

Keeping it Crystal Clear

Law Question.

I observed a game of club championship open singles on the weekend and noticed something I have never seen before.

The game was played on a ditch rink, one player was following his third bowl but walking outside the boundary of his rink on the ditch side and stopping level with the head and staying there while the other player played his bowl.

When the second player challenged that the player had to be behind the head, the reply was, "I am not on the rink, and the player also stated that he could stand on the bank next to the rink".

The umpire could not find a rule that states you must be behind the head when the bowl comes to rest.

There are laws dealing with the situation described:

Law 12. Position of players

12.1 In relation to the rink of play

12.1.2 Players at the head-end of the rink and who are not controlling play must stand:

12.1.2.2 behind the jack and away from the head if they are members of the team which is not in possession of the rink;

12.1.2.3 on the surrounds of the green if the jack is in the ditch;

12.1.4 If a player does not meet the terms of this law, law 13 will apply.

12.2 In relation to a neighbouring rink

12.2.2 A player must neither go into nor walk along a neighbouring rink, even if it is not being used, while an opponent is about to deliver or is actually delivering a bowl.

12.2.3 If the rink of play is an outside rink (see law 49.6), a player must neither go into nor walk along the section of green that lies between the outside side boundary of the rink and the side ditch while an opponent is about to deliver or is actually delivering a bowl.

12.2.4 If a player does not meet the terms of this law, law 13 will apply.

Summary: *If a player follows their bowl down the rink, that player must be behind the jack when their bowl comes to rest, as describe in law 12.1.2.2, once their bowl comes to rest the possession of the rink transfers to the opposition.*

A player must neither go into nor walk along a neighbouring rink, as described in law 12.2.2.2.

The opponent on the mat was correct, as stated in law 12.2.2 and the player standing on the neighbouring rink should have moved to a position as described in law 12.1.2.2.

If you wish to submit a question of Law to be included in "Keeping It Crystal Clear", please send your question(s) to umpires@bowlsnsw.com.au

Laser Measures

There are four "Laser Measures" that are approved by Bowls Australia for use in Australia, they are:

- Bowlsline Laser Measure – now Bowlsline Australia Laser Measure.
- Crackajack Laser Measure
- Impulse Laser Measure
- Black Box Laser Measure

The two laser measures mainly used by National Officials in Australia are the:

- Bowlsline Laser Measure – now Bowlsline Australia Laser Measure.
- Impulse Lawn Bowls Umpires Laser Measure.

The **only** Laser Measure authorised to be used at Bowls Australia and World Bowls events is the Bowlsline Australia Laser Measure or Bowlsline Laser Measure.

The State Umpires Committee recommends the use of the Bowlsline Australia Laser Measure or Bowlsline Laser Measure at Bowls NSW events.

Laser measures in Australia are recommended for distances not less than 30cm to 5m. When the preferred equipment for a measure is the Laser Measure, officials should carry an alternative measure (e.g. string measure) with them in case the laser measure should malfunction.

Laser Measures **must only be used** for measures when both the jack and bowl are on the green. **No** measures must be conducted when either the jack or the bowl involved in the measure is in the ditch.

Like all measuring equipment officials must be efficient with its use before using it in an event.

Please note: It is **illegal** to have a copy of a patent item made without the approval of the manufacture. All equipment used by National Officials and bowlers **must** be Bowls Australia approved or in line with **Law 54** of the "Laws of the Sport of Bowls".

State Umpires Committee