

Crackerjack Bowls format:

Goal: To introduce new players to the Game of Indoor Bowls

FORMAT: Using a singles match format, a new bowler is paired up with an experienced bowler or coach. Played as a singles match with the coach bowler in the role of a skip, the new bowler gets to play four bowls, directed by the skip, in a match against another new or lesser experienced bowler. Bowlers stay at the same end of the mat and at the completion of the end, the skips play the next end. The new bowler gets to study the format, or building of the head by the experienced bowler.

At the moment the written instructions for clubs to coach new bowlers is to show the basics of grip, position, green, bowl delivery – theory and practical. Usually this club coaching will last for a game or two in an evenings bowls, followed by an inclusion into a team in the last game. The new bowler is played in the “two” position and gets to play two bowls every five minutes.

Coaching the basics at first instance is still necessary.

The benefits of the crackerjack format will give the new bowler more bowls to play.

This will build confidence quicker, can eliminate bad habits faster and gets the new player playing a game of singles first up. At the moment the new player will tend to shy away from any singles event as they have not play a game of singles.

This format can also be applied to a rep practice with other skills introduced.