



# **LAWS OF THE SPORT OF BOWLS**

## **Fourth Edition (2022)**

### **DOMESTIC REGULATIONS**

**For Domestic play the following  
regulations have been amended  
as per World Bowls (Law 41.1.1 – October 2025)**

# **BOWLS SOUTH AFRICA – DOMESTIC REGULATIONS 2022**

## **Laws of the Sport of Bowls Crystal Mark Fourth Edition**

**Law 3.4**      No player or team should play or practise on the same rink on the day of a competition or game.

Practice: Teams/player not playing for whatever reason, but due to play in the next round, may practice on any rink allocated by the Controlling Body.

Warm up: Any team/player may warm up before any game, time allowing and with approval of the Controlling Body. Warm up should be in the opposite direction of expected play. Warm up should not be deliberate play and no target such as a jack may be used, but bowls may be delivered to enable the player to warm/ loosen up.

**Law 10.5**      The minimum distance between the mat and the delivered jack will be 23 metres as per Law 10.1.3

## SUBSTITUTES AND RESERVES

Bowls South Africa decided that Circular 08/2005 will still apply and that the use of reserves and/or substitutes in all formats of the game (except singles) will be allowed. Bowls South Africa furthermore accepted the following interpretations when reference is made to bona fide members, reserves and substitutes.

1.

### **Bona fide members**

Bona fide members shall include:-

- Life members and honorary life members with full privileges;
- All members liable to pay subscriptions;
- Junior members whether they pay any form of subscription or not.

2.

### **Reserve**

Means a player who is a bona fide member of the same club in a tournament of clubs, or the same district in a tournament of districts, and who is registered together with the team, or side, prior to the commencement of the tournament.

3.

### **Substitute**

Means a player whose name has been drawn in the approved manner, to replace a player who fails to appear at the start or restart of a game; or who is compelled to withdraw for any valid reason acceptable to both skips; or failing agreement by them, by the Controlling Body during the course of a game. The substitute introduced may in all likelihood not be from the same club, as the club requesting a substitute. The “approved manner” is described in the section that deals with the use of substitutes in tournaments below.

4.

### **Use of reserves and substitutes.**

The use of reserves will be as follows:

4.1

Use of reserves in both the triples and fours a reserve may be registered and used. A substitute may only be used if a reserve is already playing or was not registered.

In pairs the general rule that will apply is that one of the original players must always be present on the green. If,

during a game, the pair's team should be playing with a reserve or a substitute and the original player cannot continue for reasons acceptable to the Controlling Body, the game will be conceded to the opposition. In any mixed competition two reserves, one of each gender will be allowed and the same conditions as described above will apply.

4.2 Use of substitutes will be as follows:

4.2.1 In the event that there are no reserves or the registered reserves are already playing, the names of not more than four bowlers, who have not played for any team participating in the Tournament, shall be recorded and placed in a hat/container.

4.2.2 The Coach, or failing him the Captain of the opposing team concerned, shall be allowed to draw out one name from the hat/container and the Controlling Body should accept this name. This player will be allowed to play for the team for as many matches as he/she may be required but may not skip. In any instance of absence a reserve, if

registered, should be used before a substitute is considered.

Absentee players in a team or side in fours play. Due to the acceptance of the above changes, the use of a reserve or substitute will NOT be construed as the introduction of an ineligible player as described in laws 39.2.1 and 39.2.2

- Law 40.1.8 A scoreboard may be used in lieu of one of the scorecards. In the event of any discrepancy between the scoreboard and the score card the two skips will agree to the correct score. If there is no consensus, the scoreboard will overrule the score card. It is the responsibility of the team winning the toss to ensure that the scoreboard is updated after the completion of each end.
- Law 40.1.9 The skips can transfer their duties described in law 40.1.7 to other members of the team. However, they must make sure that the duties are transferred to players whose positions, in order of play, are the same in each team.
- Law 41.8 Players with disabilities may make use of

an artificial device for delivering the jack or bowl.

Law 46.4 Synthetic surfaces may be used if approved by Bowls South Africa. The law states that they must be approved by the MNA.

Law 46.5 All greens previously constructed prior to these laws may be approved for use by Bowls South Africa. The law states that they must be approved by the Member National Authority (MNA)

Law 49.1 Rink widths may not deviate from those laid down in the laws. It is recommended that the minimum width be 5 meters whenever practically possible. The Law states the MNA can decide the standard for the minimum width of a rink.

Law 49.5 Boundary pegs are acceptable without the centre line on the peg being defined.

Law 49.9 Boundary threads may NOT be used when a mirror complying with law 54.8 is available (mirror and square both with leveling bubbles or a portable retractable line.)

- Law 52.1.5 Distinguishing marks should be visible on all bowls.
- Law 52.2.3 Re-testing and re-stamping of bowls will not be enforced until further notice. However, alteration to bowls can only be done by a Licensed Tester.
- Law 52.4.4.3 A deposit of R10 000 (in cash) is to be paid when a challenge is lodged against a set of bowls. All costs incurred to have the bowls tested will be for the challenger's account should the bowls pass the test. However, should the challenged bowls fail the test, the owner/player of the challenged set will be responsible for the costs involved of the testing the bowls as well as the costs of re-stamping the bowls (where applicable).
- Law 53.5 All bowls used by players in the SA Masters Tournament, should have World Bowls Stamp not older than 10 years. Any further enforcement of this law will be subject to the availability of testing facilities in South Africa.
- Law 54.9 The Bowls South Africa policy for its

National Singles events where Bowls South Africa is the controlling body is as follows:

The marker may only use the following equipment:

A box string measure

A bullet string measure

Wedges for bowls and jack

For all Domestic play, the Umpire on duty must bring or be provided with by the club on whose greens the game is being played, suitable equipment to carry out the duties described in Law 54. This equipment must at least include:

A copy of the current Laws of the Sport of Bowls.

