

Putney Tennyson Bowling & Community Club

Barefoot Bowls



Bowls is a sport in which the objective is to roll slightly asymmetric balls, called bowls, so that they stop close to a smaller—normally white—bowl called the "jack". Bowls, either flat- or crown-green, is usually played outdoors, on grass and synthetic surfaces. Flat-green bowls can also be played indoors on synthetic surfaces. Both variants are collectively known as "lawn bowls".

Bowls belongs to the boules sport family, and so is related to bocce and pétanque. It is most popular in Australia, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, and in other Commonwealth nations.

History:

Dating back to origins in ancient Egyptian times, "Bowls", "Bowling on The Green", "Bocce", "Lawn Bowling" has been around for several thousand years.

Historians suggest the game made its way from Egypt across Europe with Julius Caesar's centurions.

At that time, and still today among Italians, the game was known as "bocce". By the 13th Century, "bowls", was entrenched in the British Isles. At the turn of the century,

1299 AD, the Southampton Old Bowling Green Club was organized in England. The club remains active today, the oldest on record in the world.

In the 14th Century, bowls was banned for commoners in France and England because, due to its popularity, participation in archery, essential for defence, was declining. In Scotland the game continued uninterrupted, a favourite among even such legendary notables as Sir Walter Scott and Robert Burns. In Glasgow today 200 public bowling greens are in operation, including some enclosed greens for winter play.

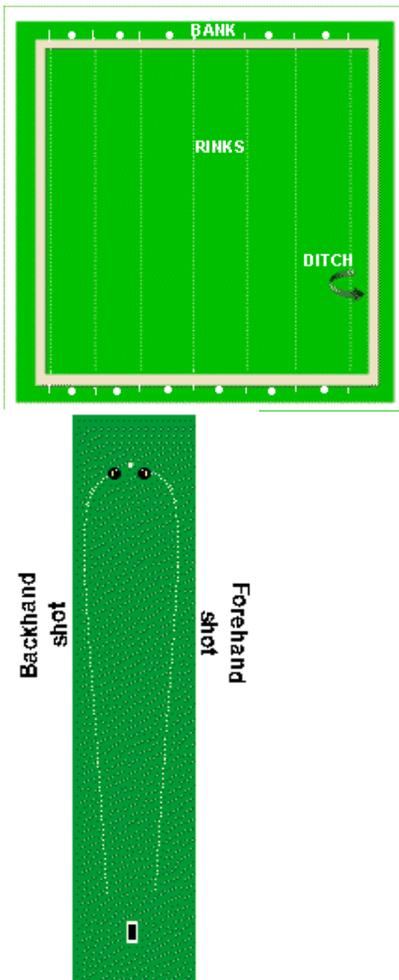
Today's rules, the flat lawn, and even a dress code, seem to derive from the Scottish. Over time, the waves of Scottish emigrants took their game with them and established clubs in many countries.

Rules:

The bowling green is normally square and surrounded by a shallow ditch. The green is divided into a number of 'rinks', allowing for various games to be played at the same time.

Lawn bowls are not spherical, they are shaped on one side such that they follow a curved track to the jack. They carry a mark to indicate to which side the bias is applied (the side with the smaller symbol/icon). Always keep the small icon on the inside of your delivery.

It should be decided before play commences, how long the game will go for. This can be determined by a time limit, a number of 'ends' (sets), or first to score 'x' amount of points. Usually in bowls it is first to 21 points, however you can decide to play however you like.

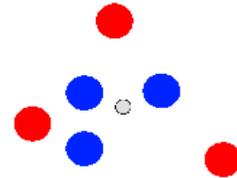


Lawn bowls can be played in teams (2,3 or 4 players) or as singles. Teams toss a coin to decide who bowls first. The winner of the coin toss decides where to play the mat then rolls the jack. The jack must land at least 23 metres from the front of the mat.

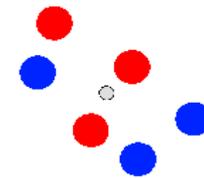
Teams then take turns to deliver (roll toward the jack) their bowls, trying to get their bowl to rest closest to the jack. Once all bowls have been delivered, the first 'end' (set) is complete and points can be determined.

The winning team is the team that has the closest bowl to the jack. Points are determined by the number of bowls from the winning team closest to the jack.

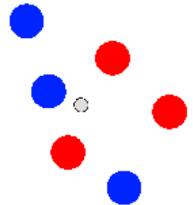
Examples



3 to blue



2 to red



1 to blue

All bowls must remain within the boundary, bowls that go into the ditch **without** touching the jack or out the side boundary, are considered 'dead' and are not counted when scoring.

The jack can be moved by bowls during play. When a bowl moves the jack it is left in the new position (provided it remains in bounds). If the jack is knocked into the end ditch it should remain there and players must try to deliver their bowls as close as possible to the jack, while remaining on the green (without falling into the ditch).

A bowl which moves/touches the jack before falling into the ditch is called a 'toucher' and remains 'alive'. Touchers can be counted when scoring.

Once points have been determined, teams then start a new 'end' (set) bowling back the other way.

Please be aware of other groups around you and do not throw the bowls, you are playing lawn bowls not shot put.

Have fun and if you have any questions don't hesitate to ask the bar staff.