

# **United States Lawn Bowls Association**

## **Regulations for 2011**

Plain English Campaign's Crystal Mark does not apply to these regulations. The "Regulations" apply only where USLBA is the Member National Authority as recognized by World Bowls.

### **MISCELLANEOUS DEFINITIONS**

- 101.1** USLBA: United States Lawn Bowls Association
- 101.2** Home Club: Club from which the member's USLBA dues are paid.
- 101.3** Domestic: Club-, Division- or USLBA-sponsored events.
- 101.4** International: North American Challenge, Asia/Pacific Championships, Atlantic Championships and other World Bowls-sanctioned events.

### **REGULATIONS**

The Laws of the Sport of Bowls permit the United States Lawn Bowls Association to make regulations to cover a number of aspects of the sport. The following regulations are made in accordance with law 17.1.

#### **102. THE GREEN (see law 2.5)**

- 102.1** All greens built before 2003 are approved by USLBA.
- 102.2** USLBA recommends that all indoor and outdoor greens built after 2003 be designed and built in accordance with Laws 2, 3, and 4.

#### **103. BOWLS (see law 8.2.3)**

##### **103.1 CHALLENGED BOWLS**

- 103.1.1** The Controlling Body for the competition should immediately refer a challenge to a neutral Umpire who shall investigate and render a decision before the start of the next regularly scheduled game.
- 103.1.2** Pursuant to Law 8.4, the umpire shall make a comprehensive visual examination of the four bowls to determine that they appear to comprise a set of bowls (as defined in law 1.4.3) that may confidently be presumed to be an original set.
- 103.1.3** The "deposit" referenced in Law 8.4.4.3 shall be considered non-applicable.
- 103.1.4** The decision of the Umpire shall be final for that competition.

##### **103.2 TESTING FOR BIAS**

- 103.2.1** When the challenge is based on a claim of inadequate bias on a bowl, the Umpire (section 2.1) may resort to green testing of the challenged bowl versus a new or recently tested bowl of the same bias or next adjacent size and same bias carrying an approved ALBA, IBB, WBB or WB stamp.
- 103.2.2** Such testing should be carried out by or in the presence of the umpire over a distance of 25 to 30 meters on the most uniformly drawing green available.
- 103.2.3** The owner of the offending bowls may be present during the testing.

**103.2.4** If the test result is a fail, the offending set of bowls will not be permitted for use in any event that requires the bowls to be inspected.

### **103.3 APPEALS**

**103.3.1** Initial Appeal: The decision of the Umpire based on an interpretation of these laws, or given upon a set of circumstances not herein provided for, may be called in question by an appeal to the Controlling Body of the competition whose decision should be final and binding with respect to the appeal submitted.

**103.3.2** Referral to a Rules Committee: If the applicant requests, the Controlling Body should submit the case up through the Division to the Rules Committee of the USLBA for a final decision. That decision should be binding on all future competitions but will not affect the results of the initial decision made under paragraph 2.2.1.

## **104. SUBSTITUTE AND REPLACEMENT PLAYERS (see law 51.9)**

### **104.1 CONSTITUTED TEAM**

**104.1.1** When an event or tournament mandates an entry prior to the date of the event or Tournament, then the submitted entry will be considered “Constituted” unless a member becomes unavailable for any part of the event or Tournament, in which case section 3.2 will apply.

**104.1.2** When the correct number of eligible players are assembled into a team and each Member of the team has played their first bowl in a game, the team is considered “constituted” and each member thereof is a “constituted team member” for the remainder of the competition in which the team is entered, except when paragraph 3.1.1 applies.

**104.1.3** After a team is constituted, no alteration in team membership or order of play shall be permitted during the remainder of that game except as required should a substitute become necessary.

**104.1.4** A constituted team may change their playing positions between succeeding matches in the same competition, subject to the requirements of paragraph 3.2.8 if a substitute become necessary.

### **104.2 SUBSTITUTIONS**

**104.2.1** All substitutes shall be specifically approved by the controlling body or their representative.

**104.2.2** Only one approved substitute shall be permitted on any team at any one time. If two team members are absent or if an approved substitute is not available to replace a single absent team member, the game shall be forfeited.

**104.2.3** If, due to the conditions in paragraph 3.2.2 or for other reasons, a team forfeits before the start of the first game in a competition, any available members of the team so forfeiting shall be considered as fully eligible players and may play as substitutes in that competition.

