

# Measuring

## **Exercise 8 - Touchers and non-touchers in the ditch with one or more bowls and the Jack on the rink**

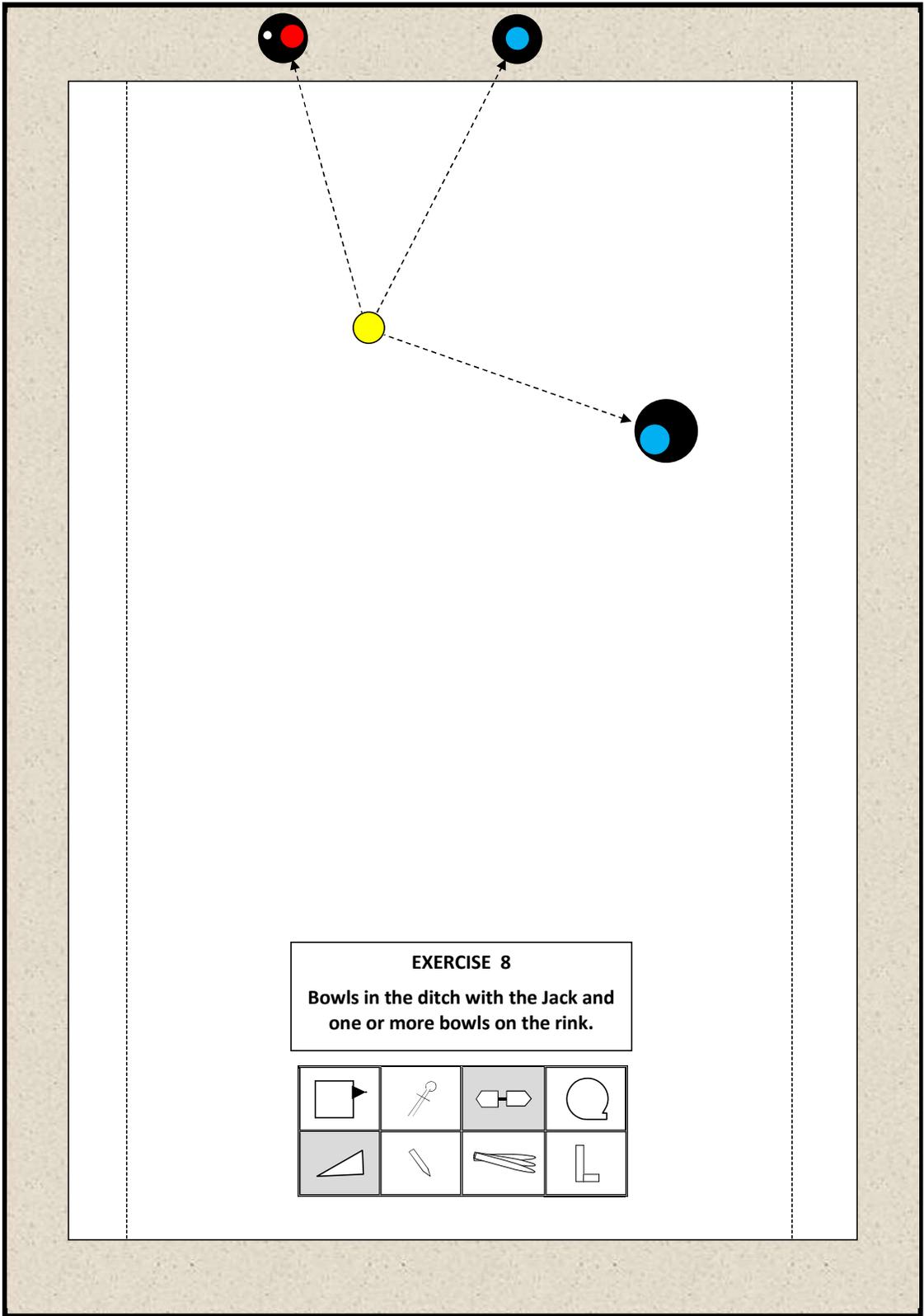
The string measure is suitable for when a jack or bowls are in the ditch and a flexible measure is needed. You will need to seek assistance from another umpire or a player. Your assistant will take the jack end and you take the decision end to the bowl.



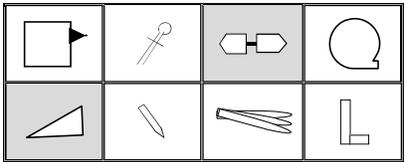
This procedure will also be used in Exercise 10.

### **Procedure:**

- Check with the players to determine which bowls in the ditch are live or dead and which bowls have been declared as shots.
- Maintain communication with your assistant or fellow Umpire at all times.
- Have your assistant place the fixed end of the measure against the jack.
- You should extend the string to the first bowl and take your stance behind the bowl facing your assistant.
- Check with your assistant that the pointer is on the jack and that the string is in a straight line from jack to bowl before you set your measurement.
- Without altering the measurement, check the measure from the jack to the second bowl, maintaining your position behind the bowl.
- If the measure is to an object in the ditch, make sure that the string crosses the ditch in a straight line between the jack and the bowl. Also, make sure that the string does not cut into the green at the point where it crosses the edge of the ditch.
- Always return to re-check your measurement against the first bowl.
- If the bowl you have decided is closest to the jack is in the ditch, check to ensure that it is live.



**EXERCISE 8**  
**Bowls in the ditch with the Jack and**  
**one or more bowls on the rink.**



# Laws of the Sport

## History of the Laws of the Sport

It is to a Scot that we owe our appreciation for the democratic spirit in which the game of bowls is played in that he drew up a complete code of laws that were adopted and have formed the basis of our present laws.

