



## Rules and Etiquette of the game of lawn Bowls In relation to “POSSESSION OF THE RINK”

There is one rule in particular which is frequently unobserved by players and extremely annoying to those who strive to understand the line of their delivery in relation to speed of the green and draw characteristics.

It relates to players who move down the green immediately the last bowl has been released. Basically the rink belongs to the player who delivers the bowl and it remains as such till the bowl comes to rest. You may follow the deliverer of the bowl down the green but not walk in front of him/her while the bowl is moving.

**Yes, some players move off the mat quickly while others stay till the bowls stops and as irritating as it may be to not get down the rink to see the result, you must respect the right of the deliverer to watch the bowl without being obstructed by you!.**

*As coaches we emphasise the importance of players watching their delivery till the bowl stops. From this knowledge you are able to correct the line of delivery of your next bowl. You are also able to better understand the line needed to draw your bowl to the target point and from that knowledge know how to change the line of delivery in order to successfully play various weights of on-shots and drive.*

**The following relevant detail has been extracted from the current book of rules of the game:**

### **Section 1.3 – Possession of the rink**

#### **12 Position of players**

12.1 In relation to the rink of play

12.1.1 Players at the mat-end of the rink who are not delivering a bowl must stand at least 1 metre behind the mat.

12.1.2 Players at the head-end of the rink and who are not controlling play must stand:

12.1.2.1 behind the jack if they are members of the team which is in possession of the rink;

12.1.2.2 behind the jack and away from the head if they are members of the team which is not in possession of the rink;

12.1.2.3 on the surrounds of the green if the jack is in the ditch; or

12.1.2.4 well clear of the head if it is not possible to stand on the surrounds.

12.1.3 As soon as a bowl is delivered, a player who is controlling play from a position that is either level with or in front of the jack, must take their position as described in law

12.1.2

12. 1.4 If a player does not meet the terms of this law, law 13 will apply.

### **12.2 In relation to a neighbouring rink**

12.2.1 A player must not go into a neighbouring rink where play is in progress.

12.2.2 A player must neither go into nor walk along a neighbouring rink, even if it is not being used, while an opponent is about to deliver or is actually delivering a bowl.

12.2.3 If the rink of play is an outside rink (see law 49.6), a player must neither go into nor walk along the section of green that lies between the outside side boundary of the rink and the side ditch while an opponent is about to deliver or is actually delivering a bowl.

12.2.4 If a player does not meet the terms of this law, law 13 will apply.

### **13 Possession of the rink**

13.1 Possession of the rink will belong to the player or team whose bowl is being played.

13.2 As soon as each bowl comes to rest, possession of the rink will transfer to the opposing player or team after allowing time for marking a toucher as soon as it comes to rest.

13.3 If the umpire, either by their own observation or on appeal by one of the skips or opponents in Singles, decides that the players in possession of the rink are being interfered with, annoyed or distracted in any way by their opponents,

13.3.1: the first time this happens the umpire must:

13.3.1.1: warn the offending player, while the skip is present; and...

13.3.1.2: tell the coach, if present, that the player has received a warning.

13.3.2 On each occasion after this, the umpire must have the bowl last played by the offending player or team declared dead. If that bowl has disturbed the head, the opponent must choose whether to:

13.3.2.1 replace the head;

13.3.2.2 leave the head as altered; or

13.3.2.3 declare the end dead.

**Trust this helps in understanding an important aspect of the game.**

*Len,*

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