



TK Bowls – Bowling Guides

Guide No. 4

Lawn Bowling Glossary

Bias

bias is the amount of curve that a bowl will take during its course to the jack. Bowls are available with several different biases for use in different conditions and competition.

Blocker

a blocker is a bowl played to a position that restricts the opposition from getting to the target.

Draw

the term draw can have several meanings in bowling. As a noun it can refer to the type of shot being played. A "dead draw" is an attempt to deliver the bowl as close as possible to the target (generally the jack).

Dead end

a dead end is one where the jack has been moved outside the boundaries of the rink by a bowl in play. In normal competition dead ends must be replayed.

Deliver/delivery

deliver is the term used for rolling a bowl. The delivery is the action of delivering a bowl.

Drive

a drive is type of shot in bowling where the player delivers the bowl with maximum force toward the target.

End

an end of bowls comprises the placing of the mat, the delivery of the jack and the playing of all the required bowls of all of the opponents in one direction on the rink.

Firing

when a player intentionally delivers a bowl with such weight to disturb the head or to eject the other sides bowls from the head

Head

the head refers collectively to the jack and the bowls that have been delivered and come to rest within the boundaries of the rink.

Heavy

when a player unintentionally delivers a bowl beyond the jack or the intended target it is described as being heavy.

Jack

the jack is the small white ball that is the target in bowls. You may also hear it referred to colloquially as the "kitty"

Jack high

if a bowl is jack high it means that it has reached a position such that its nearest part is laterally aligned with the jack. Effectively it means that the bowl and jack are level.

Toucher

a toucher is a bowl that during its course touches the jack before finishing within the boundaries of the rink. A toucher remains live even if it finishes in the ditch.

Weight

weight is the term used to refer to the power applied to a delivery.

Woods

before the introduction of plastic composition bowls they were made from the heaviest densest wood available. At this time bowls were often called woods and people still use this as a generic term for bowls.

Triples and rinks team positions:

Lead

a lead is the person who plays first in pairs triples or fours (rinks) game. The lead is responsible for setting the mat and delivering the jack to start the end. A lead is responsible at the end of each end ensuring all bowls are at least a metre behind the mat position.

Second

the second in a triples or rinks (fours) game is the player who plays second. In the game of triples the second is also responsible, with his corresponding opponent, for deciding the result of an end, i.e. who is lying the shot and how many shots have been scored

Third

the third is the third player to play in a rinks game. The third is normally responsible, with his corresponding opponent, for deciding the result of an end, i.e. who is lying the shot and how many shots have been scored. The skips however have the final say in this in the event of any dispute.

Skip

the skip is the captain of a team in pairs, triples or rinks play. The skip is always last to play and is responsible for directing the play during an end. The other players in a team must follow the skip's instructions. In the all games the skip is responsible for marking the score card.