

How to lawn bowl for beginners

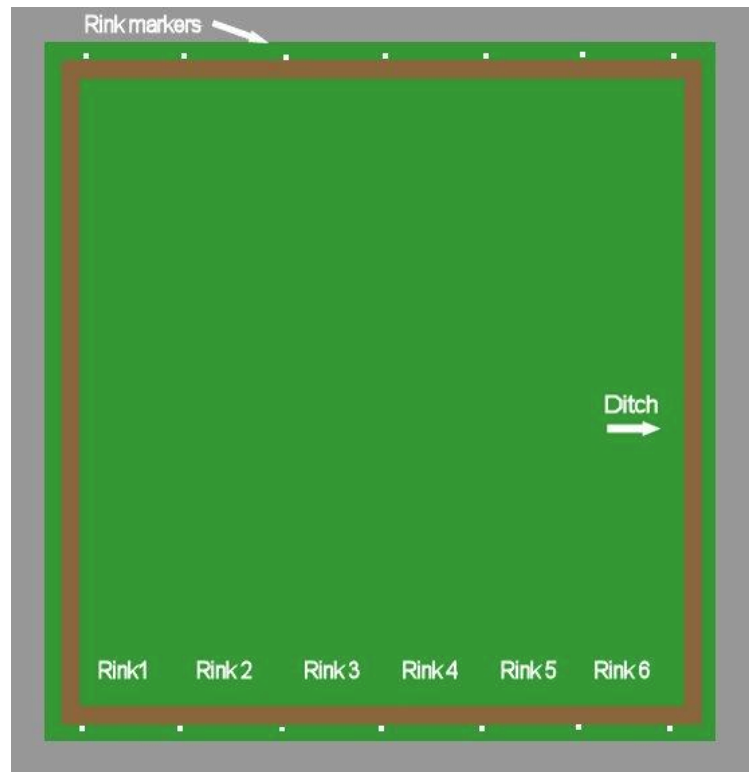
By Damien Larkins

The basics of lawn bowling

- Rink: area in which play takes place, usually a flat, grassed area, bounded by boundary pegs
- Centre line: the line down the centre of the rink
- Jack: small white ball, rolled out along the centreline, the idea is to get bowls as close as possible to it



- Bowls: the balls used by the player, up to four each, weighted on one side causing it to curve as it rolls
- Mat: placed on the centre line, players stand on it to bowl
- End: Players deliver their bowls from one end to another during an "end" then, when the end is complete, they turn around and play back again.



The bowling

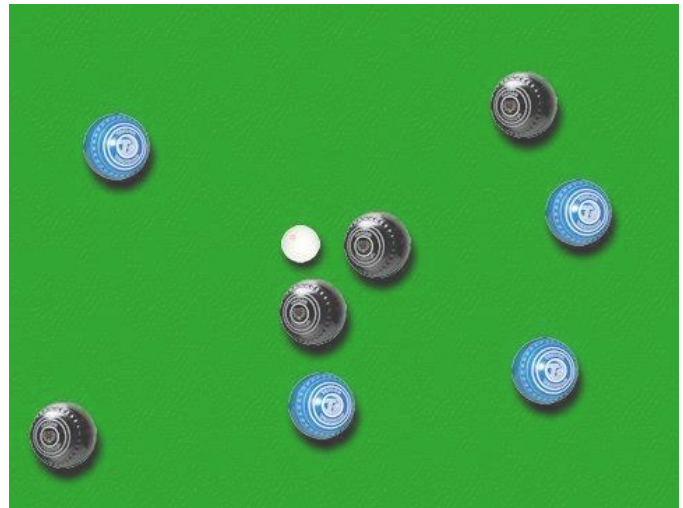
- Stand on the mat, feet together, knees and waist bent slightly
- Take ball in your preferred hand (right or left)
- Step out with your opposite foot (left or right)
- Take a small back swing
- Bend down and roll bowl along the ground
- Roll it out at an angle, so the bowl curves back towards jack (see basics)
- Avoid dropping or bouncing bowl so as not to damage green

Strategy

- Draw shot: A slow, measured, finessed bowl trying to end closest to the jack
- Drive shot: A harder, faster bowl used to try to knock other players' bowls away

Scoring

- During an end the bowl nearest to the Jack is referred to as "the shot". You may hear players on the mat asking, "Who is lying the shot?"
- The player who has their bowl or bowls closest to the jack wins
- Points are awarded according to the number of bowls closest
- Players judge the distance and number by eye
- If in dispute, a measuring tape is employed
- If still in dispute, an umpire called in to resolve



Winning

- A game is played to a set number of ends.
- The side with the most points after the last end, wins.