**104.2.4** If an eligible player, entered as a team member in a competition, plans to transfer to another team as a substitute before play has started in the first game of the competition, they shall declare their intent to the controlling body or their representative and have their transfer officially approved; otherwise they normally would be considered to be a constituted member of the team on which they were originally entered.

**104.2.5** All members of a constituted team shall be ineligible to act as substitutes in the same

competition even though the team has been defeated and is no longer playing in that competition.

**104.2.6** If a team is permitted a substitute, the substitute may be changed at any time during the game, or between succeeding games in the same competition, or they may continue in the competition if they remain eligible. (See paragraph 3.2.1)

**104.2.7** A constituted member of a team for whom a substitute was obtained may, if still eligible, join or rejoin the team at any time after the completion of an end in their original position, at which time the other team members shall revert to their original positions.

**104.2.8** A substitute may play any position except skip. In the case of Triples and Fours, the skip may arrange the positions of the rest of the team as desired.

**104.2.9** Failure to observe these substitution rules are grounds for the opponent to appeal to the Controlling Body for a decision to have the game awarded in their favor.

## **CONDITIONS OF PLAY**

Controlling Bodies can decide to include the following in the Conditions of Play for their events.

### **105 CELL PHONES AND OTHER ELECTRONIC DEVICES**

Cell phones, head sets and pagers must be muted or turned down. Sounds from these devices should not distract other players. Violations shall be considered a violation of rink possession, and an umpire, after having previously given the player a warning, may have the last bowl played by the offending player or team declared dead. (See Law 35)

### **106 DECLINING TO PLAY PROMPTLY**

**106.1** If a player fails to deliver their bowl within 1 minute of the coming to rest of their opponent's previously delivered bowl, they may receive a warning from an umpire who should inform the player that any succeeding infractions of this law may result in their bowl being stopped and removed from the rink.

**106.2** If a bowl is removed for an infraction of this law, the game shall proceed as though the offending player had accepted their turn.

### **107 LABELS ATTACHED TO BOWLS**

**107.1** The Controlling Body for any match can furnish and require the contestants to affix a single adhesive ("stick-on") marking to each side of a bowl to improve identification of the teams during a game.

**107.2** The large disc should be affixed central on the side of the larger center emblem (the non-bias side) and the small disk to the opposite side.

**107.3** Both discs may be placed off center but neither may be placed on the running surface.

**107.4** The small disc should not cover either the date stamp or the serial number.

# **THE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS**

## **Rules and Regulations Pertaining to the Playdowns and Championships**

### **108 REQUIREMENTS for EACH ENTRY**

- 108.1** Lawn bowlers wishing to compete in a Divisional Playdown which will determine that Division's Representatives to the National Championships must be:
- 108.1.1** A citizen of the United States;
  - 108.1.2** A USLBA member prior to the playdowns;
  - 108.1.3** Financially in good standing for all bowls-related obligations;
  - 108.1.4** Able to certify, if a member of more than one division, that they have not entered the playdowns in any other division;
  - 108.1.5** Willing to certify that they will compete at the Championships as that division's representative or as the runner(s)-up in case of default by the winners;
  - 108.1.6** Aware that any playdowns winner(s) who do not fulfill the above requirements may face possible sanctions from their Division.
- 108.2** Proof that any of the above requirements have not been fully met can be considered as cause for disqualification.

### **109 SELECTION and REPORTING of DIVISIONAL ENTRIES**

- 109.1** Each division shall run a playdown to determine the division's singles and pairs representatives. Each division may use any method of play consistent within these Rules.
- 109.2** Each division shall certify their official singles and pairs entries, including the runner(s)-up, to the National Championships Tournament Director no later than 30 days prior to the opening day of the Championships.

### **110 SUBSTITUTIONS**

- 110.1** During playdowns, no substitutions shall be permitted once play has commenced.
- 110.2** During the Championships, a substitution shall be permitted only under conditions specified in paragraphs 94.3, 94.4, and 94.5 of these rules.
- 110.3** If illness or another acceptable reason prevents a singles entry or one or both members of a pairs team from continuing competition, substitution will be permitted only as listed in the following items.
- 110.3.1** Singles: The substitute shall be the next player in the order in the playdowns, i.e., the runner-up, etc.
  - 110.3.2** Pairs: The substitute shall be the next complete team (both players intact as originally entered) in the order of winning in the playdowns, i.e., the runners-up, etc. Because pairs depends on team effort, the combining of players into a new team is not permitted, except as an emergency measure under control of the Tournament Director per paragraph 95.
- 110.4** To prevent the possibility of a Division's default, the Tournament Director, after consultation with the Division's Executive Board, may appoint a replacement for a missing singles entrant or for one or both of the members of a pairs team, providing the substitute(s) meet(s) the following criteria:

