

Clarifications On Measuring and The Marking of Centre Lines

Since Canada's adoption of the Crystal Mark Third Edition of the Laws of the Sport of Bowls, on April 1, 2015, the National Officiating Committee (NOC) has been asked for further information and interpretation on two different laws. These have been considered by the NOC and are discussed below.

1. What is measuring?

Law 23.3 states that no measuring is allowed during an end, before the process of deciding the number of shots scored starts. Measuring is defined as the use of any equipment placed between the jack and bowls to decide which bowls are shot. Measuring equipment, as described in law 54, is one example of equipment that is not allowed to be used prematurely; however, no other equipment or objects are permissible either. Equipment such as score cards, mats, bowls lifters, etc., are not allowed to be used. It is also not permissible to measure during an end by placing a foot or a hand between the jack and any bowls. The cross finger method, which is typically done in the air above the jack and bowls, is acceptable and is not considered to be measuring.

Law 23.3 also includes a penalty for any team that measures prematurely. If a player measures during an end, before the process of deciding the number of shots scored begins, the defaulting team will lose the right to play any of their remaining bowls, and their opponents will deliver all of their remaining bowls.

To summarize, measuring is considered to be the placement of any measuring equipment, object or body part between the jack and any bowl.

2. Can skips mark the center line of the rink with chalk?

Law 49.13 states that the center line of each rink can be marked between the 2 metre mark and the "hog line." In some instances, officials will chalk the centre lines of the rinks, but this is only done for major events.

When there are no center lines marked, some skips will use their chalk to draw dots or short lines in front of and behind the jack, after it has been delivered and centered. This is acceptable practice as it does help to speed up the game with the centering of the jack in subsequent ends. These marks are not considered to be objects on the green and do not violate the provisions of law 34.

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