

Duties of Team Members

Playing Your Part as the **THIRD**

Presented by George Bruce as a Coach.

Harmony:

It is essential the third works in complete harmony with the skip **and** members of the bowls team.

The third's duties are described in the Laws of the Sport of Bowls, Crystal Mark Fourth Edition (approved August 2022) as:

Duty:

40.2 The Third

40.2.1 The third can measure any and all disputed shots.

40.2.2 The third can tell the skip the number of shots scored for or against their team as each end is completed.

However here in Australia the Third plays a huge role and can often be instrumental in the outcome of the game.

- Be in charge of the head when skips are bowling or in absentia of the skip.
- Help to return bowls to a safe position behind the mat at the conclusion of each end,
- Must know and be able to identify the teams and opponents' bowls,
- **Answer the skips queries** correctly and concisely.

Experience & Ability:

Apart from being experienced in all shots from the draw to the drive, they must also be able to quickly indicate the position of the head or bowls **when asked for this information**.

Control & Advice:

The thirds should not attempt to control the skips play, and refrain from offering advice unless specifically asked for by the skip.

Idle Chatter:

The third should not talk to the skip when crossing over unless spoken to as this will break the skips concentration.

Other Attributes:

The Third must:

- be able to act as the director of the head;
- be able to determine the shot quickly when asked;
- be able to indicate the up or down position after the skips bowls comes to rest;
- always know who holds second and third shots;

- Must always be aware of the position of bowls in the head when it is their turn to play but under no circumstances pre-empt the skips instructions;
- Observe all shot measurements and when in doubt recheck the measurement;
- have have a thorough knowledge of the laws of the game, conditions of play and the etiquette of the game.