



ARTIFICIAL DEVICES POLICY

Related Polices:	Greens Policy.
Responsible Officers:	BA CEO; National Officiating Advisory Group.
Authorities:	BA Board and the Risk, Integrity and Policy Committee.
Applicable Forms:	Nil.
Approved:	Dec 2020
Next Review Date:	September 2021.

CONSTITUTION
BOWLS AUSTRALIA LIMITED
ACN: 076 229 699

20. Board Policies

20.1 Policies

20.1.1 The Board may from time to time as circumstances dictate, formulate, interpret, adopt, make, alter and amend Policies for the proper advancement, management and administration of Bowls Australia, the advancement of the Objects and bowls as it thinks necessary or desirable. Policies must (as far as practicable) be in conformity with the rules and regulations of WBL and must be consistent with this Constitution. Policies are binding on all Members.

20.1.2 The CEO shall bring to the notice of the Board and Members all Policies and any formulation, interpretation, amendment, alteration and repeal of them. Member States are obliged to draw such notices to the attention of Members in their States. Notices are binding upon all Members.

20.1.3 All Policies and regulations of the Company in force at the date of the approval of this Constitution insofar as such policies and regulations are not inconsistent with, or have been replaced by this Constitution, shall continue in force under this Constitution.

1. PRINCIPLE

The Bowls Australia philosophy is to allow access to our sport to as many participants as possible and ensure an inclusive atmosphere from club to elite level. We must also ensure that bowlers (regardless of any requirement of a wheelchair or artificial device) must not damage the playing surface during play.

2. POLICY

- 2.1 The Laws of the Sport of Bowls Crystal Mark 3rd Edition, Version 3.1, April 2019 Law 41.1 under the heading of 'Players with disabilities' states that "Wheelchairs should be of a type approved by both World Bowls and the Governing Body for wheelchair bowlers in the country in which the player is playing" (in this case Bowls Australia in conjunction with Wheelchair Sports Australia Lawn Bowls).
- 2.2 Law 41.8 states that Member National Authorities can approve the use of artificial devices for delivering the jack or bowl such as a Bowlers Arm.

3. SPECIFICATIONS

3.1 Wheelchairs

- 3.1.1 The large and usually rear tires (pneumatic or soft rubber slicks), must have a minimum width of 45mm. Tires must be smooth "slicks" or inverted tread tires.
- 3.1.2 The most suitable tires for the small or front wheels are 200mm x 50mm with a pneumatic tire or soft rubber "slicks".
- 3.1.3 Castors, made of nylon or polyurethane are becoming increasingly popular and can also be used for front wheels. The recommended width of these should be a minimum of 75mm. It is a requirement that the edges, if sharp, must be rounded off.
- 3.1.4 If there are any doubts about tire tread, duct tape can be placed over the tire to provide a smoother surface as a temporary or precautionary measure.
- 3.1.5 The above guidelines are intended 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 appropriate. To further ensure there is no undue damage to the green, players should ensure a wide circle is taken when turning their chair on the green. In the event of a dispute, the Greenkeeper and or Controlling Body / Tournament Director / relevant Official shall be the final decision maker.
- 3.1.6 The use of an electric wheelchair encompasses the above guidelines and measurements, with the additional consideration of the weight of the chair. This is of particular importance for the care of the surface where the green is wet or experiencing another unusual circumstance.

4.1 Walking Frames

4.1.1 Walking frames can be used provided the frame does not cause damage to the green. To eliminate damage that may be caused to the green, the frame must comply with the following:

4.1.1.1 Preferably wheels of 45mm and pneumatic as applied to wheelchairs or wide wheels that are smooth and without tread.

4.1.1.2 If the frame has “feet”, each one must have its own base covered with rubber or similar material. The base should measure at least 76mm across.

4.1.2 Players are not to sit on their frames while on the green unless each “foot” and wheel complies with the specifications above.

5.1 Bowlers Arms

5.1.1 “Bowlers Arms” have been successfully introduced into the game to allow persons with a physical restriction or impairment that would otherwise prevent them from playing the game the opportunity to play, or continue to play, bowls. There are various types of bowlers arms approved for use in Australia.

5.1.1.1 Each device is manufactured in several lengths and release mechanisms. Only approved arms (with a BA logo as part of the National Merchandising Program) can be used in Australia. Modifications are not permitted (with exception to the rubber grip on the bottom of the arm which may need to be replaced as it wears out.). For a list of approved bowlers arms refer to the Bowls Australia website at <http://www.bowlsaustralia.com.au/Club-Assist/Approved-bowlers-arms>.

5.1.2 If a player is using a bowlers arm that is not approved, the player becomes a defaulting player as per C.2 (definitions) and will forfeit the game as per C.10 (definitions).

5.1.3 A player may use any number of approved bowlers arms during trial ends for suitability. Once a game has commenced, the designated brand or style of bowlers arm chosen by the player must stay the same during the match.

5.1.4 Whenever a player commences using an approved bowlers arm in a game, the player must use it for the remainder of that game. This does not apply to the rolling of the jack, which can be rolled either by hand or by a bowlers arm.

5.1.5 A player cannot alter/change the brand or style of approved bowlers arm during the course of a game except in such circumstances where the device is rendered unplayable and in this instance, the player may change to another approved brand or style of bowlers arm on approval by the umpire or controlling body.

5.1.6 Challenge on appeal to an umpire or controlling body regarding a bowlers arm could occur before the trial ends or up to 10 minutes after a game (but not during the game) as similar to Law 52.4.3 and 52.4.4. 2.