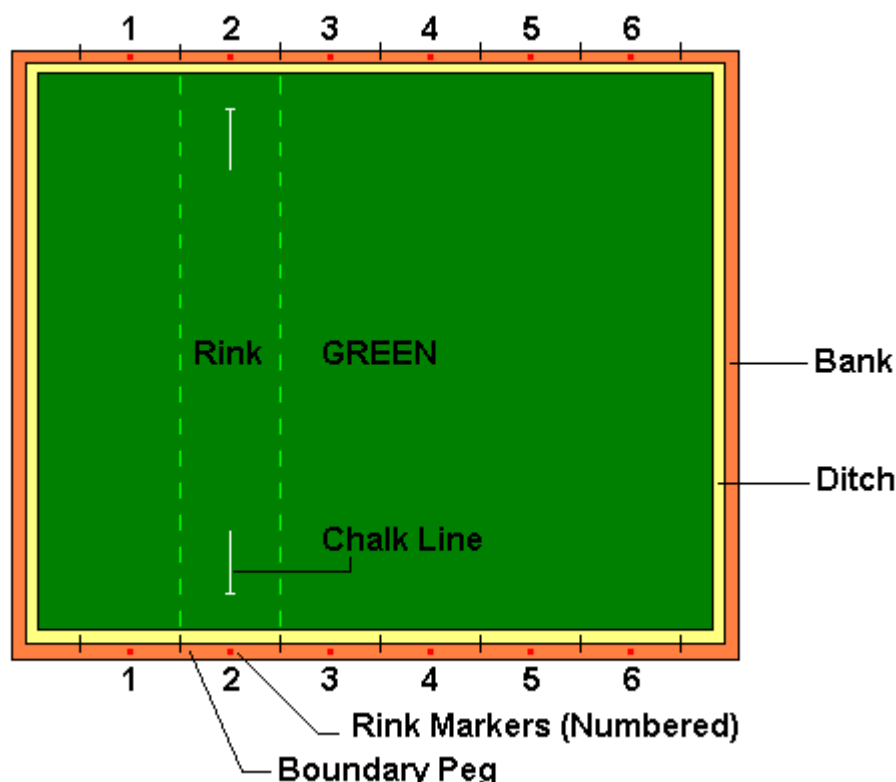


Bowls for the Novice

The Green

Generally a bowling green is a sunken square covered by finely mown grass or a synthetic surface like carpet and surrounded by a “ditch” and a wall called a “bank”. The minimum length of the green is 31 metres from the rear ditch (the end you play from) to the front ditch (the end you play to).



A green is divided into playing rinks allowing a number of individual games to be played concurrently. Normally there will be 6 rinks on a green, each with a number marker placed centrally and boundary pegs at either end. A chalk line shows the centre of the rink on the playing surface and is drawn from a tee piece at a point 2 metres from the ditch at each end.

Greens are the life blood of bowling clubs and it is very important that they are cared for and respected. Players must wear proper bowls shoes whenever they are on the green. They must not drag their feet or drop (dump) their bowls on the green as this will cause damage.

The Game

Games of bowls are played as Singles (one against one) or in team events as Pairs, Triples or Fours.

The object of the game is to get more of your bowls closer to the jack (a small white ball) than your opponent. You or your team score points (called shots) for each bowl you have closer to the jack than your opponent's closest bowl.

In team games, one player from each side is designated as the Lead. When it is determined which side will commence play (it varies but usually by toss of a coin), the Lead places a mat along the centre chalk line and rolls the jack to the other end of the rink. There is a minimum distance which must be covered (21 metres) but that aside, wherever the jack stops it is repositioned centrally in the rink and play commences with the Lead who rolled the jack bowling the first bowl.

Play continues with the Lead of the opposing side bowling the next bowl and then further bowls are delivered by each team in turn until all bowls are complete. At this point scores are agreed and this designates the completion of an "end".

A game may consist of a predetermined number of ends or may continue until a set score is reached by one side, or may be ended after a set time.

Competition

Bowls can be played at a purely social level where you join a fellow member or group of members for a "roll up" or nominate to play in club social events.

Alternatively (or in addition) you may wish to play in organised competition, either within your club, at other clubs where open invitations are extended for certain events, in competition between clubs (like the weekly pennant series), or even in state wide events.

Depending on how keen you are, it is likely that you could find a game of bowls to play in somewhere in the metropolitan area on any day of the week.

Equipment

To play bowls you will need:

A set of four bowls (\$500-600 for new bowls or maybe \$200 for a good used set)
Bowls shoes (\$50-\$100)

To play in organised competition you will need:

Club coloured trousers or shorts (\$50-\$80)
A club shirt (\$60-\$70)