

BERKSHIRE BOWLS COACHING SCHEME

Measuring Equipment and Procedures

Choose carefully, protect the head and state the result clearly

WHY THIS MATTERS

When the result of an end is uncertain, measuring removes doubt. The important skills are selecting suitable equipment, comparing the correct points and avoiding any movement of the bowls or jack.

The Core Measuring Sequence

Step	Action	Player reminder
1 — Identify	Decide which bowls need to be compared.	Keep everyone else clear of the head.
2 — Select	Choose the simplest suitable equipment.	Choose before touching anything.
3 — Position	Compare the nearest point of the bowl with the nearest point of the jack.	Do not measure from the centres.
4 — Protect	Support the equipment and your body position.	Nothing should touch or move.
5 — Compare	Repeat the comparison if necessary.	Take your time and keep the equipment steady.
6 — Announce	State the winning bowl and number of shots.	Complete the procedure clearly.

Choosing the Equipment

Equipment	Typical use
Box or standard measure	A normal comparison where there is clear access.
Callipers	A close comparison where a standard measure would be awkward.
Feeler gauge or wedge	A very small gap or a bowl that needs supporting.
Longer measure	A distance beyond the convenient reach of the normal measure.
Alternative method	An obstructed situation where direct access would risk disturbing the head.

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Good Measuring Habits

Do	Avoid
✓ Agree what is being measured before starting.	✗ Removing a bowl before its status has been agreed.
✓ Chock or support a tilted bowl where appropriate.	✗ Forcing equipment through a blocked route.
✓ Allow the opponent to see the process.	✗ Measuring from a convenient rather than nearest point.
✓ Use one measurer while others stand clear.	✗ Crowding the head with several people.
✓ Keep clothing, feet and loose equipment away from the head.	✗ Rushing because the result looks obvious.
✓ Ask for help where the measure is beyond your confidence.	✗ Mixing a distance question with a separate live/dead decision.

Essential Practice Situations

Situation	What to practise	Main risk
Standard measure	Correct points and steady use of the measure.	Moving the jack or bowl.
Close measure	Use of callipers or a feeler gauge.	Applying sideways pressure.
Tilted bowl	Supporting the bowl before measuring.	The bowl falling during the process.
Obstructed measure	Selecting a safer alternative method.	Forcing access through the head.
Long measure	Stable body position and equipment control.	Stretching across the head.
Boundary or ditch example	Deciding the question before measuring.	Confusing distance with status.

Player Self-Check

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| ☐ Did I identify the correct bowls? | ☐ Did I choose the simplest suitable equipment? |
| ☐ Did I compare nearest point to nearest point? | ☐ Did I protect the head and state the result clearly? |

RULES NOTE: Measuring duties and the action required after a displacement can depend on the game format and the applicable laws or conditions of play. Ask the coach, marker or umpire when unsure.

KEY POINT: Identify, select, position, protect, compare and announce.