

MEASURING

Before you Measure:

If you are called to measure a close point there are a few basic procedures that you should follow:

1. First of all, you should assess the layout and if possible, make a mental estimation as to the boule that is holding the point.
2. Mark the positions of both the Jack and the boules to be measured.
3. Note in your notepad the positions of the boule and the jack for reference.
4. Ascertain as to whether there are any unplayed boules remaining. If not, it may be possible to remove any obstacle boules or boules that are obviously “out of the count”. If either of the teams has boules remaining, obstacle boules may be removed after having their positions marked and replaced immediately after measuring.*
5. Decide on the most appropriate equipment to be used (tape, callipers etc).
6. Measure the point and inform the players of your decision.
7. Replace any moved boule to its original position

After Measuring:

Do not allow yourself to be drawn into a debate with any player or players with regards to your ruling. Be firm and decisive then walk away.

Note: You may if you wish, direct players to stand a reasonable distance away whilst you are measuring. Players should remain silent and abstain from commenting or moving about and casting shadows, which may distract you from your task. Any non-compliance with your directions and/or requests may be dealt with by any disciplinary action as deemed appropriate, according to the nature of the misdemeanour.

*“Over-damaging” of the terrain when marking the positions of the boules and/or Jack should be avoided where possible. On occasion, it may be necessary to use wedges to “choc” a boule or the jack, protecting it against movement. Remember that the condition of the terrain must be restored on completion of measuring to allow the game to continue without advantage to any team or player.

It is acceptable (in fact advisable) to leave the marks that indicate the position of boule or jack, but these must not be so prominent as to constitute an obstruction should the boule or jack be moved validly by another boule.

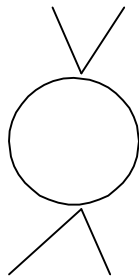
Marking the Position of the Boule or the Jack:

There are many reasons for marking the positions of boules and the jack. For instance, If a boule or the jack is dislodged for example by the wind, or a boule entering from another game, it may be replaced in it's original position only if its position has previously been marked. Likewise, if a boule or the jack is moved whilst measuring, it may be replaced without penalty.

It is not, however, good enough to just scratch marks in the ground haphazardly. In order for the position to be accepted for the replacement of the boule or jack, it has to have been marked correctly.

1st Example

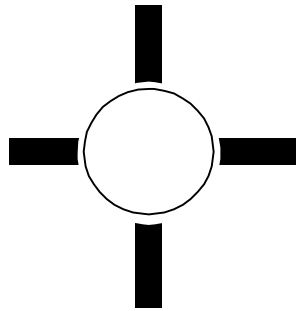
INCORRECT



In this example, the arrows do not adequately indicate possible movement in all directions. There is no guarantee that the boule could be replaced to its original position.

2nd Example

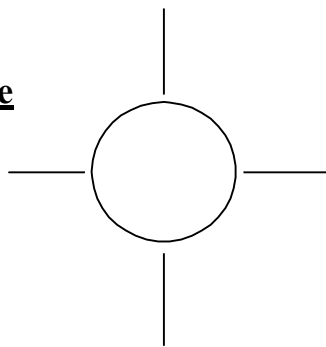
INCORRECT



Although clearly ensuring the accurate repositioning of a boule or jack, the prominence of the marks in this case would constitute an obstacle and prove a hindrance to valid displacement.

3rd Example

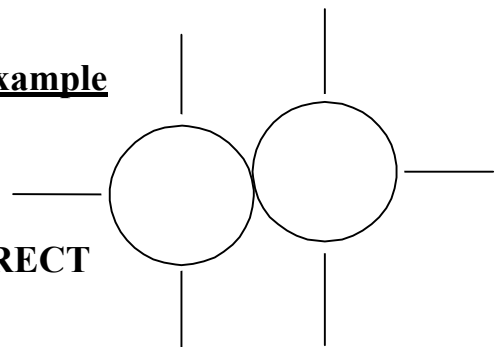
CORRECT



The position of the boule is marked in such a way as to enable accurate repositioning if displaced, whilst not hindering valid movement.

