

RINK DUTIES

Lead

Has responsibility for setting the mat and "casting" the jack to the required length indicated by the Skip. In certain matches may have to "toss" for possession of the jack. In other matches the Skip will do this. Success is achieving shot for your rink. Care must be displayed not to react to an opponent's good wood by attempting to increase the weight to make contact with it. This shot should only be contemplated if requested by the Skip.

Number Two

Success is in consolidating the results achieved by the Lead and in positioning woods to the Skip's instructions. Strategic woods placed by a number two can often win a match. Also home number two is responsible for maintaining the scoreboard at the relevant end.

Number Three

In charge of the "head" when the Skip's turn to bowl comes. Advises Skip on any changes in the head and also offers an opinion on the best shot to play (normally on Skip's second shot). Will also, normally, conduct or supervise all measuring and agree the result of each end with his opposite number. Can call on the services of the Skip to decide issues or measures or can call on the services of an Umpire. Success is in assisting the skip with the management of the rink and developing the head. To achieve this, they must possess sufficient skill to play a variety of shots when requested. He may be asked to advise, correct or simply communicate Skip's messages, in confidence, to the Lead and or Second.

Skip

Has responsibility for the total management of the Rink. Technically has final responsibility for the decision on all shots played but a good Skip will do this in liaison with his full Rink. Motivation is an important part of his duties. He should possess sufficient skills to play all types of shots with a fair percentage of success; however some argue that a truly good Skip should achieve success through his other players. His bowling skills should only be used to rescue, play safeguard or enhance an already winning situation. He should never build a "head" purposely to allow themselves to play the "glory shot".

Clear, unambiguous verbal and visual communication skills are absolutely essential. Sometimes great bowlers don't make good Skips because they expect everyone to be able to play to their level of skill. Analysing his own team's strengths and weaknesses plus those of opponents and capitalizing on both is the greatest skill for a Skip.

The skip is responsible for entering the names of his team on the score card and completing the score card after each end has been completed. Shots for and against must be recorded at the end of each end. He enters the actual shots scored on that end and a running total for each side. It is permitted to consult your opposite number from time to time to ensure that respective scorecards correspond. The scoreboard at the end of the rink must be changed after each end. Normally home team on top (or on left), number of ends played in the middle and away team on the bottom (or on right). This is traditionally the responsibility of the home skip but can be done by the opposing number skip if required.

DIFFERENT FORMATS

Singles

One person playing against another using four woods each. Not measured on number of ends played but normally until one player reaches 21 shots. The services of a Marker are employed. Variations can be played, e.g. Two Woods version, played to 21 ends (rather than 21 shots).

Doubles/Pairs

Two individuals playing as a team and using four woods each. The two leads bowl their four woods then change places with their partner who is the Skip. Skips traditionally record the scorecard. Normally played to 21 ends and winners have the best total score. Variations can be played.

'Australian Pairs'

Lead and Skip alternate each time two woods are bowled. Two wood pairs can be played but are very rare.

Triples

Three players play three woods each with similar roles and duties as per rinks. This is played to eighteen ends. A variation is two wood triples.

Rinks

Four players play two woods each and have individual duties as described in detail earlier.