



Last updated 20.1.25

The Flat/Level Green Laws of the Sport currently cater for “Disabilities” as follows:

41 - Players with disabilities

41.1 - **WHEELCHAIRS** must be of a type approved by both WB and the Governing Body for wheelchair bowlers in the country in which the player is playing.

41.2 - **WHEELCHAIR BOWLERS** can use any form of assistance necessary (including having an assistant with them) to allow them to take part in the sport of bowls, as long as the assistance is approved by the Governing Body for wheelchair bowlers in the country in which the player is playing.

See below - **Law 7.2 “Position on the Mat”**.

41.3 - Players who are classified **PARTIALLY SIGHTED OR BLIND** by their National Governing Body for partially sighted and blind bowlers can use any form of assistance necessary (including having an assistant with them, and having a white, breakable string placed on the surface of the green, along the centre line of the rink) to allow them to take part in the sport of bowls, as long as the assistance is approved by the Governing Body for partially sighted and blind bowlers in the country in which the player is playing.

41.4 - The person assisting a **PARTIALLY SIGHTED OR BLIND BOWLER** will not be breaking **law 13.2** or **law 45.3** if the assistant:

41.4.1 - repeats the skip’s instructions to the player;

41.4.2 - helps to direct the player; or

41.4.3 - tells the player where the jack or a bowl came to rest.

41.5 - A player who has a **PHYSICAL DISABILITY** will be allowed to use a support or an artificial device (or both) when delivering the jack or a bowl, or when walking on the green. The support must have a base covered with rubber or a similar material. This base must measure at least 76 millimetres across, and it can be placed on or next to the mat.

41.6 - A player who has a **PHYSICAL DISABILITY** will be allowed to kneel on the green to deliver the jack or their bowls. One or both knees must be positioned either in front of the mat with all or part of at least one foot on the mat, or on the mat with all or part of at least one foot on the green behind the mat.

41.7 - Players with a **HEARING DISABILITY** can use electronic devices to communicate with each other while on the rink of play. Electronic devices must be used in line with the regulations set out in the **Conditions of Play** by the Controlling Body.

41.8 - For domestic play, Member National Authorities can approve the use of **ARTIFICIAL DEVICES** for delivering the jack or a bowl.

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Law 7 Position on the mat

7.1

Before delivery a player must be standing on the mat with all or part of at least one foot on the mat. At the moment they deliver the jack or a bowl, the player must have all or part of one foot on or above the mat.

7.2

Before delivery a player using an approved wheelchair must have one wheel on the mat and, at the moment they deliver the jack or a bowl, the player must have all or part of one wheel on or above the mat.

7.3

Any player not meeting the terms of this law is committing a foot-fault, and law 8 will apply

Law 13 Possession of the rink

13.1

Possession of the rink will belong to the player or team whose bowl is being played.

13.2

As soon as each bowl comes to rest, possession of the rink will transfer to the opposing player or team after allowing time for marking a toucher as soon as it comes to rest

Law 45 Spectators

45.1

Spectators and anyone else not directly taking part in the game must stay outside the boundaries of the green and clear of the players.

45.2

If part of the green is being used for spectators, they must stay outside the boundaries of the rinks of play and clear of the players.

45.3

They must not disturb or advise the players in any way





Approved Equipment and Aids for people playing Bowls



WHEELCHAIR BOWLERS

Approved Wheelchairs							
	World Bowls BWBA	BE National Comps	BE Clubs Domestic	EIBA National Comps	EIBA Clubs Domestic	Dales ***	Greengauge ***
Approved and currently available to purchase							
<i>Chairiot</i>	BWBA approved	approved	approved	approved	approved	approved	approved
<i>Parahandy</i>	BWBA approved	approved	approved	approved	approved	approved	approved
<i>Bowls Royce</i>	BWBA approved	approved	approved	approved	approved	approved	approved
<i>Renor Elite</i>	BWBA approved	approved	approved	approved	approved	approved	approved
<i>Dales Model</i>	BWBA approved	Artificial Outdoor only	Artificial Outdoor only	approved	approved	approved	approved
<i>Bowls Scoot</i>	BWBA approved	approved	approved	approved	approved	approved	approved