A box string measure

A bullet string measure

A telescopic measure

Callipers

Feeler gauges

A long string measure

A 30-metre tape measure

A portable retractable boundary line

A mirror and a square (both with a levelling bubble)

Wedges for bowls and jack

#### A.2.2

Players, Umpires and Markers shall wear conventional shoes or sports shoes which have a continuous smooth sole or a sole with a channel rise in the middle of the sole, as long as the sole is clearly in one piece and the heel area does not sit at a different height to the front of the shoe. To assist in traction the sole can have indented grooves up to 2 mm (thickness of matchstick), but no protuberances. The width of the rear part of the shoe shall be at least 50% of the widest part of the sole. Conventional sandals are acceptable providing they have a back strap. The National Authority reserves the right to allow or disallow the use of specific colours and brands of footwear. (Circular 40/2010)



### A.3

DRESS: In all representatives matches (all matches other than social games and club competitions) players shall wear either white or cream or official colours registered by the club, district or Member National Authority for clothing as specified hereunder. Controlling Bodies may authorize variations in these clothing specifications from time to time. Furthermore, the Controlling Body shall also have the right, even retrospectively, to declare any variation in dress unacceptable after which such variation in dress shall not be worn.

**All players participating in a team event are required to be uniformly dressed.**

## **Men**

1. Headwear, if worn, may have approved insignia or hatbands. Caps may be worn.
2. Shirts shall have conventional or Mandarin collars.
3. Full length trousers or tailored shorts, (knee length) with pockets may be worn or shorts approved by Bowls SA. (Under no circumstances shall Cargo, Combat, Denim trousers or Rugby shorts be permitted). String tied trousers (cricket trousers), tracksuit trousers or tracksuit shorts, without a front zip, approved by a club, district or member authority are also acceptable. Ankle socks, secret socks or golf hose must be worn with shorts.

## **Ladies**

1. Headwear, if worn, may have approved insignia and/or hatbands. Caps/Peaks may be worn.
2. A bowling dress with collar, a skirt or tailored slacks of any length together with a blouse with a conventional or Mandarin collar is permissible provided they are

not manufactured from Lycra or any other body clinging material.

3. Bowls South Africa has approved the 'Skort' as acceptable apparel for female bowlers.

# **Bowls South Africa policies, code of conduct and disciplinary procedure**

## **Policies for Domestic Play**

The following are policies for Domestic Play which cannot be included in the Domestic Regulations but which Bowls South Africa as a Member National Authority of World Bowls has made a ruling on for Domestic Play:

Law 33.1      Lightning – Umpires shall not be responsible to call off the players during lightning/thunderstorm activity, unless an appeal has been made by a player(s).

Law 41.1.1   Wheelchair Specifications  
All wheelchairs must be equipped with tyres with a minimum of:  
two pneumatic rear tyres 620 x 45 mm (24" x 2")  
two pneumatic or semi solid front tyres 200 x 50 mm (8" x 2) or alternatively a front wheel of min 50 mm width that raises the front two caster wheels off the level of the green. The rear tyre should have a normal bicycle tread.

BMX, mountain bike type tyres are not acceptable unless covered with duct tape or inner tube to the satisfaction of the jury of appeal.

Law 41.1.2 Wheelchair Regulations

Bowlers playing from wheelchairs to ensure that their wheels run in a straight line directly onto and off the mat.

Players playing with and/or against players in wheelchairs are requested to please position the mat a minimum of 3 m from the ditch so as to provide additional green space for all and to allow a larger turning radius of the wheelchair, to prevent the tyre causing grass damage.

Law 52.3.2 Alteration to the bias of bowls/tampering may result in the suspension of the player for a period not exceeding one year

## **Code of conduct and disciplinary procedure**

1. Players shall at all times comply with the laws of the Sport of Bowls as read within the Conditions of Play imposed in terms of Law 57.2 together with Appendix A.1 of the said Laws.
2. Players shall not, under any circumstances, use obscene language; use any obscene signs, assault or threaten to assault; threaten or victimise any other player, official or spectator, whether during or after play on the greens, or in or around the venue where the competition is held, or conduct themselves in any manner which in the sole and absolute opinion of the organising Controlling Body is contrary to the spirit of the game of bowls;
3. The Controlling Body has the power to restrict the use of alcoholic beverages and tobacco products on the green. It is proposed that no tobacco products be used on the green.

4. Any player who is deemed to be in breach of the provision of paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 above, shall be guilty of an offence;
5. The Controlling Body shall have the power to;
  - a) through the presiding Umpire, take any action which the said umpire may consider necessary at the time which may include, but not be limited to, the forthwith suspension of the player from the game; and/or
  - b) require the player concerned to attend a disciplinary hearing at a time and place determined by the Controlling Body. No party shall be entitled to legal representation.
6. Upon the completion of the disciplinary hearing referred to in 5b) above the Controlling Body may, at its sole and absolute discretion, impose any penalty and/or sanctions which it deems appropriate in the circumstance on such player. The penalty and/or sanctions may include a period of suspension of

the player from playing bowls and/or the payment of a fine.

7. The decision of the Controlling Body made in terms of paragraph 6 above shall not be subject to appeal to any body or authority, including recourse to any court or official tribunal of the Republic of South Africa, other than that provided for in the Constitutions of the District and of Bowls South Africa.