4th Example

CORRECT



Occasionally, it is not practical, nor possible to mark all 4 points of the cross due to obstruction of other boules. In this case, the above example is quite acceptable.

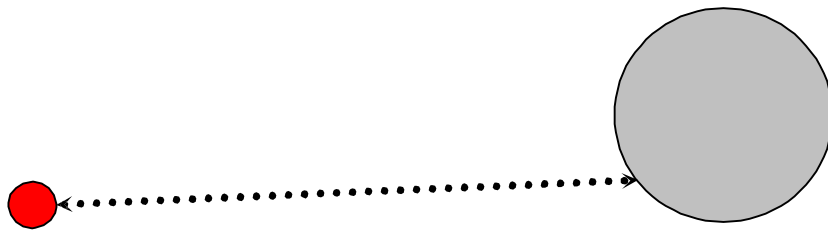
Marking the position of a boule for removal by tapping it into the ground is not acceptable under any circumstances and should be penalised harshly.

PERFORMING A MEASUREMENT

There are many ways to perform a measurement, but very few of them are correct. It is not enough to come armed with all the latest “gadgets” and umpiring paraphernalia if you do not know the correct way to use them.

Whatever equipment you do decide to use, it is most important that attention be paid to maintaining correct horizontal positioning.

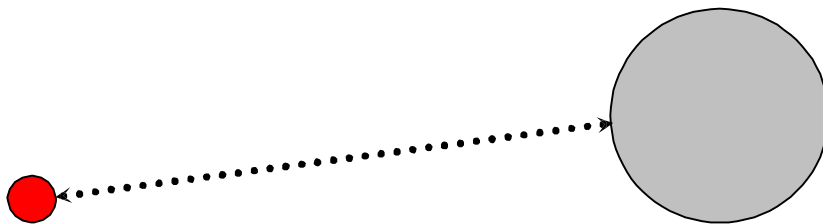
HORIZONTAL POSITIONING



INCORRECT

The above diagram represents an exaggerated example of the line measured being positioned below horizontal centre on the boule and as such, it is not measuring the closest distance between the boule and the jack.

And below, the correct line for positioning of equipment.



CORRECT

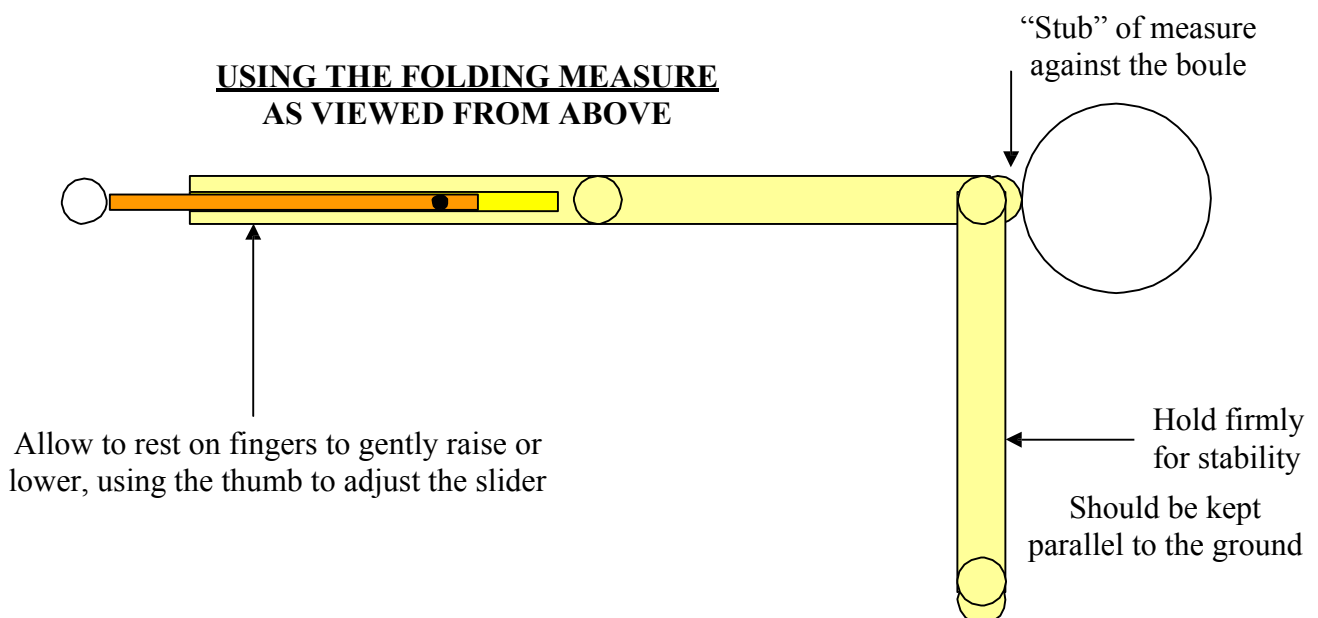
Using a folding measure:

