

WORCESTER BOWLING CLUB

Founded 1867

Affiliated to Bowls England and W.C.B.A.

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Guidelines for Disability Aids and Disabled Bowlers

Following a request from an individual that needs to use an aid for delivering woods on the green without damaging the playing surface, we have sought advice from our governing body Bowls England. They do not hold a list of Approved devices but will confirm whether any specific device is approved or not when contacted.

So far only one request has been made to use such a device, this is for a UBI Bowls Launcher.

This product has been confirmed as approved by Bowls England and Bowls Scotland for use by disabled or restricted movement persons.

Any approved product may be used in all games of bowls including Finals in National Championships.

Should any person have need to use any device to assist in the delivery of Jacks or Bowls, they should first seek approval from the Governing Body (Bowls England) ensuring that Worcestershire BA Secretary is party to the dialogue seeking approval. Home made none approved devices are not acceptable.

The rules' regarding the use of artificial devices is highlighted below in Yellow.

All other rules are quite specific and are as stated in the extract below.

Rules & Regulations 50-70

Appendix I:

Players with Disabilities Wheelchairs must be of a type approved by Bowls England following consultation with relevant disability bowls organisations. The four types currently recognised for use in England are the 'Bradshaw Buggy', 'Chariot', 'Clippy' and the 'Para-Handy'.

The wheelchair shall be recognised as being an integral part of the wheelchair player in all instances when a jack or bowl is displaced or interfered with by the wheelchair as per the current Laws of the Sport of Bowls. At the point of delivery of the jack or bowl, refer to the current Laws of the Sport of Bowls.

Walking frames must be of a type approved by Bowls England following consultation with relevant disability bowls organisations. The two types currently recognised for use in England are the 'Rollator' and the 'Bowls Walker'.

Artificial devices may be used by players with disabilities for delivering the jack or bowl provided they are approved by Bowls England following consultation with relevant disability bowls organisations.

The individual must decide before a game starts if they are going to use an aid. If they decide to then they must use it for the duration of that game.

Visually impaired bowlers can use any form of assistance necessary (including having an assistant with them) to allow them to take part as long as the assistance is approved by the Governing Body for Visually Impaired Bowlers. The assistant shall not be deemed to be in contravention of the Laws of the Sport if that assistant relays to the player the instruction of the skip, assists in directing the player or keeps the player informed as to where the jack or bowl finished after delivery.

Players with a hearing disability may use aids (i.e. walkie-talkies) in line with the current Laws of the Sport of Bowls.