***Comment: EIBA has also consulted with the Playing Surface Contractors (Greengauge & Dales Sports Surfaces) as they offer a “Guarantee” for the Playing Surface – approval for the use of Wheelchairs, Artificial Aids and Walking Frames have been provided on the condition that they are “used in an approved manner”





	
Chairiot	Para- Handy
https://whiteheadbowls.co.uk/product/chairiot-bowls-wheelchair/	www.para-handlybowlingwheelchair.com
Comments: Manual only	Comments: Manual only. Seeking update on electrification. Para-handly website shows an electrified version undertaken by a Dorset firm for Dolphin IBC.

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Approved Equipment and Aids for people playing Bowls



	
<p>Bowls Royce</p>	<p>Renor Elite</p>
<p>www.bushhillbowls.co.uk/store/bowls-royce-bowls-wheelchair/ and https://www.disabilitybowlsengland.org.uk/shop/</p>	<p>https://rmasport.com/rma-bowls-powerchair/</p>
<p>Comments: Manual or Electric</p>	
	
<p>Dales Model</p>	<p>Bowls Scoot</p>
<p>https://dalessports.co.uk/powerd-bowls-wheelchair/</p>	<p>https://bushhillbowls.co.uk/store/bowls-scoot/</p>
<p>Comments: Approved for use on Indoor and Artificial Outdoor only.</p>	

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Approved Equipment and Aids for people playing Bowls



Wheelchairs approved by:							
	World Bowls BWBA	BE National Comps	BE Clubs Domestic	EIBA National Comps	EIBA Clubs Domestic	Dales ***	Greengauge ***
Approved BUT at present not being produced							
<i>Bradshaw Buggie</i>	BWBA approved	approved	approved	approved	approved	approved	approved
Approved BUT no longer available to purchase							
<i>Clippie</i>	BWBA approved	approved	approved	approved	approved	approved	approved
<i>Mark Cooper</i>	BWBA approved	approved	approved	approved	approved	approved	approved

***Comment: EIBA has also consulted with the Playing Surface Contractors (Greengauge & Dales Sports Surfaces) as they offer a “Guarantee” for the Playing Surface – approval for the use of Wheelchairs, Artificial Aids and Walking Frames have been provided on the condition that they are “used in an approved manner”

	
Bradshaw Buggie	Clippie
http://www.bbbugs.co.uk/	
Comments: Electrification - http://www.guiseleymobility.com/powerchairs/bradshaw-bowls-buggies AND Whitehead Bowls? (details awaited)	
	
	Mark Cooper

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Approved Equipment and Aids for people playing Bowls



PARTIALLY SIGHTED BOWLERS

Approved Aids					
	World Bowls/VIBE	BE National Comps	BE Clubs Domestic	EIBA National Comps	EIBA Clubs Domestic
White breakable string	Laws of the Sport	Laws of the Sport	Laws of the Sport	Laws of the Sport	Laws of the Sport
Monocular or Binoculars	Approved	Approved – see below	Approved – see below	Approved – see below	Approved – see below

	
White Breakable String	Monocular or Binoculars

Permissible Aids for Players with a Visual Impairment (VI), playing in 'Otherwise Sighted' Games in England.

www.eiba.co.uk/club-development/Permissible_Aids_VIBE-Sep-2024.pdf

VISUALLY IMPAIRED BOWLS ENGLAND
www.vibowlsengland.co.uk

Permissible Aids for Players with a Visual Impairment (VI), playing in 'Otherwise Sighted' Games in England.