The Internationally recognised apparatus of choice for measuring short distances between the boule and the jack is the folding measure. With this apparatus, it is possible to measure with precision, distances from between 115 mm up to 1.1 Metres.

As with all measuring equipment, it is imperative for the correct technique to be employed when using the folding measure.

After marking boules and jack as necessary and making mental estimation and note:

1. Open the folding measure to the approximate distance whilst holding away from the boule.
2. The measure should be kept in a right angle to allow for a firm grasp at the boule end to aid in stability.
3. Hold the measure just away from the boule and jack and push the slide out a fraction at a time until you are just (and only just) short of touching the jack.
4. Move the measure into position. The protruding “stub” should be placed against the boule with the smallest amount of light visible between the end of the measure (slide) and the jack.
5. Apply step 4 to the second boule. If there is no doubt as to which boule is closer, announce your decision to the players. If the difference cannot be judged without doubt, repeat steps 3 and 4, making more precise adjustments until you are able to make a decision.

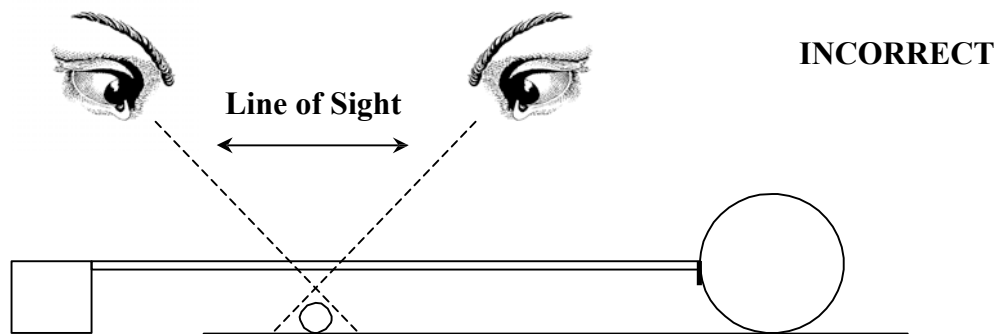


Using a tape measure:

