



MEMORANDUM

TO: STA umpiring committee chairperson

CC: STA executive officers

FROM: Mark Cowan – BA national officiating director

DATE: Tuesday, July 26, 2011

RE: **Laws Clarification**

Since the introduction of the Laws of the Sport – CM 2nd Edition in January 2011 there have been several instances where the interpretation of some laws has been questioned. I have endeavoured to clarify the intent of these laws in a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) format as shown below.

Law 8.1.9 Set of bowls

Can players use two bowls each from the same set of bowls in a fours game?

Yes. The law states each player should play with the appropriate number of bowls from the same set. In this instance, the two players (from the same team) using the same set of bowls meet the criteria of using two bowls for a fours game. This also applies if the players are on different teams – the difference in this case being that the bowls will be differentiated by the use of adhesive markers (stickers).

Law 46.2 Absentee players in a side game

How long after the scheduled starting time is a player allowed to arrive at the game?

The law states that a player has 30 mins. It also states that if the Controlling Body (CB) wishes, it can reduce this time but notification of a reduced time allowance must be communicated through the Conditions of Play (CoP) for that particular event.

A player advises they will be late to the game (for example because of an appointment) and doesn't arrive until one hour after starting time. If no eligible substitute is available can they join in the game when they arrive?

No. If no eligible substitute is available once the 30 mins (or sooner) expires then play should continue under law 46.2.2 and the player cannot rejoin the game when they arrive.

A carload of four players (in the same team) are in an accident on the way to the game and they don't arrive at the game at all. What can the rest of the side do?

Providing the side game is based on 4 rinks of 4 players (16) then the remaining 12 players can disperse into the 4 rinks (playing one person short) and law 46.2.2 applies.

During a pennant game, Player A (in one of the teams) falls sick at the 8th end. No eligible substitute is available so the team draws a line on the card, invokes law 46.2.2 and continues playing albeit with one player short. At the 20th end, Player A feels better and wants to rejoin the game. Can they do this?

No. There is no provision in law 46.2.2 for a player to rejoin the game so once law 46.2.2 is invoked a team must continue this way until the end of the game.

- *Remember, these scenarios are only when a substitute cannot be found....*

DR 4.1.3 Intended player

If Player A enters a team on an entry sheet for a triples event on the noticeboard two weeks before entries close and a few days later replaces Player C's name with Player D. Is Player D a replacement player?

No. A replacement player only takes the place of an intended player from the time that the entry is lodged (closing date) until the game commences. In this instance, the closing date hasn't arrived yet so players entered on the sheet on the noticeboard are not yet intended players by definition.

DR 4.6.4.2 Intended team receiving a bye

When does an intended team receiving a bye in the first round become constituted?

An intended team receiving a bye in the first round of a competition will become a constituted team when their opponents, who are playing in the first round, deliver their first bowl in the first round.

So if two teams have matched byes in the first round of a competition, when do they become constituted?

If intended teams have matched byes in the first round of a competition they will become constituted when each player in that team has delivered a bowl (as per law 4.6.1) in the second round.

Law 37.1.9 Skip's duties – Keeping the scorecard

Does the skip have to keep the scorecard?

Yes. The new laws stipulate that the skip (as part of their duties) will now keep the scorecard in all disciplines.

Why did this change occur?

Previously the law said the second in every discipline should keep the scorecard (skip in pairs, middle in triples and second in fours). During the World Bowls law review in 2010, many countries wanted to revert back to the skip in triples keeping the scorecard, like it was prior to 2006. To this end, the WB laws committee then decided to keep the law uniformed, declaring the skip would keep the scorecard in all disciplines.

Can the skip delegate this duty to their second?

No. Under normal circumstances this is not an option (see the limited occurrences where this is possible over the page).

What if a skip refuses to keep the scorecard?

If the umpire identifies either by their own observation or when called upon by an opposition player that a skip is not keeping the card – should initially request the skip to keep the card in accordance with law 37.1.9. If the skip still refuses, then the umpire can deem the skip a defaulting player (law 1.3.3) and the penalty is a forfeited game (law 1.3.10).

What if the skip has a physical/mental condition/ailment which prevents them from keeping the scorecard?

As per the World Bowls website (Laws committee decisions), World Bowls does not want to see anyone disadvantaged from playing the sport. Therefore, in a circumstance where a physical/mental condition/ailment restricts a person from keeping a scorecard, World Bowls has no objection for a suitable, pragmatic solution being introduced to ensure play can continue/commence. To this end, some states/territories have set up a database where a card will be issued (similar to a bowlers arm) to allow certain bowlers who apply for dispensation to delegate the scorecard. Certainly common sense should always prevail in certain circumstances where a skip cannot keep the scorecard.

If the second for team A and the skip for team B has each kept a scorecard and finds at some stage during the game that the scores are incorrect and the umpire is called, what can the umpire do?

As the law states the skip must keep the scorecard, the umpire (if the two skips can't agree to the score) must take the score of the skip who kept the scorecard as being correct.

Does this change put extra pressure on the skip when they already have enough to do – tactics, provide instruction to players, etc?

No. This is purely a procedural change on who keeps the scorecard. This does not affect the tactics, game plans, etc of a skip during a game.

Can the second turn the scoreboard?

No. Domestic Regulation 3.4 states the skips between them should keep the scoreboard updated at least every second end. There is no provision for the second to turn the scoreboard every alternate end to the skip. However, common sense should again apply if nearing the completion of a game and the scoreboard needs to be updated every end so the overall board shows the correct scores (similar to when the skips would do it when the second kept the scorecards over the concluding stages).

Who can turn the overall scoreboard?

Anyone can turn the overall scoreboard – a player, skip, playing/non playing manager, appointed spectator, etc.