

The Umpires Development Pathway

An umpire development pathway chart outlines the structured progression an official will take from local introductory levels to high-performance appointments.

The WBUA has developed a progression pathway based on aspirational levels. Individuals can either achieve a basic level of umpiring or work towards the highest qualification, International Technical Official, which provides an opportunity to realise their potential.

Umpire development is essential because it improves human well-being, expands personal capabilities, helps individuals reach their full professional and personal potential. and raises standards.

- **Enabling the Sport to Survive:** Without qualified umpires, leagues cannot run matches or tournaments. Recruiting and training officials prevents sports from withering at the grassroots level.
- **Ensuring Fair and Safe Play:** Trained officials apply rulebooks accurately, allowing athletes to compete on an even playing field while protecting them from unnecessary risk and injury.
- **Improving Match Quality:** Formal development provides observers and mentors who give actionable feedback. This helps umpires improve decision-making, manage high-pressure situations, and resolve disputes confidently.
- **Providing Pathways for Progression:** Structured development helps those who want to advance into higher-level officiating (e.g., regional, national, or international panels).
- **Building Life Skills:** Umpiring teaches critical transferable skills—such as conflict management, problem-solving, and clear communication—and provides a rewarding way to stay involved in athletics.

TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT.

The training and development of Bowls Umpires in Wales is outlined below:

1. Grades of Umpires:

- a. **Level 1 Umpire Qualification** – enables qualified umpires to officiate at any internal or national competitions within Wales. This course comprises 3 training modules and will take place annually depending on the number of candidates.
- b. **Level 2 Umpire Qualification** – eligible to be selected to officiate at Home International and British Isles events. This course comprises 3 training modules and will take place as required by the WBUA Management Committee.
- c. **International Technical Official** - qualified to umpire at Commonwealth Games, Atlantic Games and World Bowls. Assessment carried out by World Bowls.

2. Continuation Training

The WBUA run annual seminars for each area of the country. All active umpires must attend and participate in at least 1 of these seminars every 2 years.

3. Markers - Seminars & Course.

Marking Seminars.

The WBUA will run Marking Seminars as requested by Bowling Clubs throughout Wales. The aim of these seminars is to raise the standard of marking at club level and make new players more aware of the laws and protocol of the sport.

Markers Course.

The WBUA will, as required, run formal Markers Courses for experienced players with the object of establishing a data base of qualified Markers to officiate at County, National & International events in Wales. Level 1 or Level 2 qualified Umpires may be invited to attend this course which is designed to ensure that standard best practices and techniques are used during the course of marking a Singles game.

4. International Badge.

Level 2 Umpires selected to officiate at Home Internationals or British Isles events may apply for their International Badge once they have completed an extended period of duty at one of the above events

5. General Notes.

1. The edition of the World Bowls Crystal Mark Edition of the Laws of the Sport of Bowls in use at the time of the course will be used for all WBUA courses.
2. Completed Level 1 and Level 2 Theory papers should be returned to the WBUA Secretary at least 6 weeks prior to the dates of the practical course or assessment, to enable time for papers to be marked and successful candidates notified of the next stage of the course.
3. Level 1 courses are normally run during the Autumn. Level 2 Courses and Markers Courses are normally in the Spring. However, the WBUA may change the time of these courses as required by circumstances and may also run additional courses if the WBUA Management Committee so authorizes.

International Technical Official (ITO)

Examination and Practical Assessment carried out by World Bowls Ltd.

Qualified to umpire at Commonwealth Games, Atlantic Games, World Bowls