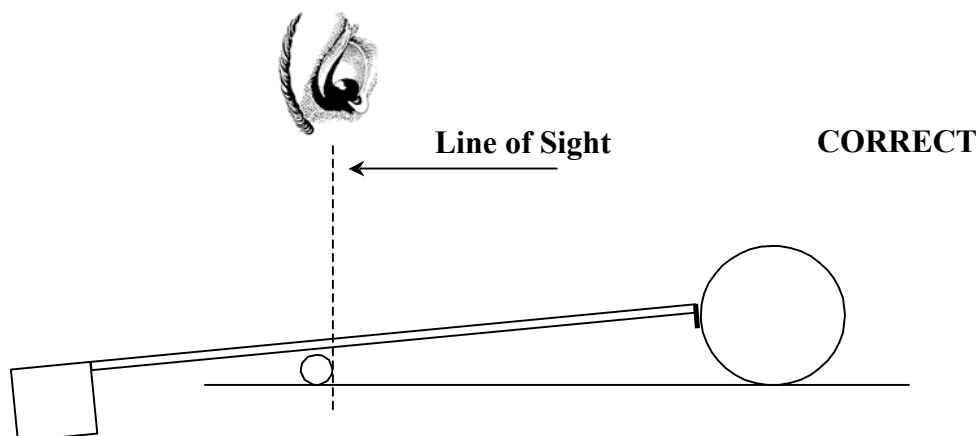
It is considered by many people, that an accurate measurement is not possible with the use of a tape measure. It is however possible to be reasonably accurate using a tape, but care must be taken to use the correct technique.

1. The tip of the tape should be placed lightly on the closest part of the boule (as described in measuring using a telescope).
2. Extend the tape past the jack and as close to the top of the jack as possible without touching it.
3. Read the measurement and repeat for the other boule. (make as many measurements as you feel is necessary, to be certain of a correct decision).

IMPORTANT: You should position yourself so that your line of sight is directly at 90° to the edge of the distance being measured. This will avoid inaccurate measurements due to error of parallax as illustrated below.

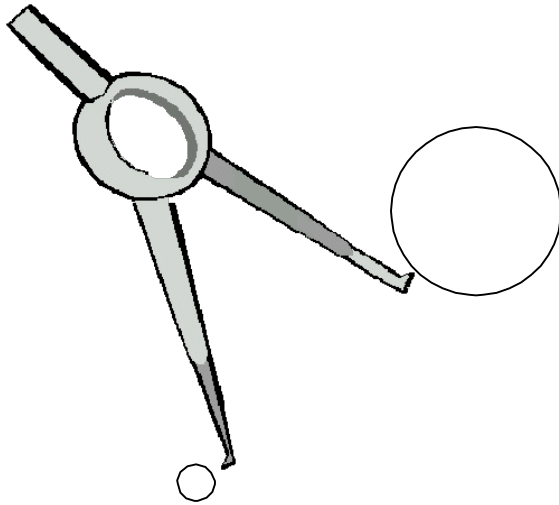


Although the tip of the tape is positioned correctly on the boule, this exaggerated example shows how easily an inaccurate result can be obtained by the line of sight not being positioned directly over the jack. Coupled with the distance that the tape is being held over the jack, the error will magnify in accordance with an increased height of the tape.



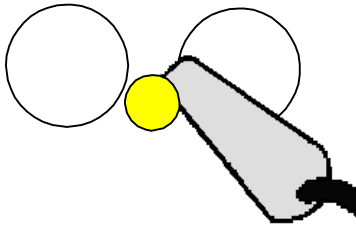
In this example, the chance of “parallax error” has been greatly reduced by the lowering of the tape and the positioning of the line of sight directly above the point being measured.

Using Callipers:



Using Callipers, the same care should be observed as for the previous examples, to ensure the correct positioning on the boule and the jack. One point of the callipers should rest lightly on the boule and be lifted away slightly whilst adjusting, to avoid the possibility of disturbing the jack in the instance of the callipers “springing” open.

Using Feeler Strips:



There will be times where 2 or more boules are almost touching the jack, but with the slightest gap evident. On these occasions, it is necessary to use feeler strips (also known as feeler gauges) to measure the difference between. For this task, it is imperative that both the boules and the jack are marked. Then with steady hand, the strip is slipped alongside the boule and the jack before repeating for the other boule and comparing the difference between. If light is still visible between the strip and the boule, take the next thickness and remeasure until a decision can be ascertained.

NOTE: Great care must be taken when using this type of equipment.



Fig C.7

Whatever your choice of equipment, correct technique is of utmost importance.