

The Club Umpire

The Club Umpire is one who officiates at Club events, and, if required, at Pennant games in which the Club is participating at their home venue. The duties are explained in Law 56 of the Rulebook, but there is an expectation that an Umpire will make-the-effort to become familiar with the domestic regulations under which the events are being conducted.

Bowls Australia provides Domestic Regulations (see back of Rulebook), Bowls Victoria provides Rules for Competition and Conditions of Play for their events and clubs should clearly define their conditions for club events. These conditions may change on a regular basis and as such the Umpire should make the effort to keep up to date with these changes.

There is an Umpires Handbook produced by Bowls Australia, which is designed to assist those wishing to become accredited as Umpires, but also provides a sound guideline for an Umpire to refresh their skills once accredited.

NOTE: At this stage BV and Regions publish the Conditions of Play on their websites, and Umpires are expected to download them when they are appointed to these events.

Club Support:

There are a number of ways that a Club should provide support for their Umpires so that they will re-accredit and remain as umpires.

1. The clubs should pay the fees for accreditation and re-accreditation, encourage umpires to attend refresher courses, and provide Rulebooks, Umpire Manuals and BV Conditions of Play.
2. The clubs should encourage members to become Umpires so that they have an adequate supply for their needs and ensure that each Umpire is appointed to their share of events.
3. The clubs should appoint a Umpire's Co-ordinator to assist in above, to ensure that each Umpire receives any Law, Domestic Regulation or Conditions of Play changes, and be a reference between the Umpires and the club's committees. The co-ordinator should liaise with the club's Match committee to develop conditions of play for club events and Tournaments, and appoint umpires, when required, for these events and Pennant.
4. The club should provide adequate equipment for their Umpires to perform their duties.
5. A club should present certificates and badges at club functions and generally recognize the achievements of their umpires.
6. Clubs should encourage their Umpires to participate at Regional and State level, and support them as best they can in the decisions they make.

NOTE: Just like all volunteers in a club, Umpires should be recognized for their contribution and achievements.

Playing Umpires:

While it is desirable that club's appoint non-playing Umpires for events, it is most likely that clubs do not have sufficient umpires to accommodate this. As a result there are a number of problems that may arise when an Umpire is playing in the event to which they have been appointed.

1. **having to adjudicate on their own rink** - the Umpire should indicate that they are the Umpire of the day, and will act with neutrality in any decision, if there is no other Umpire available.
2. **umpiring on a number of greens** - the Umpire should ensure that it is made clear that they are playing on a green, and players on other greens may need to be patient if they require a decision. It is advisable in this case to have a 30m tape available on each green for the players to measure any disputed length.
3. **not being able to observe actions not on their rink or green** - the Umpire should seek out observers of any dispute, listen carefully to the versions presented, and act accordingly without seemingly biased.

The Club Umpire plays an important role in club events and Pennant and should receive the total support of the club's committees. They have a responsibility to enact the Laws of the Game in an impartial way and act professionally to earn the respect of the participants in the game.