This is Domestic Guidance and does NOT require any changes to World Bowls Laws of the Sport

World Bowls Laws of the Sport of Bowls, Crystal Mark, Fourth Edition states:

41.3: Players who are classified partially sighted or blind by their National Governing Body for partially sighted and blind bowlers can use any form of assistance necessary including having an assistant with them, and having a white, breakable string placed on the surface of the green, along the centre line of the rink to allow them to take part in the sport of bowls, as long as the assistance is approved by the Governing Body for partially sighted and blind bowlers in the country in which the player is playing.


41.4 The person assisting a partially sighted or blind bowler will not be breaking law 13.2 or law 45.3 if the assistant:

41.4.1 repeats the skip's instructions to the player;


41.4.2 helps to direct the player; or

41.4.3 tells the player where the jack or a bowl came to rest."

This Guidance provides an expansion on the above Law in England, in respect of Visually Impaired (VI) players, playing in 'Otherwise Sighted' games, at Club, County or National level. N.B. Different conditions apply for 'All-VI Games'.



English Indoor Bowling Association Ltd and Bowls England fully endorse this Guidance



Definitions:

- Any person, who is registered with their Local Authority as being blind or partially sighted, is regarded as being "classified" in the context of 41.3 above. It is the responsibility of the VI player to provide such Registration or recognised Sight Classification Certificate from Visually Impaired Bowls England, if required.
- 'Otherwise Sighted' games are defined as those in which VI players are playing with, and against, sighted players.
- 'All-VI Games' are defined as those in which all players are visually impaired.

Within the context of 'any form of assistance necessary' in 41.3 above, any and/or all of the following aids are approved for use for visually impaired players in 'otherwise sighted games' in England:

- Having an Assistant with them on the green. This person might also be referred to as a Helper or Director. The Assistant may carry out any duties required of a player playing in any particular position (Ref. Law 40), other than actually delivering the jack or bowls. In addition, the Assistant is responsible for ensuring that the VI player complies with Laws regarding position on, and possession of, the rink.
- The Assistant can advise the player on the shot to be attempted and direct the player as to the line to be taken (for example, by the placing of a foot on the delivery line). Direction can take place in front of (up to 5 metres from the mat line), or behind, the player. Any bowl hitting the Assistant (or any other aids) will be declared 'dead' and removed from the rink of play. Ref Law 37.2
- A thin, white, breakable string may be placed on the surface of the green, along the centre line of the rink. In addition, "pins" (or 'dots' on an indoor green) may be placed on the string at 2m and 25m from the front and rear ditches, to assist in description of the jack length. A white or coloured strip (maximum size 30cm x 10cm) may be placed under the string – but only when the VI player is in possession of the rink (i.e. MUST be removed after delivery).
- Bowls may have a 'dimple' in the small circle on the bias side of the bowl to assist in the correct alignment of the bowl in the hand. Such 'dimple' may only be created by a licensed tester.
- A white jack may be used.
- A 'V'-shaped notch may be cut into the centre of the front and rear edges of the mat in order to assist in the placement of the mat on the centre-line, VI players may provide their own regulation mats, thus adapted.
- The Skip may call out the distance of the centred, delivered jack to the VI player. Should the jack be displaced during play, the new jack position may be similarly described in relation to length and distance off the centreline.
- As each bowl comes to rest, and at the request of the VI player, its position may be described, using the 'clock' system, from the head. Possession of the rink will not transfer to the opposing player / team until such information has been given/received.
- A VI player is entitled to use a monocular or binoculars, on or off the mat, to assess the head or to follow the progress of bowls up the green.
- Any VI player (or Assistant) who has additional needs shall be entitled to use any aids approved for use by players with such needs. In particular (and for example), a VI player (or Assistant) who is hard of hearing, may use 'walkie talkie' communication devices with a team member at the head. Ref. Law 41 – Disabilities.

