4.11 <i>Artificial devices for delivering the jack/bowl (see law 41.8)</i> .....	6
<b>5. Administration</b> .....	<b>6</b>
5.1 <i>Limits</i> .....	6
5.2 <i>Colours for footwear and the types of sole (see appendix A.2)</i> .....	6
5.3 <i>Colours and types of clothing (see appendix A.3)</i> .....	6
<b>6. Policies</b> .....	<b>6</b>

### New Laws Regarding changes to Bowls:

Please note manufacturers may design new smaller sizes of bowls. Bowls with a minimum size of 122 millimetres (size quadruple zero) and 114 millimetres (size triple zero) have now been approved.

New laws relevant to changes to bowls are: D2, 52.1.3, 52.1.8.4, 53.1, 52.1.6.1 and 52.1.7.1 now appear in Crystal Mark Version 3.1

# 1. Game Basics

## 1.1 Playing or practising on the same rink (law 3.4);

- 1.1.1 A Player must not play on a rink on which they are drawn or play in another game that day.
- 1.1.2 If a player has already played a game earlier in the day, they must not play another game on the same rink on the same day.
- 1.1.3 This regulation will not apply to televised or other Bowls Australia nominated events.
- 1.1.4 A controlling body can decide whether players in a sides game (e.g. pennant) can practise on the same rinks in which they are drawn to play later in the day. Once the draw for rinks has been made, law 3.3 applies.

## 1.2 Using portable groundsheets (law 6.1.5.6);

A Controlling Body can make decisions to use portable groundsheets which can be deployed either before the start of play or at any time during play.

## 1.3 Minimum length end (law 10.5);

For domestic play within Australia, the jack will be improperly delivered if it comes to rest less than 21 metres from the mat line after the jack has been centred.

As provided in the Laws of the Sport of Bowls, the following distances are also changed:

A jack shall be a dead jack, or shall be re-spotted if prescribed in the Conditions of Play for that competition, if it comes to rest at a distance of less than 18 metres, as measured in a straight line, from the centre mat line to the nearest point of the jack (law 19.1.3)

The distances shown in appendix B.4.2 must be changed from 20 metres to 18 metres;

Before the start of play in each end, the player to play first must place the centre line of the mat lengthwise along the centre line of the rink, with the mat line at least two metres from the rear ditch and at least 23 metres from the front ditch (law 6.1.1).

Note that this change to 23 metres also applies to the position of the ground sheets definition C.12, duties of a marker law 42.2.2, marking of the distances on the bank law 49.12 and marking of the centre lines law 49.13.

Appendices B.2.1, B.4.1 and B.4.2 should be changed from 25 metres to 23 metres.

# 2. Game Anomalies

## 2.1 Definitions

- 2.1.1 Eligible Member - A player who satisfies the eligibility criteria, as stated in the Conditions of Play set down by the Controlling Body for that event.
- 2.1.2 Affiliated Member - A player who is registered with a state or territory association as a member of an affiliated club.
- 2.1.3 Substitute - A player who is appointed to take the place of a team member who is unavailable to play at any time (including the first end of any game) , for a reason accepted by the Controlling Body.
- 2.1.4 Replacement Player - A player who is appointed to take the place of a constituted player who is physically incapable or otherwise prevented from taking further part in any end (after the first round), for a reason accepted by the Controlling Body. The replacement player becomes a constituted member of the team.

## 2.2 Team Nominations

- 2.2.1 If approved by the Controlling Body, the players nominated to form a team entered in a competition may be changed before their first round in that competition.
- 2.2.2 Any player withdrawn before the first round shall be regarded as not having entered the competition and can act as a substitute or replacement player in that competition.

## 2.3 Constitution of teams

- 2.3.1 A team shall become constituted when the jack is rolled in the first end of the first game to be played by that team.

- 2.3.2 Players in a team forfeiting or receiving a forfeit shall be constituted and cannot act as a substitute or replacement player in any other team in that competition.
- 2.3.3 If a player in a team becomes unavailable or is incapable of playing, the Controlling Body may authorise the use of one substitute player and/or one replacement player.

