

ASK THE UMPIRE – FEBRUARY 2024

Incorrect Jack Delivery issues - Bowls Canterbury Centre events are played according to the Laws of the Sport which requires that if the jack is incorrectly delivered by the first player to play in an end, then it should be re-delivered by the opposing team/player. If the jack is incorrectly delivered a second time, then the jack is placed on the 2m mark, AND the mat can be replaced by the first player. Placing the jack and replacing the mat in this case can happen in any order. This means there is NO PLACING OF JACKS after the first incorrect delivery at Centre events.

Markers duties – with respect to bowls from neighbouring rinks. Markers DO NOT LIFT OR ROLL BOWLS at any time. If a bowl from a neighbouring rink is in danger of contacting bowls on the rink the marker is working on, the Marker MUST stop the bowl and return it to be re-delivered. The reason for this is that the Marker is a **neutral person** and not actually part of the game and is therefore not entitled to alter any part of the head on their rink of play.

Lifting Bowls vs. Stopping Bowls – There is ongoing confusion about who and when bowls can be lifted or stopped. To clarify this issue the following information is provided for players.

Simply – players have control of the head on their own rink of play. If a bowl from a neighbouring rink is in danger of contacting a bowl on your rink of play, then you can CHOOSE to either lift the bowl(s) on YOUR rink to allow the neighbouring rinks bowl to pass OR STOP the bowl from the neighbouring rink and return it to be re-delivered.

The restriction players must adhere to is that they CANNOT step onto a neighbouring rink to lift or roll bowls to allow their own bowl to pass – in this case their only option is to ask the players in control of the neighbouring rink to ‘WATCH YOUR HEAD’. If the bowls then make contact on the neighbouring rink, they should be returned to the player on your rink to be re-delivered.