

Duties of a Marker

This list of duties is intended to provide a broad understanding of what will be expected when asked “will you mark for me?”. If doing it for the first time, try to perform it in the relatively friendly environment of your own Club. There is a lot to be learned by observing other player’s techniques and tactics. It can also be a pleasure being involved in a good game - so enjoy the job!

The primary role of the marker is to assist the players in a singles match and to keep the game flowing. In the absence of an Umpire, the Marker is also responsible for controlling the game in accordance with The Laws of the Sport of Bowls, copies of which are available in the Clubhouse. Therefore, there is a need to know these rules - particularly Section 3 which deals with the duties of officials.

- **Be prepared** and equipped with scorecard, chalk, measure, wedges, scorecard holder and pen. Additional equipment is held in the Umpire’s kit held behind the bar.
- **Remove the mat from the previous end** and place any full length jack 2 metres from the ditch. Centre the jack and then make sure it is 23 metres or more from the mat line.
- **Keep out of the head** by standing to one side and to the rear of the jack; stand still and off the bowler’s line without covering the rink markers. Try to get into a routine and stick to it.
- **Remain impartial** by not commenting on shots or showing favour. Never engage in conversations with the players unless they initiate it and avoid the temptation to chat to the spectators. Only move after the jack or bowl has been delivered.
- **Reply clearly and precisely** to questions about the state of the head but only from the player with possession of the rink. Avoid any temptation to be over helpful by volunteering information or giving answers too far beyond that asked. “Yes” or “No” is usually all that is normally required. However, if a player asks “Am I holding?” but is actually two down - then it is perfectly acceptable to say so. To keep the game moving, try to anticipate the next question, hence avoiding several supplementary questions. When asked to give your opinion by

indicating which bowl is shot or to indicate the position of a hidden jack, take care not to touch or disturb the head.

- **Chalk all “touchers”** immediately they come to rest and before the next player bowls. To avoid confusion, remove any chalk marks left on “non-touchers“. Get the agreement from the players before removing dead woods from the green and ditches. Mark the position on the ditch wall of a ditched jack or “toucher” bowl.

- **Measuring shots** - Do not offer to measure and keep out of the head unless measuring is requested by one or other of the players. Do not touch or remove any bowl. If the shot cannot be confidently identified, then you must call for the assistance of the appointed Umpire. If one is not available you should call for an experienced bowler from amongst the spectators. Other than an Umpire (whose ruling is final) only the player conceding the shot should remove an opponent’s wood from the head. Having given all the help you can, stand back and leave it to the players to agree upon the result.

- **Update the scorecard** at the conclusion of each end, and let players know the state of the match.
- It will be helpful, to both players and spectators alike, to keep the scoreboard up to date.
- Record on the card the time the game ended and then have the card(s) signed by both players.

Don’t be caught napping - concentrate on the game.