

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

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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).