

# Guide to Umpiring - Appendix 1

## **Boule played by mistake**

### FIPJP ruling about a boule played by mistake

#### **The Scenario:**

Team A plays its first boule.

Team B, in turn, points and, thinking that they have not taken the point, plays a second boule.

Unsure if this second boule has taken the point, both teams decide to measure and discover that the first boule played by team B had already taken the point, so now, they have 2 points.

#### **The Ruling:**

The second boule, played by mistake, is valid.

#### **The explanation why:**

In the first place, the rules do not forbid a team to play when it has the point, provided that a measurement was not taken.

Secondly, playing a boule by mistake when the team already holds the point is typically an error which is already penalised by the team losing a boule.

Finally, the cancellation of this second boule played in error is not applicable when other boules have been played after the boule played by mistake.

- First, these boules may have displaced one or other of the disputed boules while, by definition, no measurement has been made.
- Furthermore, if an invalid boule moves objects, they can be put back in place if they are marked. A problem arises immediately if this second boule, when struck, moves the jack or one or more of the boules, especially as it is well known that the markings are rarely accurate to the millimetre.
- It can even be the case that nine boules are played after the second boule in question and players become aware that their first boule had the point!

The only valid measurement for scoring purposes is the one taken at the completion of the end, regardless of the order in which the teams played.