

# Using a Laser Measure for Umpiring

UMPIRE INFORMATION SHEET

December 2024

This **Umpire Information Sheet** provides practical guidance for using the **Bowlsline Laser Measure** for the purpose of carrying out umpiring duties during domestic play in New Zealand. The use of this laser measure during umpiring duties was approved by the Chief Executive Officer Bowls New Zealand in December 2024.

Approval has been granted on the basis the laser measure is an effective alternative to the box string measure which achieves the required accuracy and efficiency expected of equipment being used for umpiring purposes. The laser measure is approved by World Bowls and several Member National Authorities.

## Bowlsline Laser Measure

The **Bowlsline Laser Measure (model Leica DISTO D2)** is the only laser measure currently approved for umpiring duties.

The Bowlsline Laser Measure is a mounted laser unit which is placed up against the jack. 'L' shaped targets (with reflective spots) are then placed up against any bowls involved in the measure. The distances of the bowls in the measure are then calculated and displayed on the laser unit (to four decimal places). The umpire then decides which bowl(s) are the shot based on the measurements shown.



*Bowlsline Laser Measure (model Leica DISTO D2)*

## Using the Laser Measure

The use of the laser measure is recommended for distances between 30cm and 4 metres. The maximum distance for using the laser measure can vary, depending on ambient lighting and weather conditions.

The laser measure may be used as an alternative to the box string measure. When the preferred equipment for a measure is the laser measure, umpires should carry an alternative measure (e.g. string measure) in case the laser measure malfunctions.

The Bowlsline Laser Measure has a measuring accuracy of +/-1.5 mm. If during measuring, the distance between bowls is within this distance, the umpire should consider re-measuring the closest bowls to confirm the result.

Umpires must be proficient and efficient in the use of the laser measure before they use this during an event. Advice and guidance should be sought from experienced users.

The laser measure can only be used when the jack and all bowls are on the green. If the jack or any bowls are in the ditch, a flexible or string measure must be used wherever possible (as required by Law 23.5).

## Procedure for using Bowlsline Laser Measure

1. Secure any leaning bowls with wedges.
2. Place the 'L' shaped targets against each bowl to be measured. Working from behind the bowl, place the target between the jack and bowl, carefully positioning the target against the bowl in a straight line.
3. Take your position behind the jack and place the laser measure between the jack and the bowl at a distance of about 1cm from the jack. Ensure the laser measure is pointing in a straight line from jack to bowl.
4. Press the red button once to switch the laser unit on. Straighten the laser measure again and position the laser beam so that it is pointing to the centre of the target's reflective spot.
5. Carefully move the laser measure against the jack.
6. Ensure the laser beam is pointing to the centre of the target and press the red button to record the distance.
7. Follow the same procedure to position the laser measure for the other bowls to be measured.
8. Using the measurements recorded, make a decision as to which bowl(s) is shot.
9. Roll out the shot bowl and communicate your decision to the players.

## Support

Contact the **Bowls New Zealand Umpires Committee** ([umpires@bowlsnewzealand.co.nz](mailto:umpires@bowlsnewzealand.co.nz)) for further support.