



UNDERSTANDING THE TIER OF ADMINISTRATION OF LAWN BOWLS and THE STRUCTURE AND FORMAT OF THE LAW BOOK

Understanding the tier of administration of lawn bowls and its impact on laws applied to different levels of competition is crucial.

We must understand the:

- Format of the “World Bowls - Laws of the Sport of Bowls - Crystal Mark Fourth Edition
- Domestic Regulations for different Member National Authorities (e.g. ‘Bowls Australia’, ‘Bowls New Zealand’ and ‘South Africa Bowls’. Each country’s Domestic Regulations are different.
- ‘Field of Play Rules’ and ‘Conditions of Play’ for each state within a Member National Authority – e.g. ‘Bowls WA’ or ‘Bowls Victoria’.
- ‘Conditions of Play’ for different leagues within states e.g. Metropolitan Pennant Conditions of Play’, Regional Conditions of Play for Pennant competitions etc.
- ‘Conditions of Play’ for club championships and social/recreational events held at clubs.

CHAPTER 2 LAWS OF THE SPORT OF BOWLS

There is a multi-tiered system of administration for bowls and Bowls Australia is the peak delegated authority for bowls administration and management in Australia’

TIERS OF ADMINISTRATION

ORGANISATION	MANAGEMENT RESPONSIBILITY	OFFICIATING RESPONSIBILITY
World Bowls (WB)	Lawn Bowls worldwide	World Bowls Laws Committee oversees the Laws of the Sport of Bowls.
Bowls Australia (BA)	Lawn Bowls Australia wide	BA and BA ‘National Officiating advisory Group’ have responsibility for adherence to the laws in Australia. BA creates Domestic Regulations for Australia.
State and Territory Authorities (STAs)	Lawn Bowls State or Territory wide	State Umpire Committees (or Panels) accredit officials and handle all umpiring matters at a State level.
District or Regional Authorities	Lawn Bowls within STA Districts, Regions or Zones	District or Regional Umpire Committees (or Panels) organise officials at the district, regional or zone level.
Clubs	Lawn Bowls at Clubs within a District, Region or Zones of an STA	Allocate Umpires, Markers, Measurers for competitions held at their clubs

THE LAW BOOK

‘The Laws of the Sport of Bowls’ - apply worldwide.

Reviews are conducted every four years. Officials should refer to the World Bowls website for the latest Crystal Mark edition and any amendments to the Laws.

The laws deal with all facets of the game including:

- a. Rules for the game and the factors which may affect games.
- b. Physical arrangements of the surface on which the game is played – the green, the ditches and the banks.
- c. Equipment necessary – mats, jacks, bowls and measuring equipment.
- d. Conditions of Play and Playing Formats for games at various levels.

STRUCTURE OF THE LAW BOOK

Officials should be familiar with the:

- Table of Contents and how the contents are arranged in sections for easy reference.
- Definitions at the front of the Law Book.
- The five different sections in the Law Book.
- Appendices – including the diagrams and the distance charts.

INDEX TO THE LAW BOOK

The Index is crucial to all Umpires

- Understand the index and know how to use it.

THE NUMBERING CONVENTIONS OF THE LAW BOOK

- Understanding the numbering conventions of the Law Book aids in finding laws and understanding their intended meaning. (Refer to Section 1.1 Arranging a Game and Law 1 Play Arrangements. Some laws are further divided into sub—sections – e.g. 1.1 a Single Game
- FOREWARD to the Law Book -Introduces 'The Law of Common Sense'.
- CONVENTIONS listed in the FOREWARD to the LAW BOOK – “must’ and ‘will’ – actions are compulsory ‘can’ – actions are optional

THE MAIN BODY OF THE LAW BOOK

- Divided into sections:
 - Foreward – and the necessary definitions
 - Section 1 - The Basics of the Game
 - Section 2 – Anomalies in the Game
 - Section 3 – Duties of Players and Officials
 - Section 4 – Greens and equipment
 - Section 5 - Administration
- Laws can be divided into two types:
 - Laws that require interpretation - Mainly in Sections 1 and 2. – tend to raise questions and cause disputes e.g. Displacement of bowls and jack (Section 2 - Law 37 and Law 38).
 - Laws - factual and unlikely to cause much dispute -include definitions, equipment, greens and the playing formats and control of games (Sections 4 and 5).

DOMESTIC REGULATIONS (DR)

Domestic Regulations apply **only** to bowls in Australia. World Bowls allows member nations to modify specific laws. Laws, Bowls Australia can make Domestic Regulations for are listed in Law 57.1

- DRs can be found at the back of the Australian edition of the Law Book.
- The Laws in the main body of the Law Book indicate when a DR may be referred to e.g. Law 41.8 refers to use of artificial devices.

This table shows the correlation between the three areas of the Law Book where Domestic Regulations appear

Domestic Regulation Law 57.1 Section 5.2	Law number - main body of law book	Domestic Regulation Number (back of book)
57.1.1.1 Requirements for playing on the same rink on the day of a competition or game	3 Choosing the rinks for play 3.4 For domestic play, Member National Authorities can decide the requirements for playing or practising on the same rink on the day of a competition or game.	DR 1.1
57.1.1.3 The distance from the mat line within which a jack can come to rest for it to be considered improperly delivered (see law 10.5)	10 Improper Delivery of the jack For domestic play, Member National Authorities can decide to change the distance mentioned in law 10.1.3 from 23 metres to 21 metres. If a	DR 1.3

CONDITIONS OF PLAY

'Conditions of Play' and what they should cover are defined in the main body of the Laws of the Sport of Bowls – Appendix A1

- Good officials will familiarise themselves with the COP for competitions and tournaments before they officiate.
- COP for National or State events are available on the relevant website.
- COP for regions/district/ zones and clubs are available in the relevant handbooks.