National Youth Awards

Developed by the
English Indoor Bowling Association Ltd
Schools Group

Administrative Notes

The EIBA Ltd has developed a range of youth awards aimed to test and develop Junior Bowlers across England between the ages of 8 and 25.

The Bronze and Silver Awards are to be conducted within a Club, by a qualified coach, whilst the Gold award will be conducted at Regional centres around the Country on dates publicised by the EIBA Ltd.

If you are interested in your Club or you as a coach wanting to run a session please complete the register of interest form on the EIBA website or contact Andrea Clark at the EIBA Head Office, 01664 481900, andreaclark@eiba.co.uk to register your interest and to request the appropriate number of certificates required for the participants on the award course.

Once you have conducted the course the EIBA Ltd would be appreciative if you could confirm the number and or names of the children who were successful.

If you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact the EIBA Ltd.

National Youth Award Scheme for Bowls

The scheme needs to fulfil the following criteria:

1. Distinctly different to other existing schemes in the manner of it's assessment that it is recognised as The National Scheme.
2. Rigorous enough at each level to gain esteem and credibility.
3. Contains the skills and knowledge appropriate to the development of the player
4. Each level to stand alone i.e. progression from one level to another is not a requirement.

The same main skill assessment is used at each level.

- ☐ When coaching bowls in whatever code a smooth consistent delivery is the main priority. We translate this into line and length. The ability to readily adjust both of these factors allows the player to achieve a high level of consistency in a match situation.
- ☐ With the exception of the firing shot all other shots depend on the adjustment of line and length.
- ☐ With this in mind it is proposed that an assessment method be used that requires the player to demonstrate the ability to consistently find the correct line and adjust the weight to a target that will change in length.
- ☐ Jack casting **will not** be tested at any level, as it can safely be assumed that the coaches will provide adequate opportunity for this skill to be assessed using other schemes or methods.
- ☐ No knowledge test is to be used as it is assumed that local clubs will introduce etiquette and rules as they see fit.

Coaching before and during the tests

The awards scheme is designed to encourage player development, therefore both in preparation for the test and during assessment it is vitally important to question and encourage the player. No instructions should be given only the questions below and the information relating to distance from the target. Resist the temptation to tell the player to adjust their weight allow them to do this in their own time.

Player development through questioning

- ☐ Ask the same question after each and every delivery 'Do you like it?' if the answer is 'No!' then follow up with 'Why not?'
- ☐ Make no further comment as it is not the start of a conversation. The intention is to focus the player on the 'feel' of the delivery.

Equipment required for the tests.

1. A brightly coloured 'Throw-down Spot' measuring 26cm in diameter
2. One measuring stick 1M long
3. One measuring stick 60cm long
4. Scorecards to record successful and unsuccessful scores

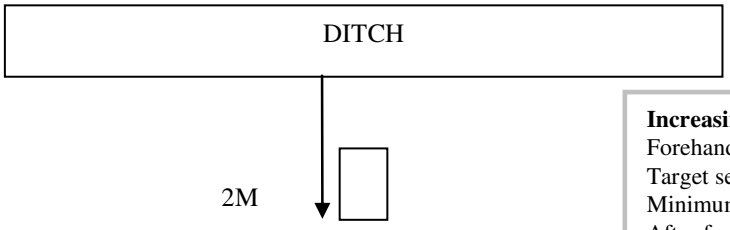
The Skill Test: Bronze Award

In this assessment the player remains at the 'Tee' throughout and the coach moves the target progressively in increments of 1M (one metre). The player has to increase or decrease weight as the line will remain the same.

- ☐ Assessment will take place at the local club and be conducted by the local currently accredited coach.
- ☐ The coach will use the scorecard provided to record all successful bowls with a tick and unsuccessful ones with a cross.
- ☐ The player will be assessed on two separate occasion's minimum of seven days apart and must achieve a 50% success rate on both forehand and backhand on each occasion.
- ☐ The first test will assess increasing weight and the second decreasing weight.
- ☐ The player will be allowed 20 minutes practice time on the rink to be used for the assessment.
- ☐ The player will be required to bowl to a target disc (26cm in diameter) set at minimum length on the forehand.
- ☐ If either of the first two bowls is within one metre of the rim of the target this is deemed to be successful and the target is moved one metre up the green.
- ☐ If the player does not reach the target with the first two bowls then another two bowls are delivered. If successful the target is moved by one metre.
- ☐ Each time the player is successful with either of the two bowls the target is moved one metre. Ten movements should conclude with the target at approximately full length.
- ☐ This is repeated on the backhand.

