

Measuring Bowls – Player’s Workbook

Measuring is how we decide the score when it isn’t obvious by sight. It requires the right tools, good etiquette, and a consistent sequence. This guide will help you measure fairly and confidently.

Why Measuring Matters

Fair and accurate measuring avoids disputes and ensures the correct team gets the points. Every bowler should understand the basics, even if vices and skips usually handle it.

Measuring Tools

Tool	Best For	Notes
String box measure	General play	Simple, but must be pulled straight to be fair.
Metal tape	Club/umpire use	More accurate, harder to misuse.
Callipers	Bowl and jack are very close	Use the screw adjustment carefully; don’t touch the jack.
Paper/note test	When bowls may be touching the jack	Quick, non-invasive way to confirm.

Measuring Sequence

1. Wedge any bowls that might fall or move.
2. Identify the nearest candidate bowl.
3. Compare it against the nearest opposition bowl.
4. Move confirmed shot bowls to a towel for clarity.
5. Continue comparing all bowls one at a time.
6. Count bowls on towel – this is the score.

Measuring Etiquette

- Either vice may call for a measure.
- Both players should agree on the result before recording.
- If still uncertain, call an umpire or neutral measurer.
- Do not pressure opponents to skip a measure.
- Never adjust callipers between the jack and bowl.



- Always measure from bowl to jack – not the other way.

Tips & Callouts

- Never touch the jack with the measure – stop just short on the initial instance when measuring..
- Use wedges to stop bowls from shifting during the measure.
- Lay confirmed counters on a towel to keep them clear.
- Stay calm and take your time – rushing increases errors.

Worked Example

Blue has 3 obvious counters. Place them on a towel. Now compare Blue's 4th bowl with Red's nearest. Keep the closer one and put it on the towel. Repeat with the remaining bowls until all are compared. The number of bowls on the towel = Blue's final score.

Key Takeaways

- Always wedge bowls before measuring.
- Use the right tool for the situation.
- Follow a clear sequence to stay consistent.
- Respect etiquette – fairness matters as much as accuracy.

