



BowlsUSA

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SUBJECT: NATIONAL UMPIRES CLUB

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Section I - General

Name

The name of the club shall be the National Umpires Club (NUC) and shall operate at all times under the approval and jurisdiction of Bowls USA

The Purpose

The purpose of the NUC shall be

- To provide qualified umpires for all tournaments played under the direct jurisdiction of Bowls USA
- To form a pool of qualified umpires from which selection shall be made to cover all tournaments held under the current edition of the Laws of the Sport of Bowls
- To consult with and/or answer questions from Bowls USA on the Laws of the Sport of Bowls
- To give guidance on the laws
- To provide examinations for applicants to the NUC

National Umpires Club Governance

The hierarchy within the NUC shall be as follows:

- 1 National Umpire-in-Chief
- 2 Head Division Umpires
- 3 National Umpires

See Appendix A for Position Descriptions

Section II – Obtaining NUC Membership

To become a National Umpire, the applicant must

- Be a member in good standing of Bowls USA
- Initiate the process by contacting the HDU of their division or the NUIC. If contact is made directly with the NUIC, the NUIC will contact and inform the appropriate HDU
- Complete and submit the application form explaining the testing process and requiring their promise, if they are successful, to serve whenever possible

- Sign and submit the Umpire's Code of Conduct
- Submit the completed written test for grading to the HDU or NUIC
- Complete the oral and practical test after the written test is passed

Section III – Three-Part Testing Procedure

Written

- The written 25-question test may be comprised of true/false, yes/no, or may ask for the law number that best answers the question. A minimum of 20 correct answers constitutes a passing grade. The applicant and the HDU are informed of the results, along with an explanation of why any question was deemed incorrect.
- The applicant must pledge that they will not communicate any information about the exam questions and the answers to any other person.
- At the total discretion of the NUIC, applicants who fail the exam may be allowed a second chance to answer the questions that were missed on the first attempt. Such opportunities shall have a brief time limit and the correct answers may be added to their previous score and may result in a passing score.

Following successful completion of the written test, then two more tests are given by the HDU, as follows:

Practical

- The practical test (or skills test) is given at a bowling green, where the applicant demonstrates their ability to use the correct tools to perform basic measuring situations. This test is given by the Head Division Umpire.

Oral

- A ten-question, closed-book, non-graded oral exam is given at the same time as the practical. It is designed to challenge the applicant; not to discourage them but to encourage them to continue to study the LSB during their entire term of service.

Test Results, Certification, NUC Membership, Recertification

Written Test

- Completed tests will be sent by the HDU or the candidate to the NUIC who will grade it.

Oral and Practical

- Upon successful completion of the written test, the HDU and the applicant set a date for the oral and practical tests. The HDU informs the NUIC when the oral and practical tests have been completed, along with any information the HDU considers relevant

Official Membership in the NUC

- Membership in the NUC shall be automatically conferred upon the successful completion of the three-part test. An NUC pin and towel will be given to the successful applicant. The first term of service is five (5) years. The first year of service begins in the year the practical and oral test results are conveyed to the NUIC.

National Umpire Recertification

- Normally, a National Umpire whose term is expiring will be offered the opportunity to recertify for another five-year term by the NUIC. The decision to make that offer or not shall be made by the NUIC and shall be final.
- Upon receiving an invitation to recertify, the umpire must notify the NUIC of their affirmative or negative decision to take the recertification test. The recertification invitations are sent out November 1 and, if the umpire's decision is to recertify, the recertification test must be completed and submitted to the NUIC no later than December 31 of that year.

Section IV – Ethics and Disciplinary Matters

Overview

- Whether on or off the green, members of the NUC are expected to maintain their behavior at a higher standard. It is not impossible that a member of the NUC might be accused of inadequately performing their duties, displaying bias, or acting in a manner that brings discredit to the NUC or Bowls USA. Such complaints must be acknowledged and investigated so that a just and proper response may be made.
- See Appendix B for details.

