



# MEMORANDUM

---

**TO:** STA Chief Executive Officers, State Umpire Chairs

**CC:** Neil Dalrymple – Chief Executive Officer, Tony Sherwill – Chief Operating Officer, National Officiating Advisory Committee, Bowls Australia Staff

**FROM:** Steve Campbell – Education & Training Coordinator

**DATE:** 22 December 2016

**RE:** Law clarification – new bowl design (removal of rings)

---

At the recent World Bowls Biennial Council Meeting the proposed law change from World Bowls' Laws Committee was passed. The full proposed laws change can be seen on seen on page 2.

In short the laws change has now seen the requirement of the large groove rings on the non-bias side removed. These changes will now allow for manufacturers to customise the size of distinguishing marks on the non-bias side of the bowl.

It is important to note that these law changes do not have an effect on how the game is played, nor does it affect the bias of the bowl.

These Law changes are immediately introduced by WB, and will come into effect as of the 1 of January 2017 in Australia.

To ensure the Australian bowls community are aware of this law change Bowls Australia (BA) will be placing this memorandum on the BA website, social media platforms as well as informing all STAs and accredited Markers, Measurers & National Umpires.

Can I please ask that all STAs also make this memorandum available to their members via any communication methods that you may have.

As these Law Changes do not affect how the game is played there will be no re-print of the Laws of the Sport Crystal Mark 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition, however, there will be edits made to the BA's Bowls Rules app.

Law	Proposer	Proposal
See Below	<b>Laws Committee</b>	<p><b>Proposal:</b> The bias side of a bowl is identified by the small grooved rings surrounding its centre and the non-bias side is identified by the large grooved rings surrounding its centre (law D2)</p> <p>The Laws Committee is of the view that the current requirement for large grooved rings surrounding the centre of the non-bias side is not necessary. It proposes, therefore, to revise the laws to remove this requirement.</p>
		<p><b>Rationale:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are only two sides to a bowl. Since the laws require that one side (the bias side) is identifiable by small grooved rings surrounding its centre there is no need to have a means of identifying the other side (the non-bias side).</li> <li>• The removal of the requirement to have large grooved rings surrounding the centre of the non-bias side gives Licensed Manufacturers greater flexibility when deciding the size of any distinguishing marks which are to be placed on that side of a bowl.</li> </ul>
D2  52.1.3          52.1.8.4    53.1		<p><b>Proposed Changes to the Laws - CM3 Edition:</b></p> <p>Bias side of a bowl: the side of the bowl that is the more rounded of the two sides, which is identified by the small grooved rings surrounding its centre.</p> <p>Each set of bowls can carry a player's individual emblem, logo or engraving as a distinguishing mark on both sides of every bowl.</p> <p>52.1.3.1 The distinguishing marks must be the same design and colour but can be different in size.</p> <p>52.1.3.2 The distinguishing mark on the bias side of the bowl must be inside the smallest grooved ring surrounding its centre.</p> <p>52.1.3.3 If there are grooved rings surrounding the centre of the non-bias side, the distinguishing mark must be inside the smallest ring.</p> <p>52.1.3.4 If there are no grooved rings surrounding the centre of the non-bias side, the distinguishing mark must be inside the indentations designed to help the player grip the bowl during delivery.</p> <p>52.1.3.5 As well as the distinguishing marks, each set of bowls can carry a player's name or signature. Imprints on the running surfaces of bowls must be avoided.</p> <p>All bowls belonging to players within a team or side must have these markings on them and the markings must all be the same design and colour. However, players may use markings which are different in size from those used by other players in their team or side where this is necessary due to differences in the sizes of either the manufacturers' rings or distinguishing marks on the bowls.</p> <p>Licensed Manufacturers and Licensed Testers are entitled to imprint the registered World Bowls Stamp on the bias side of bowls. Imprints on the running surfaces of bowls must be avoided wherever possible.</p>