He was William Mitchell, a Glaswegian solicitor and, although the reading of those laws as originally written is amusing in their simple dated terms, we can see how our present laws are derived.

There were, however, earlier laws of the game, which were drawn up to suit the game as played in the time of King Charles II. This game bore little relation to the game as we know it.

Mitchell's laws sufficed from the time they were drawn up in 1850 until the formation of the Scottish Bowling Association in 1892. One of their first tasks was to compile a revised set of laws. This provided for the first time a standard minimum bias for bowls.

In England things were a little confused. Not until a joint New Zealand / Australian team of bowlers arrived for the first international bowls tour, did it become apparent that an organisation to administer such events was required. Also there was the question of "Whose laws do we use"? The Scots were reluctant to allow their laws to be used as they had taken the step of copyrighting them. To solve these problems the Imperial Bowling Association was formed and drew up their own "Laws of the Game", but as can be imagined they closely followed the Scottish laws.

In 1903 the English Bowling Association succeeded the Imperial Bowling Association under the leadership of the famous Dr W.G. Grace, followed closely by the Welsh and Irish Associations and most importantly by the International Bowling Board. In recent years there have been a variety of titles for the world governing body of the game, now called "World Bowls".

World Bowls has become recognised universally as the sole authority for production and revision of the Laws of the Sport which, except for slight National modifications for local conditions, apply to every country where lawn bowls is played. In 2001 World Bowls undertook the task of standardising and improving the existing Laws and, following representation from members countries, the new Laws of the Sport of Bowls – Third Edition were introduced in 2004.

However, this edition of the Laws was short lived and a subsequent review sought to standardise the use of the laws worldwide with the ultimate aim of gaining the coveted "Crystal Mark" from the Plain English Campaign. This was achieved and the

amendments were approved by the Worlds' Member National Authorities. In 2006/2007 the Laws of the Sport - Crystal Mark Edition were adopted worldwide.

It was the intention of World Bowls to review the Laws of the Sport on a four yearly cycle. In 2009 the Member National Authorities were asked for their submissions of amendments which were eventually approved in October 2010 and became the Laws of the Sport of Bowls – Crystal Mark Second Edition. A similar process was commenced in 2013. These proposed amendments were collated and presented to a meeting of the Member National Authorities for ratification in August 2014 at the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow. The new edition of the Laws was adopted in April 2015 and is called the Laws of the Sport of Bowls – Crystal Mark Third Edition.

Subsequent minor revisions to the Third Edition were approved at World Bowls Council Meetings in December 2016, April 2018 and June 2020 and are published on the World Bowls Website.

In 2018 the World Indoor Bowls Council, who were the governing body of the Indoor sport in the home countries, agreed to become affiliate members of World Bowls. They changed their name to the International Indoor Bowls Council and adopted the Crystal Mark Third Edition of the Laws of the Sport.



# Laws of the Sport

## Learning the Laws of the Sport

No one is expected to learn the Laws of the Sport “parrot fashion”. More importantly an umpire must understand how the laws operate practically during a game.

There are a number of laws which are purely factual, for example, the size of a jack or the depth of ditches. An umpire would simply refer to the law book if a question relating to these factual laws was raised. We have tried, where possible, to represent these graphically to assist in the learning process.

However, there are a number of laws that must be understood and applied when you are officiating, for example, what do you advise the players when the jack strikes the foot of an opponent when it is delivered or, if you are called to measure a short delivered jack, what would be the acceptable distance for it to be live?

You will find there are some laws missing from this manual, because their content is self-explanatory, and some that are out of sequence, to assist with the learning process. We have not quoted the full text of the laws word for word; instead we have provided some notes to assist in your understanding. Space has been provided to allow you to add your own notes. It is important, therefore that you read this section with the Law book at your side and refer to it as you study.

Take your time! Study one Section of the Laws at a time and answer the questions in your Workbook as you go. If you try to learn too much in one go – you will fall asleep!

To help you with your understanding, especially with some of the more complex situations, we have employed some characters of the game!! Let’s meet them:



**Blue Player**



**Red Player**



**Neutral Person**



**Umpire**

They will make an appearance occasionally in the text to help explain some of the decisions that need to be made by an umpire and how to apply some of the few penalties that occur during the game. We will leave it to you to come up with suitable names for these individuals!!

# Laws of the Sport

On the subject of penalties – there are not many laws where a player can be penalised so in order to help you identify them we have used the Umpire character shown here on the right.



**Penalty**

Bowls England have adopted several Domestic Regulations which apply to games played on outdoor greens in England only. We have highlighted these regulations using the Bowls England Logo shown here on the right. Check the back of your law book for the applicable wording.



So, if you have your Law book at your side and open on the first page, we can begin! Before we get into the main body of the Law Book, there is one very important rule which should be remembered at all times when officiating and is found at the front of the Law book in the Foreword. We like to call it the “Law of Common-sense”

## **Introduction**

No laws governing a sport can cope with every situation, and the laws governing the sport of bowls are no exception. Unusual situations not covered within the laws can often arise. The Laws of the Sport of Bowls (‘the laws’) have been drawn up in the spirit of true sportsmanship. So, if a situation arises that is not covered by these laws, players, markers and umpires must use their common sense and a spirit of fair play to decide on the appropriate course of action.

## **Conventions**

- 1 References to ‘must’ and ‘will’ within these laws mean that the action is compulsory.
- 2 References to ‘can’ within these laws mean that the action is optional.
- 3 References to ‘between’ when used to describe a range of weights or measurements within these laws mean that the smallest and largest numbers given are included within the range.

## **Definitions**

The definitions are in alphabetical order within each section.