DUTIES OF A MARKER

Primary Role
Your primary role is to facilitate the game by undertaking the following tasks:

- Conduct the toss of the coin to determine which player has the mat at the commencement of the
    - game and at the start of the tie breaker (if required)
- Centre the jack at the start of each end
- Mark 'touchers'
- Place 'dead bowls' on the bank
- Position marker(s) on the bank indicating where the jack/shot bowl lay in the ditch
- Replace the jack on the 'T' if it leaves the confines of the rink
- Answer the players' questions regarding the state of the head/game
- Update the scorecard at the completion of each end
- Update the scoreboard at the completion of every second end

The right equipment
Prior to the game ensure you have the following:

- A coin
- Scorecard
- Pen/pencil
- Chalk/spray chalk
- A bowls measure
- Mobile if live scoring
- Knowledge of the conditions of play applying to the event

Where to stand
Try not to block a bowler's vision of a rink marker. When the jack is being delivered, the best places to stand are on the bank above the centre line or 2-3 feet to the side of the 'T'. During play, the ideal position to stand is 6-8 feet behind and 2-3 feet to the side of the jack. Stand so that your shadow does not affect the head.

What to say
Answer questions about the state of the head only in response to a player's question. For example, if a player asks 'am I holding shot' your answer should be 'yes' or 'no'. If they ask 'what is the position' or 'how many shots am I holding' then you can advise how many shots they are holding or are down. Whenever possible, use hand signals to indicate distances. Only advise which player is holding shot (or the number of shots held) if a player's bowl is obviously closer to the jack than the others. If it isn't obvious, be safe and smart by signalling 'it's a measure'.

What to do
In addition to the other tasks outlined, ensure that you protect the head on your rink by stopping a bowl/jack from an adjacent rink that is likely to disturb the head. Let the players determine whether a bowl/jack is outside the rink boundaries. Also, let bowls fall into the ditch, and then remove them if they are not 'touchers'.

Keeping score
At the completion of an end, only measure if the players ask you to do so. In all cases wait until the players mutually agree on the end score and then record it on the scorecard. To avoid problems, it is good practice to

check with the players at the completion of each end to ensure they agree with the game score. At the completion of each game, ask both players to sign the completed scorecard. Then sign it and hand to the Bowls Organiser.

And thanks for marking. Singles matches are far more enjoyable when competently marked.