

BERKSHIRE BOWLS COACHING SCHEME

Exercise Sheet: Draw to the Edge of the Ditch

Reusable ditch-end drawing exercise

PURPOSE

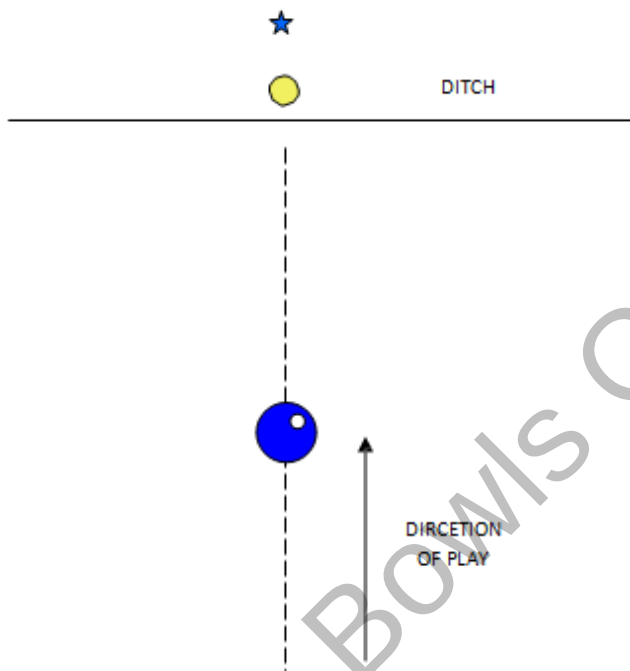
Develop the ability to draw to a point near the ditch when the jack is in the ditch, and a live toucher remains on the green.

LEVEL

Beginner to improver

EQUIPMENT

Mat, jack, bowls and markers as required



SET-UP

Place the jack in the ditch on the centre line and mark its position. Put a chalked toucher approximately 2 metres from the ditch on the centre line, as shown in the original diagram. Use a short mat position to begin.

PLAYER TASK

Using draw weight only, bowl to beat the toucher and finish safely near the ditch. Deliver two consecutive bowls. No firing shots.

Coach Explanation and Demonstration

- Explain that the target is a finishing area, not the jack itself.
- A short bowl cannot count and serves no purpose; encourage a positive bowl that reaches the head.
- Demonstrate a line that avoids contact with the toucher and finishes beyond it.
- A slightly wider line may be useful to pass the toucher and drop behind it.
- Ask the player to name the intended finishing point before delivery.

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Common Faults and Brief Corrections

Observation	Coach correction
Bowl finishes short of the toucher	Move the visual target beyond the toucher and ask for positive weight.
Bowl contacts the toucher	Review the wider line and the chosen hand.
Bowl enters the ditch	Retain the line and reduce the finishing weight.
Player aims at the hidden jack	Use the marker and intended finishing area as visual references.

Progression and Variation

- Make it easier: shorten the mat-to-head distance and move the toucher slightly off centre.
- Standard: beat the toucher and finish safely near the ditch.
- Make it harder: increase the distance, narrow the safe area or place the toucher on the preferred line.

Success Indicators

- Reaches beyond the toucher with draw weight.
- Finishes safely before the ditch.
- Selects a line that avoids the toucher.
- Uses Bowl 2 to correct line or length.

Game Application

Use after the jack has been trailed into the ditch and the player must beat a live toucher remaining on the green.

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