



Laws *for* Indoors

After the record summer we have experienced in the northern hemisphere this past few months, it seems a shame that we have now moved indoor and await the dark mornings and evenings. Having returned from the Gold Coast in April it hardly seems like the weather changed from those balmy conditions for the rest of the summer here. I hope that you have all enjoyed the weather on the bowling greens and have the brown legs and arms and red noses to show for it.



Above: The indoor season is about to kick off and there are some new rules to be aware of

As we start the long winter season in the northern hemisphere, it is important to remember a ground-breaking event that happened at the end of April when the World Indoor Bowls Council changed its name to the International Indoor Bowls Council (IIBC) and moved to affiliate with World Bowls Limited, the sport's global governing body.

Whilst on the face of it we may all just carry on playing our bowls thinking this agreement has no relevance to our Friday night leagues, it actually means a change to the Laws relating to Indoor Bowls that used to be played under the umbrella of the WIBC.

This agreement means that now there is just one set of Laws for Indoor and Outdoor codes of the flat green game worldwide – the Laws of the Sport of Bowls Crystal Mark Third Edition. The IIBC Constitution reflects this change as follows:

21 LAWS OF THE SPORT GOVERNING BOWLS

- a) The Laws of the Sport of Bowls as approved by World Bowls Limited shall be observed in all International Games and Matches and in all World Championships and Tournaments held under the auspices of the International Indoor Bowls Council.
- b) Should a Member National Authority wish to rescind, amend or add to the Laws of the Sport of Bowls, the request must be submitted by a delegate from a Member National Authority, or by an authorised Subcommittee to any General Meeting. If the submission is approved by the meeting it will be forwarded to appropriate World Bowls Limited Committee for discussion.

The reality is that not only do Umpires only need to learn one set of laws but the confusions caused by law changes at the start and end of the indoor season no longer exist.

So what exactly are the changes that will affect you? Simply put; you will now be playing exactly the same game through the whole year be it indoor or outdoor. I will not bore you with the minute details of every change as I would hope that there is a copy of a law book in each of

your bowls bags! But just in case you haven't invested in a copy, the Laws to look out for are:

- Prior to delivery you must be standing on the mat – walking or running deliveries are not permitted indoor.
- Displacement of Bowls and Jack Laws now cover a wider range of scenarios and some that were not covered by the previous indoor laws.
- Probably the most notable is the second player is no longer responsible for the scorecard as that duty is now taken by the skip. It is up to the individual national governing bodies to request an amendment if they wish the second player to mark the card.
- The majority of Sets Play rules are set by governing bodies in the Conditions of Play for their own competitions. The Laws of the Sport now cover Sets Play and any re-spot requirements by default.

So, not a great deal of change from what you should be used to outdoors. Umpires should all be familiar with the Crystal Mark edition of the Laws and so will be able to advise accordingly during your games during this coming indoor season.

Right: The Golding measure



BOWLS STREAMING

Finally, I have enjoyed watching live coverage of bowls from around the world this summer.

I believe this year more than ever we have been fortunate enough to take advantage of the global social media technology.

It is possible for anyone with a mobile phone or tablet to film a game of bowls from anywhere in the world live on social media.

The concept is booming, and I have enjoyed the little 30 second snippets of a great shot from Hong Kong to a full two hour match from the Australia Open.

It really has opened up the world of bowls.

Of course, what we now need is for more governing bodies to take this up seriously and harness the power of the interweb.

Bowls Australia certainly seem to be leading the way with their high definition broadcasting from a whole range of events almost on a daily basis. If you follow a particular top player then this is an excellent way of keeping up with their results.

I look forward to seeing more coverage during our indoor season and of course the summer delights from the southern hemisphere.

Below: Live coverage of bowls around the world must be the future, but it is not currently offered by Bowls England at Leamington

Can you identify this measure?



Unusual measure

I was recently contacted by an umpire colleague, Steve Cossier. He had taken possession of an interesting measure that I had never seen before. He was given this item, when he qualified as an umpire, by an older member of his club. The owner said it had belonged to her father and had no information about its origin or use.

I have been trying to find out a little more information about this object but have so far drawn a blank. Both Steve and I would be interested to hear from anyone who

has seen, owned or used one of these contraptions.

First impressions are that it looks and would operate like the modern Golding Measure, shown on opposite page, which is popular in the Southern Hemisphere. Without sounding like a broken record, I would always shy away from equipment that is placed over, and surrounds, the jack as there is a high risk of movement.

Does anyone have any ideas? Would be great to hear from through via the magazine.

