

## **Equipment Overview for Para Bowlers**

The following guidelines can be used to approve various bowling aids throughout the sport. This can aid any bowler with a disability to allow them to participate in the sport.

These guidelines apply for aids used within Bowls Scotland events, either in a para bowls specific event or in a wider mainstream event. The guidelines can also be used as guidelines for club or association competitions.

### **Physical Disability – Guidelines and Equipment overview**

- Adapted Wheelchairs/Bowling Walkers
  - o All equipment with wheels are permitted provided the wheels are at least 75mm wide and a flat wheel surface (no grooves or tyre tread on wheels)
  - o Any push or motorised wheelchair which has been specifically designed for lawn bowls can be used provided wheels are at least 75mm wide and a flat wheel surface
  - o When using any wheelchairs, please always ensure consideration for the playing surface.
  - o Players in a wheelchair are permitted to have someone to assist them in moving around the green during play.
- The following bowling arm aids are permitted:
  - o UBI Launchers
  - o Hacksaw Bowling Arms
  - o Drakes Pride Bowling Arms
  - o Bowlar S-R Bowling Arm
- Walking Sticks/Balance Aids
  - o Any stick used must have a base at least 75mm wide
  - o Knee Pads/Cushions
  - o Crutches (with 75mm wide base)
- Other Suitable equipment
  - o Any other item of equipment being used to assist a physically disabled bowler can be used, if approved by an appropriate Bowls Scotland representative..

Please see below some examples of approved equipment as listed above;



## **Visual Impairment (VI) Guidelines and Equipment Overview**

- Any individual can be identified as a director/caller for on the green help with a VI bowler. Laws of the Sport for Directors relate to, Law 41.4
- Certain VI classification may require occlusion glasses to be worn for competition and these will be checked by an umpire prior to competition
- The following equipment can be used:
  - o White breakable centre line string or suitable alternative used to outline centre of the rink
  - o Use of a monocular is permitted (binoculars not permitted for competition)
  - o Adapted bowls by manufacturer with indent to identify bias
  - o Adapted bowling mats (with centre marking) or other suitable equipment
  - o Other suitable equipment
    - Any other item of equipment being used to assist a visual impaired bowler can be used, if approved by a Bowls Scotland representative

## **Classifications**

The two strands of para bowlers in current World Bowls & IBD competition formats are as follows

- Visual Impairment
- Physical Disability

To compete in our para bowls competitions or to be considered for international selection, para bowls operates a classification system and any bowler in Scotland with a disability can enquire about a classification. For a brief overview on classification and the categories involved, please visit: <https://www.bowlsscotland.com/high-performance/para-bowls>

Outside of our High Performance squads there is also opportunities to compete in the sport, with the following disabilities:

- Scottish Disability Sport Competitions
- Scottish Deaf Bowlers Association
- Various Learning Disability Competitions
- International Blind Bowls Association (IBBA)
- Visually Impaired Bowls Scotland Competitions

For more information on para bowls equipment, competitions or to discuss potential classification opportunities, please contact [info@bowlsscotland.com](mailto:info@bowlsscotland.com)