NB. On the second occasion the target starts at maximum length and is moved progressively towards minimum length.

BRONZE SKILL TEST (Increasing and Decreasing weight)



Increasing weight
Forehand
Target set at
Minimum length
After four bowls are delivered the target moves up the rink by one metre
Finish at the tenth position.

Repeat for backhand

Decreasing weight
The test is the same although it begins at maximum length and moves forward by one metre.

A minimum of 50% success is required on both hands for increasing and decreasing weight.

The bowl must finish no more than 1M from the rim of the target to be successful.

1 Minimum length

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

	Forehand			Backhand
1	X XXX		1	XXX√
2	√		2	XXXX
3	X√		3	X√
4	XX√		4	√
5	XXX√		5	√
6	XXX√		6	X√
7	XXXX		7	X√
8	√		8	√
9	X√		9	XX√
10	X√		10	√
	50%			70%

Example test score
Five out of ten with either of the first two bowls on the forehand. Seven out of ten on the backhand means this player has achieved the Bronze standard at increasing weight.
A similar performance on decreasing weight will mean the standard has been reached and an Award will be given

Skills Test: Silver Award

In this assessment the target remains in the same position on the ‘Tee’ and the player moves the mat progressively up and down the rink in increments of 60 cm (a mat length).

Both line and weight need to be adjusted by the player to achieve success.

- ☐ The test must be conducted by a currently accredited coach at the local club
- ☐ The player will be allowed 20 minutes practice time on the rink to be used for the assessment.
- ☐ The coach will use the scorecard provided to record all successful bowls with a tick and unsuccessful ones with a cross.
- ☐ In this test the target is fixed and the player moves the mat in 60 cm increments progressively from minimum distance as soon as success is achieved.
- ☐ The Silver Award would use a 60cm stick as the required distance from the target and a 60% success rate on both hands is required to achieve the award.
- ☐ The test has to be achieved on two separate occasions a minimum of seven days apart one for increasing and one for decreasing weight.
- ☐ The player in this test **does not move** the mat until success is achieved, no matter how many attempts are needed.

SILVER SKILLS TEST (Increasing & Decreasing weight)

DITCH

2M

1

A minimum of 60% success is required on both hands for increasing and decreasing weight.

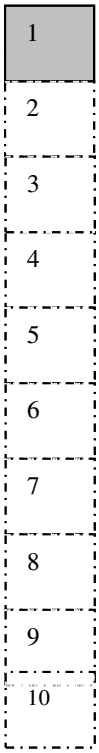
The bowl must finish no more than 60cm from the rim of the target to be successful.

Increasing weight
Forehand
Target is set at the minimum length
Only when the player is successful does the mat moves up the rink by 60cm
Finish at the tenth position.

Repeat for backhand

Decreasing weight
The assessment is the same although it now begins at maximum length and moves forward by 60cm.

Mat is placed at minimum length and is moved back by its own length after four bowls have been delivered.



	Forehand			Backhand
1	XXXXXX√		1	XXX√
2	√		2	XXXXXXX√
3	X√		3	X√
4	X√		4	√
5	XXX√		5	√
6	XXX√		6	X√
7	XXXXXX√		7	X√
8	√		8	√
9	X√		9	XX√
10	X√		10	√
	60%			70%

Example test score
Six out of ten with either of the first two bowls on the forehand. Seven out of ten on the backhand means this player has achieved the Silver standard of increasing weight.
A similar performance on decreasing weight will mean the standard has been reached and an Award will be given

Skills Test One: Gold Award

This test assesses a player's ability to draw after playing a weighted shot.

- ☐ The test will be conducted at one of the appointed centres around the country. Both parts of the assessment will be conducted at the same venue on the same day.
- ☐ The assessment must be conducted by a currently accredited coach from another club, at the same venue and occasion as test two.
- ☐ The coach will use the scorecard provided to record all successful bowls with a tick and unsuccessful ones with a cross.
- ☐ The player will be allowed 15 minutes practice time on the rink to be used for the assessment.
- ☐ Test one requires a success rate of 30% on **both** forehand and backhand.
- ☐ In this test the target is fixed and the player delivers from a mat placed 27m from the 'Tee'
- ☐ The player delivers a weighted bowl on the forehand to pass over the target and enter the ditch. The player chooses the weight to be played. Any part of the bowl passing over the target is counted as successful
- ☐ On the same hand the player must draw to within 60cm of the target
- ☐ A player is deemed to be successful if **both** the weighted shot and the draw shot are executed.
- ☐ Two bowls are then delivered on the backhand, the first with weight to pass over the target followed by another to finish within 60cm of the target.

