



POLICY TITLE: **DRAFT Greens Protection Policy**

RELATED POLICIES:	Bowls Australia Artificial Devices Policy Bowls Australia Greens Protection Guidelines
RESPONSIBLE OFFICERS:	Chief Executive Officer
AUTHORITY:	Chief Executive Officer BTAS Match Committee
APPLICABLE FORMS:	BTAS Damaging Delivery Report
APPROVED:	October 2025
REVIEW DATE:	October 2028

BOWLS TASMANIA GREENS PROTECTION POLICY

1. PREAMBLE

- 1.1 The Bowls Tasmania (BTAS) Greens Protection policy is designed to uphold the quality and integrity of the greens within the BTAS framework. Key components include guidelines for assessing a delivery, guidelines on the use of videos, procedures for reporting a player if their delivery is deemed to be causing damage to the green, guidance for remediation, guidelines for the use of wheeled devices and actions to be taken following receipt of a report.
- 1.2 BTAS acknowledges that greens (whether grass and synthetic) are the core material assets of clubs and inherently expensive to repair and replace.
- 1.3 This Policy applies to any BTAS sanctioned bowls events.
- 1.4 The intent of this policy is to support clubs in protecting their green(s). The intent is not to single out players for blame or punishment but to help players who require an adjustment to their delivery.
- 1.5 BTAS believes that, through remedial practices when required, most bowlers should be able to continue to enjoy and compete in bowls and that bowls will continue to be a sport for life.
- 1.6 The policy is mandatory for BTAS events and is recommended for adaption and use by its three Regional Authorities and Clubs in Tasmania.

2 ASSESSMENT

- 2.1 To ensure, as much as possible, that an assessment of a player's delivery is consistent, the following guidelines are to be considered:
 - (a) The green speed - a slower than standard green can affect the delivery rhythm and this change in delivery will not be obvious on a standard speed green. Clubs should ensure the speed of the green is measured. If the green speed is not measured, this will lessen the strength of a Damaging Delivery Report (Appendix 1).
 - (b) The surface - similarly, if the surface is compromised (for example, due to excess water from a downpour), the delivery rhythm will change to ensure a bowl reaches the head. If several people are struggling with their delivery for this reason,

protecting the green should be the focus. That is, consider closing the green to protect it rather than allowing play to continue and then reporting players for a damaging delivery.

- (c) The sub-surface - damage to the sub-surface (base) cannot be easily assessed or blame assigned. This should not be the sole reason for reporting a player's delivery. There is no way to determine if the player damaged the green's base with their delivery so other factors should be considered in conjunction with this concern.
- (d) Sound - a delivery that makes an audible sound when the bowl lands is not inherently damaging to a green. If a noise can be heard for any/most bowls that are not smoothly released, the sound the bowl makes should not be considered indicative of a damaging delivery.
- (e) Delivery - a delivery may be assessed for its potential to cause damage if the force of the delivery is deemed to be strong and the bowl is delivered:
 - (i) in a forward motion from higher than 30 centimetres (12 inches) from the ground, or
 - (ii) in a downward motion from higher than 15 centimetres (6 inches) from the ground.
- (f) Mat / Feet - if the foot or mat is twisted with downward pressure on a grass green, this action can "burn" the grass. This action may also be reportable if it is a consistent component of a player's delivery.

2.2 The Umpire or Match Manager may reprimand a player for dropping their bowls onto the green from the bank. This has nothing to do with the delivery of the bowl and is not reportable under this policy. This action is unacceptable, however, and should be addressed immediately it is noticed.

3. GUIDANCE ON THE USE OF VIDEO

- 3.1 It is reasonable to ask a player if they can be "filmed" delivering their bowl. Video will help the player understand what is happening and what may help alleviate the problem.
- 3.2 It is not allowed to film a player without their permission.
- 3.3 Ideally, the video should be taken from both ends of the rink, and it should focus on the setup and delivery of the bowl from the mat.
- 3.4 If a video is taken on a phone not owned by the player, a copy must be shared with the player.
- 3.5 If a video is taken, a copy must be sent to the BTAS CEO only if a Damaging Delivery Report (Appendix 1) is submitted.

4. PROCEDURE FOR REPORTING A PLAYER

- 4.1 If the Umpire, or the Match Manager, observes a player apparently delivering their bowl in a damaging manner, they should complete a Damaging Delivery Report (Appendix 1) and submit it to the BTAS CEO.
- 4.2 The Umpire, or the Match Manager, must not approach the player directly.

5. GUIDANCE FOR REMEDIATION

- 5.1 If a Damaging Delivery Report (Appendix 1) is received, the BTAS CEO will forward the report to the player's club. The club must:
- (a) Initiate remediation with the player (see paragraph 5.3); and
 - (b) Advise the BTAS CEO when remediation is completed.
- 5.2 The player may continue to play in BTAS events while participating in remedial action to correct their delivery action.
- 5.3 Clubs have an obligation to assist bowlers to remedy the delivery action that is deemed to be damaging to a green. To assist a player, the following should be considered by the club:
- (a) Discover how or why the player's delivery may be damaging to a green;
 - (b) Ask the club coach to contact the player and provide some coaching advice;
 - (c) Assist the player to modify their delivery;
 - (d) Discuss with the player options such as using a bowling arm.