Author: David Stott, National Development Officer, Visually Impaired Bowls England.
Dated 27th September 2024

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Approved Equipment and Aids for people playing Bowls



EIBA

National Comps

Winter National Championships Rules 2024-2025 pdf

www.eiba.co.uk/competitions-2025/Winter-National-Championship-Rules-for-2024-2025-Season.pdf

Disability Extract:

8. PLAYERS WITH DISABILITIES

- 8.1 Please refer to The Laws of the Sport of Bowls Crystal Mark Fourth Edition Law 41 Players with disabilities.
- 8.2 Details of specific Equipment and Aids that have been approved by EIBA as the “Controlling Body for EIBA National Competitions” can be found on the EIBA website at www.eiba.co.uk/club-development/disability.php .
- 8.3 **Artificial devices** be used by players with disabilities for delivering the jack or bowl (Law 41.8) – The player using the device shall decide before a game starts if they are going to use an aid. If they so decide, then they shall use it for the entire duration of that game.
- 8.4 **Players with a Hearing Disability** (Law 41.7) – players can use electronic devices to communicate with each other while on the rink of play. They must be used in line with the regulations set out in the Conditions of Play by the Controlling Body.
- 8.5 **Players who are classified as Partially sighted or Blind** may have use of a Monocular or Binoculars when taking part in EIBA National Competitions. Competitors will be required to hold the necessary proof.

EIBA

Indoor-Domestic Play (i.e. Club and County)

Disability Guidance:

Players who are classified as Partially sighted or Blind may have use of a Monocular or Binoculars.

We recommend that the Club/County should indicate in their “Conditions of Play”, if they require the Competitor to hold the necessary proof.

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Approved Equipment and Aids for people playing Bowls



BOWLERS WITH PHYSICAL DISABILITY

Approved Aids – in accordance with Laws of the Sport (Laws 41.5 & 41.8)						
	BE National Comps	BE Clubs Domestic	EIBA National Comps	EIBA Clubs Domestic	Dales ***	Greengauge ***
Bowlers Arm	Laws of the Sport	Laws of the Sport	Laws of the Sport	Laws of the Sport	approved	approved
696 DHB Hacksaw Bowling Arm	Laws of the Sport	Laws of the Sport	Laws of the Sport	Laws of the Sport	approved	approved
Thruster	Laws of the Sport	Laws of the Sport	Laws of the Sport	Laws of the Sport	approved	approved
UBI Launcher	Laws of the Sport	Laws of the Sport	Laws of the Sport	Laws of the Sport	approved	approved
Bowls Buddy	Laws of the Sport	Laws of the Sport	Laws of the Sport	Laws of the Sport	approved	approved
Bowls Royce Walker	Laws of the Sport	Laws of the Sport	Laws of the Sport	Laws of the Sport	approved	approved
Walking Stick Ferrule	Laws of the Sport	Laws of the Sport	Laws of the Sport	Laws of the Sport		
Folding Walking Stick	Laws of the Sport	Laws of the Sport	Laws of the Sport	Laws of the Sport		
“smartCrutch” with the addition of a “Walking Stick Ferrule”	Laws of the Sport	Laws of the Sport	Laws of the Sport	Laws of the Sport		
Approved Aids						
Rollators – see additional guidance below on page 10	Artificial Outdoor only	Artificial Outdoor only	approved	approved	approved	approved
Royce Rollator – see additional guidance below on page 10	approved	approved	approved	approved	approved	approved

***Comment: EIBA has also consulted with the Playing Surface Contractors (Greengauge & Dales Sports Surfaces) as they offer a “Guarantee” for the Playing Surface – approval for the use of Wheelchairs, Artificial Aids and Walking Frames have been provided on the condition that they are “used in an approved manner”

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Approved Equipment and Aids for people playing Bowls









	
<p style="text-align: center;">Bowlers Arm</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">DHB Hacksaw Bowling Arm</p>
<p>www.drakespride.co.uk/accessories/bowling-aids/bowling-arm-(b6514).aspx#product AND https://whiteheadbowls.co.uk/product/bowling-arm/ AND https://www.bushhillbowls.co.uk/store/bowling-arm/</p>	<p>https://www.hunterbowls.com.au/shop/product/dhb-hacksaw-bowling-arm-4719#attr=10512,13500 AND https://www.hunterbowls.co.nz/696-dhb-hacksaw-bowling-arm June 2022 – now available in the UK https://www.hunterbowls.co.uk/shop/product/e-dhb-hacksaw-bowling-arm-42299#attr=22839,22844</p>
	