## **2.4 Substitutes (see definition 2.1.3)**

- 2.4.1 Only one substitute will be allowed in a team at any one time.
- 2.4.2 Substitutes shall be chosen from 'Eligible Members'
- 2.4.3 If there are no 'Eligible Members' available, the controlling body can approve 'Affiliated Member' to act as a substitute.
- 2.4.4 A player acting as a substitute, may with the approval of the Controlling Body, be changed at the completion of any end during a game or between succeeding games in the same competition.
- 2.4.5 Substitutes introduced after the game has commenced must play in the same position as the player being substituted, except if it is skip. If a substitute is required to skip, then other members of the team must rearrange their positions as necessary. In subsequent games in the same competitions the position of players may be rearranged (unless otherwise specified in the Conditions of Play for that event) however a substitute must not play in the position of skip.
- 2.4.6 A player for who a substitute is obtained, will, if they become available and are physically capable, re-join the team in the player's original position at the start of the next end and the others must revert to their original positions.
- 2.4.7 A player who has played as a substitute, is eligible to again play as a substitute in that team or other team in that competition.
- 2.4.8 Substitutes are not permitted for a singles player who is not part of a sides competition.
- 2.4.9 If a replacement player is used in a pairs team, then a substitute is only permitted to take the place of the replacement player and the original team member must be skip.
- 2.4.10 A substitute is not to be approved for a player who is unavailable because of a commitment to play bowls in another event they have entered.
- 2.4.11 A substitute must be permitted for a player who is unavailable to play because their selection as a player in a recognised National, State or Divisional/Regional Representative Side.

## **2.5 Replacement players (see definition 2.1.4)**

- 2.5.1 Only one replacement player will be allowed in a team and when approved by the controlling body, becomes a constitutes player.
- 2.5.2 Replacement players must be chosen from available, 'Eligible Members' and when approved by the controlling body can play in any position including skip.
- 2.5.3 Constituted players are ineligible to act as replacement players or substitutes.

## **2.6 Absentee players in a side game**

- 2.6.1 If, 30 minutes after the scheduled start time for a game, or sooner if the Controlling Body decides, one player is absent from one or more teams in a side and no eligible substitute is available or allowed, the game must continue, however:
  - 2.6.1.1 A team with an absent player plays as though the second is the missing player.
  - 2.6.1.2 The order of play shall be maintained by the second of the complete team playing consecutive bowls.
  - 2.6.1.3 Each play must use the number of bowls specified in the Conditions of Play for that event.
- 2.6.2 If a player has commenced the game, however is unable to continue the game and no eligible substitute or replacement player is available or allowed, play will continue as if on player is absent as per 2.6.1
- 2.6.3 If an absent player arrives late, they must take their original place in the team when they arrive and enter the game at the completion of the end in progress.
- 2.6.4 If an eligible substitute or replacement player becomes available and is permitted by the Controlling Body, they may be introduced to the game at the completion of the end in progress.

## 3. Duties of players

### 3.1 The use of a scoreboard instead of one of the scorecards;

For Domestic Play in Australia, a scoreboard cannot be used instead of a scorecard (law 40.1.8).

- 3.1.1 The scoreboard may be updated at anytime by any person but must be updated at least every second end and the Skip is responsible for ensuring it is correct as per the scorecard, except if the responsibility for the scoreboard has been passed from the Skip to the Second in Fours as per DR 3.2.4. then the Second is responsible for the accuracy of the scoreboard.

### 3.2 Skips duties relating to scorecards (law 40.1.9)

For Domestic Play in Australia, all duties relating to the scorecard set out in law 40.1.7 (including keeping and completing the scorecard) shall be performed by:

- 3.2.1 In singles; the marker is responsible for keeping, completing and dealing with the scorecard (as per law 42)
- 3.2.2 In Pairs; the skip of each team
- 3.2.3 In Triples; the skip of each team
- 3.2.4 In Fours; the second of each team.

