

ESMBA Short Mat Bowls Laws of the Game June 2023 Amendments Summary

A. THE EQUIPMENT | (3) THE DITCH AND FENDER | (b)

Before June 2023:

(b) The fender shall be coloured white and shall be of rigid timber construction with the fixed return ends being 90o to the back rail. It MUST NOT be covered with any type of material.

Since June 2023:

(b) The fender shall be coloured white and shall be of rigid timber construction with the fixed return ends being 90o to the back rail. It MUST NOT be covered with any type of material. **The fender must not be fixed to the mat.**

B. THE BOWLS | (1) GENERAL | (a) and (c)

Before June 2023:

(a) Bowls shall not exceed 134mm (5¼") or be less than 114mm (4½") diameter and shall not exceed 1.59kg (3½lb) in weight.

(b) Loading of bowls is strictly prohibited.

(c) Coloured discs or stickers may be used to identify team or club bowls and for this purpose they shall be classed as part of that bowl. The placing of a number of stickers on top of each other will render that bowl illegal.

Since June 2023:

(a) Bowls shall not exceed 134mm (5¼") or be less than **112mm (4¼")** diameter and shall not exceed 1.59kg (3½lb) in weight.

(b) Loading of bowls is strictly prohibited.

(c) Coloured discs or stickers may be used to identify team or club bowls and for this purpose they shall be classed as part of that bowl. The placing of **more than one sticker** render that bowl illegal.

B. THE BOWLS | (3) DEAD BOWL | (a)

Before June 2023:

A bowl is dead and MUST be removed from the rink mat if

(a) it is delivered from a foot fault position or,

Since June 2023:

A bowl is dead and MUST be removed from the rink mat if

(a) it is delivered from a foot fault position **that is called** or,

ESMBA Short Mat Bowls Laws of the Game June 2023 Amendments Summary

C. THE JACK | (7) JACK OFF THE MAT |(c)

Before June 2023:

(c) In games of less than 10 ends, each team may knock the jack off the mat twice only before incurring a penalty.

Since June 2023:

A bowl is dead and MUST be removed from the rink mat if

(c) In games of less than 10 ends, each team may knock the jack off the mat twice only before incurring a penalty. **The penalty being 3 shots.**

E. THE PLAYERS AND THEIR DUTIES| (1) THE SKIP |(d) and (e)

Before June 2023:

(d) They may remain at the head end until it is their turn to bowl. They may visit the head when in possession of the rink mat but may not carry their bowl beyond the nearest dead line. Any bowl carried beyond the dead line will be declared dead and must be removed from the rink mat.

(e) It will be the responsibility of the Skip to call foot faults whilst at the delivery end. (See also Law D9).

Since June 2023:

(d) They may remain at the head end until it is their turn to bowl. They may visit the head when in possession of the rink mat. **Any bowl carried beyond the dead line will be declared dead and must be removed from the rink mat.**

~~(e) It will be the responsibility of the Skip to call foot faults whilst at the delivery end. (See also Law D9).~~

F. PLAY INFRINGEMENTS | (8) LEAVING THE RINK MAT |(b) and (d)

Before June 2023:

(b) If during a team game a player is forced to leave the game through illness or any other just cause, their place may be taken by a substitute if both captains agree.

(d) Should the opposing team captain not agree to the playing of a substitute or should there not be a substitute available, the game will continue with the missing player being classed as the Second.

Since June 2023:

(b) If during a team game a player is forced to leave the game through illness or any other just cause, their place may be taken by a substitute **if both captains agree.**

~~(d) Should the opposing team captain not agree to the playing of a substitute or should there not be a substitute available, the game will continue with the missing player being classed as the Second.~~

ESMBA Short Mat Bowls Laws of the Game June 2023 Amendments Summary

APPENDIX 2 - EQUIPMENT AND LINE MARKING SPECIFICATIONS | THE BOWLS

Before June 2023:

Min Diameter 114mm (4.5")
Max Diameter 134mm (5.25")
Max Weight 1.59kg (3.5lbs)

Since June 2023:

Min Diameter 112mm (4.25")
Max Diameter 134mm (5.25")
Max Weight 1.59kg (3.5lbs)

APPENDIX 3 - THE DELIVERY AREA | NOTE

Before June 2023:

The delivery lines, the visible ditch line and the delivery mat lines do not form part of the hatched legitimate delivery area.

Since June 2023:

The delivery lines, the visible ditch line and the delivery mat lines do not form part of the hatched legitimate delivery area. The fender should be at the front of the ditch line.

APPENDIX 5 - GUIDELINES FOR BOWLERS WITH BOWLING DIFFICULTIES | (7) USING A SUPPORT

Before June 2023:

Where a stick or other support device is used to enable a bowler to maintain balance, the stick/support may be placed outside of the delivery lines. Also, if necessary, the back foot may be off the side of the delivery mat but the front foot must be within the delivery lines. All other ESMBA rules apply.

Since June 2023:

Where a stick or other support device is used to enable a bowler to maintain balance, the stick/support may be placed outside of the delivery lines. The back foot must be on or over the delivery mat and the front foot must be within the delivery lines. All other ESMBA rules apply.