

Scottish Bowls Umpiring Committee

SERIAL NUMBERS ON BOWLS

Following the introduction of the "Laws of the Sport – Third Edition" in 2004, by World Bowls Ltd., the definition of a "set of bowls" made it mandatory for bowls to have a "**serial number**" on them as part of the process in determining that bowls were from a matched set. In Scotland it was felt that the volume of older bowls in use made this a very difficult subject to police and, subsequently, bowls without serial numbers were accepted provided that they conformed to all of the other requirements of the Laws.

Following recent queries to World Bowls Ltd., however, it has been confirmed by them that bowls without serial numbers are not legal for use in competitive play and, consequently, must be rejected by umpires.

A new World Bowls stamp was introduced in late 2001 and when bowls were tested after that time a certificate would have been issued which should have contained the serial number of the bowls and instructions from World Bowls Ltd., regarding bowls without serial numbers should have been followed by the tester.

For season 2012 (outdoor) and 2012-13 (indoor) umpires have been advised that anyone producing bowls for checking that do not have a serial number should be advised that the bowls will be accepted but from **April 2013** such bowls will **not** be acceptable for competitive play in Scotland.

Players whose bowls do not have serial numbers but have a valid IBB, WBB or WB stamp should be advised to follow the following process:

- If the bowls were last tested **after** 2001 and the owner has retained the certificate issued by the tester the bowls should be taken back to the tester who issued the certificate and request that the tester inscribe a serial number on the bowls. As the original test certificate should have shown the serial number this has been an omission by the tester and should be rectified with a possible small charge.
- If the bowls were last tested **after** 2001 and the owner has retained the certificate issued by the tester **but the bowls have been taken back to a different tester** then that tester may retest the bowls but should inscribe a new serial number and will charge accordingly for this service.
- If the bowls were last tested **after** 2001 and the owner has **not** retained the certificate issued by the tester then the tester will retest the bowls and inscribe a new serial number and will charge accordingly for this service. Not having the test certificate is the fault of the owner and not the tester.
- If the bowls were last tested **before** 2001 then the tester will be required to retest the bowls and inscribe a new serial number on them and will charge accordingly for this service.