



MEMORANDUM draft

TO: State Umpiring Committee Chairs

CC: NOAG, Tony Sherwill, Peter Hanlon
STA CEOs, STA Operations Managers

FROM: John Roberts – NOAG Chair

DATE: 12 July 2016

RE: **Clarification of Law 23.3**

Please be advised that the World Bowls (WB) Laws Committee (LC) has provided clarification in regard to Law 23.3 and what is permissible to estimate the number of shots prior to the final process of deciding the number of shots as described in law 23.1.

Background: Several member bowling Nations have been seeking clarification in regard to Law 23.3 from World Bowls for some time now. The LC has now provided clarification.

Link: <http://www.worldbowls.com/laws-umpiring/wb-law-decisions/>

Action: NOAG asks that each State disseminates the following LC clarification to their appropriate bodies so that this clarification can be shared amongst all officials, bowlers and Bowling clubs in all States of Australia.

NOAG notes that some mobile phones may have applications which enable concentric circles within a transparent frame to be created. Mobile phones or other electronic devices **cannot** be used for this purpose. As a matter of good practice NOAG suggests that all pre-measures be from waist-height only or well away from the head if making comparisons using feet or other objects. The head must be protected at all times.

As from 12 July 2016, Law 23.3 will be interpreted by umpires and bowlers under the following clarification as provided by the World Bowls Laws Committee.

World Bowls Laws Committee Clarification:

The Oxford Dictionary of English defines 'to measure' as: 'to ascertain the size, amount, or degree (of something) by using an instrument or device marked in standard units'.

As mentioned above, law 23.3 describes measuring as "the use of equipment such as that described in law 54, placed between the jack and bowls to decide which bowls are shot". In a bowls context 'measuring' means deciding which bowl or bowls are nearer to the jack than any of the opponent's bowls – there is no requirement to calculate the distances between the jack and the bowls using imperial or metric units. Therefore, since 'measuring' when used in a bowls context does not mean using an imperial or metric unit to calculate a distance, it is technically 'estimating'.

The equipment described in law 54 is fixed in its length when used to compare the distance of one bowl from the jack with that of another. The phrase 'such as' in the law means that equipment other than that specifically listed in law 54 may be used (e.g. equipment approved by individual MNAs, such as trammels which are approved for use in some southern hemisphere countries). As 'measuring' in law 23.3 means deciding (not calculating) a distance and law 23.3 allows for equipment other than that specifically listed in law 54 to be used, the LC is of the view that the placing of any equipment or other fixed-length object between the jack and bowls to decide which bowls are shot would constitute 'measuring'. The use of such equipment or objects during an end, therefore, would be in breach of law 23.3. Examples in addition to those described in law 54, include equipment used whilst playing the game (mats, scorecards, pens, cloths, bowls lifters and so on) and objects such as a player's foot.

Examples of equipment or objects which, when used during an end, would not be deemed to be in breach of law 23.3 include cross-fingers and devices comprising concentric circles within a transparent frame which are held approximately waist high, and equipment or objects (such as a player's foot) placed alongside or parallel to (but not directly between) the jack and the bowls.

John Roberts

Chair - NOAG