

BERKSHIRE BOWLS COACHING SCHEME

Coaching Part 2 — Week 5

Measuring and Deciding the Result of an End

Session length	60 minutes	Coach	
Date		Player group	
SESSION PURPOSE			
Develop safe, accurate measuring practice so players can select suitable equipment, compare the correct points without disturbing the head, and state the result clearly.			
LEARNING OUTCOMES		EQUIPMENT & PREPARATION	
• Choose suitable measuring equipment. • Measure nearest bowl point to nearest jack point without disturbing the head. • State the result clearly and manage an obstructed or tied measure.		• Prepare six stations: box measure, calliper, feeler-gauge, obstructed, longer/arm-length and one boundary or ditch situation. • Equipment: bowls, jacks, mat, box measure, callipers, feeler gauges or wedges, chalk and boundary markers. • Have the Measuring Equipment and Procedures handout available.	

Session Plan

Time	Activity	Coach delivery
0–8	Purpose and demonstration	Equipment choice, correct points, body position and protection of the head.
8–28	Mini-Lesson 1: Close and box measures	Box measure, calliper and feeler-gauge measures in pairs.
28–48	Mini-Lesson 2: Obstructed, long and boundary measures	Obstructed, longer/arm-length and boundary or ditch situations.
48–56	Decision challenge	Select equipment and explain the method before measuring.
56–60	Review	Confirm sequence, result and rule points arising.

Essential Demonstration Sequence

- Identify the bowls being compared and keep others clear.
- Choose the simplest suitable equipment.
- Measure from the nearest point of the bowl to the nearest point of the jack, never from their centres.
- One person measures. Support the equipment and body position so neither bowl nor jack can be moved.
- Compare, repeat if needed, then announce which bowl is shot and how many shots count.
- If direct access is blocked, preserve the head and use a suitable alternative method.

COACHING PART 2 — WEEK 5

Coach Delivery Notes

Measuring and Deciding the Result of an End

Mini-Lesson 1 — Close and Box Measures

Purpose	Develop safe equipment choice and correct measuring technique for straightforward and close comparisons.
Box measure	Bowls about 80 cm from the jack, with one bowl tilted. Support or chock an unstable bowl appropriately before measuring.
Callipers	Bowls about 10–15 cm from the jack; add a third bowl when secure.

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Feeler gauge	Bowls extremely close without touching.
Player task	Name the equipment and reason before touching the head, then measure from nearest point to nearest point.

Mini-Lesson 2 — Obstructed, Long and Boundary Measures

Purpose	Apply the same core measuring sequence where access, distance or bowl status makes the decision more demanding.
Obstructed	Second bowls block direct access to the shot bowl. Preserve the head and choose a suitable alternative method.
Longer measure	Use a longer measure or arm-length method where bowls are about 120–180 cm from the jack.
Boundary or ditch	Decide first whether the question is distance, live/dead status, or both.
Coach emphasis	Use only selected examples from the full handout during this session and keep measuring technique separate from any rule-status decision.

Common Observations and Brief Corrections

Observation	Brief correction
Equipment moves a bowl	Reset if possible; improve hand support and position.
Wrong measuring points	Nearest bowl point to nearest jack point.
Unsuitable equipment	Use the shortest, simplest tool that can compare the distances.
Head becomes crowded	One measurer only; all others stand clear.
Result unclear	State which bowl is shot and how many shots count.

Progression and Adaptation

Make it easier	Clear access, upright bowls and obvious differences.
Standard	Tilted bowl, close calliper measure and one obstruction.
Make it harder	Smaller differences, third bowl, ditch/boundary issue or verbal explanation before acting.

Game Application

Set a short decision challenge using selected heads. Before measuring, the player identifies the bowls, chooses the equipment and explains the method. After measuring, the player states which bowl is shot and how many shots count.

Success Indicators

- Chooses suitable equipment without prompting.
- Uses the correct measuring points and protects the head.
- Explains how to deal with an obstructed measure.
- States which bowl is shot and how many shots count confidently.

Review Questions

Which equipment was most suitable? What could disturb the head? Where are the correct measuring points? What happens if the distances remain equal? If the bowls cannot be separated by measurement, follow the correct tied-measure procedure rather than guessing.

Link to Week 6: return to controlled delivery with positive weight, Beat the Front Bowl and Trail the Jack.

GOLDEN RULE: Never miss an opportunity to correct a delivery or explain how the intended shot can be achieved.