- 110.4.1** A current USLBA member;
- 110.4.2** Must be of the same gender and division as the defaulting player; and
- 110.4.3** Did not compete in the playdowns of any other division that year.
- 110.5** If a singles player or one or both members of a pairs team cannot be replaced, scores for the involved teams will be as follows:
  - 110.5.1** All completed games shall be recorded per the points earned.
  - 110.5.2** For games not completed or not played: the team receiving the 'forfeit win' will receive 2 (two) match points and given the average score of the winning teams in the other matches played in that round of competition. The forfeiting team will receive 0 (zero) match points and the average score of the losing teams in the other matches played in that round of competition.
- 110.6** If none of these rules about substitutions adequately apply to a situation that arises at the Championships, immediately notify the Tournament Director of all pertinent facts and information. The Tournament Director will issue a ruling. Such ruling will be final.

## **111 GENERAL RULES**

- 111.1** The USLBA Council shall appoint a specific Councilor from the host division to be the Tournament Director for the National Championships. The Councilor appointed may delegate this authority.
- 111.2** No member may play in both the singles and pairs in the National Championships in the same year.
- 111.3** All bowls used in the National Championships must carry the official ALBA, WBB or WB stamp or must have a certification from an official bowls tester. Date and serial number must be legible.
- 111.4** All matters concerning the National Championships, except financial matters, shall be referred to the Tournament Director.
- 111.5** All play at the Championships shall be Round Robin. All singles games will be 21 points. All pairs games shall be 18 ends. Tied games in pairs shall remain. All games will be completed except in tie-break situations where the result is inevitable.
- 111.6** The winner of each game at the Championships shall be awarded 2 points; zero points for a loss; for a tied pairs game each team will receive 1 point.
- 111.7** No more than two games may be scheduled or played on any given day at the Championships unless playoffs are required. More than two games per day may be scheduled at the division level for the playdowns.
- 111.8** At the end of round robin play, if two players or teams are tied for first place, they will play off for the championship.
- 111.9** The *Conditions of Play*, as described in Appendix A.1 of the Laws of the Sport of Bowls, shall be provided in writing to each Division no less than thirty (30) days prior to the first day of the Championships.

## **112 DRESS CODE**

- 112.1** At Opening Ceremonies:
  - 112.1.1** All participants must wear white- or cream-colored slacks.
  - 112.1.2** Blazers in the Division's color shall be in the possession of each player. At the

discretion of the Tournament Director, their wearing may not be required.

**112.2** During competition:

**112.2.1** Shirts for all six team members must be predominantly of the Division's color.

**112.2.2** Below-the-waist attire

**112.2.2.1** May be white, cream, or colored.

**112.2.2.2** Pairs teams must coordinate their choices.

**112.2.2.3** Shorts or skirts may be no more than 3 inches above the knee.

**112.2.3** Footwear must be flat soled and heel-less.

**112.2.4** Medical footwear may be worn with the approval of the Tournament Director.

**112.2.5** Advertising is permitted in accordance with USLBA Regulations.

**112.3** Penalties:

**112.3.1** The Tournament Director may declare a player in violation of the Dress Code.

**112.3.2** A first offense shall receive a warning.

**112.3.3** A penalty for a second (or additional) offense(s) may be imposed.

## **Dress Code for the United States Open** **and other tournaments sponsored by the USLBA**

**113 U.S. Open dress code requires the following at all times:**

**113.1** Footwear must be flat-soled and heel-less.

**113.2** Team members must wear white or matching-colored shirts.

**113.2.1** Men's shirts must have both collars and sleeves.

**113.2.2** Women's shirts must have collars.

**113.2.3** Shorts may be no shorter than 3 inches above the knee.

**113.3** Team members must wear white or matching colored below-the-waist attire.

**113.4** Medical footwear may be worn with the approval of the Tournament Director.

**113.5** Advertising is permitted in accordance with USLBA Regulations.

**113.6** Penalties:

**113.6.1** The Tournament Director shall have the power to declare a player in violation of the Dress Code.

**113.6.2** The Tournament Director or its designee shall warn an offender upon his/her first offense.

**113.6.3** The penalty for a second (or additional) offense(s) may be the loss of a game.