



Memo

To: BQ Board, District and Club Secretaries
From: Brett Wilkie CEO on behalf of BQ Umpire Committee
Date: 5 December 2023
Re: Protection of Umpires, Officials and Players **Ref:** 23027

BACKGROUND:

Recently during a game of bowls an umpire was verbally abused. The question arises as to what immediate action is available to the umpire, an official or a player who is subjected to abuse.

ACTION:

Should an umpire, official or player be subjected to any offensive, abusive, threatening or intimidating language? The umpire on behalf of the official or player may take the action as defined in the Instantaneous Policy. A copy of the contents is attached for information.

The policy enhances the provisions of Law 13.4 contained in the Laws of the Sport of Bowls, Crystal Mark, edition 4.

Should the umpire take action against a player then umpire must complete the Instantaneous Penalty report and submit same to the controlling body and the State Authority within 7 days.

The State Authority then has the ability to initiate further action against the player.

INSTANTANEOUS PENALTIES POLICY

PRINCIPLE:

1. Bowls Australia (BA) believes in a fair and equitable competition and will do everything in its power to ensure that all players participate within the Laws of the Sport of Bowls. BA affiliated players undertake to conduct the game in a polite and sporting like manner when participating in any bowls event anywhere in Australia.

2. INSTANTANEOUS PENALTIES

2.1 If an umpire, by observation or on appeal by the Controlling Body, a side manager, a skip or an opponent, decides that a breach of any Law or Rule has taken place or any action by a player (where there is no penalty specified in that Law or Rule), such as:

1. Acting in an abusive, threatening or intimidating manner;



2. Using obscene, offensive, abusive, threatening or intimidating language;
3. Threatening any person with physical violence or assault;
4. Assaulting any person; has occurred, then the end shall be immediately regarded as completed and the opponent of the offender shall be awarded as many shots as there are bowls in use by the opponent in a singles game, or opposing team in a team game, or team in a side game.

2.2 Upon a second such offence by the same player in the same game, the player shall be excluded from taking any further part in that game according to Laws of the Sport Crystal Mark, Version 4, April 2023.

2.3 Should this penalty be applied, no replacement or substitute player will be allowed for his/her team.

2.4 In a team game the defaulting team will forfeit the game to their opponent.

2.5 In a side game BA Domestic Regulations will apply.

2.6 A replacement player is not permitted for a singles player. BA Domestic Regulations will apply.

2.7 Serious offences may also be subject to police action. Consultation should occur between the venue manager, the Controlling Body and umpire/s before such action is undertaken.

2.8 The umpire must forward a detailed written report about any incident involving an instantaneous penalty to the Controlling Body and the relevant STA/s within seven (7) days of the incident.

Compiled by BQ Umpire Committee Co-ordinator John Kirkpatrick in consultation with the BQ Umpire Committee, approved by the Board of Bowls Queensland.

Kind Regards

Brett Wilkie
CEO

DUTIES & RESPONSIBILITIES OF A CONTROLLING BODY

What is a Controlling Body?

The Controlling Body is the Match Committee of the Club/District or State/National running the event. If in the absence of a Controlling Body an appointed Delegate should be made by the Match Committee to act on their behalf during an event.

They must:-

- Be a financial Member of the Club.
- They must ensure the fair and equitable running of a lawn bowls match/event.
- Wear approved Club/District uniform when on duty.
- Have a written copy and reasonable knowledge of the Laws of the Sport of Bowls.
- Have a written copy and good knowledge of the Conditions of Play for the event in question.
- Have a current written copy of the Weather Policy/Guidelines and Uniform (Dress) Policy.
- Be responsible for the compilation of the Conditions of Play. Reference – Appendix A of the Laws of the sport of Bowls Crystal mark 4th Edition.

Jurisdiction:

- For Club Championships and District Championships/Pennant, the respective Club/District Match Committee is the Controlling Body and they run these events on behalf of the State in accordance with the Conditions of Play issued.

