



Discover Your Sport... Lawn Bowls



Newsletter

AUGUST 2018

BOWLS USA ANNOUNCES TEAM USA PLAYERS FOR THE NAC

The biennial North American Challenge between the USA and Canada will be hosted on the recently-installed carpet at the Laguna Woods Lawn Bowling Club in the Southwest Division on October 11 to 13. Spectators will be welcome.

CONGRATULATIONS

- | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------|
| Alexis Vanden Bos (NWD) | Rob Behncke (CD) |
| Alice Birkinshaw (SCD) | Bill Brault (SWD) |
| Anne Nunes (SWD) | Loren Dion (SWD) |
| Candy DeFazio (SWD) | Phil Dunn (SWD) |
| Dee McSparran (SCD) | James Flower (SWD) |
| Joanne Hedgespeth (SWD) | Andy Klubberud (NWD) |
| Margi Rambo (SWD) | Scott Roberts (SWD) |
| Mary Spease (SWD) | Bob Schneider (CD) |
| Melanie Vizenor (SWD) | Grant Shear (SWD) |
| Sandy Wall (SED) | Aaron Zangl (SWD) |
| Alternates: | |
| Cheryl Barkovich (SWD) | Bob Birkinshaw (SCD) |
| Janice Bell (PIMD) | Robert Busciglio (SWD) |
| Linda Roberts (SWD) | |
| Manager: Brenda Wright | Manager: Steve Nelson |
| Coach: Kottia Spangler | |

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Check out BowlsUSA on facebook

A note of thanks goes to the National Team Selectors Jackie Tucker, Jan Hargraves, Debbie Tucker, Frank Souza, Joe Zinna and Phil Luth.



2018 Grant Program

For the third year in a row, Bowls USA has participated in “loyalty programs” and “incentives” for 100% Bowls USA clubs. The Grant Program has been the appropriate way to “give back” to those clubs that support Bowls USA.

A committee, consisting of Alice Birkinshaw, BowlsUSA Treasurer; Ginger Harris, Councilor (PIMD); and Glorianne Mather, Councilor (CED), administered the program for 2018. We are pleased to report that 22 clubs from 6 divisions expressed interest and will be receiving funding in 2018.

Grant funds may be used for projects that are intended to attract new members or to improve the playing experience of the club. We also specified that funds could not be used for food and/or refreshments.

The total amount of grant funds available for 2018 is \$10,000. Twenty-two clubs requested grants totaling \$26,000.

Grant Recipients 2018

PIMD- 6 clubs

- Oakland-\$500 Contract with an outside agency to do the deep tining aeration of one of 3 greens with help from club volunteers
- Berkeley-\$400 Replace lawn tools and 8 new rakes
- Palo Alto-\$400 Lights for night bowling
- Sunnyvale-\$300 Scoreboards and used bowls
- San Jose-\$400 Bowls for lessons and new bowlers and Promotional materials
- San Francisco-\$500 42 foot mats and 7scoreboards

Southwest-6 clubs

- Long Beach-\$400 Promotions and Recruitment
- Santa Barbara-\$300 Promotions, small business cards and website
- Oxnard Joslyn-400 Purchase smaller bowls and rink markers
- Oaks North-\$800 Make area around greens safer and less congested
- Santa Monice-\$400 Recruitment and retention
- San Diego-\$500 Laser Leveling of North Green to eliminate uneven playing surface

South East-5 clubs

- Clearwater-\$400 Replace equipment and recruitment
- Asheville-\$800 Complete work on new green
- Mt. Dora-\$400 Repair rink irrigation system
- Lakeland-\$300 Clean playing carpet
- Sun City-\$400 Prep for US Championships

Continued on p. 5





SAN JOSE (OFFICIALLY) CELEBRATES OPENING OF NEW GREEN

By Mario Giorgianni, President SJLBC



City Council member Dev Davis with Club President Mario Giorgianni.

The San Jose Lawn Bowling Club began bowling on its new carpet green in the Fall of 2017 to much enthusiasm among Bay Area bowlers. But the “official” celebration, originally scheduled for this Spring, had to be postponed due to inclement weather. So, SJLBC held its Reopening Celebration, in conjunction with its hosting of the Friendship Games, on May 23, 2018. Over 80 attended the Celebration as the Club thanked those who made the 2017 renovation a reality: San Jose City Council and County officials; Parks, Recreation & Neighborhood Services; Public Works; Goodland Landscape Construction; and Berry Bowls Systems.

