

BERKSHIRE BOWLS COACHING SCHEME

How to Play a Yard-On Shot

Use controlled extra weight to alter the head and remain useful

WHY THIS MATTERS

The yard-on is one of the most productive weighted shots in bowls. It can remove or rest a bowl, move the jack or improve the count, while still leaving the delivered bowl in a useful position when played with control.

What Is a Yard-On Shot?

- A yard-on is a weighted shot played with roughly one yard more pace than a normal draw.
- It is designed to disturb a bowl or the jack without becoming a full running shot or drive.
- The delivered bowl should still have a useful final position after contact.

Why Play It?

Possible purpose	Typical outcome
Rest out an opposing bowl	Move the shot bowl and allow your bowl to remain near the jack.
Trail or move the jack	Shift the jack towards a favourable bowl or position.
Improve the count	Add shots or reduce the number held by the opposition.
Create back position	A near miss may still leave useful depth behind the head.

Line and Bias

- The bowl travels faster than a draw, so it normally takes less bias and needs a slightly narrower line.
- Do not aim directly at the target unless the speed is genuinely driving weight.
- Many players miss narrow because they over-correct the line. The adjustment from draw line is usually controlled, not extreme.
- Where possible, use the straighter and more predictable hand for the conditions.

Weight Control

Good yard-on weight	Too much or too little
✓ Reaches the head positively.	X Too little: stops short and never completes the job.
✓ Moves the target by the required amount.	X Too much: turns the shot into a running bowl or drive.
✓ Allows the delivered bowl to remain useful.	X Too much: may damage friendly bowls or lose the head.
✓ Keeps a smooth, normal delivery rhythm.	X Forced action: line and release become unreliable.

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A Simple Yard-On Routine

1 — READ	2 — AIM	3 — WEIGHT	4 — REVIEW
Decide exactly what must be moved and where the bowls or jack should finish.	Choose the hand and a slightly narrower line than the normal draw.	Use enough extra pace to complete the job without forcing the delivery.	Judge line, contact and final positions, not contact alone.

Practice Activities

Practice	Player task	Progression
Add-a-yard drill	Deliver one bowl at comfortable weight, then send each following bowl about one yard farther while keeping the same line.	Increase only when line and delivery remain consistent.
Line-marker drill	Place several markers across the green and deliver one bowl over each selected line.	Use one attempt per marker to simulate a match shot.
Rest-out target	Begin with three bowls as a large contact target, then reduce to two and finally one.	Review when the bowl begins to turn under extra weight.
Recreate a head	Set up a simple match situation where a previous yard-on attempt was missed.	Practise the intended line, contact and final positions.

Common Problems and Corrections

Problem	Correction
Bowl finishes short	Set the intended finish beyond the target and add controlled pace.
Bowl misses on the narrow side	Widen the aiming point slightly; do not over-correct from draw line.
Bowl runs through the head	Keep the line and reduce only the weight.
Contact is made but the result is poor	Review the contact point and intended final positions.

Player Self-Check

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|---|---|
| ☐ Did I know what had to move and where it should finish? | ☐ Did I use a controlled line adjustment rather than aim straight? |
| ☐ Was the weight enough to complete the job but still remain useful? | ☐ Did I review the final positions, not just whether I made contact? |

KEY POINT: A successful yard-on combines a slightly narrower line, controlled extra weight and a clear picture of the result after contact.