

A Summary of Amendments Made to the Laws of the Sport of Bowls, Crystal Mark Third Edition

Introduction

World Bowls officially approved the most recent version of the Laws of the Sport in August 2014. This was the culmination of an extensive consultation process with all Member National Authorities (MNAs). Each MNA is required to implement the new laws by April 1, 2015.

The following is a summary of the most important changes that were made to the laws, from a Canadian perspective. These include three amendments that were requested by BCB, which are reflected in the following laws: 6.1.5.6; 20.2; and 40.1.9. This is not a complete listing of all of the changes and amendments.

Overview

There are two global changes that were incorporated into the Crystal Mark Third Edition of the Laws:

- The word 'should' was replaced by 'must';
- The laws were re-ordered and re-numbered.

These are the two primary reasons why new rule books will need to be printed, rather than issuing a list of amendments. In the previous Second Edition, the term 'should' was used throughout the laws, with the understanding that this meant that the action was compulsory. By using 'must', there is less confusion about the intent of the law. The reorganization of the laws was intended to make it easier to find a law by grouping laws in a different way.

The new laws are grouped into five sections (down from 15), while retaining the three appendices. There are now 60 laws (not 61) – the previous law 1 (Definitions) is now included in the Foreword.

Amendments to the Laws

Changes are summarized by Section and Appendix as follows:

1. Game basics

- 1.1. There is now a penalty – no more trial bowls - if a player uses more than the permitted number of bowls during trial ends (law 5.1.4);
- 1.2. It will not be necessary to fasten groundsheets to the green, if BCB adopts a new Domestic Regulation (law 6.1.5.6);
- 1.3. A player may turn over the mat during adverse weather conditions (law 6.2.6);
- 1.4. Before delivery, all **or a part of at least one foot** must be on the mat (law 7.1) – this changes the definition of foot-faulting;
- 1.5. When bowls need to be transferred to the opposite end to replay a dead end, this should occur in a way that avoids distracting players on adjacent rinks (law 20.2);
- 1.6. There is now a penalty for measuring before the end is over - the defaulting team cannot play any more bowls – and measuring is defined (law 23.3);
- 1.7. If an extra end has not been started from the end where the previous end was completed, and each team has played a bowl, play in that end will continue (law 28.3).

2. Game anomalies

- 2.1. If a substitute is required in a game that is restarting after a stoppage, that substitute cannot be a member of another team (law 32.4.2);
- 2.2. The provisions regarding displacement of a bowl or jack by a disabled player's wheelchair now include all of their equipment or their assistant (laws 37.2 & 38.2);
- 2.3. In a side game, regulations can be adopted for dealing with an absent player (law 39.2.3).

3. Duties of players and officials

- 3.1. The skip's duties regarding the score card may be transferable, but only if BCB adopts a new Domestic Regulation (law 40.1.9);
- 3.2. A player with a physical disability is allowed to kneel on the green, and may kneel in front of the mat or on the mat (law 41.6);
- 3.3. A player with a physical disability can use an electronic communication device, if permitted in the conditions of play (law 41.7);
- 3.4. A marker does not need to tell the players the running score if a scoreboard is being used (law 42.3.2);
- 3.5. The role of 'manager' is no longer recognized in the laws – only the coach can give advice to a player (law 44);
- 3.6. The coach can only give advice when their team is in possession of the rink (law 44.3);
- 3.7. The umpire has more authority to enforce this law - the same as for dealing with spectators (law 44.5).

4. Field of play and equipment

- 4.1. A liner siter - similar to a mirror - is now a recognized item of equipment (law 54.8.3).

5. Administration

- 5.1. Time limits are now formally accepted for domestic events (law 55.3.2);
- 5.2. Three game points (not 2) are awarded for games won (law 56.3.1.1 & Appendix A.1.4.4);
- 5.3. Where provisions are made for re-spotting of the jack, tournament organizers may choose either 3 re-spot locations or one re-spot location (law 56.5.1).

6. Appendices

- 6.1. When players' visits to the head are restricted in the conditions of play, it is permissible for a player who is standing in the head to stay there until it is time to deliver their own first bowl (A.4.3);
- 6.2. There are suggested regulations for dealing with slow play, which involve putting the offending team 'on the stopwatch' (A.5).

Some of the other changes that were made to the laws of the sport can be described as 'clarifications' rather than new laws or revisions, and they are not listed here.