

Week 9 Coaching Plan – Focus: Playing a Practice Game

Practice Game – understanding rules, scoring, positions, and applying delivery skills in a game environment.

1. Introduction & Recap

- Recap Week 8: drawing to ditch, etiquette, and measuring.
- Introduce today's focus: *learning how to play a full game with score cards, rules, and roles.*
- Emphasise: the aim is **practical experience of game play**, not perfecting technique.

2. Coach Demonstration / Explanation

- Briefly explain or show:
 - Score cards.
 - Touchers (chalk marking).
 - Dead jack, dead end, dead bowl.
 - Possession of the rink (when it changes).
- Demonstrate how a game commences: mat/jack placement, lead's role, order of play.
- Explain positions and roles in pairs, triples, and fours.

3. Player Activity 1 – Score Card Practice

- Pupils in pairs complete a score card from a mock end.
- Coach checks for accuracy and understanding.

4. Player Activity 2 – Practice Game

- Split pupils into 2 teams (pairs, triples, or fours depending on numbers).
- Assign positions and explain roles clearly.
- Play a short-format game (e.g., 6 ends, 2 bowls each).
- Coach steps in only to clarify rules or encourage tactical thinking.

5. Player Activity 3 – Reflection & Tactical Awareness (Engagement)

- After selected ends, pause and ask:
 - “What was your team trying to achieve that end?”
 - “What worked? What could you try differently next time?”
- Builds awareness of shot choices and teamwork.

6. Wrap-Up & Reflection

- Ask pupils: “How did playing a real game feel compared to drills?”
- Reinforce:



- Consistency in stance and delivery is still key.
- Rules and scoring are part of the game just as much as delivery.
- Practice is most effective when it has a clear purpose.
- Preview Week 10: *"Next time we'll consolidate everything in a final game and review the full programme."*

Outcomes (refined)

By the end of the session, the pupil should:

- Understand how to play a full game of bowls.
- Correctly record results on a scorecard.
- Recognise and apply rules for touchers, dead jack, dead end, dead bowl, and possession.
- Apply line and length skills in a match situation.
- Begin to develop basic tactical awareness as part of a team.

Coach's Observation Checklist

Week 9 – Playing a Practice Game

- Understands and records scores accurately on a score card.
- Applies rules: touchers, dead jack, dead end, dead bowl, possession of rink.
- Plays correctly in assigned team role (lead, second, third, skip).
- Applies line and length skills within match play.
- Demonstrates consistency of stance, preparation, and delivery during gameplay.
- Shows developing tactical awareness in reflection discussions.