IMPORTANT:

- (a) Where there is an interpretation of the law that is required, the controlling body **must consult with an umpire.**
- (b) There can be occasions when the Umpire of the day may seek a determination or assistance from the Controlling Body. **These examples may include.**
- The use of substitutes which requires the approval of the Controlling Body DR 2.1.3
 - Matters related to the safety or damage to the green as set out in the Conditions of Play
 - Matters related to heat and weather as per BQ Extreme Weather Policy
 - Under Law 44.5 the Umpire may request the Controlling Body to act against a Coach who has breached the Law
 - If a Spectator interferes in a game the Umpire may request the Controlling Body to act under Law 45.4

This means the Umpire of the day should not be the Controlling Body. Like the idea that an Umpire cannot be the Side Manager of the team on the green of which they are officiating. You should not be in a situation where a person would need to consult with themselves.

It would also be desirable to not only name and list the Umpire's of the day but to name the person who will be the Controlling Body for the day.

Authority	Duties and Responsibilities
Teams	The Controlling Body must make sure that the correct teams/players are playing each other according to the draw and that they are playing on the correct rink allocated to them.
Damage to Greens	If by observation a player or team is reported for deliberately and significantly damaging the green, the Controlling Body should then refer to the Greens Protection Policy and act accordingly.
Scorecards	Receive scorecards at the conclusion of a game, ensuring they are signed, matching in the result and the finish time is recorded as well as all relevant information is included as per Conditions of Play.
Challenges to Bowls and Umpires interpretation of a Law	Receive any challenges to bowls based on Law 52, or receive any appeal against an Umpire's interpretation of the Laws of the game Law 43.2.6. For full procedures refer to the following Policies – Bowls Testing Policy and Appeals Policy. Both challenges must be lodged not later than 10 minutes after the completion of the final end of the game. Payment on appeal of \$150 and \$50 applies respectively.
Appeals	Receive appeals at the conclusion of a game, for deliberate non-sporting action from players or Umpires.
Announcements	Ensure all closing announcements to players and officials are made advising details of next games/round.
Conditions of Play	Set and understand these. Law 57.2.1 Refer to Appendix A.1 Law Book Crystal Mark 4 th Edition May 2023.
Rink Allocation	Ensure enough green space is available. Allocate rinks for play or ensure that rinks are drawn in accordance with the rules.
Stickers	Issue or approve the use of adhesive sticker (decals) if required for players in the event. Ensure they comply with appropriate Laws and Regulations Law 52.1.8
Practice Sessions	Advise players/officials if any pre-match practice rink(s) are available and co-ordinate this with greenkeepers. Law 4
Time Penalties & Extensions	Enforce time penalties where appropriate. If warranted, extend the time allowed for late arrivals, using common sense and good sportsmanship.
Award a Match	Award a match to the opponent if a player, team or side fails to show up for or forfeits a match. Law 39.1.2 Award a match to an opponent if the Umpire advises there has been an infringement of the Law which warrants such action C2 & C10
Umpires/Markers	Ensure that an Umpire and/or Markers have been appointed for the match. The umpire must be nominated by the controlling body before the game starts. Law 43.1. Replace a Marker whose performance or behaviour is less than acceptable on appeal by either Player, the Umpire or by their own observation.
Uniform	Ensure each player's attire is in accordance with the Conditions of Play for the event; invoke warnings/penalties for breaches, in accordance with the Attire Policy, if applicable.
Substitutes/Replacements	Approve the use of these and make sure both cards are signed correctly DR2.4.3 & DR2.4.4. If during a match a player is unable to continue play, the Controlling Body must sign in a substitute player, before that substitute commences play.

Player Changes	Authorise a team in a side match to play one player short if there is not an eligible player or substitute available DR2.6
Spectators	Take action to have spectators refrain for disturbing, advising or interfering with players. This is only done after the Umpire has referred the situation to the Controlling Body.
Personal Electronic Devices (PED's), Tobacco and Alcohol	Refer to Bowls Australia policies for Personal Electronic Devices, Tobacco and Alcohol.
Emergency Procedures and Weather Conditions	Be familiar with the host Club's medical and non-medical emergency procedures. Be familiar with the BQ and BA Extreme Weather Policy and the Guidelines and the powers they bestow on the Controlling Body.
Abandoning of Play	The Controlling Body is the only one who can abandon play for the day.
Time Keeping	The Controlling Body is responsible for the keeping of time for every game they are controlling when time keeping for the game is in effect. It is also the duty of the Controlling Body to ring the bell for the commencement and end of play.
Coaches/Umpire	The Controlling Body must be aware of the names of and the rinks of play affected if any Coaches are present.