



## **Hong Kong Lawn Bowls Association**

### **Umpire Accreditation System**

The Umpire Panel of the Hong Kong Lawn Bowls Association is the official body to handle all matters pertaining to lawn bowls umpires in Hong Kong. Its responsibilities include:

- The handling of all lawn bowls umpire related issues in Hong Kong
- The accreditation of lawn bowls umpire in Hong Kong
- The maintenance of a Register of Hong Kong lawn bowls umpires
- The provision of continual education for Hong Kong lawn bowls umpires
- The appointment of umpires for lawn bowls competitions in Hong Kong
- The liaison with related organizations globally

#### **The Umpire Training Course**

Anyone who wishes to become a lawn bowls umpire are required to attend a Lawn Bowls Umpire Training Course and to be successful in the examinations which is held at its conclusion.

The Umpire Panel will run the course on an annual basis. Tutors will be appointed by the Committee to organize and deliver the course on its behalf.

Entries to the course are opened to those who have at least 5 years of competitive experience in lawn bowls, which will be based on their participation in the HKLBA Premier League or open competitions.

The two principal competencies required of an umpire are competence in dealing with questions pertaining to the Laws of the Sport of Bowls, and competence in dealing with the more practical situations, which may arise on the green, such as conducting a measure to determine the result of an end.

The course consists of FOUR compulsory tutorial sessions, each being 2 hours. To ensure the applicants will have a sound physical ability to handle the umpiring duties, a measuring exercise will be conducted in the first session and only those who demonstrate such capability will be admitted for the course.

All the competency areas will be covered in the form of discussion on the Laws of the Sport of Bowls, as well as demonstrations and practice of the practical techniques which should be adopted. Homework, of which the score will be calculated as part of the evaluation process, will be issued at every session to ensure the candidates have a thorough understanding of the areas discussed during the tutorial. Participants are not allowed to miss any sessions and fail to hand in homework may seriously affect their chance of qualification.

Upon completion of the four tutorial sessions, a written examination (close book) was conducted to evaluate the overall standard of the candidates. The examination paper has about 40 questions covering all aspects of the law book.

The candidates achieved a satisfactory score on the homework and passed the examination were eligible to a Green Examination which is conducted at a lawn bowls green. The Green Examination involves a brief written test, the marking of a singles game and a number of measuring exercises.

After passing all the examinations, 5 practice sessions will be arranged for the candidate within 12 months and upon satisfactory completion of such practices, the candidate will be qualified as a National Umpire.

### **For Umpire Qualified Overseas**

The Hong Kong Lawn Bowls Association may consider accepting umpire certificates issued by MNAs under World Bowls. Qualified umpires will be exempted from the Umpire Examination but need to satisfactory completed 5 practical sessions within a period of 12 months to be qualified as a National Umpire in Hong Kong.

### **Promotion of Umpire**

After 2 years of officiating at local competitions, with a minimum of 9 satisfactory practices, the Umpire Panel will evaluate the performance of a National Umpire and consider appointing him/her as an International Umpire.

After 2 years of officiating at international competitions, the Umpire Panel will consider proposing the International Umpire to undertake the International Technical Officer examination organized by World Bowls for the ITO status.

### **Demotion of Umpire**

Any International Umpire fails to undertake 9 umpiring duties during a period of 24 months will result in a demotion from the status of International Umpire to National Umpire. Such action means that this umpire will not conduct any international duties until he/she regains the status through active participation in local events.

Any National Umpire fails to undertake 9 umpiring duties during a period of 24 months may be removed from the list of National Umpire and will require to retake an examination to re-instate his/her National Umpire status.

### **Umpires Development**

Refreshment courses will be organized regularly to ensure all Umpires process of the latest information to assist them in the execution of their normal duties.

October 1, 2019