

Finding the Line in Bowls – Player’s Workbook

Why Finding the Line Matters

In bowls, weight control starts with line control. If you don’t know your line, your weight will always be inconsistent. This workbook gives you step-by-step methods, tools, and checklists to help you find your line more quickly.

Step-by-Step Approach to Finding Your Line

1. Start with your own bowls – know how much they bend on an average green.
2. Watch other players – notice how their bowls behave and adjust accordingly.
3. Assess the conditions – weather, grass, patches, and green pace all affect the line.
4. Use aiming points – choose consistent markers to refine your line.

Green Condition Effects

Condition	Effect on Line	Adjustment
Wet / Dew	Narrower line, less bend	Aim closer to the centre
Dry / Hot	Wider line, more swing	Aim further out
Damp patches	Bowl slows, less turn	Avoid the patch if possible
Bare patches	Bowl skids, runs on	Switch side / adjust weight
Scarified	Bias is affected by grooves	Match your aim to scar lines
Spongy greens	Slower surface, less bend	Add weight, aim closer

Six Elements of a Consistent Delivery Line

-  Focus – keep eyes locked on the point of aim.
-  Rhythmic delivery arm – smooth swing, no force.
-  Peripheral vision – forward swing stops below the shoulder, palm up.
-  Balance – hold posture until bowl travels ~10m.
-  Concentration – will the bowl to the target, don’t turn away early.
-  Step forward – finish by stepping along the line of aim.

Before the Game Checklist

- Check recent and current weather – wet, dry, or dew?
- Walk the green – spot patches or unusual areas.

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Berkshire Bowls Coaching Scheme



- Recall how your bowls normally behave.
- Observe other players' bowls – especially familiar models.

Trail End Drill

Use the trail ends to test lines. Pick 2–3 aiming points on both forehand and backhand. Deliver to each and note which holds the best line. Watch other players' bowls from behind the mat to get the clearest view.

Adjusting During the Game

- Watch every bowl – yours and your opponents'.
- Look for signs of changing pace (rain, dew, drying).
- Switch aiming points if the line begins to change.
- Share observations with teammates to adapt faster.

Using Aiming Points

Aiming points behind and in front of the jack help keep your delivery consistent.

[Photo from original document included here]

Key Takeaways

- Line control is the foundation of accurate bowls.
- Use a mix of your own experience, opponents' bowls, and conditions.
- Have multiple aiming points ready as conditions change.
- Practice at the trail ends and adjust throughout the game.

