Extract from

Laws of the Sport of Bowls
Crystal Mark Fourth Edition
(August 2022)

Section 3.1 – Players and their duties

40 Players' duties

40.1 **The skip**

40.1.1 The skip will have sole charge of the team and all players in the team must follow the skip's instructions.

40.1.2 The skip must decide all disputed points with the opposing skip, making sure that any decision reached is in line with the Laws of the Sport of Bowls.

40.1.3 If the skips need to check any part of the Laws of the Sport of Bowls before reaching a decision, they must ask the umpire for an explanation.

40.1.4 If the umpire considers that a decision reached by the skips is not in line with the Laws of the Sport of Bowls, the umpire must overrule that decision so that it is in line with the laws.

40.1.5 If the skips cannot reach agreement on any disputed point, they must ask the umpire to make a decision. The umpire's decision is final.

40.1.6 If the Controlling Body has not appointed an umpire, the skips must choose a competent neutral person to act as the umpire.

40.1.7 The skip must:

40.1.7.1 be responsible for the score card supplied by the Controlling Body while play is in progress;

40.1.7.2 make sure that the names of all players of both teams are correctly entered on the score card;

40.1.7.3 record, on the score card, all shots scored for and against both teams as each end is completed;

40.1.7.4 compare and agree the score card with that of the opposing skip as each end is completed; and

40.1.7.5 at the end of the game, record on the score card the time that the game finished and then sign their own and the opposing skip's score cards.

40.1.8 For domestic play, Member National Authorities can decide the procedures for using a scoreboard instead of one of the score cards.

40.1.9 For domestic play, Member National Authorities can transfer the skip's 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.

40.1.10 Skips can, at any time, delegate their own powers and any of their own duties (except those described in law 40.1.7) to any other members of the team as long as they tell the opposing skip immediately.

40.2 The third

40.2.1 The third can measure any and all disputed shots.

40.2.2 The third can tell the skip the number of shots scored for or against their team as each end is completed.

40.3 The lead

The lead of the team to play first in an end must:

40.3.1 place the mat as described in law 6.1.1; and

40.3.2 deliver the jack and make sure that it is centred before delivering the first bowl of the end.

40.4 Other duties

Along with the duties mentioned in the previous paragraphs of law 40, players can carry out any other duties assigned to them by their skip as described in law 40.1.10.

41 Players with disabilities

41.1 Wheelchairs must be of a type approved by both WB and the Governing Body for wheelchair bowlers in the country in which the player is playing.

41.2 Wheelchair bowlers can use any form of assistance necessary (including having an assistant with them) to allow them to take part in the sport of bowls, as long as the assistance is approved by the Governing Body for wheelchair bowlers in the country in which the player is playing.

41.3 Players who are classified partially sighted or blind by their National Governing Body for partially sighted and blind bowlers can use any form of assistance necessary (including having an assistant with them, and having a white, breakable string placed on the surface of the green, along the centre line of the rink) to allow them to take part in the sport of bowls, as long as the assistance is approved by the Governing Body for partially sighted and blind bowlers in the country in which the player is playing.

41.4 The person assisting a partially sighted or blind bowler will not be breaking law 13.2 or law 45.3 if the assistant:

41.4.1 repeats the skip's instructions to the player;

41.4.2 helps to direct the player; or

41.4.3 tells the player where the jack or a bowl came to rest.

41.5 A player who has a physical disability will be allowed to use a support or an artificial device (or both) when delivering the jack or a bowl, or when walking on the green. The support must have a base covered with rubber or a similar material. This base must measure at least 76 millimetres across, and it can be placed on or next to the mat.

41.6 A player who has a physical disability will be allowed to kneel on the green to deliver the jack or their bowls. One or both knees must be positioned either in front of the mat with all or part of at least one foot on the mat, or on the mat with all or part of at least one foot on the green behind the mat.

41.7 Players with a hearing disability can use electronic devices to communicate with each other while on the rink of play. Electronic devices must be used in line with the regulations set out in the Conditions of Play by the Controlling Body.

41.8 For domestic play, Member National Authorities can approve the use of artificial devices for delivering the jack or a bowl.