

LAWN BOWLS WHEELCHAIR INFORMATION

This information sheet has been produced in response to the large number of enquiries our Association receives regarding specific measurements and rules relating to the use of wheelchairs on lawn bowls greens.

The following information from Wheelchair Sports Australia's Lawn Bowls Sub-Committee has been endorsed by Bowls Australia:

TYRE REGULATIONS (Wheelchair Sports Australia's Lawn Bowls Sub-Committee)

Possible damage to a lawn bowls green, whether a grass or synthetic surface, has always been an issue. The majority of fears expressed by club administrators and greenkeepers are often unfounded. With the proper tyres and a common sense approach (eg: ensuring a wide circle is taken when turning on a green) by the wheelchair user, marks left on the green are negligible, at worst, and can be removed by a greens roller.

- Large, usually rear, tyres, (preferably pneumatic), with a minimum width of 45mm are required. The most suitable tread patterns are “slicks” or inverted tread tyres eg. a standard BMX tyre.
- The most suitable tyres for the small or front wheels are the 200mm. x 50mm with a pneumatic tyre.
- Castors, made of nylon or polyurethane are becoming increasingly popular. The width of these should be a minimum of 75mm. If the edges are sharp they must be rounded off.
- If there be any doubts about any tyre tread, as a temporary or precautionary measure, duct tape can be placed over the tyre to give a smoother surface.



The above are meant for use in all conditions, however in the case of particularly wet greens or other unusual circumstances, consultation and a common sense approach between the wheelchair user and club administrator or greenkeeper is highly recommended.



The following suggestions are also recommended where necessary to avoid any damage to playing surfaces:

- Ramp access to the green made available if required.
- Carpet squares may be placed on the greens under the wheels for new or irregular bowlers.
- Bowlers using a wheelchair / mobility aid allowed access to all rinks (not just end rinks).

Specialty lawn bowls wheelchairs can be purchased for approximately \$2,500 - \$3,000, but current trends show some bowlers opting for specialised wheels that can be easily fitted to their day chair. Below's list of Wheelchair Manufacturer's might be able to assist with quotes on wheelchair and wheel prices:

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| ETS Australia Ph: (07) 3637 6360 www.cpl.org.au/ets | Ian Aitchison and Co. Ph: (07) 3369 0965 E: ian.aitchison@internode.on.net |
| Infinite Rehab Solutions Ph: (07) 5445 7251 www.infiniterehab.com.au | Surgical Engineering Pty. Ltd. Ph: (07) 3869 1919 E: mikenugent1946@hotmail.com |

Wicked Wheelchairs
 M: 0406 771 265
 E: wickedwheelchairs@bigpond.com