The renovation project encompassed not just a new artificial surface, but also paving around the green; new fencing, entrance pillars, benches and umbrellas; landscaping; painting of the clubhouse and sheds; and the addition of a bathroom and kitchen sink in the clubhouse.

The celebrations included distribution of special bowling trophies as “thank you” gifts to key visiting dignitaries who had contributed to this major project, as well as a “spider” challenge for those visitors and others.



Visitors enjoying the spider challenge.



Special trophies given to dignitaries.

San Jose now has a world-class synthetic lawn bowling surface that has drawn praise from club members and members from regional clubs. It will host 3 PIMD tournament events this year, and

has more than doubled its membership to 74 members since the club reopened for play last September. The Club provides free lessons to those interested in learning the sport of lawn bowls and offers group events for socialization, competition and team building. And, of course, welcomes bowlers from around the USA—and beyond—to enjoy the speedy new surface.

For further details check the website: <http://www.sjlbc.org/> or email: sanjoselawnbowls@gmail.com.



A DAY IN THE PARK (IN TACOMA, WA)

Excerpted from an article by Carli Ricker,
Tacoma Weekly News

Like many Tacomans, Kane Tobin and his girlfriend, Lauren Donnellan, were taking a stroll through Wright Park on a Sunday. It was during this walk they would discover the old Tacoma Lawn Bowling Club greens and where, throughout the next year, would work to re-introduce Tacoma to the sport of lawn bowling.

The original Tacoma Lawn Bowling Club was founded in 1929, when half the appeal of the sport seemed to be in the exclusivity and formality it offered. In the original club, members had to wear completely white uniforms, communication was done only through hand signals, and new members had to take lessons before even arriving on the greens to play a game.

In 2017, Tobin and Donnellan and other enthusiastic bowlers reopened the Tacoma Lawn Bowling Club, but this time with a brand new set of rules and a completely different approach to the game. “We looked at everything that was done that was causing the sport to no longer be played and we said ‘we’re going to do the opposite of that,’” said Tobin, who now serves as the club’s president.

The new Tacoma Lawn Bowling Club embraces its new themes of community and inclusivity. Now the greens are open to anyone who wants to play, even those passing through the park are more than welcomed to join a pickup game. Talking is encouraged, whether it’s about game strategy or just getting to know the person you’re playing with better. Speaking on the new culture of the club Tobin said, “It was really about breaking down the barriers that make people not want to come on to the greens, identifying those, and getting rid of those. Making it a fun sport again.”



Some of the enthusiastic Tacoma members with Lauren Donnellan and Kane Tobin kneeling in the front row.

During my time on the greens, I could see the sense of inclusivity and community. Players came from all walks of life and ranged in ages, yet the differences didn’t matter. What mattered was they were out having fun playing a game and enjoying each other’s conversation and company.

During games, all players were treated equally and with respect, from those who had been to regional competitions to those who had just stepped onto the green.

While the club is still young, it is incredible to see how two people with an idea to bring others together can grow into a club where all different people can come to have fun. And it all starts with a game.



PIMD OPEN TOURNAMENTS

All PIMD-sponsored tournaments are open to out-of-division BowlsUSA bowlers.

Coming up on August 11 is the McLaren Memorial Mixed Triples at San Francisco LBC. Entry deadline is August 5. And the PIMD Mixed Pairs at San Jose LBC is slated for August 25th; entry deadline is August 18.

For more information contact Tournament Director Bud Birkenseer at budbirk@gmail.com. The entry form can be retrieved at the [PIMD website](#).

BOWLS USA GRANTS, Continued from p. 2

North East-2 clubs

- Frick Park-\$300 Umbrellas for shade and place to store them
- Sunrise-\$300 Purchase new training bowls

Central-1club

- Milwaukee-\$800 Replace rotted wooden banks to meet modern standards

Northwest-2clubs

- Portland-\$500 Equipment for indoor rinks to continue youth lessons
- Jefferson Park-\$500 Support outreach with new and updated Web Page, replace mats

BowlsUSA is stronger because of the support of all of its members, and we hope that these funds will help 100% clubs share our sport with their communities.

