



POLICY TITLE: ARTIFICIAL DEVICES POLICY

RELATED POLICIES:	Nil
RESPONSIBLE OFFICERS:	General Manager Bowls Operations National Officiating Committee Education and Training Coordinator
AUTHORITY:	Chief Executive Officer
APPLICABLE FORMS:	Nil
APPROVED:	May, 2014
NEXT REVIEW DATE:	May, 2017

1. PRINCIPLE

- 1.1 The Bowls Australia philosophy is to allow access to our sport to as many participants as possible and ensure an inclusive atmosphere from club to elite level. That being said, we must also ensure that all users (regardless of any requirement of a wheelchair or artificial device) must not damage the green during play.

2. POLICY

- 2.1 The Laws of the Sport of Bowls – Crystal Mark Second Edition, Law 38.1 under the heading of ‘Players with disabilities’ states that “Wheelchairs should be of a type approved by both World Bowls and the Governing Body for wheelchair bowlers in the country in which the player is playing” (in this case Bowls Australia in conjunction with Wheelchair Sports Australia Lawn Bowls). Further, Law 38.6 states that Member National Authorities can approve the use of artificial devices such as bowlers arms.

3. SPECIFICATIONS

3.1 Wheelchairs

- 3.1.1 the large and usually rear tyres (pneumatic or soft rubber slicks), should have a minimum width of 45mm. Tyres must be smooth “slicks” or inverted tread tyres, for example a standard ‘BMX tyre’.
- 3.1.2 The most suitable tyres for the small or front wheels are 200mm x 50mm with a pneumatic tyre or soft rubber slicks.
- 3.1.3 Castors, made of nylon or polyurethane are becoming increasingly popular and can also be used for front wheels. The recommended width of these should be a minimum of 75mm. It is further recommended that the edges, if sharp, must be rounded off.
- 3.1.4 If there are any doubts about tyre tread, as a temporary or precautionary measure, duct tape can be placed over the tyre to provide a smoother surface.
- 3.1.5 The above guidelines are intended for use in all conditions, however in the case of particularly wet greens or other unusual circumstances, consultation and a common sense approach between the wheelchair user and club administrator or greenkeeper is appropriate. To further ensure there is no undue damage to the green, players should ensure a wide circle is taken when turning their chair on the green.
- 3.1.6 The use of an electric wheelchair encompasses the above guidelines and measurements, with the additional consideration of the weight of the chair. This is of particular importance for the care of the surface where the green is wet or experiencing another unusual circumstance.

4.1 Walking frames

- 4.1.1 Walking frames can be used provided the walker does not cause undue damage to the green. To eliminate damage that may be caused to the green, the walker should comply with the following:
 - 4.1.1.1 Preferably wheels of 45mm and pneumatic as applied to wheelchairs or wide wheels that are smooth and without tread.
 - 4.1.1.2 If the walker has feet, each foot must have its own base covered with rubber or similar material. The base should measure at least 76mm across.

- 4.1.2 Players are requested not to sit on their walkers while on the green unless each foot and wheel complies with the specifications above.

5.1 Bowlers arms

- 5.1.1 Bowlers arms were brought into the game initially to allow persons with a medical condition the opportunity to play or continue playing bowls. There are currently three types of bowlers arms approved for use in Australia. They are known as the “Drakes Pride Arm”, the “Bionic Bowler Arm” and the “DHB arm” (in three models). Each device is manufactured in several lengths and release mechanisms. Only approved arms (with a BA logo as part of the National Merchandising Program) can be used in Australia. Modifications are not permitted (with exception to the rubber grip on the bottom of the arm which may need to be replaced as it wears out.).
- 5.1.2 Challenge on appeal to an umpire regarding a bowlers arm could occur before the trial ends or up to 10 minutes after a game (but not during the game) as similar to law 8.4.3.
 - 5.1.2.1 If a player is using a bowlers arm that is not approved, the player becomes a defaulting player as per law 1.3.3 and will forfeit the game as per law 1.3.10.
 - 5.1.2.2 If a player is using a bowlers arm that is approved but does not have approval to use one, the player becomes a defaulting player as per law 1.3.3 and will forfeit the game as per law 1.3.10.
 - 5.1.2.3 If a player is using an approved bowlers arm but does not have an approval card/certificate with them on the day, the player must prove to the controlling body of the competition they have approval to use a bowlers arm from their state/territory association within five working days of the challenge.
- 5.1.3 An affiliated member must gain approval to use an artificial device (bowlers arm). A medical certificate stating that the affiliated member requires the bowlers arm to continue to participate in lawn bowls must accompany the approval form. The choice to use the bowlers arm for any part or all of the game is at the discretion of the user at any stage of the game.
- 5.1.4 A player may use any number of bowlers arms during trial ends for suitability. Once a game has commenced, the designated brand or style of bowlers arm chosen by the player must stay the same during the match regardless if the player uses a bowlers arm intermittently or for the entire game.
- 5.1.5 A player cannot alter/change the brand or style of bowlers arm during the course of a game except in such circumstances where the device is rendered unplayable and in this instance, the player may change to another designated brand or style of bowlers arm on approval by the umpire or controlling body.