

Keeping it Crystal Clear

Law Question:

1. Are you permitted to roll a bowl prior to the start of a game to decide who has the mat?

Law 5.2

Tossing for opening play

5.2.1 *The coaches in a side game (or, in their absence, representatives of the sides), skips in a team game or opponents in Singles must toss a coin.*

5.2.2 *The winner of the toss must choose whether to:*

5.2.2.1 *place the mat and then deliver the jack and the first bowl; or*

5.2.2.2 *tell the opposing player to place the mat and deliver the jack and the first bowl (the opposing player cannot refuse).*

5.2.3 *The option chosen by the coach or representative who wins the toss in a side game will apply to all teams or Singles players (or a combination of teams and Singles players) who make up the side.*

5.2.4 *If the coin is tossed before the start of the trial ends, the option the winner of the toss chooses will apply to both the first trial end and the first end of the game.*

Answer

No you are not permitted to roll a bowl prior to the start of the game to decide who has the mat. . In accordance with Laws 5.2.1, "the coaches in a side game (or, in their absence, representatives of the sides), skips in a team game or opponents in Singles must toss a coin.

Information:

1. In line with the Bowls Australia Policy – Safeguarding Children and Young People Policy, Bowls NSW State Umpires Committee recommended in August 2024 that all accredited National Officials (Markers, Measurers & National Umpires) should obtain a Work With Children Certification (WWCC). In January 2025 the State Umpires Committee mandated that as from **1st July 2025**, it will be compulsory for all new National Officials Accreditation and Reaccreditation Applications to have a current WWCC. A copy of the applicant's WWCC must accompany the member's application. The application process will be altered as from **1st July 2025** so that the applicant can upload a copy of their current WWCC onto the application.
2. Measuring device. The State Umpires Committee has received information that National Officials at clubs, are using the "Golding Measure" to conduct measures. The Golding Measure is **not** approved by Bowls Australia for use as a measuring device at all levels of bowls within Australia. The Golding Measure is also **not** approved by World Bowls. The Golding Measure **must not** be included in all umpires kits. For those who are not familiar with the "Golding Measure, please see the picture below:



3. Marks (Lines) on the surface of the greens.

Below is an extract from a Bowls Australia Memorandum dated 22nd February 2025

"It has been noted and observed on live streaming and by umpire reports and observations that some bowls clubs are drawing/marketing a continuous line across greens at the 2metre mark from the ditch. This is not permitted and contrary to the Laws of the Sport. The marks must be lines drawn in the form of a 'T'.

Similarly, the centre line of the rink can be marked starting 2 metres from each end ditch and finishing at any point up to, but not less than 23metres (DR 1.3) from the opposite end. There cannot be a line drawn across the green at the 23metre mark and the end of the 23metre line cannot be marked with a T. The front ditch end of the centre line can be marked with a dot.

NOAG considers that in all situations a continuous line across a green must not occur. The Laws of the Sport are quite clear and are based on "defined events" and if the Laws are silent on an issue, then you cannot assume that you can do it."

If you wish to read the abovementioned memorandum, please follow the instructions below

Go to the Bowls NSW Website > Click on Get Involved > Click on Officiating then scroll down to Resources > Click on Bowls Australia > Click on the Bowls Australia Memorandums link.

If you have any further questions, please direct them via umpires@bowlsnsw.com.au

State Umpires Committee