

BOWLS USA

DOMESTIC REGULATIONS

(updated 7-16-2024)

The Laws of the Sport of Bowls, Crystal Mark 4th Edition, permit a Member National Authority to make regulations ('domestic regulations') to cover a number of aspects of the sport. The Bowls USA domestic regulations are as follows:

PLACING THE MAT (see law 6.1.5.4)

For domestic play, portable groundsheets may be repositioned at the beginning of a new end or until the Controlling Body decides that they are no longer needed.

IMPROPER DELIVERY OF THE JACK (see law 10.5)

For domestic play, the minimum distance between a delivered jack and the mat line is **21** meters as measured in a straight line from the center of the mat line to the nearest point of the jack, after the jack has been centered.

The distance of 20 meters mentioned in Laws 19.1.3, 56.5.2.4, and Appendix B.4.2 shall be changed to **18** meters.

The distance of 25 meters mentioned in definition C.12, Laws 6.1.1, 49.12, 49.13, and appendices B.2.1, B.4.1, and B.4.2 shall be changed to **23** meters.

The distance of 23 meters mentioned in Law 42.2.3 and appendix B.4.2 shall be changed to **21** meters.

SUBSTITUTE PLAYERS (see law 32.9)

When an event or tournament mandates an entry prior to the date of the event or tournament, then the submitted entry will be considered constituted unless a member becomes unavailable for any part of the event or tournament, in which case the substitution language will apply.

When the correct number of players of an entered team have played their first bowl in a game, the team is considered “constituted” and each member thereof is a “constituted team member” for the remainder of the competition except when the substitution language applies.

After a team is constituted, no alteration in team membership or order of play shall be permitted during the remainder of that game except as required should a substitute player become necessary. The order of play during trial bowls does not preclude changing the order of play or position of players, but the substitute may not play skip..

Substitution language:

All substitutes shall be specifically approved by the Controlling Body or their representative.

Only one approved substitute will be permitted on any team and only for one occasion. If the team is reconstituted in its original form, no further substitutions will be allowed.

If a team forfeits before the start of the first game in a competition, any available members of that team so forfeiting shall be considered as fully eligible players and may play as substitutes in that competition.

If an eligible player, entered as a team member in the competition, plans to transfer to another team as a substitute before play has started in the first game of the competition, they shall declare their intent to the Controlling Body of their representative and have their transfer officially approved; otherwise, they are considered to be a constituted member of the team as originally entered.

All members of a constituted team shall be ineligible to act as substitutes in the same competition even though the team has been defeated and is no longer playing in that competition.

If a team is permitted a substitute, the substitute may be changed after the completion of an end of play in an ongoing match or they may continue in the competition if they remain eligible.

A constituted member of a team for whom a substitute was obtained may replace the substitute (in that position) at the completion of an end. For subsequent games, the team members may revert to their original positions.

A substitute may play any position except skip. In the case of triples and fours, the skip may arrange the positions of the rest of the team as desired.

No substitute may enter a game at the start of or in the middle of the final end of play.

Failure to observe these substitution rules are grounds for the opponent to appeal to the Controlling Body for a decision to have the game awarded in their favor.

PLAYERS' DUTIES - SCORECARD (see law 40.1.7)

Skips can transfer the duties of marking the scorecard described in law 40.1.7 to another member of the team. However, they must make sure that these duties are transferred to players whose positions, in order of play, are the same in each team. If the skips cannot agree on who should keep the scorecard, then the skips in both teams must keep the scorecard as described in law 40.1.7.

PLAYERS WITH DISABILITIES - ARTIFICIAL ARM (see law 41.5)

Bowls USA allows the use of an artificial arm so that persons with a physical restriction or impairment can enjoy the game of bowls. There are several manufacturers of bowling arms. The following arms are approved for use by Bowls USA:

- The Bowling Arm
- Bionic Bowler Arm
- DHB Arm
- Dart Release

Modifications to the arms are not permitted with the exception of the rubber grip on the bottom of the arm which may need to be replaced as it wears out.

During trial bowls, if any, a bowler may use any number of approved arms during trial ends for suitability. In the alternative, a player may use a mix of a bowling arm and natural delivery.

Prior to commencement of the match, the player must decide between the two: natural delivery or bowling arm. Once a match has commenced, if the player chooses to use a bowling arm, the designated brand or style of arm must stay the same during the match. In the event the arm becomes unusable, the player may change to another approved brand or style of arm on approval by the umpire

or controlling body and must complete the match with that arm. If the player chooses a natural delivery, the bowling arm may not be used during that match. The jack may be delivered with either the arm or the player's hand.

A challenge on appeal to an umpire or controlling body regarding the use of an arm may occur before the trial ends commence or up to 10 minutes after a match (but not during the match) as similar to law 52.4.2 and 52.4.4.2.

THE GREEN (see law 46.5)

All greens built before 2003 are approved by Bowls USA. Bowls USA recommends that all indoor and outdoor greens built after 2003 should be designed and built in accordance with laws 46.2, 46.3, and 46.4.

MEASURING EQUIPMENT (see law 54.9)

A laser measure that is specifically designed for use in the sport of bowls is permitted. No other type of laser measure may be used or custom-modified for such use.

USE OF APPROVED FOOTWEAR (see Appendix A.2.2)

Appendix A.2.2 allows Member National Authorities to approve specific colors for footwear and the types of soles for footwear worn by players, umpires, and markers on the green. Bowls USA has adopted a policy for the color and type of sole of footwear which can be amended from time to time. Any shoes that do not damage the surface of the green may be worn. If a club or division has a specific restriction on the type of shoe, that restriction must prevail. All colors are approved.