

## WHAT'S BOWLS ALL ABOUT?

The goal of the game is to get more of your team's bowls closer to the jack (the small white ball) than your opponent's on each "end" played. A typical game is 14 or more ends, with an overall running tally being kept at all times to establish the winner. Lawn bowls come in sets of 4, the maximum number of bowls you will roll in one end of a game. (Only 3 bowls each are used in triples and 2 in Rinks - as quadruples is known). The big surprise of the game is when you first pick up a bowl, and feel how heavy it is. Notice that all bowls come in sets with different pictures on each set to identify who the owner is - which is very important when you come to scoring.

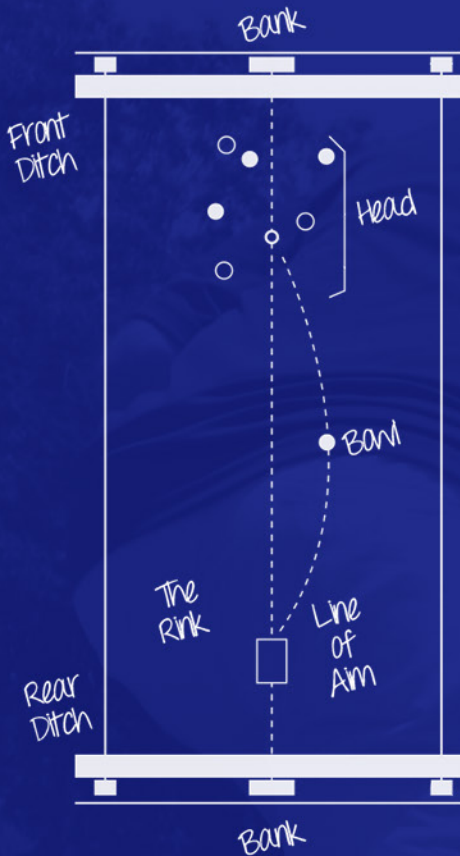


*The Game of Bowls combines the sports of Curling, Darts, Pool, Golf & Bocce. A younger demographic have been hitting the greens to try out the sport and show off their skills. Usually looked upon as an older person's game, this sport has changed gears and is taking off in North America. Some of the best young players in the world are now coming from Canada and the United States.*

**viaSPORT**  
BRITISH COLUMBIA



## Quick Reference.



## It's How We Roll!



# A Sport for All, A Sport for Life!

[WWW.BOWLSBC.COM](http://WWW.BOWLSBC.COM)





## WE'RE LOOKING TO BOWL YOU OVER!

Consider this your introduction to Lawn Bowling or simply "Bowls". The game has been played, in one form or another, for thousands of years, combining strategy, competition, sociability, and affordability, but mainly, a whole lot of fun. It's a simple game to learn - and one that takes a lifetime to master. This handout will provide you a basic outline of the game, as well as some of the signals used in the sport. And because we said this is about a whole lot of fun, some of the definitions may be here for that reason alone. Enjoy yourself and we promise to be gentle the first time. After that, you're fair game. And now, let's go lawn bowl.

## WHAT DO YOU MEAN THE BOWLS AREN'T ROUND?

Bowls are designed to travel a curved path because of a weight bias which was originally produced by inserting weights in one side of the bowl. This is not longer permitted by the rules and bias is now produced entirely by the shape of the bowl. The weighted side has a small emblem on it, and the other side has a larger emblem. You roll the bowl on its smooth area; the area without emblems or markings, keeping the small emblem on the side to which you want it to curve. How much it will actually turn is a factor of how fast you roll it (known as the weight), where you aim it (known as the grass) and the condition of the green. You always try to release the bowl smoothly, aiming at a distinct point which you hope will bring the bowl to rest at its best target position.



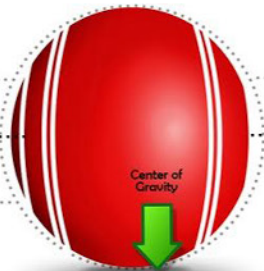
### VIEW FROM THE SIDE (Circular)



LARGE CIRCLE

### EXAGGERATED VIEW FROM THE BACK (Lopsided Oval)

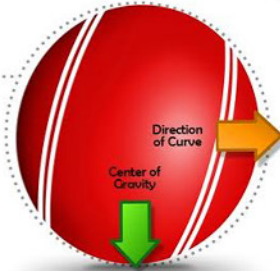
When travelling at speed, the bowl's momentum keeps it in a straight line.



LINE OF TRUE CIRCLE

SMALL DOT Closer to a true circle

As the bowl slows down, it finds its true center of gravity and curves.



Direction of Curve

Center of Gravity

## Common (and a bit of uncommon) Terminology

There are many signs and signals in lawn bowling. You will learn most of them over time but, to get you started, here are some of the basic ones you should know. Alternatives have been provided, purely for your enjoyment. They will not help your game in the least. That takes practice.



### Rink Boundary Indication

Obvious, really. This sign means "The Bathroom is inside and, a bit to the left".



### Heavy ( Over ) Bowl

Most Bowlers are knowledgeable and experienced in a wide variety of areas. This is actually a clue to other past times. It means, "I am also an expert on the yo-yo and, I know how to make people sleep. If you do not, kindly take a hike."



### Centering the Jack

As you will easily discern, there is someone standing behind this person. The person in the foreground is simply indicating that, upon his moving, you should hurl your bowl, with due force, at the interloper. In Bowls, this is called, "Get the guy behind me."



**BOWLS CANADA  
BOULINGRIN**