A PROPOSAL ON THE GREEN

By Georgie Deno

A couple of weeks ago on a Saturday morning, one of the newer members at Oaks North Lawn Bowling Club in California (he joined us last December), approached me on the green and asked if I would be free that evening. He wanted me to be at the green because he had a surprise for a lady (also a newish member; she joined last September). I asked if it was her birthday. He leaned toward me with a sly smile and whispered, "I'm going to propose to her, but it's a surprise so you can't tell anyone." Whoa! We all knew they'd been dating, but this was truly a surprise.



Victoria Draper & Mohammad Ahrar

And so, at approximately 5:45 that evening, as the sun was beginning to sink in the west, and in the presence of his best friend, me, his son and daughter-in-law, and two bystanders Mohammad Ahrar got down on one knee and proposed marriage to Victoria Draper. She was stunned. And she said, "Yes!" How sweet it is.



The celebration begins!

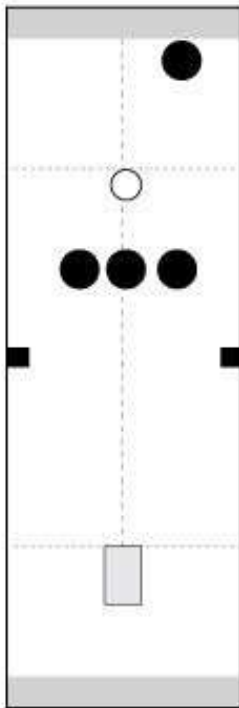


DRILL TO IMPROVE YOUR SKILL



DRAW BOWLING DRILLS

OBSTACLE DRAW SHOT



OBJECTIVE : Draw around front Bowls to Jack. Beat ALL Bowls (including the "Back Bowl").

EQUIPMENT :

4 BOWLS 1 MATS 1 JACK

PROCEDURE :

Place front Bowls approximately 1 Mat length in front of the Jack.

Place "Back Bowl" about 2 Mats behind the Jack.

"Back Bowls" to be set-up at one end on the Fore-hand and the other end for a Back-hand.

SCORECARD :

Same as the others.

For each Bowl closest to the Jack = **1 POINT**

CHANGE IT : You can use this set-up for a weighted shot into the front Bowls. "Hit and Stay."

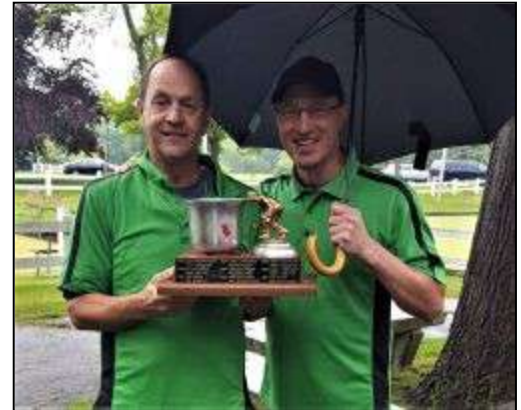
Object is to remove closest Bowl and stay for the "Shot" or "Cut Down".



POTLICKER CUP 2018 (a.k.a. the Rob & Bob Show)

By Leif Andresen

With the results of the 19th annual tournament in the pot, it is quite apparent who the foremost Potlickers are. For the sixth year in a row the Potlickers extraordinaire were **Rob Behncke and Bob Schneider**, who are seen here hoisting the vaunted Potlicker Cup in victory. However, this year it was a very close finish as the team of **Brian Schieble and Jim Cavender** ending up tying with the same number of wins. Rob and Bob outpointed Brian and Jim by a slim margin to take first place. **Carl Landgren and Mark Mathwig** finished in third place.



Bob Schneider & Rob Behncke

A cold and windy Saturday at Milwaukee Lake Park Lawn Bowling Club was followed by a chilly and soggy Sunday with a steady, all-day rain. Somehow Rob and Bob seemed to be not as affected by the miserable conditions and the slow greens as were most of their opponents. They appeared to have less trouble holding onto and delivering their bowls than did their dampened competitors. To borrow a phrase from horse racing, Rob and Bob proved to be really good mudders.



Rob & Bob (in the foreground) celebrate while Brian Schieble and Jim Cavender (in the background) display their dejection.

Despite the unfortunate conditions, a wonderful time was had by all. Among the comments from this group of intrepid and dedicated lawn bowlers were: "Next year, let's do this on a summer weekend." "Are we done yet?" "Can we play only 6 ends?" "Has anyone seen my umbrella?" "Why isn't the TV bigger?" & "Are you sure there's enough beer in the clubhouse?"

