

HOW TO GUIDE FOR BEGINNING BOWLERS

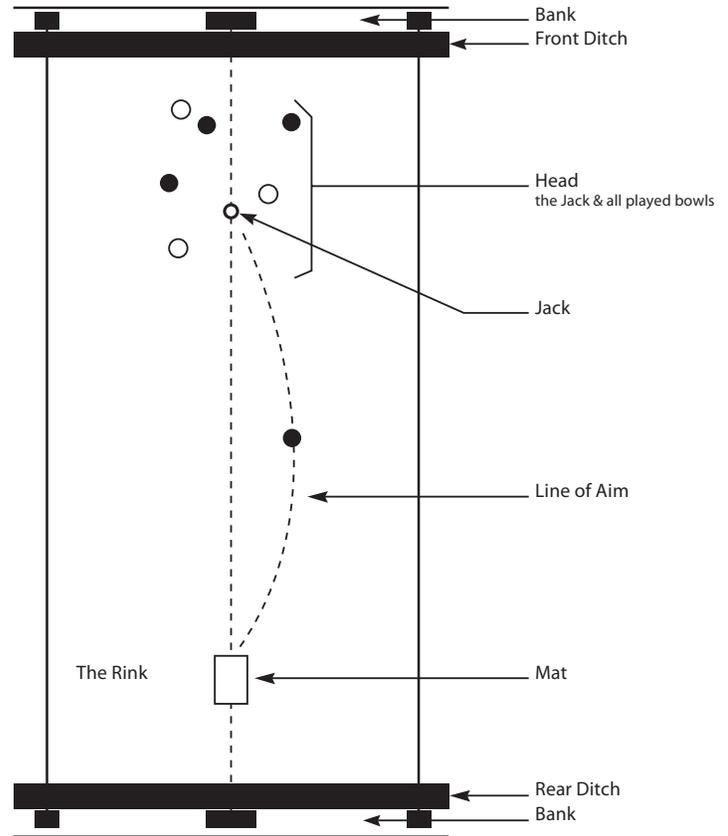


We're looking to Bowl you over!

Consider this your introduction to Lawn Bowling or, simply "Bowls". The game has been played, in one form or another, for thousands of years, combining strategy, competition, sociability, and affordability, but mainly, a whole lot of fun. It's a simple game to learn – and one that takes a lifetime to master. This handout will provide you a basic outline of the game, as well as some of the signals used in the sport. And because we said this is about a whole lot of fun, some of the definitions may be here for that reason alone. Enjoy yourself and we promise to be gentle the first time. After that, you're fair game. And now, let's go lawn bowl!

What's Bowls all about?

Bowls is played on a large smooth grass surface, called a "green". Equipment includes your **bowls**, which are large, hard resin balls with a bias to them, so that they travel along an elliptical path, rather than going straight; another small, white, smooth, ball called a "jack"; and a **mat** from which you bowl. **The object of bowls**, as in Bocce or curling, is to **get your bowls closer to the jack than your opponent**. This is achieved by players from each team taking turns rolling their bowls down the green toward the jack.



Common (and a bit of uncommon) Terminology

There are many signs and signals in lawn bowling. You will learn most of them over time but, to get you started, here are some of the basic ones you should know. Alternatives have been provided, purely for your enjoyment. They will not help your game in the least. That takes practice.

Rink Boundary Indication

Obvious, really. This sign means "The bathroom is inside and, a bit to the left."



Heavy (Over) Bowl

Most bowlers are knowledgeable and, experienced in a wide variety of areas. This is actually a clue to other pastimes. It means, "I am also an expert with the yo-yo and, I know how to make it sleep. If you do not, kindly take a hike."



Centering the Jack

As you will easily discern, there is someone standing behind this person. The person in the foreground is simply indicating that, upon his moving, you should hurl your bowl, with due force, at the interloper. In Bowls, this is called, "Get the guy behind me."



The jack is rolled first. Because it does not have a bias, it travels in a straight line. Players then alternate delivering their bowls – the bias gives the bowls a characteristic elliptical path, which means they are aimed out at an angle and curve back in towards the jack. Just like a putt in golf with a break on the green to be read correctly by the player, the successful delivery of a bowl to the jack is simply a matter of line (initial direction) and length (weight or force). After all the bowls have been delivered (the conclusion of the end), it is determined how many bowls you have closer than your opponent’s nearest bowl. This is how you score points. Your opponent would score points by counting the number of bowls THEY have closer to the jack than YOUR nearest bowl, at the conclusion of an end.

The game has an added complexity when you realize that the jack can be moved at any time during the game by hitting it with a bowl. This forces you to adapt both offensive and defensive strategies throughout the course of an end. In addition, the distance between the jack and the mat can be anywhere from 70 to 120 feet.

The mat itself can also be moved to provide a different starting point on the rink at the beginning of an end. As you can see, there are a number of variables, not mentioning weather conditions, playing surface or time of day that can make the game very complex.

It is also very difficult to “blank” an end. One team or another will score a point in virtually every end played. The length of a game is determined in advance and usually a game will last: 12 or 14 ends in Pairs, Triples, or Fours, and to 21 points in Singles.

Aside from the fact that Bowls is a fascinating sport, it’s also a highly social environment. If you’re looking for fun or a challenge to your skills, regardless of age, size or gender, bowls delivers. Now doesn’t that sound like something you might like?

For more information, check the telephone book for the club nearest you, give us a call at 604.221.6007 or, visit us on the web at www.golawnbowl.com

CALL: [NAME] _____

OR DROP IN: [CLUB LOCATION] _____

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Terminology Continued...

Mat Alignment



Bowls is a game that is played outdoors. Sometimes, jets and low-flying planes come close overhead. This signal indicates that you ought to cover your ears to avoid hearing loss because the person at the other end of the green will, in the course of a game, invariably, yell at you, and you must understand what they are saying.



Line Bowl or Jack

Bowls is a social sport. And it is true that a number of our present members recall the 1960s. This man is inspired by some music nearby and is, subsequently, doing the “Monkey”.

Counting the End

Bowls is played in all sorts of weather. Sometimes, it gets damp. The first person is indicating that his Bursitis is acting up; the second is telling you his hip is gone. But, they are still smiling. Bowls does that to you.

