

BERKSHIRE BOWLS COACHING SCHEME

Coaching Part 2 - Week 8 Coach's Notes

Controlled Removal • Draw to the Edge of the Ditch

ROLE OF THE WEEK

Shot choice, controlled removal and ditch-end accuracy

LESSON LENGTH

60 minutes

1. Why Week 8 Matters

Week 8 extends the controlled-contact work of Week 7. The pupil must now decide whether the head is best solved by removing an opposing bowl or by drawing accurately to a finishing area near the ditch. The lesson therefore combines execution with shot choice.

The two exercises have different demands. Overdraw to Remove Bowl requires enough controlled weight to move the opposing shot bowl backwards while leaving the delivered bowl useful. Draw to the Edge of the Ditch returns to draw weight, but the target is no longer the jack: it is a safe finishing area beyond a live toucher and short of the ditch.

CORE PRINCIPLE: Select the required result first. Then choose the line and weight that give the best chance of achieving it.

2. Technical Understanding: Controlled Removal

The source describes Overdraw to Remove Bowl as a Wrest Out shot. The pupil must contact the object bowl with sufficient controlled weight to move it backwards and leave the delivered bowl holding shot. Success is not simply making contact; it is producing a useful change in the head.

- Line determines the contact point on the opposing bowl.
- Weight must be sufficient to remove or displace the bowl, but controlled enough for the delivered bowl to remain useful.
- A positive miss finishing about 1 metre beyond the object bowl can show that the pupil supplied the required weight.
- The pupil should picture both the movement of the object bowl and the final position of the delivered bowl.
- The action should remain smooth and repeatable; this is not a firing exercise.

3. Technical Understanding: Drawing Near the Ditch

In Draw to the Edge of the Ditch, the jack is in the ditch, and a chalked toucher remains on the green. The pupil must beat the toucher with a draw bowl that finishes safely near the ditch. Because the jack itself is not available as a normal visual target, the pupil must draw to a point or area.

- A bowl that finishes short of the live toucher cannot gain shot in this exercise.
- Excessive weight may carry the bowl into the ditch, so positive intention must remain controlled.
- A slightly wider line may help the bowl avoid the toucher and drop behind it.
- The marker indicating the jack position assists orientation; the target is the safe finishing area beyond the live toucher and short of the ditch.

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- The pupil should name the safe finishing area before stepping onto the mat.

4. Comparing the Two Exercises

Question	Overdraw to Remove Bowl	Draw to the Edge of the Ditch
Primary task	Move an opposing bowl and remain useful.	Beat a live toucher and stop safely near the ditch.
Main weight demand	Controlled removal weight.	Positive draw weight.
Main visual focus	Contact point and post-contact finish.	A safe finishing area beyond the toucher.
Main risk	Too little weight or running out of the head.	Finishing short or entering the ditch.
Key question	Where should both bowls finish?	Where is the safest winning area?

5. Shot Selection and Game Context

The coach should not present the two exercises as isolated techniques. The pupil should learn to compare the likely reward and risk. Controlled removal may be appropriate when the opposing shot bowl is available, and the delivered bowl can remain in the head. A draw is often safer when there is a clear route to a scoring position near the ditch.

Use the shared sequence: Score requirement → Required result → Available route → Hand and target → Main risk → Commit.

- What does the score require?
- Is a draw route available?
- Can the opposing bowl be removed with controlled weight?
- Where will the delivered bowl finish if contact is made?
- What happens if the bowl misses on either side?
- Which option best matches the pupil's current ability?

6. The Two-Bowl Learning Method

Allow two consecutive bowls. Bowl 1 supplies information about line, weight, contact or stopping distance. Bowl 2 should show one stated adjustment or a deliberate repeat.

- Before Bowl 1: state the shot, hand and intended result.
- After Bowl 1: identify the main issue - line, contact or weight.
- Give a brief correction where required.
- Before Bowl 2: pupil names one adjustment.
- After Bowl 2: compare the result with the intended change.

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

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7. Common Faults: Cause and Response

Observation	Possible cause	Coach response
Removal bowl stops short	Pupil is aiming at the object bowl rather than through it.	Set a positive finishing point beyond the object bowl.
Object bowl moves but remains shot	Insufficient weight or glancing contact.	Clarify the contact point and add controlled weight.
Delivered bowl runs out of the head	Too much weight or unsuitable contact point.	Reduce the weight or improve the contact line.
Ditch draw clips the toucher	Line is too tight or the pupil remains object-focused.	Use a slightly wider line and a finish beyond the toucher.
Ditch draw finishes short	Finishing intention is too near.	Name a safe point closer to the ditch and deliver positively.
Ditch draw enters the ditch	Excessive finishing weight.	Keep the line and reduce only the weight.

8. Differentiation and Progression

- Less confident pupil: shorten the length, use the preferred hand and open the route.
- Developing pupil: standard layouts, both hands and two-bowl correction.
- More capable pupil: offset the object bowl or toucher, increase distance or narrow the safe finishing area.
- Decision progression: show two heads and require the pupil to choose removal or draw before delivery.
- Pressure progression: use a final-end score and allow one or two attempts.
- Change one variable at a time so the learning remains clear.
 - Use safe rink spacing and a clearly marked finishing area. Stop the exercise if the delivery becomes forced or uncontrolled.
 - Use the How to Play a Yard-On Shot handout to reinforce controlled extra weight, Wrest Out and useful final position.

9. Coach Questions

- What result does the score require?
- Where should the opposing bowl finish after contact?
- Where should your delivered bowl finish?
- Is the draw route safer than the removal attempt?
- Was Bowl 1 mainly affected by line, contact or weight?
- What one change will you make for Bowl 2?

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10. Evidence of Learning

Learning is demonstrated when the pupil can explain the required outcome, select a realistic shot and make a purposeful adjustment. Perfect execution is not required; the important development is controlled intention and improved decision-making.

- The pupil distinguishes controlled removal from a ditch-end draw.
- The pupil states the intended finish before delivery.
- Removal attempts use controlled rather than firing weight.
- Draw bowls reach beyond the toucher and increasingly stop safely.
- Bowl 2 reflects the stated adjustment.
- The pupil begins to choose the lower-risk option when appropriate.

11. Link to Week 9

Week 9 asks the pupil to solve more difficult heads through Split Bowls and Draw the Shot. Week 8 should therefore finish with the pupil understanding that shot selection begins with the score, the available route and the likely result of success or failure.

COACH SUMMARY: Teach the difference between removing with control and drawing to a safe area. Judge the shot by the final result, not merely by contact or closeness to the ditch.