NOTE: If the club does not have a club coach, a qualified coach from another club may be asked to assist with remedial action. A list of qualified club coaches is available on request from the BTAS CEO.

6. GUIDELINES: WHEELED DEVICES

- 6.1 Clubs with synthetic surfaces are rightfully concerned with the use of wheeled devices by players and a lack of knowledge as to the technical requirements for the wheels of such devices.
- 6.2 Clubs could void the manufacturer's warranty for their new synthetic green, and face spending significant amounts to remedy problems, if non-approved wheels and tyres are used on wheeled devices on their greens.

6.3 Players with assistive devices must be aware that off-the-shelf walkers and wheelchairs may require an upgrade to their tyres and/or wheels to meet the requirements of the Bowls Australia Artificial Devices Policy .

6.4 In summary, for wheelchairs the following dimensions apply to tyres/wheels:

- (a) Large rear tyres (pneumatic or soft rubber slicks) must have a minimum width of 45mm (50mm is the greens manufacturer's recommendation). Tyres must be smooth "slicks" or inverted tread tires. Duct tape can be placed over the tyre to provide a smoother surface as a precautionary measure.
- (b) Small front wheels should be 200mm x 50mm with a pneumatic tyre or soft rubber slick. A front wheel alternative are castors, made of nylon or polyurethane, and the recommended minimum width is 75mm with sharp edges required to be rounded off
- (c) Electric wheelchairs encompass the above wheel/tyre guidelines with the additional consideration of the weight of the chair and player occupant. This is of particular importance for the care of the surface where the green is wet or experiencing another unusual circumstance.

6.5 Likewise similar rules apply to walking frames used on any green. In summary:

- (a) The walker must have a minimum tyre width of 45mm and be of pneumatic or soft rubber construction and a smooth/slick surface (50mm width is the green's manufacturer's recommendation).
- (b) If the walking frame has "feet", each one must have its own base covered with rubber or similar material and the base of the feet should measure at least 76mm across.
- (c) Players are not permitted to sit on their frames while on the green unless each "foot" and/or wheel complies with the specifications above. Players are not permitted to sit on their frames if greens are wet and susceptible to damage.

6.6 Players must navigate their wheelchairs or walkers in wide circles when turning to ensure no undue damage is caused.

6.7 In the event of a dispute regarding suitability and/or potential damage by wheelchairs and walkers, the Greenkeeper and/or Match Manager or appointed umpire are the final decision makers.

6.8 A player deemed to be damaging a green or using below minimum width tyres on wheeled devices can be retired from the game. A substitute is allowed in this instance.

6.9 Any refusal by a player to retire allows the umpire to default the player, forcing the forfeit of the game, which for a team or side means a forfeit by the full team or side.

7. ACTION FOLLOWING A REPORT

7.1 The club is required to provide a report to the BTAS CEO within 21 days of receiving the Damaging Delivery Report (Appendix 1). The player report must include:

- (a) a summary of actions taken to remedy the player's delivery; and
- (b) a statement that such actions have been successful.

7.2 The player will be ineligible to play in BTAS events for each day beyond the reporting deadline that the player report is not received.

7.3 If remedial action is deemed unsuccessful by the club, the player will not be eligible to play in BTAS events until such time as their delivery action is approved by the BTAS Match Committee.

7.4 If a second independent Damaging Delivery Report (Appendix 1) is received for the same player a review of the player's delivery will become mandatory. The BTAS CEO will refer the second report to the BTAS Match Committee for its attention.



Appendix 1 - Damage Delivery Report

PLAYER/SURFACE DETAILS

The following player is reported for a bowls delivery that has the potential to cause damage to the green in accordance with the Bowls Tasmania Greens Protection Policy.

Player's name: _____

Club: _____

Date of game: ____/____/____ Venue: _____ Rink: _____

Competition being played: _____

Player's Skip: _____

Green surface: _____

Green speed: _____ seconds ☐ Not measured - Estimated to be _____ seconds.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PLAYER'S DELIVERY (If video is available, a description is not required)

Was the player consistently short on long ends? ☐ YES ☐ NO

WITNESSES

Provide the names and phone number of any other witnesses of the alleged action:

Witness 1: _____ Phone: _____ Club: _____

Witness 2: _____ Phone: _____ Club: _____

REPORTED BY:

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Club: _____ ☐ Umpire ☐ Side Captain ☐ Other _____

Date: ____/____/____

Send completed form to: exec@bowlstasmania.com.au

*** This report must be submitted on the day of the alleged action ***