

Preservation of the Green policy

1. Introduction

Our Green is a valuable Club asset and needs to be protected from damage.

The major risk comes from bowls that are dropped onto the Green or are bounced during delivery from a height that results in dents in the Green's surface.

This policy is intended to attempt to minimise any such damage whilst applying an empathetic and common-sense approach to players who have problems with their delivery. Seeking a solution to the issue is of most importance rather than applying penalties.

All members are requested to help assist in operating the policy.

All club members, visiting bowlers, and social players utilising the Green are subject to the requirements of the policy.

2. Definition of a bouncing bowl

Bowls that are repeatedly dropped in the delivery from a height of 15cm or more are considered to have the potential to cause damage to the Green.

3. Taking action during play:

If you notice a player is bouncing their deliveries, the issue should be dealt with immediately.

Communication should be respectful at all times.

3.1 Speak to the player

Addressing the player directly can be delicate. Focus on the rules and the potential damage to the Green, rather than personal criticism. If this does not seem to work, or you are uncomfortable to do this, then:

3.2 Speak to your Skip

Raise the issue privately with your Skip so they can handle the communication with the opposing Skip and player. Your Skip will also decide if the matter needs to be referred to your Team Captain of the day.

3.3 Escalate to Officials

If the matter is unresolved, then in a competition, the presence of the Umpire or other relevant controlling person or body should be requested through the Team Captain.

4. Identification and support for FSBC bowlers who are, may well have, difficulty complying with this policy

4.1 Individual bowlers who are having difficulty delivering their bowl smoothly from a height of less than 15 cm are urged to seek assistance from one of the Club Coaches.

4.2 As regards any player referenced by a member to the Bowls Committee for poor delivery, or otherwise deemed to be having a delivery problem, then such member will be approached and requested to seek coaching assistance to help them make the correction.

4.3 Various techniques could be considered:

- 4.3.1 Videoing the delivery to identify the nature of the problem
- 4.3.2 Changing the stance, at the point of delivery, so that the bowl is released low enough
- 4.3.3 Using a support stick with rubber base to assist with balance
- 4.3.4 Using an approved bowling arm. The club has some to lend members for trialling.

5. Failure to comply

A member unable to correct their delivery problem, after all else fails, may be denied access to the Green.

6. External liaison

Match Captains need to ensure, some weeks before play, that their opposite number is aware of our policy, thereby hopefully avoiding any issues on the day.

Peter Sunderland

Club Captain