



DUTIES OF A MARKER

Summary from BA *Officiating Manual: Marker, Measurer and National Umpire*

Primary Role

Your primary role is to facilitate the game by undertaking the following tasks:

- Conduct the toss of the coin to determine which player has the mat at the commencement of the game and at the start of the tie breaker (if required) – winner may give the mat away.
- Centre the jack at the start of each end
- Mark 'touchers' before next bowl stops or remove old chalk
- Place obvious 'dead bowls' on the bank – players to decide line bowls/jack or call umpire
- Position marker(s) on the bank indicating where the jack/bowl is in the ditch, mark circle in the sand
- If jack leaves confines of rink – end to be replayed or re-spot the jack at the 'T' (see Conditions of Play)
- Answer the players' questions regarding the state of the head
- Update the scorecard at the completion of each end
- Update the scoreboard at the completion of every second end

Preparation

- Prior to the game ensure you have the following:
- A coin
- Scorecard
- Pen
- Chalk/spray chalk
- A bowls measure
- Knowledge of the Conditions of Play applying to the event
- Permission from players to remove obvious "dead bowls"

Where to stand

At the start of each end, stand between the 2m mark and the ditch until the jack slows, make sure the mat is on the centre line, centre the jack and check that the jack is 21m from the mat line. You may question the length to the players or call an Umpire if you think it is short.

During the game, stand 2m behind and 1m to the side of the head; ensure that all rink markers are visible to the players; watch your shadow doesn't impede view of the head. It is better to move to the other side rather than stand on the bank.

On a drive bowl, move to 2m in front of the head for a clear view of changes to the head and moving bowls.

During play, remain still and focus on the game; watch for signals/questions. Don't be distracted by spectators/other rinks.

What to say

Anticipate answers to questions so you are ready with a prompt reply. Answer questions only *from the player in possession of the rink* accurately and concisely without giving more information than is asked for. Give common sense answers. If asked "Am I 2 down?" The reply could be "No. You are 1 up". If you cannot decide who has the shot, don't guess - indicate a measure. Whenever possible, use hand signals to indicate distances/information. Show position of bowls/jack if asked.

What to do

In addition to the other tasks outlined, ensure that you protect the head on your rink by stopping a bowl/jack from an adjacent rink that is likely to disturb the head. Let the players determine whether a bowl/jack is outside the rink boundaries. Also, let bowls fall into the ditch, and then remove them if they are not 'touchers'. Measure disputed shots if requested by players but an Umpire may still be called.

Keeping score

Stand 2m forward of the head and wait until the players mutually agree on the end score and then record it on the scorecard. To avoid problems, it is good practice to confirm the score and give players the sub total. At the completion of each game, complete the scorecard and record the time. Ask both players to sign the completed scorecard, then sign it and hand to the Bowls Organiser.

And thanks for marking. Singles matches are far more enjoyable when competently marked.