



VISION FOR UMPIRING

Updated: October 2014

***“UMPIRING IS THE KEY TO ENSURING THAT THE
LAWS OF THE SPORT ARE ADHERED TO AT ALL
LEVELS OF PLAY”***

UMPIRES PLAN

This Umpires Plan has four major goals:

1. Recruit and maintain an adequate number of Umpires to officiate at all levels of play.
2. Maintain the number of Umpires on an annual basis.
3. Maintain a strong communication link with Regional and Centre Umpire groups.
4. Prioritise the training of tutors and mentors by critical selection and appointment.

These goals are supplementary to achieving the Bowls New Zealand Strategic Objective of being recognised for its people being best in class and critical to the success of Bowls NZ.

UMPIRE GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

The continued development of Umpires is fundamental to the improvement of bowls.

The Umpires governance structure consists of the Bowls NZ CEO and the Bowls NZ Umpires Committee (BNZUC) who will provide leadership and guidance to Regional and Centre Umpire groups.

The key tasks are outlined below:

Bowls New Zealand CEO

- To provide leadership to the Bowls NZ Umpires Committee and to Chair Committee Meetings.
- Ensure there is a database of active Technical Officials/Umpires retained by Bowls NZ.
- Promote the Umpires Pathway.

Bowls New Zealand Umpires Committee (BNZUC)

- To provide national leadership in the area of Umpiring and to promote the Umpires Pathway.
- To provide Leadership on Umpire issues to Regions and Centres. Each Member of the Committee will be designated a number of Centres to liaise with.
- To support Regional Committee and Centre Umpire Associations/Centre Umpire Sub Committees with recruitment and the advancement of Umpires through the pathways and in developing umpiring capability.
- Oversight and administration of the annual umpire accreditation and examination process including the Level 2 accreditation process.
- Ensure that World Bowls approved training resources are available and used.
- Review and update education programmes and re-accreditation procedures for use by Centres.
- Identification, approval and training of all Tutors who oversee Umpire training and development.
- Identification of suitably qualified Technical Officials and Umpires for International, National & Regional events.
- Ensure that newly accredited measurers, law umpires and Umpires receive a congratulatory letter and a badge, ribbon or certificate as appropriate.
- Provide information for an Umpiring Section on the Bowls NZ website with up to date information on personnel, courses, resources, law and measuring questions and exercises.
- Regional forums for Centre Umpire Leaders and Tutors will be held biennially.
- Ensure that there is a national data base of Measurer, Law and Full Technical Officials/Umpires which will include details of: Name, Centre, Original date of accreditation, Present level, Date of accreditation at present level, Date re-accreditation due, Email address/contact details, gender.

Centre Umpire Association and Centre Umpire Sub Committees

- Provide support to the BNZUC and assist with the development and implementation of programmes and strategies.
- Identifying people who have an interest in becoming a Law Umpire, Measurer, or Full Umpire.
- Identifying Umpires suitable for advancing through the pathway levels.
- Re-accrediting Level 1 Measurers, Law Umpires and Full Umpires as their accreditation period expires.

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- Conducting regular umpire meetings locally or jointly with other Centres to maintain or improve knowledge of the laws of the sport and domestic regulations.
- Appoint Umpires for centre fixtures.
- Ensure Measurers, Law Umpires and Full Umpires maintain their appointment logs and have received updated information on the Laws of the Sport.
- Have a Centre plan focusing on recruitment/retention/development
- Have a Buddy system in place for new umpires
- Provide a mentor for Umpires who request assistance.

Resources

Laws of the Sport of Bowls and Domestic Regulations -

- Crystal Mark edition of the Laws of the Sport.
- Domestic Regulations produced by Bowls NZ.
- Lawn Bowls Manuals published by Bowls NZ for Match Committees.
- Bowls NZ Strategic Plan and Values document.

Training material -

- Bowls New Zealand Umpires Handbook.
- Measurement Exercises Booklet,
 - A fifteen exercise programme produced by World Bowls for measuring.
- Notes for Tutors,
 - A comprehensive guide to the requirements of the practical exercise programme produced by the BNZUC.
- World Bowls DVD (Measuring and Marking),
 - A professionally presented DVD produced by World Bowls and compulsory viewing for any aspiring and current Technical Official/Umpire.

LEVELS OF UMPIRE’S PERFORMANCE—(PATHWAYS)

LEVEL 1 (Club/Centre Umpire)

Objective: Train and accredit an adequate number of measurers, law umpires and Umpires to officiate at Club and Centre events.

ACCREDITATION

Procedure for Accreditation

Umpire candidates will be sought from suitable people who are full or Life Members of a bowling club.

