

BERKSHIRE BOWLS COACHING SCHEME

Player Roles in Team Bowls

Understand your job, support the team and communicate clearly

WHY THIS MATTERS

Every player is important. A team performs best when each player understands the role, completes the practical duties and supports the players who follow.

Common Team Formats

Format	Players	Bowls each	Typical order
Singles	2 individuals	4	Players deliver alternately.
Pairs	2 per team	4	Lead, then Skip.
Triples	3 per team	3	Lead, Second, then Skip.
Fours	4 per team	2	Lead, Second, Third, then Skip.

The Four Team Roles

Role	Main purpose	Typical duties	Player quality
Lead	Build the foundation	Place the mat as directed, deliver the jack, draw into the head and help return bowls safely.	Observant
Second	Support or repair the head	Draw to the jack or a position, consolidate, recover or play controlled weight when required; often maintain the rink scoreboard.	Supportive
Third	Manage information at the head	Act as the Skip's eyes, answer clearly, mark touchers, measure when delegated and help decide the shots scored.	Confident
Skip	Direct the team and the head	Give clear instructions, develop the head, make decisions with the opposing Skip, encourage the team and keep the scorecard unless delegated.	Positive

How Each Role Contributes

LEAD — BUILD

Focus on accurate draw bowls and a useful foundation. Follow the Skip's instructions for mat position and jack length. A close second bowl can be as valuable as the shot bowl.

SECOND — SUPPORT

Be versatile. Consolidate a good start, repair a poor head or place a positional bowl. Support the Lead and be ready for draw or controlled-weight instructions.

THIRD — INFORM

Know the head. Give the Skip accurate, concise information and avoid unnecessary advice unless asked. When responsible for measuring, protect the head and agree the result with the opponent.

SKIP — LEAD

Read the head, know the team's strengths and give one clear instruction. Encourage rather than criticise. The Skip must remain calm, positive and confident in the Third's information.

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A Simple Team Routine

1 — LISTEN	2 — CONFIRM	3 — DELIVER	4 — SUPPORT
Look at the Skip or the player directing the head.	Understand the hand, target and intended result.	Commit to the shot and use your normal routine.	After delivery, give space, encourage the team and observe the head.

Good Team Habits

- Every role matters; do not judge a player only by whether the bowl finishes as shot.
- Keep instructions short, positive and easy to understand.
- Give factual information from the head and avoid several competing options.
- Respect the player in charge of the head and avoid unnecessary interruption.
- Encourage teammates, praise good bowls and maintain good sportsmanship.
- Help with practical duties, including returning bowls safely at the end of each end.

Player Self-Check

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| ☐ Did I understand my role before play began? | ☐ Did I complete my practical duties? |
| ☐ Was my communication clear and positive? | ☐ Did I support the team after delivering my bowls? |

KEY POINT: Know your role, complete your duties and help every teammate perform with confidence.