I believe it was Vince Lombardi (also known in Wisconsin as St Vince) who said, "Winning isn't everything, it's the only thing." You can see this plainly illustrated here by the celebratory elation of Rob and Bob compared to the dejection of the second place finishers Brian and Jim.

(For those of you who have been wondering - or even if you haven't been - here's an explanation of how the Potlicker Tournament got started -- oh, and what a potlicker is in the first place.

The tournament started about 20 years ago to recognize a highly respected and accomplished bowler who is now in the Lawn Bowls Hall of Game [sic]. He had the habit of referring to people he wasn't enamored of as Potlickers.

We would like to take this opportunity to refute the scurrilous **fake news** being promulgated by the unreliable Milwaukee Lake Lawn Bowls Club website. This vicious attack on Potlicker is unwarranted. Potlicker is one of the Icelandic 12 yule lads. His only offense is to knock on your door and, while everyone goes to answer it, he runs to the kitchen and licks out all the pots. He actually performs a great public service by eliminating labor for overworked dishwashers. After all, not all of us have a trusty canine companion to do this for us. You can expect to hear him knock on your door next December 16. Yes, that's Potlicker Day.)



RALPH & MARIE ECTON - THE PEOPLE AND THE TOURNAMENT

By Bob Smith

[Editor's note: Whenever I hear about club tournaments that are named after specific people, I always wonder who those people are/were and why a tournament is named after them. Here's the story of one such tournament.]

The "Ralph and Marie Ecton Memorial Triples Tournament" honors two people for their years of service to the Oxnard Joslyn Lawn Bowls Club in California.

In November 1986, when the club began using their green, only six or seven people came out from time to time to bowl. One of those first few bowlers was Ralph Ecton.

On August 8, 1987 Ralph Ecton was elected as the first Club President. He served for two terms, during which time he made important contributions to the growth of the club.

In getting started, the club was given a lot of help from other clubs in the Southwest Division in the form of used equipment and training, and before long new people started to show up. By 1987 there were 43 members. At that time, there were 36 clubs in the SWD, but Oxnard was the only club without some sort of clubhouse adjacent to the green.

In 1989 Ralph went to a Recreation and Parks meeting to explain the need for a clubhouse, and his efforts got the ball rolling toward the permanent facility which the club now enjoys. Ralph also designed and built the lawn bowl rakes which, slightly modified, are still in use today.

Ralph Ecton died in April, 1992, and the first Ralph Ecton Memorial Triples Tournament was held on August 18, 1993.

Like Ralph, Marie Ecton was a member of the club from its inception, and served in many ways over the years. In 1996, she was elected Club President, and she later served as secretary and historian for many years, running the office like a finely tuned watch. In 2001, when she resigned her duties for health reasons, the Board voted to make her an Honorary Member in recognition of her service. In 2004, Marie passed away, and in 2006 her name was added to the tournament which is now known as the "Ralph and Marie Ecton Memorial Triples Tournament".



This year's tournament was held on July 8th, with twelve teams participating. The winners are pictured here: Barry Pickup, Loren Dion, and Bud Viard.



A NOVICE GUIDE TO THE (LAWN BOWLING) GALAXY

By Alan Burkholder

[Editor's note: Alan Burkholder is a novice bowler at the Laguna Beach, CA, Lawn Bowling Club. His "Novice Guide" is a witty rendition of his observations and experiences as a new lawn bowler. This is the first installment of the "Guide"; we'll share additional Burkholder observations in future Newsletter issues.]

The Outfit: Shoes

When it comes to lawn bowling attire the only firm requirement applies to your shoes, which is silly because you don't actually need to wear shoes. But if you do indeed choose to wear shoes they must be flat soled. This enforces the only sacred commandment in the Lawn Bowling Commandments – "Thou shalt not mess up the green!" Club members and non-club members really care about this. So leave the stilettos in the locker room and find your sole-mates.

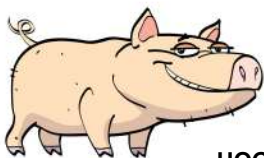
For the serious bowler, flat bottom tennis shoes (AKA sneakers) are the way to go. Vans or Converse for the youngsters (under 60), and New Balance or Adidas for the orthotically impaired. National and international bowlers wear actual lawn bowling shoes. That's right, you can buy shoes made specifically for lawn bowling. You may want to wait until you win a few big tournaments before you invest in those. Or better yet, let your sponsor provide them, if you ever get good enough to land any sponsorship.