Level 1 Course

To undergo the level 1 course candidates must be recommended by the Chairperson of the Centre Umpire Association/Sub Committee and submit an application together with the fee set by the BNZUC.

On acceptance of an application to undergo the level 1 course a candidate will be required to maintain an Umpire’s appointment log using the template provided. All subsequent occurrences of officiating at club, centre, regional, national and international events, along with attendances at training sessions, umpire meetings and the successful completion of qualifying and re-accrediting law and practical examinations are to be recorded in an individual’s appointment log.

Course Content

The course is comprised of two sections following the curriculum in the *Bowls New Zealand Umpires Handbook*.

Laws

A course of ten units to enable the candidate to obtain the following competencies:

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- Elementary knowledge of the Laws of the Sport of Bowls, current Domestic Regulations and basic draws and charts for competitions.
- Apply the laws of the Sport of Bowls and current Domestic Regulations at club/centre level events when called upon to do so.
- The utilisation of appropriate interpersonal and communicational skills when officiating.

Measuring

Becoming competent in the use of all the equipment in an umpire’s kit by practising the 15 exercise practical programme to enable the candidate to obtain the following competencies:-

- Knowledge of items of measuring equipment and the competent use thereof.
- Make correct and consistent measuring decisions when called upon to do so
- Officiate effectively at club and Centre level.

On completion of the Course, the candidate must obtain 90% in both the oral closed book question examination on the Laws of the Sport of Bowls and the practical ‘on green’ examination conducted by the Bowls New Zealand Umpires Committee.

Self-Management

In addition to the course content as above, the candidates should also:

- Familiarise themselves with the current Domestic Regulations.
- Identify and become familiar with the role of measurers, law umpires and umpires at club and centre events.
- Become competent with preparing and completing competition charts for one and two life systems, section and post section play and sets play.
- Be conversant with the requirement and duties of markers.
- Become competent in preparing written reports on umpiring matters at club and centre levels when called upon to do so.
- Be aware of Bowls NZ values and carry out your role in accordance with them.

Initial Accreditation

Candidates who:

- (i) obtain a 90% pass mark in the practical measurement examination only;
 - (ii) obtain a 90% pass mark in the oral law examination only;
 - (iii) obtain a 90% pass mark in both the practical measurement and the oral law examinations,
- Will initially be accredited as Measurers, Law or Full Umpires as applicable for a period of four years.

On acceptance the Level 1 Umpire will:

- Identify and become familiar with the role of Measurer, Law or Full Umpire (as applicable) at Club and Centre events.
- Officiate and apply the laws of the sport and domestic regulations effectively at Club and Centre level.
- Make correct decisions on points of law and measuring when called upon to do so.
- Resolve disputes between players relating to the laws of the sport and the domestic regulations.
- Utilise appropriate interpersonal and communicative skills when officiating.

Measurers may acquire full umpire status by attending the laws course and obtaining a pass mark in a subsequent laws examination and law umpires may similarly qualify as full umpire by attending the measurers’ course and passing a subsequent practical measurement examination. Reaccreditation (4 years) will be from the date of becoming a measurer or laws umpire as applicable.

Both the oral laws and practical measurement examinations will be conducted once a year at a time suitable to both the BNZUC and Centre concerned.

Re-Accreditation

In order to gain re-accreditation, a measurer, law umpire or a full umpire must:-

- Be recommended by the local umpire committee
- Have attended at least one Technical Officials meeting a year to update knowledge of the laws of the game

- Produce an appointment log or other acceptable evidence to show that the candidate has officiated at club or centre level for a total of at least 40 hours over the preceding four years.
- If a Full Umpire, satisfy the examining panel that they have maintained knowledge of the Laws of the Sport of Bowls by successfully passing by answering several questions of the level 1 re-accreditation assessment question paper set by the BNZUC (but administered by the Centre Umpire Association/Sub- committee) and are still fully competent in the use of all the practical measuring equipment.
- If a measurer satisfy, the Centre Umpire Association/sub-committee examining panel that they are still fully competent in the practical use of all the approved measuring equipment.
- If a law umpire, satisfy the Centre Umpire Association/sub-committee examining panel that they have maintained knowledge of the Laws of the Sport of Bowls by successfully passing the level 1 re-accreditation assessment question paper.

Re-accreditation is required every four years. The recommended process is that the Umpires concerned are brought together and by mutual participation answer ten questions each on the laws and domestic regulations (drawn from the fifty questions supplied by the BNZUC) and complete at least six of the practical exercises from the fifteen practical exercise used.

