

Official's Guidelines

Introduction

There is one level of certification for umpires in Canada namely national. Once this certification is attained, umpires can officiate at all levels of competition (club, provincial and national). The provincial events should be officiated to the same standard as national events. To this end, the *Official's Guidelines* will address the duties of umpires for Lawn Bowls Association of Alberta (LBAA) events.

Administrative Jurisdiction

LBAA events are the jurisdiction of the provincial Bowling Program committee. This committee is responsible for the *Conditions of Play* and the draw formats for all provincial events. They also assign a draw-master to administer each event. The draw-master is responsible for running the draw, entering scores, and determining the winner. The specific duties of the draw-master are not in scope for this document. The Provincial Officiating Coordinator assigns the umpires for each event. The umpires are responsible for all activities on the green prior to, during, and after play. Together, the draw-master and umpires are responsible for running a successful event.

The LBAA pays an honorarium to umpires. This is paid from the casino fund and therefore must be auditable. This means that an *Umpire's Report* must be completed for each event. Expense claims for events with incomplete paperwork will not be paid.

Umpire's Report

The *Umpire's Report* is very straight forward to fill out. The umpires assigned to the first round of the event complete the event specifics such as event name, location, date, draw-master, pace of the green and any special notes. The duty umpires sign their name against the round they are officiating. If any warnings are issued these should be recorded on the report. If any other incidents occur these too should be noted on the report. During the shoe and bowl inspections the details regarding the inspected items must be recorded. A check mark for the bowl inspection in inadequate. If there was a challenge raised regarding a player's bowls it would be impossible to know which bowls were inspected and approved for play. The full details which describe the set of bowls must be recorded. That is, manufacturer, size, colour, serial number and engraving.

Umpire's Duties

The umpire duties are described in the *Laws of the Sport of Bowls* by Law 61. The conduct of the umpire is important. They must remain unobtrusive but at all times be available, knowledgeable, efficient and decisive.

Prior to the Start of the Event

Conditions of Play

Prior to the start of any event, the umpires must be familiar with the *Conditions of Play* for the event. They must also know which conditions (if any) is their jurisdiction. For example, in the current *Conditions of Play* for provincial play-down events the umpire is responsible for assessing penalty shots against an absent team (or player) until the game is forfeited to the opposing team.

Shoe and Bowl Inspection

Shoes will be inspected prior to the start of the first game. If the shoes do not meet the requirements as stated in the *Conditions of Play* or Law 10 then they will not be passed. If the player cannot come up with proper shoes within the timelines given in the *Conditions of Play* then the penalty as described in the *Conditions of Play* will be enforced.

The National Officiating Committee has relaxed the criteria for the date stamps on bowls. The manufacturer's date of 1974 or later will no longer be checked. This means that bowls will pass inspection if:

- The bowls are a matched set from the same manufacture and of the same size, weight, colour, bias, serial number and engraving.
- And
The I.B.B./W.B.B./W.B. stamp clearly legible.

Bowls will fail inspection if:

- Or
The bowls are not a matched set (as described above).
- Or
The bowls have a different distinguishing mark on each bowl such as numbered bowls.
- Or
The I.B.B./W.B.B./W.B. stamp is illegible.
- Or
The bowls are not stamped.
- Or
The bowls are disc bowls.

These are the guidelines to be used for all provincial events. Record the inspections on the *Umpire's Report*.

Pace of the Green

The pace of the green should be determined and posted for the benefit of the players. The pace of the green means the number of seconds it takes a bowl to come to rest at approximately 27 metres. This should be timed in both directions on the green with the average time posted.

Duties Prior to Each Game

The pre-game preparations include:

- Ensure all rinks are measured and set-up properly prior to each round. The 2 metre marks must be visible at both ends of the rinks.
- Jacks should be placed at the starting end of each rink.
- Mats should be placed at each end of each rink.
- Bowl and jack markers should be placed at either end of the green.
- Spot check the player's shoes and bowls.

Duties During the Game

If there is only one umpire per green and assistance is needed seek help from the controlling body or a spectator. Never seek help from a player. Always be alert and anticipate when an umpire call will be required. During the course of play watch for:

- Correct placement of the mat
- Legal jack placement
- Foot faulting

- Possession of the rink violations
- Encroachment
- Marking of the jack or bowls in the ditch
- Objects on the green
- Possible interference by spectators

When called upon to make a decision determine if it is to make a measurement, interpret a law, decide the position of a bowl or jack, or reconcile a difference of opinion. Obtain the full facts from the players concerned making sure that both skips are agreed on the problem to be solved. All discussions should involve both skips. Record any unusual happenings on the *Umpire's Report*.

Duties After Each Game

At the completion of each game collect the scorecards. Verify that the score and completion time is correct and that both skips have signed the scorecards. Turn the scorecards in to the draw-master.