This sequence is repeated ten times

GOLD SKILLS TEST 1 (‘Drive’& Draw)

DITCH

2M

- The first bowl is delivered on the forehand with weight up to a full drive. Player’s choice of weight to pass over the target.
- The second bowl is delivered on the forehand to draw within 60cm of the rim of the target.
- The third bowl is a weighted delivery on the backhand to pass over the target.
- The fourth bowl is delivered to draw within 60cm of the rim of the target.
- The player completes this sequence ten times.

A minimum of 30% success is required.

Both the weighted and the draw bowl must be successful to count.

Mat is placed at 27m from the ‘Tee’

	Forehand Drive-Draw			Backhand Drive-Draw	
1	X	X	1	X	X
2	√	√	2	X	X
3	X	√	3	X	√
4	X	√	4	√	√
5	X	√	5	√	X
6	X	X	6	X	√
7	X	X	7	X	√
8	√	√	8	√	√
9	X	√	9	X	X
10	√	√	10	√	√
	30%			30%	

Example test score
Four out of ten on both the forehand and the backhand means this player has achieved the Gold standard at the ‘Drive’-Draw Test

Skills Test Two: Gold Award

(Draw-Increasing and Decreasing weight)

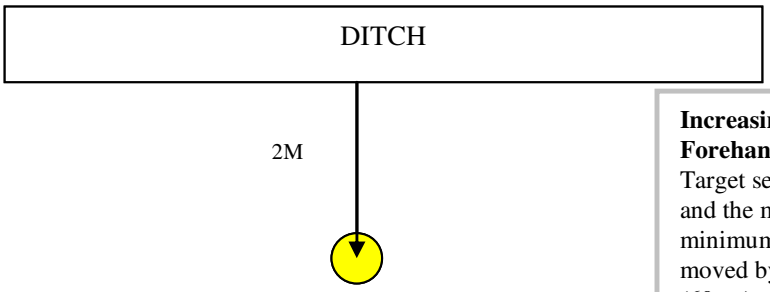
In this second test the target remains in the same position on the 'Tee' and the player moves the mat progressively either up or down the rink in increments of 60 cm (a mat length).

In this way both line and weight need to be adjusted by the player to achieve success.

- ☐ The test will be conducted at one of the appointed centres around the country. Both parts of the assessment will be conducted at the same venue on the same day.
- ☐ The coach will use the scorecard provided to record all successful bowls with a tick and unsuccessful ones with a cross.
- ☐ Success has to be achieved for both increasing and decreasing weight.
- ☐ Assessment must be conducted by a currently accredited coach from another club under the supervision of the County Coach
- ☐ The player will be allowed 15 minutes practice time on the rink to be used for the test.
- ☐ This test will use a 60 cm stick as the required distance from the target and demands 70% success rate on both hands.
- ☐ In this test the target is fixed and the mat is placed at the minimum length. As soon as success is achieved the mat is moved progressively further away in 60 cm increments.
- ☐ The player **does not move** the mat until success is achieved, no matter how many attempts are needed.

The test is repeated for decreasing weight. Starting from maximum distance the mat is moved progressively closer by increments of 60cm when success is achieved.

GOLD SKILLS TEST 2 (DRAW-Increasing & Decreasing weight)



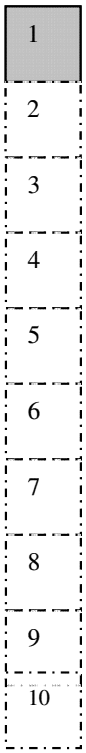
Increasing weight
Forehand
Target set 2M from the ditch and the mat is placed at minimum distance. The mat is moved by its own length (60cm) as soon as the player succeeds in drawing within 60cm of the target.
Repeat for backhand

Decreasing weight
The test is the same although it begins at maximum length and moves forward by 60cm.

A minimum of 70% success is required on both hands for increasing and decreasing weight.

The bowl must finish no more than 60cm from the rim of the target to be successful.

Minimum length



	Forehand			Backhand
1	X XXXXX√		1	XXXXX√
2	√		2	XXXX√
3	X√		3	X√
4	X√		4	√
5	√		5	√
6	X√		6	X√
7	XXXXXXX √		7	X√
8	√		8	√
9	X√		9	XX√
10	X√		10	√
	80%			70%

Example test score
Eight out of ten with either of the first two bowls on the forehand. Seven out of ten on the backhand means this player has achieved the Gold standard at increasing weight.
A similar performance on decreasing weight will mean the standard has been reached and an Award will be given.