Level 2 Course (Regional/National Umpire)

Objective: To improve the performance of level 1 Umpires to enable them to qualify to a standard suitable for officiating at Regional and National Events

Level 2 Course

To undergo the level 2 course the candidate must be recommended by the Centre Umpire Association/sub-committee and submit an application together with the fee set by Bowls New Zealand.

The candidate must also:

- Have demonstrated and continue to demonstrate, a high level of competence as a level 1 Umpire.
- Have attended at least one Umpire meeting a year to update knowledge of the laws of the sport.
- Produce an appointment log or other acceptable evidence to show they have officiated at Club/Centre events for a total of at least twenty hours over the preceding two years.

Course Content

This course content is the same as the level 1 course but there will be an additional element on Domestic Regulations and a higher level of competency will be expected. The practical element may well include more complex exercises and there will be less tolerance for errors.

On completion of the course the candidate must obtain a 90% pass in both the oral closed book paper on the Laws of the Sport of Bowls and an ‘on green’ examination conducted by the BNZUC.

On acceptance, the Level 2 Umpire will:

- Be fully competent with preparing and completing competition charts for one and two life systems, section and post section play and sets play.
- Apply the laws of the Sport of Bowls at Regional and National events when called upon to do so: Resolve disputes between players relating to the laws and regulations of the sport; Be fully conversant with the requirement and duties of markers.
- Utilise appropriate interpersonal and communicational skill when officiating.
- Make correct and consistent decisions when called upon to do so.
- Officiate effectively at Regional and National levels.

Self-Management

In addition the candidates should also:-

- Be completely familiar with the Laws of the Sport of Bowls and all Domestic Regulations

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- Be fully conversant of the role of Umpire at Regional and National events
- Become competent in preparing written reports on umpiring matters at Regional and National levels when called upon to do so.
- Fully comprehend the Bowls NZ values and ethics expected of an Umpire.
- Both the oral laws and practical measurements examinations will be conducted once a year at a time suitable to both the BNZUC and Centre concerned. Level 2 examinations will be conducted at the same time as the Level 1 examinations.

INITIAL ACCREDITATION

Initial Registration will be for a period of four years.

RE-ACCREDITATION – LEVEL 2

In order to gain re-accreditation, a Level 2 Umpire must:

- Have attended at least two umpires meetings a year to update knowledge of the laws of the sport.
- Produce an appointment log or other acceptable evidence to show that the candidate has officiated at Regional/National level for a total of at least 20 hours over the preceding two years.
- Satisfy the BNZUC that they have maintained knowledge of the Laws of the Sport of Bowls by successfully passing the level 2 re-accreditation assessment question paper set by the BNZUC.
- Satisfy the BNZUC that they are fully competent in the practical use of all the approved measuring equipment.

Re-accreditation is required every four years and the process will be that those seeking re-accreditation will be examined by a Member of the BNZUC utilising the level 2 examination paper and the practical measurement examinations set annually by the BNZUC.

LEVEL 3 International Technical Officials (ITO)
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Select individuals suitable for officiating at International events

ACCREDITATION

From time to time applications will be sought from existing level 2 Umpires for advancement to level 3.

Applicants must meet the following criteria:

- Have actively participated as a level 2 Umpire for a minimum period of three years. This means an applicant has officiated annually for at least five events for a combined total of at least twenty hours.
- Have officiated in at least two international/national/regional events in the last two years immediately prior to the application.

Applicants will submit details of their previous experience at International/National/Regional levels. They should also prepare for submission (if requested by World Bowls or the BNZUC) documentary evidence that they have officiated annually in at least five events at any level for at least 20 hours in the last two years.

Applicants will sign the application form and a representative of both the BNZUC and Bowls NZ will also sign it to confirm that they consider the candidate to be suitable to be assessed as an ITO.

Applicants seeking accreditation as an ITO will be invited to attend an assessment which will comprise:

- Undertaking a series of measures on an individual basis.
- Undertaking a series of measurements in partnership with a colleague.
- Answering written questions on the Laws of the Sport.
- Marking a singles game.

World Bowls will approve and appoint an assessor to carry out the assessment process on its behalf.

Only the number of ITO's required at any one time will be accredited. The applicants accredited will be the best performers in the assessments (in terms of scores achieved) and provided they reach the base mark.

World Bowls shall maintain a register of ITO's.

LEVEL 4 International Technical Official (ITO) Officiating in World Bowls Events

Level 4 Officiating ITOs will consist of those Technical Officials who have been appointed to officiate at World Bowls events. Status at Level 4 is maintained by a World Bowls appointment within a four year cycle from the most recent appointment.

Technical Officials' Pathway

