

Marker's duties (taken from: Laws of the Sport of Bowls)

The marker must:

- Centre the jack.
- Make sure that the jack is at least 21 metres from the mat line after it has been centred.
- Stand to one side of the rink, behind the jack and away from the head (approx 2 metres behind the jack and 1 metre to the side).
- Answer any specific question about the state of the head which is asked by the player in possession of the rink.
- When asked, tell or show the player in possession of the rink the position of the jack.
- When asked, tell or show the player in possession of the rink which bowl or bowls the marker considers to be shot.
- Mark all touchers with chalk.
- Remove chalk marks from non-touchers as soon as they come to rest.
- Stop any bowl that is from a neighbouring rink and could move a jack or bowl that is at rest.
- If both players agree, remove all dead bowls from the rink of play.
- Mark the position of a jack and any touchers which are in the ditch with provided markers.
- Not move, or cause to be moved, either the jack or any bowls until the players have agreed the number of shots scored, and
- Measure any disputed shot or shots when asked to do so by either player. If the players are not satisfied with the marker's decision, the marker must ask the umpire to do the measuring.
- When each end has been completed, the marker must:
 - Record the score on the score card
 - If scoreboards are not being used, tell the players the running totals of the scores each end, and
 - Remove from the rink the mat used during the previous end, if necessary.
- When the game has been completed, the marker must make sure that the score card:
 - Contains the names and signatures of the players
 - Contains the time at which the game was completed, and
 - Is dealt with in line with the Conditions of Play.

Helpful hints:

Be on time for trial ends prior to the game, dress appropriately, wear bowls shoes. Be ready with equipment required – pen, measure, spray chalk.

A player who is about to bowl has possession of the rink. Once their bowl comes to a rest, possession transfers to the other player. It is only the player who is about to bowl who can ask a question.

Unlike a competition in which you are playing, when marking, you are not permitted to lift a bowl on your rink to allow another rink's bowl to pass through. The bowl from the other rink must be stopped if it is going to hit a bowl on your rink. This bowl then is returned to the player who bowled it for them to re-bowl as you have stopped a bowl in course.

It is not for the marker to decide how many shots a player has at the completion of an end. Players must agree, and inform the marker of the score to enter on the scorecard.

Be aware of what may be behind you. Don't stand in front of a bowl at the back and obscure line of sight of it for the players. Stand about 2 metres behind the jack to ensure you can see if the bowl just bowled touches the jack. Keep your shadow off the head.

Players should give the marker time to mark a toucher immediately it comes to rest. Touchers must be marked with chalk before the next bowl bowled comes to rest, or it would be deemed not to be a toucher.

Answer the question/s asked. Be helpful but do not offer further information which has not been asked for.

eg. If asked "am I up?", answer "yes/no", do not offer how many shots.

If asked "am I one down?", to say "no" isn't helpful. You would say "no you are two down" or "no you are 1 up".

A suitable marker should be able to have a good sense of which bowls are shot to assist the players. It is not acceptable to always say "I'm not sure", or worse, make the wrong call. However a good marker will be able to identify the shot/s if asked and know where it is a measure and too close to accurately call, and will say so.