

How to Bowl – Basics Guide

Bowls is a tactical target sport where players roll weighted bowls towards a smaller ball called the jack. This guide explains the basic game formats, how an end is played, and the key roles in a team. It blends simple narrative with tables, checklists, and callouts so beginners can learn quickly.

Game Formats

Format	Players per Team	Bowls Each	Ends
Singles	1	4	21 shots
Doubles	2	4	21 ends
Triples	3	3	18 ends
Fours (Rinks)	4	2	18/21 ends

How an End Works

1. Lead sets the mat and rolls the jack.
2. Teams alternate rolling bowls one by one.
3. After all bowls are delivered, the closest to the jack scores.
4. 1 shot is scored for each bowl closer than the opponent's nearest.
5. Players then change ends and repeat until the game finishes.

Scoring Reminder

Scoring is based on the number of bowls your team has closer to the jack than the opposition's best bowl. For example, if you have 2 bowls closer, you score 2 shots.

Team Roles

Role	Key Duties	Skills Needed
Lead	Place mat, roll the jack, and deliver consistent draw shots	Accuracy, steady foundation play
Second	Keep scoreboard, play varied shots as needed	Versatility, adaptability
Third	Measure shots, advise skip, and have knowledge of laws	Experience, tactical awareness
Skip	Lead team, set tactics, record scores	Leadership, strategy, and broad game knowledge



Bowls Basics Checklist

- Always deliver with at least one foot on the mat.
- Jack stays alive if it goes into the ditch (mark on bank).
- Dead bowls (out of play) are removed.
- Score 1 shot per bowl closer to the jack than the opponent's best.
- Change ends after every end is completed.

Key Takeaways

- Bowls can be played in formats from singles to fours.
- The jack sets the target; teams alternate bowls until all are played.
- Scoring is simple – count bowls closer than the opponent.
- Every team role has duties – from laying the mat to leading strategy.
- Consistency and teamwork are the foundations of success.

