

Hitting the Jack – Quick Reference Guide

? Can I hit the jack in bowls?

Yes! You are allowed to hit the jack in lawn bowls. But what matters is what happens *after* you hit it. Different outcomes have different rules, and this guide breaks them down clearly.

🏠 What Happens When You Hit the Jack?

Situation	What Happens	What Players Must Do
Jack stays on the rink.	End continues, Jack remains where it stopped.	Adjust your line to the new jack position.
Jack driven into the ditch.	End continues, marker placed to show Jack's position.	Only 'touchers' in the ditch remain alive.
Jack is outside the rink.	End is dead, usually replayed in the opposite direction	Restart end, no score recorded.
Jack <20m from mat.	End is dead, replayed.	Restart end.
Jack rebounds onto the rink.	End continues if Jack rests within the rink boundaries.	Play to the new jack position.

🏠 Why Do Players Use Chalk?

When a bowl touches the jack before it stops, it is called a 'toucher'. It is marked with chalk (stick or spray) so everyone knows it will stay live even if it ends up in the ditch. Touchers count when scoring the end.

🏠 Practice Drill: Jack Outcomes

Set up a practice session where you deliberately drive at the jack. Observe the five possible outcomes:

1. Jack stays on the rink
2. Jack into the ditch
3. Jack outside the rink
4. Jack short (<20m)
5. Jack rebounds onto the rink

After each, play at least 3 bowls to adjust to the new target position. This builds confidence in handling any scenario during a real game.



Quick Checklist

- Live jack (on rink, ditch with toucher, rebound) → End continues.
- Dead jack (outside rink, <20m from mat) → End replayed.
- Always adjust your line and weight to the new position.
- Remember: chalked bowls (touchers) remain live in the ditch.

Key Takeaways

- Yes, you can hit the jack at any time.
- The outcome depends on where the jack finishes.
- Touchers are marked with chalk to show they remain in play.
- Practice different outcomes so you can adjust quickly in matches.

