

# **The Players' Roles in Team Games**

## **Skip**

In all team games it is the skip's job to direct the play. Other players should play the shot indicated by the skip, even if they disagree with it. In Fours games the 'third' should direct the skip when required to do so. In Triples or Pairs the Second or Lead may do this. Other players should not interfere, unless invited to do so.

The Skip is responsible for ensuring that the score card is filled out properly and that the record of shorts is correct. He may delegate this job to another player, most often the second player, but it must be the same player for both teams, so that cards can be compared regularly.

In fact a skip can delegate any of his responsibilities to another player, as long as he/she informs the opposing skip. For example, he may ask the Third to direct play, while he answers a call of nature.

In the event of any dispute the Skip will have to reach a decision in agreement with the opposing skip. For example, this might be whether a jack is short of the minimum length (i.e. at least 23m from the mat line) or whether a bowl is outside the rink limit.

## **Third (Second in Triples)**

The thirds main formal role is to agree the number of shots scored and measure any that are in dispute. Other players may only assist or offer an opinion if asked to do so. No bowls should be moved until the score is agreed, though it is generally accepted that, to avoid delay, bowls at some distance from the head may be cleared away.

The Third will normally be an experienced bowler and the skip will look to him/her for advice and guidance on the right shot to play and for information on the state of the head, when it is the skip's turn to play.

## **Second (Fours only)**

Often asked by the Skip to look after the scorecard. If this happens, the second should record all the shots correctly and compare and agree with his opposite number as each end is completed. At the end of the game he should return the card to the Skip.

## **Lead**

If his team has won the previous end, the lead should place the mat (front at least 2m from the front of the ditch) and, after the other players have cleared the head, deliver the jack to begin the next end and then ensure it is centred. The skip may leave the choice of mat placement and jack length to the Lead but usually he/she will indicate the jack length and how far the mat should be placed from the ditch. If you have lost the previous end, help to clear the bowls from the head: if pushers are available, it is the normally the losing lead's job to use it to collect the bowls.

In a Pair the lead will also be expected to offer advice to the skip, agree shots with his opposite number and measure when required.