

RULES FOR THE GAME OF BOWLS AS SETTLED BY HIS MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY, KING CHARLES II – *His Royal Highness* JAMES, Duke of York, and *His Grace* GEORGE, Duke of Buckingham, IN THE YEAR 1670

1. *The Game to consist of Five or Seven Points, as may be agreed on by Party engaged. Four or Six bowlers constitute a Set*
2. *The Party who hath the highest Die shall lead the Jack, keeping his Foot on the Trig (Mat), which must be placed at least One Yard from the Verge of the Green. No cast shall be less than Thirty Yards*
3. *Whoever shall Once throw the Jack off the Green, shall lose the leading of the Jack to their Opponents, and shall be obliged to follow the Jack so led by their Opponents or adverse Party.*
4. *At the Commencement of every End the Trig shall be placed where the Jack was taken up, or Three Strides wide of it, in any Direction before the Jack be thrown; provided, by so doing, the Cast be not less than Thirty Yards.*
5. *If the Jack be Bowled off the Green, there shall be fresh Cast, and the same Party again lead.*
6. *If a Bowl, whilst running, be stopped by the adverse Party, it shall be laid close behind the Jack.*
7. *If any Bowler do take up the Jack before the Cast or Casts won be granted, he shall lose the Cast to the adverse Party.*
8. *If any Bowler who lieth All, i.e., who is nearest the Jack, do take the Jack up, or cause the same to be taken up, before his Opponent has thrown the last Bowl, his side shall lose the Cast and the lead shall begin again.*
9. *If any Bowler who lieth All do take up the Jack, or cause the same to be taken up before his own Partner hath thrown his last Bowl, he lose the Benefit of that Bowl.*
10. *If any Bowl do lie between the Jack and the Bowl that is to be measured, or the Jack leaneth upon the Bowl or the Bowl upon the Jack, it shall be lawful to bolster up the Bowl or Jack, and to take away the Bowl which hindered the measuring; provided it doth not prejudice the adverse Party in so doing. If it shall appear to the Spectators (being no Bettors), the adverse Party was prejudiced thereby, although the Bowl did win, yet the Benefit thereof shall be lost.*

11. *If in measuring it shall appear that the Bowl or Jack was removed, or made worse by the Measurer, the Cast so measured shall be allowed by the adverse Party.*
12. *If any Bowler bowl out of turn, his Bowl may be stopped by the adverse Party but not by him who delivered the same.*
13. *If any Bowl be stopped whilst running, or touched by its own Party, it shall then be taken away.*
14. *If any Bowler do deliver his Bowl or Bowls not touching the Trig with his Foot it shall be lawful for the adverse Party to stop the same whilst running, and make him bowl it again; but it shall not be lawful for him that bowls to stop it.*
15. *If any Bowler who lieth ABL do take up a Bowl or Bowls before the adverse Party hath granted them, the Cast shall be lost and the Jack shall be thrown again.*
16. *Bowlers not Bettors shall do anything to prejudice or favour a Bowl by Wind, Hat, Foot or otherwise, and if done, the Cast shall be lost.*
17. *No Cast shall be measured before all the Bowls are Bowled*
18. *If he that is to throw the last Bowl do take up the Trig, or cause it to be taken up, supposing the game to be won, or that he may do some hurt, the same Bowls shall not be bowled that Cast, or End, for the Trig once taken up shall not be set again.*
19. *If any running Bowl be stopped, or touched by a Spectator, not being a Bettor, whether it be to the Benefit or Hindrance of the Castor, the same Bowl shall take its chance and lie.*
20. *If a Bowl be removed out of its Place by the party that bowled the same at any Time before the Cast be ended, the same may be cleared away by the adverse Party.*
21. *Keep your temper! and remember he who plays at Bowls must take Rubbers.*