

Possession of the Rink

(Excerpts from the Laws of the Sport of Bowls - 2015)

13 Possession of the rink

13.1 Possession of the rink will belong to the player or team whose bowl is being played.

13.2 As soon as each bowl comes to rest, possession of the rink will transfer to the opposing player or team after allowing time for marking a toucher as soon as it comes to rest.

12 Position of players

12.1 In relation to the rink of play

12.1.1 Players at the mat-end of the rink who are not delivering a bowl must stand at least 1 metre behind the mat.

12.1.2 Players at the head-end of the rink and who are not controlling play must stand:

12.1.2.1 behind the jack if they are members of the team which is in possession of the rink;

12.1.2.2 behind the jack and away from the head if they are members of the team which is not in possession of the rink;

12.1.2.3 on the surrounds of the green if the jack is in the ditch; or

12.1.2.4 well clear of the head if it is not possible to stand on the surrounds.

12.1.3 As soon as a bowl is delivered, a player who is controlling play from a position that is either level with or in front of the jack, must take their position as described in law 12.1.2.

Head: The jack and any bowls which have come to rest within the boundaries of the rink of play and are not dead.

Interpretation

- 1. At the moment** your team's bowl comes to rest, **you must be behind the jack and away from the head**, after allowing time to mark a toucher.
- Once your team's bowl comes to rest, you are not permitted to "take a peek" or to examine the head in any way **except from a position behind the jack and away from the head**. (Remember that the head includes the jack and all bowls in play). You are also not permitted to answer questions (e.g., "Am I shot") until you regain control of the mat.
- At the mat-end of the rink, when the delivered bowl comes to rest, the player must have moved behind the mat or, if the player runs after the bowl, the player must be behind the head when the bowl comes to rest.
- When team mates are walking from one end of the rink to the other, **the team that is not in possession of the rink must not pause in the middle for a discussion**.
- It is incorrect to assume that it is okay to ignore these rules or that your opponent won't mind if you "just have a quick look" when not in possession of the rink.