Appendix A - Position Descriptions

National Umpire-in-Chief

- The NUIC will create the 25-question written test. New written tests or individual questions will be created as needed, and always when a new edition of the LSB is issued. Completed tests will be sent by the HDU or the candidate to the NUIC who will grade it.
- The NUIC shall provide HDUs with 10 standard questions to be used in the oral exam. The purpose of the oral is for the HDU, on behalf of the NUIC, to demonstrate how much they don't know and how much they will need to learn before they will be a "wise and experienced" umpire.
- The NUIC shall oversee and be responsible for all aspects of the NUC, including but not limited to
 - Appointing the HDU for each division
 - Keeping in contact with the HDU of each division on a regular basis
 - Maintaining an accurate and updated spreadsheet of all members of the NUC
 - Performing all duties without bias towards any player, umpire, marker, or spectator
 - Preparing the written and oral tests to be taken by all umpire candidates that are consistent with the current edition of the Laws of the Sport of Bowls
 - Grading all written tests and informing the applicant and the HDU of the test results
 - Submitting an annual report to Bowls USA for their Annual General Meeting
 - Communicating with all members of the NUC to keep them informed of changes in the LSB, communiques from World Bowls that would affect how the game of bowls is played within Bowls USA, and other information deemed important for umpires to carry out their duties
 - Authoring and revising these P&P. Revisions may be provided to Bowls USA at any meeting

- Working with the Bowls USA Rules Committee in preparing and submitting Domestic Regulations to World Bowls for final approval prior to any printing of a new edition of the Laws of the Sport of Bowls
- Writing and/or approving the Conditions of Play for the US Open
- Conferring and consulting with the National Championships Committee on the Conditions of Play for that event

Head Division Umpire

The HDU, whose Home Club must be within the named Division, shall assist the NUIC and be responsible for the National Umpires in their Division, including but not limited to

- Ensuring that National Umpires are available for tournaments held within their Division
- Maintaining an accurate and updated spreadsheet of all umpires within their Division
- Performing all duties without bias towards any player, umpire, marker, or spectator
- Arranging for the practical and oral tests to be given after the successful completion of an applicant's written test
- Reviewing and approving the Conditions of Play for divisional tournaments or at the request of a local club
- Establishing and maintaining ongoing communication with the National Umpires under their jurisdiction, including the dissemination of material from the NUIC as appropriate
- Recommending umpire applicants for approval by the NUIC according to the established testing procedures
- Conducting workshops to explain and answer questions on the Laws of the Sport of Bowls
- Offering workshops specific to the duties of a marker
- Appointing an Assistant Head Division Umpire (AHDU), if needed, to assist in fulfilling the obligations of the position. Such appointments must have the prior approval of the NUIC.
 - The AHDU must have their Home Club in the named Division

National Umpire

The National Umpire shall perform all duties as requested by the NUIC or HDU of their Division, including but not limited to

- Ensuring their availability for tournaments held within the Division
- Acquiring and using the appropriate tools to perform their duties
- Answering and ruling on situations covered by the Laws of the Sport of the Bowls at club and/or divisional tournaments
- Performing all duties without bias towards any player, umpire, marker, or spectator
- Conducting workshops to explain and answer questions on the Laws of the Sport of Bowls at the club level
- Offering workshops specific to the duties of a marker at the club level
- Ensuring that Conditions of Play are created for club tournaments and/or assisting the Tournament Director in doing so
- Following the proper procedures for performing all measurements between the jack and bowls and determining whether a jack or bowl is in play or not

- Adhering to law 43, The umpire's duties, in the current edition of the Laws of the Sport of Bowls

Appendix B – Ethics and Disciplinary Matters

Allegations of Impropriety

- If an umpire is accused of any impropriety, the HDU and/or NUIC shall discuss the allegation with the accused umpire. If the complaint is against the NUIC, the matter shall be referred to Bowls USA Executive Committee.
- If the discussion with the accused umpire does not resolve the issue, the HDU or NUIC may issue one of the following penalties: (1) warning, (2) probation, (3) temporary suspension, and (4) revocation of the umpire's membership in the National Umpire Club. That decision is final.
- If it is found that the allegation is unfounded, unsubstantiated, or does not justify any further action, the matter may be considered dismissed.
- The HDU or NUIC will follow up with the accuser to assure them that the matter has been addressed and what, if any, action was taken.
- A second offense of the same nature may be referred to Bowls USA Executive Committee at the request of the HDU, NUIC, or the accuser.

Finality

- In all matters regarding improprieties, the ruling of the NUIC or Bowls USA Executive Committee will be final.