If you forgot your flat soled shoes, barefoot bowling is acceptable. They even have a barefoot bowl tournament in Hawaii. You have to be pretty cool to pull this off in Laguna Beach. Only surfers and others with serious beach cred should try this, and your feet need to be presentable (or at least have an amazing excuse). Toenail polish is optional, and watch out for the rabbit poo. Got partial beach cred? Try sandals, or better yet flip-flops. What they lack in support they make up in volume. FLIP-FLOP-FLIP-FLOP as you stroll past the skip to the other end of the rink. Smile, you're having a Corona moment. Not recommended for cold winter days.

[Next issue: The Outfit: Clothes]

You celebrate the victory, but you analyze the defeat.

- Bill Walton, quoted by Charlie Jones in *What Makes Winners Win*



HOGLINE

GOT AN ARTICLE FOR THE NEWSLETTER?

Send it in to your Division editor as listed below:

Central: Glorianne Mather, gloriannemather@yahoo.com

PIMD: James Corr, timbhoy71@sbcglobal.net

Northeast: Alex Last, alex.last@yahoo.com

Northwest: Bob Wells, rfwells1@yahoo.com

South Central: Ron Rollick, dbsgrnkeg-ler63@outlook.com

Southeast: Garry Higgins, garryhiggins@rogers.com

Southwest: Cynthia Murray, cnthmurray@gmail.com

Editor-in-Chief: Georgie Deno, postdeno@gmail.com



2018 Northeast Division Open

Come join us at the 2018 Northeast Division Open at two of our beautiful and scenic lawn bowling greens in the Poconos, PA!

We will be hosting Triples, Pairs & Singles.



SKY TOP LODGE, PA



BUCK HILL FALLS, PA

Triples: August 18-19, 2018 (Saturday & Sunday)
Pairs: August 20-21, 2018 (Monday & Tuesday)
Singles: August 22-23, 2018 (Wednesday & Thursday)

Check the Northeast Division website [here](#) for entry forms and further details.

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UPCOMING MAJOR TOURNAMENTS SCHEDULE

Watch this section in future issues for the latest updates on major tournaments. As available, we'll list the tournament dates, locations, entry deadlines, and a link/website where you can find more information.

Central Division Open, Singles, 8/4 - 8/5, Milwaukee Lake Park LBC, WI. Watch for more info [here](#).

Northeast Division Open, 8/18 to 8/23/18 at Skytop and Buck Hill Falls, PA. Watch for more info [here](#).

Northwest Open Team Tournament, 9/8 to 9/9/18 at Jefferson Park LBC, Seattle, WA. Watch for more info [here](#).

U. S. Open of Lawn Bowls, 11/2 to 11/11/18, hosted by South Central Division. Men's Singles entry deadline is 8/30; entry deadline for all other events is 9/30. Get more info [here](#).

U. S. National Championships, 11/25 to 12/1/18 hosted at Sun City Center, FL. This tournament requires competing in your Division's qualifying rounds.

PIMD, All PIMD-sponsored tournaments are open to out-of-division BowlsUSA members. Check their webpage [here](#) for the calendar of Division-sponsored tournaments indicated by the orange background.

CERTIFIED CLUB COACH COURSE

As part of Bowls USA nationwide *Coaching Program*, a **Certified Club Coach Course** will be presented in the **South-Central Division in 2018**.

It is the objective of **Bowls USA** to have well qualified coaches across the country to assist in raising the enjoyment and standard of our sport and to provide the necessary assistance to players of all ages and skills levels.

Place: **Sun City West LBC**

Date: **October 18th and 19th** (Thursday and Friday)

Dress: **Casual** - bowls shoes advised

Cost: **\$125.00** (includes manual, Club Coach certificate awarded upon successful completion of class, and Bowls USA Coach shirt)

Class size: Minimum 6 participants – maximum 14 participants.