<p style="text-align: center;">Thruster</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">UBI Launcher</p>
<p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=961BSAN8daA www.ebay.co.uk/itm/166801601800 EIBA can forward enquiries to the Inventor</p>	<p>www.taylorbowls.com/item/173/Taylor/UBi---Launcher-.html AND https://www.bushhillbowls.co.uk/store/ubi-launcher/</p>

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Approved Equipment and Aids for people playing Bowls




	
Bowls Buddy	Bowls Royce Walker
https://whiteheadbowls.co.uk/product/bowls-buddy/ AND www.bushhillbowls.co.uk/store/bowls-buddy-walking-frame/	https://www.bushhillbowls.co.uk/store/bowls-royce-walker/
	
Rollators	Royce Rollator
	https://bushhillbowls.co.uk/store/royce-rollator/
<p><u>Guidance on usage of the Rollator:</u></p> <p>The Rollator with “narrow wheels” as shown above, should only be used to assist a player walking down the Green <u>and should not be used as a Seat on the Green</u></p> <p>If the Rollator has been used outside of the Bowling facility before entering the building – the wheels must be cleaned before using it on the Bowling Green.</p>	<p><u>Guidance on usage of the “Royce Rollator”:</u></p> <p>This Rollator can be used as a Seat, as well as an aid to walk up and down the green, as it has the same 80mm wide castors - as fitted to the “Bowls Royce Wheelchair” and the “Bowls Royce Walker”</p> <p><u>BOWLS ENGLAND GUIDANCE:</u> For outdoor play (grass and artificial) approved subject to the agreement of the host club green keeper in advance of play starting</p>
	
Walking Stick Ferrule	Folding Walking Stick
https://www.bushhillbowls.co.uk/store/walking-stick-green-protector/ AND https://drakespride.co.uk/accessories/bowling-aids/walking-stick-ferrule-(b6502).aspx#product	https://www.bushhillbowls.co.uk/store/folding-walking-stick/ AND https://drakespride.co.uk/accessories/bowling-aids/folding-walking-stick-(b6503).aspx#product

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Approved Equipment and Aids for people playing Bowls



	
<p>“smartCrutch” approved with the addition of a “Walking Stick Ferrule” to replace the original foot</p>	
<p>https://smartcrutch.uk</p>	

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Approved Equipment and Aids for people playing Bowls



Other Aids – not covered by the Laws of the Sport

	BE National Comps	BE Clubs Domestic	EIBA National Comps	EIBA Clubs Domestic	Dales ***	Greengauge ***
Telescopic Bowls and Jack Lifter	approved	approved	approved	approved		
Foldaway Bowls and Jack Lifter	approved	approved	approved	approved		
Three-part Bowls and Jack Lifter	approved	approved	approved	approved		
Bowls Mate	approved	approved	approved	approved		

	
Telescopic Bowls and Jack Lifter	Foldaway Bowls and Jack Lifter
https://www.bushhillbowls.co.uk/store/telescopic-bowls-lifter/ AND https://drakespride.co.uk/accessories/bowling-aids/booster-bowls-lifter-(b6521).aspx#product	https://www.bushhillbowls.co.uk/store/foldaway-bowls-and-jack-lifter/ AND https://drakespride.co.uk/accessories/bowling-aids/collapsible-bowl-jack-lifter-(b6513).aspx#product
	
Three part Bowls and Jack Lifter	Bowls Mate
https://drakespride.co.uk/accessories/bowling-aids/three-part-bowl-jack-lifter-(b6519).aspx#product	https://www.bushhillbowls.co.uk/store/bowls-mate/

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