

Lawn Bowling Glossary

Term	Definition
Bias	Bias is the amount of curve that a bowl will take during its course to the jack. Bowls are available with several different biases for use in different conditions and competitions. As part of the manufacturing process all bowls are tested against "Master Bowl", which defines the limits of this bias
Burnt End	A burnt end is one where the jack has been moved outside the boundaries of the rink by a bowl in play. In normal competition burnt ends must be replayed
Deliver	Deliver is the word used to describe rolling a bowl. The delivery is the action of delivering a bowl. A bowler with a good delivery can be compared to a golfer with a good swing.
Draw	The term Draw can have several meanings in bowling. As a noun it can refer to the type of shot being played. A "dead draw" is an attempt to deliver the bowl as close as possible to the target (generally the jack). It can also be used as a verb. You may hear a skip issuing an instruction such as, "Just draw to the jack".
Drive	A Drive is type of shot in bowling where the player delivers the bowl with maximum force toward the target.
End	Bowls are played from one end of the green to the other alternately. An "end" of bowls comprises the placing of the mat, the delivery of the jack and the delivery of all the bowls of all the players in one direction on the rink.
Guard	A Guard is a bowl played to a position that restricts the opposition from getting to the target.
Head	The Head refers collectively to the jack and the bowls that have been delivered and have come to rest within the boundaries of the rink..
Heavy	When a player unintentionally delivers a bowl beyond the jack or the intended target it is described as being "heavy"
Jack	The jack is the small white ball that is the target in bowls. You may also hear it referred to colloquially as the "white", the "kitty" or the "sweetie".
Jack High	If a bowl is "jack high" it means that it has reached a position such that its nearest part is laterally aligned with the jack. Effectively it means that the bowl and jack are precisely equidistant from the mat.
Lead	A lead is the person who plays first in pairs triples or fours (rinks) game. The lead is responsible for setting the mat and delivering the jack to start the end.
Line	The line (or road) is the curved route taken to the jack. E.g. "You are a metre short but your line was good."

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Second	The second in a triples or rinks (fours) game is the player who plays second. In the rinks game the second is normally responsible for marking the score board.
Short	A bowl that does not reach the jack or the intended target is described as being "short".
Shot	Shot can have several meanings. The shot or shots are the number of points scored in an end. It can also mean the type of delivery, e.g. a drawing shot, and during an end, it can be used to describe the bowl that is currently nearest the jack.
Skip	The skip is the captain of a team in pairs, triples or rinks play. The skip is always last to play and is responsible for directing the play during an end. The other players in a team must follow the skip's instructions.
Third	The third is the third player to play in a fours (rinks) game. The third is normally responsible, with his corresponding opponent, for deciding the result of an end, i.e. who is lying the shot and how many shots have been scored. The skips however have the final say in this in the event of any dispute.
Toucher	A "toucher" is a bowl that during its course touches the jack before finishing within the boundaries of the rink. A toucher remains live even if it finishes in the ditch. A toucher is indicated with a chalk mark drawn on the running surface.
Weight	Weight is the term used to refer to the power applied to a delivery.
Woods	Before the introduction of plastic composition bowls they were made from the heaviest most dense wood available, Lignum Vitae. At this time bowls were often called Woods and some people still use this as a generic term for bowls.