## 4. Field of Play & Equipment

### 4.1 Use of synthetic surfaces (law 46.4)

Both Vegetation and synthetic surfaces are approved as a playing surface for playing of bowls.

### 4.2 Standards for green construction (law 46.5)

Bowls Australia has noted that there is no change in the construction of greens.

### 4.3 Standards for the minimum width of a rink (law 49.1)

Bowls Australia has noted that, for Australia, there is no change in the minimum width of rinks.

### 4.4 Standards for boundary pegs (law 49.5.1)

Bowls Australia has noted that there is no change in the standard for boundary pegs on outdoor greens other than they must be fixed to the bank in accordance with law 49.4

### 4.5 Centre of boundary pegs (law 49.5.2)

- 4.5.1 For boundary pegs fixed on top of the bank, no thin black vertical line is required to mark the centre of the peg.
- 4.5.2 For boundary pegs fixed to the bank, the centre of the boundary peg must be marked with a thin black vertical line.

### 4.6 The use of boundary threads (law 49.9)

Boundary threads will not be used for domestic play in Australia.

### 4.7 Distinguishing marks on bowls (law 52.1.5)

- 4.7.1 For Domestic Play in Australia, each set of bowls must carry a player's individual emblem, logo or engraving as a distinguishing mark on both sides of every bowl.
- 4.7.2 In addition to the manufacturer's name, a sponsor's name and/or a personal name and/or a club name can be engraved on that same side of each bowl.
- 4.7.3 If other grooved rings and/or dimples are coloured, each bowl in the set must be coloured the same.
- 4.7.4 For Domestic Play in Australia, adhesive (stick-on) markings (as permitted under law 52.1.8) may cover the distinguishing mark on the bias side of the bowl.

### 4.8 Re-testing and re-stamping bowls (law 52.2.3)

- 4.8.1 Bowls Australia reserves the right to randomly test a set of bowls owned or used by a player. It is the responsibility of each bowler who participates in club championship competitions and above to ensure that all sets of bowls used by the bowler in the event(s) comply with the legal requirement that matched sets have a bias equal to or greater than the Working Reference Bowl (law 52.2.1)

### 4.9 Requirements for stamps on bowls (law 53.5)

- 4.9.1 For events where Bowls Australia is the Controlling Body, as a minimum, all bowls must carry the stamp of the current or future calendar year in which the competition/event takes place.
- 4.9.2 For Domestic events where bowls Australia is not the Controlling Body, the stamp of the current or future calendar year is not required unless specified by the Controlling Body in the Conditions of Play for that event.

#### **4.10 Deposit when a challenge to bowls is lodged (see law 52.4.4.3)**

The current deposit is \$150. For further information, the Bowls Australia Testing policy can be upgraded from time to time and is available to be downloaded from the [Bowls Australia website](#).

#### **4.11 Artificial devices for delivering the jack/bowl (see law 41.8)**

4.11.1 The manufacturer or retailer of artificial devices for the delivery of the jack or bowl will submit a sample of the device to Bowls Australia for approval before offering it for use of bowlers (see BA website for a full list of approved devices).

4.11.2 For further information, the Bowls Australia Artificial Devices - Wheelchairs and Bowlers Arms policy can be upgraded from time to time and is available to be downloaded from the [Bowls Australia website](#).

## **5. Administration**

### **5.1 Limits**

Bowls Australia has set no limit on financial rewards.

### **5.2 Colours for footwear and the types of sole (see appendix A.2)**

Bowls Australia has adopted a policy for attire including shoes and gloves which can be upgraded from time to time and can be downloaded from the Bowls Australia website.

### **5.3 Colours and types of clothing (see appendix A.3)**

Bowls Australia has adopted a policy for attire including shoes and gloves which can be upgraded from time to time and can be downloaded from the Bowls Australia website.

## **6. Policies**

All current Bowls Australia policies can be found on the [Bowls Australia website](#). Always refer to these for the most up to date policy information.