

London County Short Mat Bowls Association

Hints & Tips and Answers to Questions you were Afraid to Ask

1) In indoor and outdoor flat green bowling there are rules concerning the validity of bowls in respect of their date stamp. Are there any such rules in the short mat game?

There are no requirements in the short mat game regarding date stamps on bowls. Therefore for short mat play you do not need to have your flat green bowls tested and re-stamped. However, after 10 to 15 years it is probably a good idea to have your bowls tested to make sure the bias of each bowl matches and that one or more has not worn out of tolerance. Coloured bowls wear quicker than black bowls and bowls used indoors wear more than bowls used outdoors.

2) When do I need to mark the position of a toucher that has passed over the ditch line?

If a toucher is straddling the ditch line and any part of it still overhangs the front edge of the ditch line it can still be legally moved by any other live bowl. Once all of it is beyond the front edge of the ditch line it is in the ditch and can only be moved by another toucher. At this point its position should be marked by drawing round it with chalk so that it can be returned to the same position if it is subsequently displaced by a bowl that is not a toucher.

3) In a fours game, whose duty is it to keep the scoreboard?

Traditionally this is the responsibility of the home team's second.

4) I am playing in the number three position for my club this year. What equipment do I need?

It is advisable for the number three in a four (also the number two in a triple and the lead in a pair) to carry the following, as these items are not usually available at the venue :-

- i) Spray chalk and stick chalk. Spray chalk is preferable for marking touchers because you don't need to touch the bowl. Stick chalk can be used to mark touchers but is necessary for marking the position of the jack and touchers in the ditch.
- ii) A bowls measure with attached calipers.
- iii) A couple of small wedges.

5) When the last bowl in an end is being delivered, when can players move to the opposite end of the mat?

Once a delivered bowl has come to rest, possession of the rink mat is transferred to the opposition (ESMBA Law D10 refers). The player who is next in turn is then in control of play. All players not in the act of playing or controlling play **MUST** be clear of the rink mat and if practical be behind the fender (ESMBA Law D11). Therefore all players not delivering the bowl should remain behind the fender and **NOT** begin to walk to the opposite end of the mat until the delivered bowl has come to rest. In addition, the person delivering the bowl cannot follow it up to the head (ESMBA Law F1 refers) and should also remain in place until it has stopped.