**Newcastle District Bowling Association**

**Advisory Pamphlet number 031a**

**ADVISE FOR THE NEW PENNANT PLAYER**

**This document has been created in word form so clubs can edit and adjust or add information and logos as required**

**Attention Bowls Co-ordinator, Pennant Manager**

The following document has been designed specifically for you to print out for Pennant debutants. It is just the basics that we all too often forget to tell these newcomers.

It may also serve as a helpful reminder for old stagers who have developed bad habits and for experienced players having their first season as 3rd.

Feel free to add your Club’s logo and edit to suit your own objectives should you wish.

Congratulations on your selection. For many, representing the club as part of a Pennant side is the pinnacle. The competition is as fierce as the camaraderie is strong.

**THE MATHS:** Pennants is a game of simple maths. Your team contests three rinks. Each rink win is worth one point but the combined scores of all three rinks on the Master Board are worth seven points.

Putting that into perspective, if you are going to lose an end, try not to lose by more than two shots as they can easily be covered by the other two rinks each winning by one.

**THE TEAM:** Always remember, you are part of a team of 4 players and a side of 12 players and your active involvement does not end when you have delivered your two bowls. Do not wander off and sit on a bench pondering the fluff in your navel. Talk, Encourage, Participate. However, remember that Leads and Seconds have no place in the head when the shot count is being determined.

The Lead and the 2nd are a team whose job it is to get at least 50% of their bowls (2 out of the 4) within a mat length of the jack, preferably in the keyhole area that is 150mm around the front of the jack extending to an arc a mat length behind.

Between you there are four bowls and if two are in the zone the job’s done.

​**THE LEAD:** The Lead’s job is to deliver the Jack where the skip wants it and then to ideally get two bowls in the Head. The perfect two lead bowls would be one less than 200mm (8”) directly in front of the jack and one directly behind the jack. But no skip will be upset if you have two in the keyhole.

During the trial ends find the true side of the green and then stick to it, bowling forehand in one direction and backhand in the other, unless your skip instructs otherwise.

Short bowls more than 300mm in front of the jack are a no no. You don’t need shot, just two good bowls in the head.

After you have bowled, you stay on the green to hand bowls to your 2nd and 3rd.

**THE SECOND:** There is a basic rule that will hold you in good stead. When your team is holding shot, play wide 300-600 mm past the jack, finishing at or about the extremity of the rear of the key on the same side If your team is not holding shot, play narrow 300-600 mm past the jack, finishing on the other side of the rear of the key”.

A good Second hands his lead each of their bowls before they get on the mat and never takes the mat until the skip has called the shot.

The Second is responsible for the scorecard. After every end compare cards with your opposite number. In home games, if you are on the rink nearest the Master Board your job is to update that board. At away games you double check that it is correct.

**The Third:** Never take the mat without a shot instruction from the Skip. Encourage team performance diplomatically and be prepared to take new bowlers under your wing.

When giving advice to the skip, detail direction, weight and desired outcome. Do not give too much extraneous information. If you are unsure, ask the Skip to come to the Head.

***Overlooked even by the experienced Thirds:*** The Third must be aware of the laws of the game, especially covering the head.

Approved December 2022, to be reviewed December 2023.