FOOTWEAR POLICY

Use of Approved Footwear (Bowls Canada & Ontario Lawn Bowling Association)

- Shoes must be flat-soled with no separation between the front sole and heel (i.e. flat from (toe to heel).
- Walking shoes and sports shoes are acceptable; sandals with a heel strap are also acceptable, as long as the back strap is firmly fitted when worn.
- Flat-soled wedge shoes (i.e. shoes that increase in height from toe to heel) are not acceptable. The width of any heel must be at least 50% of the widest part of the sole.
- The sole may possess a shallow tread pattern or indented grooves to improve traction, without damaging the green.
- A channel in the centre of the sole is acceptable; protuberances that extend out from the sole are not acceptable. Edges around the sole, and around any channel, need to be rounded.
- Brand name bowling shoes that are listed as approved on a current list, published by a member national authority, are generally acceptable.
- Shoes that have been re-soled to ensure that they comply with the laws of the sport are also generally acceptable.
- Bowls Canada Boulingrin reserves the right to disallow any specific shoe.

The reasoning is as follows:

- **Green Protection:** Loose sandals or slip-ons can slide off or dig into the delicate grass during a player's delivery stride, tearing the turf.

- **Player Safety:** Lawn bowling requires a stable, balanced lunge. A sandal without a backstrap can flop around or slip off, causing a fall or ankle injury.

- **Regulatory Standards:** National and local club rules mandate secure, flat, heel-less footwear to maintain course integrity.