



The forgotten replacement player

The new law book arrived in January 2011 with great fanfare and a promise to clear up any confusion that may have been caused by the previous version.

Regardless of this promise there is still confusion in the simplified version of Domestic Regulation 4 – replacement and substitute players.

The alteration has so simplified this regulation that the “replacement” player has virtually no place in the law.

Law DR4.1.4 states that a “replacement player is one who is appointed to take the place of an intended player prior to the start to the start of the competition for a reason accepted by the controlling body”.

The replacement player can only be introduced pre-competition (PC).

That is after the team has been accepted as a nomination at the close of entries and before the playing of the first round.

After the team has been constituted there is no mention of using a replacement player during competition (DC).

If one takes the time to read Law 16.3.2 ‘Domestic Events’, we see in this law that “the controlling body can also decide on the regulations for introducing reserve or replacement players to take the place of players who cannot play in any round after the first round.”

This law would appear to be referring to the replacement of “constituted players”, which is in conflict with Law DR4.

However, we are advised that DR4 takes precedence over law 16.3.2.

The Controlling Body may only use the options offered under law 16.3.2 if it decides that is ESSENTIAL in order to successfully carry out its championship.

A situation could arise where a player dies during the playing of a club championship or prior to or during the playoff for the Champion of Champions event.

The question then arises can the team have a substitute? – The short answer is “NO”; a substitute is a member who acts as a proxy for an intended player or a constituted player in a team.

A proxy can only be used for a “live” person (no explanation needed).

So how do we rectify the problem?

The controlling bodies of club/district and state should have in their Conditions of Play that under law 16.3.2 in the event of a death of a constituted player in a team, a replacement player may be used.

Only one replacement player is allowed in the team at any time.

Footprints in the sand

Next time you are on the green take special notice of how the green keeper has presented the medium in the ditch.

You should find it has been raked smooth and without indentations.

There is a reason why the ditch is prepared this way.

At a later time on the same day take another look at the ditch

and more than likely you will see human footprints in the medium or sand.

On a synthetic green the medium in the ditch will consist of some synthetic material, while sand is used on turf greens.

The surface of the sand in the ditch is prepared in this manner to allow a jack and/or toucher to come to an immediate stop when entering the ditch.

Any compaction of the medium as a result of a footprint could cause the jack or toucher entering the ditch to deviate from its initial entry position.

Furthermore after stepping into the ditch and returning to the green the sand from the ditch ends up on the surface of the green which creates problems for the green keeper when he is mowing.

The sand is very abrasive and makes the mower cutting blades blunt, increasing maintenance cost.

To enable the ditch to be utilised to its full potential, don't put your foot in the ditch and smooth out any indentations after removing any bowls or the jack.

Adhesive (stick on) stickers or decals – Law 8.1.8

There are three parts to a sticker – the outer “big ring”, inner “small” ring, and the centre dot or bulls eye.

Law 8.1.8 states that the controlling body can supply adhesive stickers to fix to both sides of

their bowls or allow players to use their own stickers.

Law 8.1.8.2 states there should be only one such sticker to either side of the bowl.

This means that a player cannot have two or more stickers on each side of his bowl at the same time.

Law 8.1.8.3 advises that on the bias side the distinguishing marks can be covered with the bulls eye or the player can use the small ring BUT cannot use both at the same time.

So in summary a player in a team game can individually choose whether to use the small ring or bulls eye on the bias side of their bowl UNLESS the Conditions of Play state otherwise (big and small rings only).

Law 8.1.8.4 also advises that “all bowls belonging to players within a team or side should have these markings on them and that the markings should all be the same design and colour”.

This means if four players from four different clubs decided to play in the State Fours Championship as a team and they decided to use stickers on their bowls, the stickers would all have to be the same, that is, they each could not use their own club stickers.

