

# Crowborough Wolfe Bowling Club

## 2025 - Marking Etiquette



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### Foreword

Marking in lawn bowls is a great way to get a better grasp of the sport's rules and help out during games. This guide covers the basics of marking, including etiquette, equipment, positioning, communication, and keeping score.

- **Why Marking Matters:** Marking helps you understand the sport better and is especially useful during club competitions.
- **What You Need:** Keep it simple with chalk spray, a box measure, wedges, a pen or pencil, a coin, a wristwatch, and a scorecard holder.
- **Where to Stand:** Stand 2 metres behind and to the side of the jack, and make sure you don't block players' views or move when they're about to bowl.
- **Answering Questions:** Only answer questions from the player who has the rink, and keep your answers short and accurate.
- **Handling Bowls:** Don't move any bowls except dead ones, and let bowls entering the ditch fall naturally.
- **Finishing an End:** Stay out of the head while players decide the result, and only measure if asked.
- **Calling the Umpire:** Call the umpire for close measurements, unclear jack lengths, or rule clarifications.
- **Keeping Score:** Make sure the scorecard is filled out correctly with players' names, scores, signatures, and the game's completion time.
- **Tips for Markers:** Present yourself well, carry minimal equipment, know how to measure accurately, and be familiar with the rules to ensure smooth communication and time management.

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“Marking” is something that we actively encourage all bowlers to try – not only does it help you to understand the laws of the sport in more detail, but it will also help you during games where you are called on to mark or adjudicate. Indeed, it helps any club to have a number of markers, particularly when internal competitions are played.

I'll cover the basics of marking in lawn bowls and it's not detailed or comprehensive. It will however give you enough to be able to mark and answer the necessary questions. You'll find detailed guidance in the official rule book - **Laws of the Sport Crystal Mark Third Edition (Version 3.1)**. If you are uncertain about anything including the rules of bowls just ask me or call in an umpire if available. Don't forget that it is possible that local competition rules apply, as they do at our club.

## Your Equipment

Carry the minimum equipment with you on the green. Normally you will only need the following items:

- Chalk spray and / or chalk
- A box measure
- Three or four wedges
- A pen or pencil - essential for completing the scorecard (a pencil is better if it is raining)
- A coin to start the game or start of sets
- Wrist-watch with a second hand or digital second timer
- Scorecard in a scorecard holder

Don't carry items that could easily be displaced or will be a distraction, especially mobile telephones. You'll also find a lot of extra equipment in our CWBC umpire box.

## Where to Stand During the Game

After you have checked the mat is centred and the jack has been delivered, centre the jack & check the length is legal. If in doubt measure the length.

You should not obstruct a player's view of any legal markers they may use on the bank; however, you should be in a position where you can view and act upon anything that happens at the head

The ideal position is 2 metres to the rear and 2 metres to one side of the jack

Remember not to move when a player is on the mat ready to deliver their bowl

Ensure that you are alert at all times and try to anticipate questions so that you have answers ready.

## Questions about the Head

Only answer questions to the player in possession of the rink. You must answer specific questions, do not answer questions that have not been asked. However, you should provide enough information to avoid further questioning and to avoid misleading the player. Equally do not elaborate too much and do not give the player instructions.

## Moving Bowls

Never move any bowl except for the one declared 'dead' – these should be removed before the next bowl is delivered. Do not stop or catch bowls which are about to enter the ditch, even it looks as though they may disturb another bowl or the jack in the ditch. Let them fall – ensuring that you know the position of any bowl or jack that would need replacing if it were to be moved.

## Completion of an End

It's important to keep out of the head while the players decide the result. Both players should agree the result. Under NO circumstance should a marker move a bowl at the completion (real or perceived) of an end.

If you are asked to measure ensure that you know which bowls you are being asked to measure, and request the players remove, where practicable, all bowls not in contention. Don't measure unless asked.

Have wedges to hand if there is a leaning bowl that may be in the count. If a measure is too close to decide, players can measure or call in an umpire. If no umpire is available, an experienced marker can be asked to measure, and the decision of an umpire or acting umpire (experienced marker) is final.

Only indicate the bowl you believe is shot after completing your measure. DO NOT move it as the players may wish to call in the umpire for confirmation.

## Calling in the Umpire (or experienced marker) during a match

You should call an umpire when:

- using a box measure you cannot decide which bowl is shot
- a jack may have been cast less than 23 metres and you need to assist the umpire in using the 30 metre tape
- You are dealing with very fine margins which require callipers, feeler gauges etc.
- the bowl may have been cast less than the required distances from the mat line (short block) and you will need to assist the umpire in using the 30 metre tape
- a rebounding jack may have come to rest less than 20 metres when measured in a straight line from the centre of the mat line. You need to assist the umpire in using the 30 metre tape
- a bowl may be outside the boundary of the rink
- clarification is required on the rules of the game.

## Scorecards

Make yourself familiar with the game (agreed ends) and the layout of the card before the game starts. Use a scorecard holder if you are comfortable carrying them during a game. Otherwise keep the card securely in a pocket. Try not to have the scorecard poking out the top of a jacket or shirt pocket.

Ensure that the players' names are entered correctly on the card, do this when you introduce yourself to the players. Be familiar with each player's woods and each player's side of both the scorecard and scoreboard. Record the score at the completion of each end played. Make sure that the scoreboard and the scorecard are aligned

Check every three ends or so to ensure that the scorecard has been accumulated correctly.

## At the End of the Game

When the game has been completed, thank both players, congratulate the winning player and commiserate with the loser. Check the scorecard contains the correct scores, the total is entered at the bottom, the scorecards contains the names and signatures of both players and the time at which the game was completed

## Challengers and Opponents

It's worth mentioning that:

the **challenger** is the player/team that arranges a match and is the first named in a draw

the **opponent** is the player/team that receives the challenge and the offered dates / times to play.

## Simple Marking "Do's and Don'ts"

### DO

- Stand on the side of the rink away from the sun so that your shadow is not cast across the head. Be aware of the head on the next rink to try and avoid casting a shadow on their head
- Stay on one side of the rink whenever possible
- Keep the same position in relation to the jack on each end where possible
- Keep still and quiet, unless required to mark a toucher, check the head or answer a question
- Be alert, decisive and unobtrusive
- Respond to a player courteously while ensuring that your conversation does not distract their opponent
- Make adjacent rinks aware of any imminent drive, and use them to contain bowls as necessary.

### DON'T

- Obscure the rink boundary markers or the centre marker
- Stand directly behind the jack
- Leave the confines of the rink unless necessary, e.g. do not stand on the bank
- Move or fidget (especially with the score card)
- Engage in conversation with others (scoreboard turners, officials, spectators or the players) unnecessarily
- Answer questions from players that are not in possession of the rink.

As with everything "Practice Makes Perfect". During our internal marking courses, we set up sample rinks and challenge markers to consider the rules that need to be applied. By setting up a jack and bowls, it helps is to try to judge distances, and we introduce some of the lesser-known rules in order to ensure that we are as up to date as possible with the laws of lawn bowls..