Payment to: **Bowls USA** (by student or sponsoring club)

The Club Coach Course covers:

- Safety & Risk Management
- Incident Management
- Constants and Variables
- Goal Setting
- Fundamentals
- Planning Coaching Sessions
- Conducting Coaching
- Coaching Review

Qualifications to take class:

- A minimum of at least *two* years bowling
- Be a **Bowls USA** member
- Written endorsement from participant's club required.
- Preferably be a **Bowls USA** umpire (desirable but not mandatory, at this time)

To register, contact

Heather Stewart: heatherastewart78@gmail.com
Kottia Spangler: kspangler@rcoe.us
Jackie Tucker: tuckerjackie@icloud.com



Umpires Corner

By Melanie Vizenor
BowlsUSA National Umpire-in-Chief

July’s UmpStumper was: A **team declares** in the middle of the game that they’re taking a break. They want 10 minutes to gather their thoughts. Is this allowed? The short answer is no, a team may not simply declare that they’re taking a break. However, World Bowls’ Law Committee, at the request of Bowls Scotland, clarified Law 33, Leaving the green during the course of play, in February 2018. The clarification is rather lengthy. In this Umpires Corner, the discussion will focus on Law 33, subsection 33.1.

The WB Laws Committee Clarification language follows.

“Laws Committee Clarification:

“Law 33.1 states that “No player must delay play by leaving the rink of play or their team unless their opponent agrees, and then only for no more than 10 minutes.” To clarify:

- regardless of the reason, a player who wishes to leave the rink of play must receive their opponent’s agreement before doing so. By giving their agreement, the opponent accepts that some delay to play may occur as a result.
- the requirement to receive the opponent’s agreement applies even if there is no perceived risk of play being delayed as a result. (For example, a Lead in a Fours game who has delivered their two bowls in a specific end would be complying with this law if, having received their opponent’s agreement, they leave the rink of play for a ‘toilet break’ and return in sufficient time to play their first bowl of the succeeding end.)
- if the opponent does not give their permission, the matter should be referred to an umpire (law 40.1.5)
- if there is a risk that play will be delayed as a result of a player leaving the rink, the remaining sections of law 33 come into consideration.”

Let’s go through the four bullet points.

First bullet point. The first phrase is “regardless of the reason” -- that means that a player could simply state that they’ll be back before it’s time to deliver their next bowl, and assuming their opponent does not object, there is no requirement to state one’s reason for leaving the rink of play. Law 33.1 does **not** require a specific reason for leaving the rink of play.

Second bullet point. This simply states that even if there are no time limits on a game, a player may not leave the rink of play without their opponent’s agreement. The law does not clarify, however, if that means their direct opponent’s agreement (lead/lead, vice/vice) or the opposing skip’s agreement. However, the example cited would suggest that getting your direct opponent’s agreement is sufficient.

Continued on page 13.



Continued from page 12.

Third bullet point. This is quite interesting. So far, the power (the right to refuse your opponent's request) has been in the opponent's hand. Now, there's a slight shift in power. As a player requesting to leave the rink of play, if you as the opponent take a hard stance, refusing to grant your opponent's request, then the matter should be referred to an umpire. In the Foreword to the Laws of the Sport of Bowls, it says that the laws have been "drawn up in the spirit of true sportsmanship ... and a spirit of fair play." So before you stomp your foot down and say no, remember: one of these days it will be somebody else's foot stomping down. On you.

Fourth bullet point. Now WB moves on from subsection 33.1, where your opponent's agreement is needed, to subsections 33.2 through 33.9, which talks about what to do if a player **has to** leave the rink of play.

WB Laws Committee goes on to state:

In the light of uncertainty being expressed by Controlling Bodies about what can be included in their procedure, the LC would like to clarify some elements of the law, give examples of what are and what are not permissible reasons for leaving the green and provide guidelines on how the law should be applied.

Laws Committee Guidelines:

The Controlling Body for an event must decide on, and publicise in advance, the Conditions of Play (COP) for that event (reference law A.1 in Appendix A of the Laws). To address any issues which may arise when a player delays play by leaving the green, the LC recommends that Controlling Bodies include the following in their COP (the LC acknowledges that approaches taken by Controlling Bodies will differ – for example, due to the use of slow-play regulations and the need for time-limits to be stringently applied):

1. Procedures for dealing with the situation in which a player has to leave the green on more than one occasion. For example, a statement such as "If a player **wishes** to leave the rink of play, **Law 33.1** will apply. However, if on more than one occasion, then on each occasion after the first they can only do so with their opponent's and the umpire's permission. If either the player's team manager or coach are present, the umpire will consult with them before deciding whether or not to grant permission. [Emphasis added]

To see WB's entire answer re **Law 33**, here's the link: <http://www.worldbowls.com/laws-umpiring/wb-law-decisions/>

Next UmpStumper: Is it permissible to drag your towel on the green to show your teammate where you want their bowl to go?

