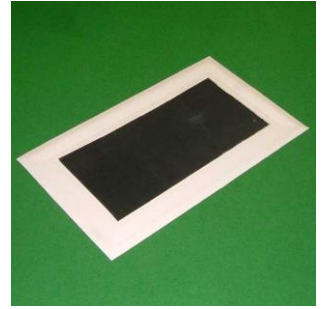


# Leads, Twos, Threes and Skips

In a team, each player has a specific role and it is important to understand how they fit together to become one cohesive unit.

## A 'Lead' should

- in a team game place the mat at the direction of the skip
- deliver the jack as close as possible to a length determined by the skip
- play draw shots as close to the jack as possible to lay the foundation for a good head
- practise and master the art of the draw shot
- kick the bowls back and tidy them behind the mat if their team loses the end



## A 'Two' should

- consolidate the head.
- As a general rule always play up to or through the head, strengthening existing positions or retrieving shot.
- be open minded and prepared to play a range of shots at the direction of the skip. A 'two' may be asked to draw to the head or to play to a designated position. Sometimes a 2 is asked to play a positional or back bowl even when the side is shots down to prevent trouble further along the line.
- take responsibility for the scoreboard and also readily assist in kicking back the woods at the completion of an end.



## A 'Three' should

- be an experienced and versatile player
- be competent to play all shots as requested – draw, yard on, resting shot, wrestling shot, take out or drive.
- direct of the head when the skip is bowling
- act as measurer at the completion of an end, and agree the shot count with the opposing 'three'
- have a good knowledge of the rules
- have the ability to relate to the skip – being able to take the pressure off as well as motivate and support.
- be a good communicator – giving precise and clear instruction in the way in which the skip is most comfortable.
- not advise as the skip leaves the head as his mind is already made up. But be sure to advise if the head changes and the skip needs to consider a different shot.
- act as the link between the skip and the front end bowlers.
- mark any touchers with chalk. Be sure to carry chalk, measure and wedges as a minimum and wedge woods that may fall at the appropriate time



## A 'Skip' should

- have complete charge of the rink.
- have wide experience of all playing positions
- be able to withstand pressure
- be a good communicator and motivator
- be adept at shot selection
- demonstrate tactical skills, which utilise opponents' weaknesses and strengths of their own players
- Keep the scorecard or delegate the keeping of the scorecard if rules allow.
- Avoid grumbling or demeaning a player on the mat. A skip needs to get a better wood from his player's next bowl, so encourage rather than belittle or exaggerate. No need to say if a wood is more than 2 yards short or heavy. Your teammate already knows!

