



The following guidance is taken from Bowls England and explains the principle roles and responsibilities for each member of a team of four (Rinks). In other formats, the exact duties may vary.

The Lead

The Lead is the first to play. The Lead places the mat, delivers the jack and centres it before attempting to bowl as close as possible to the jack.

The Second

The Seconds play after the Leads have each played their two bowls. The Second may be asked to play a variety of different shots by their skip depending on what the Leads have done.

The Third

The Third may be called upon to play different shots in order to score more or to place bowls tactically to protect an advantage. In addition the Third is also responsible for advising the skip when requested and agreeing the number of shots with their opposite number each end and measuring as required.

The Skip

The Skip has overall responsibility for the rink and should be an experienced and capable player to offer assistance to new bowlers. The Skip's duties include directing the development of each end, overall responsibility for the rink as well as settling any disputed points with the opposite Skip – especially in the event of no umpire being present. They must also complete the score card, but this duty may be delegated to another member of their team.