

**POLICY TITLE: ARTIFICIAL DEVICES POLICY**  
**POLICY CLASS: GENERAL**



**POLICY:**

The Laws of the Sport of Bowls – Crystal Mark Second Edition, Law 38.1 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). Further, Law 38.6 states that Member Nation Authorities can approve the use of artificial devices such as bowlers arms.

**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. That being said, we must also ensure that all users (regardless of any requirement of a wheelchair or artificial device) should ensure the green is not damaged during play.

**SPECIFICATIONS:**

**Wheelchairs:** the large and usually rear tyres (pneumatic or soft rubber slicks), should have a minimum width of 45mm. Tyres must be smooth “slicks” or inverted tread tyres, for example a standard ‘BMX tyre’.

The most suitable tyres for the small or front wheels are 200mm x 50mm with a pneumatic tyre or soft rubber slicks.

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 further recommended that the edges, if sharp, must be rounded off.

If there are any doubts about tyre tread, as a temporary or precautionary measure, duct tape can be placed over the tyre to provide a smoother surface.

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.

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.

**Bowlers arms:** There are currently three types of bowlers arms approved for use in Australia. They are known as the “Drakes Pride Arm”, the “Bionic Bowler Arm” and

the “DHB arm”. Each device is manufactured in several lengths and release mechanisms. Only approved arms (with Bowls Australia codes) can be used in Australia. Modifications are not permitted.

An affiliated member must gain approval to use an artificial device (bowlers arm). A medical certificate stating that the affiliated member requires the bowlers arm to continue to participate in lawn bowls must accompany the approval form.

**RELATED POLICIES: Nil**

**RESPONSIBLE OFFICERS:**

- **Development manager**
- **National Officiating Director**

**REVIEW DATE: January 2012**