



This is to certify that

Mike Weston

has been awarded the

Level 2 Certificate in  
Coaching Bowls

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## Umpire and Coaching Corner

June 2020

Mike Weston

Hi everyone,

I trust that you are all keeping well, I know that a few of the outdoor bowls clubs have started limited operations again so I hope that some of you are able to at least keep in practice.

Hopefully you learnt something from the Umpire's Corner in the last newsletter. I haven't received any feedback so it was either interesting or you already understood the points that I tried to make!

Please remember that I'm more than happy to take any questions on Umpiring or Coaching and can be contacted by email using [osmbacoach@gmail.com](mailto:osmbacoach@gmail.com)

This month I will try to explain some other points that are often misunderstood or mis-interpreted.

### Firing or Forcing Shots

Often great to watch and can change a head dramatically but the rules require that a visual and verbal warning is given to the player in charge of the head before playing and that sufficient time to warn those in the vicinity of the head (including adjacent mats) is given. It is the responsibility of the player delivering the bowl to ensure that no one is placed at risk.

The rules also state that failing to comply should result in a warning to the player for the first infringement and following subsequent infringements the player can be asked to leave the mat.

Why? – The obvious reason is danger to other players and spectators, a heavy bowl ricocheting off other bowls or the fender could cause physical injury so a warning will at least give notice that the players at the head end need to take care and move away if necessary. It's also customary for players to stand to the

side of the mat and adjacent to the head to try to stop any bowls interfering with adjacent mats and players.

### Foot Fault

These are perhaps not too often seen or called and often ignored, but the rules require that a bowl is delivered with the whole of one foot entirely within the confines of the delivery mat, the foot can be in contact with or over the mat. The other foot can be completely on the mat or overlapping the mat and delivery area or completely in the delivery area. If you remember from the last newsletter, I made the point that the white lines delineate the area so are not included in the delivery area, the foot should be inside the line and not overlapping the line (The rules are slightly different for players using a stick or support).

I have seen some bowlers with one foot off the mat and overlapping the ditch line and one that rested the heel of his foot on the fender.

Now to the rules, these state that **only** players at the delivery end (or an Umpire) can call foot faults, once a foot fault is called any player at the head end (or the marker in singles) can stop and remove the bowl.

In my experience the players at the delivery end are not often watching the foot placing of their opponents and it's usually the skip or a player at the head end that can see a foot being placed over the line. In this case I think that the accepted action would be to mention it to the opposing skip or player to notify the delivering player and also to mention it to one of your own players to monitor the following deliveries.

### Numbers on the Mat.

Let's start with the completion of an end which is signified by the last bowl of the end coming to rest. At the request of either side a further 30 seconds can be allowed to elapse to allow a bowl to drop, at this time no measuring, marking, touching bowls or access to the mat is permitted by either side. **This only applies to the last bowl of the end!**

Following the completion of the end only one player from each team is allowed on the mat to decide the end. If an Umpire is asked to decide the end all players should vacate the mat and stand behind the fender.

During the game only team members from the team who 'have the mat' are allowed on the mat. Only one player at the head end is allowed to direct and

communicate with the delivery player however, there is no rule that limits the number of team players allowed on the mat to deliberate what shot should be played next. In reality, if all the team players are on the mat the chance of disturbing the head is greater, especially for the last bowls in a fours match so care must be taken. All players must vacate the mat before the next bowl is bowled.

## The Bowls

Just a couple of points here and some differences between Lawn and Short Mat Bowls.

Once a game has commenced a player is not permitted to change their bowls unless they become damaged or are objected to. Reasons for objecting are such as using a bowl not recognised by the ESMBA, rather difficult to imagine this might happen but a more common one might be multiples of stickers on the bowl, coloured discs or stickers are allowed, but placing others on top of these does technically render the bowl illegal.

In Lawn bowls, the bowls used must be a matched set and tested and stamped within a 10-year period. For Short Mat, this does not apply and within a game the bowls do not need to be matched, so you could play in a singles game for example, your first two bowls with a narrow bias and your last two with a wider bias.

That's all for now but I would welcome feedback and any topics either from an Umpiring or Coaching perspective and I'll try to cover them. Next time I'll concentrate on some coaching areas.

Please contact me at [osmbacoach@gmail.com](mailto:osmbacoach@gmail.com)

Finally, if you have an hour to spare you might be interested in watching a coaching discussion session that took place recently, Brian Baker, our ESMBA head coach was on the panel. Might have a little more interest to the outdoor bowlers but everyone can learn from the points covered.

The session can be found at -  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fQuozhgSJB8&t=9s>

Keep Safe.

*Mike*