

Dear Members. Sent on behalf of 1st Vice President, Michael Ditlove.

In light of the requirements from the greens manufacturer for shoes that safeguard the warranty of our new greens, we have researched some alternatives for shoes that have flat soles and will not cause damage to the new artificial surface of these greens, should any member's existing shoes not conform to the requirements of Lawn Bowls shoe policy.

George Cubiss, Chief Bowls Umpire, has given us 2 examples of soles that would be acceptable for our new artificial greens. These are attached as flat soles examples # 1 and # 2.

The official Lawn Bowling Shoes (made by Henselite, Taylor, etc.) have the appropriate flat soles and heels.

We have also researched other alternatives that have flat soles with minimal indentations and are without deep treads or rubber cleats, which include some indoor soccer shoes from Sport Chek. While Sport Chek was quite helpful and eager to earn our business, we want to note that they are by no means the only or preferred alternative shoe type worth considering. They just gave us more info and a discount incentive.

Here are our suggestions:

1. Official Lawn Bowling Shoes, purchased locally

Vince Mai, the local distributor of Henselite Lawn Bowls and Shoes has provided pricing for the following shoe models:

- MPS 42 Men's/LSP Ladies' Shoes - \$128.00 including taxes
- Henselite Seneca Men's/Ladies' Shoes - \$100.00 including taxes
- Pro Sport 52 Men's/Ladies' Shoes - \$135.00 including taxes

Please check the website www.henselite.com/au to review these models.

Vince Mai can be reached at 778-868-3393.

2. Official Lawn Bowling Shoes purchased overseas.

Some of our members have purchased shoes from Jackie's Bowls Shop in Burwood, New South Wales in Australia. This shop sells Henselite, Drakes Pride, Taylor, Aero and CC Resorts.

The prices range from \$65.00 to \$135.00 Australian (which is almost on par with the Canadian \$).

In comparison to purchasing the shoes locally from Vince Mai, the pricing is less through Jackie's Bowls Shop - for instance, the Pro Sport 52 are \$99.00 Australian vs. \$135.00 Canadian - but you would have to factor in shipping and possible duty fees, so the pricing purchasing overseas may not be as attractive.

The website for Jackie's Bowls Shop is www.jackiesbowlsshop.com/au.

Another alternative overseas supplier is Bowls World in the UK. The website is www.bowlsworld.co.uk.

3. **Indoor Soccer Shoes**

SportChek in Park Royal South carries models of these shoes that have a flat sole that would conform to the guidelines of shoes for our new greens. The shoes department manager at SportChek, George Faustino, has also offered to provide our club with a 'team discount' of 25% for any purchase from Sport Chek for any members of our club. The discount may not apply to reduced sale prices - please check with the manager to be sure. Please show your membership card (does not need to be a current one) or a name tag we handed out last year for each member's bowls bag, and a manager will give you that special discount.

That makes the following models even more economically attractive (please note that sizes, colour, availability and current pricing are not guaranteed - there may also be other models of indoor soccer shoes available). Please see attached photos of these models' soles:

- Adidas Nemiziz Messi 19.4 Indoor Court Shoes (Men's) - \$79.99 less 25% = \$59.99 + taxes
- Adidas Predator 19.4 Sala Indoor Court Shoes (Men's) - \$79.99 less 25% = \$59.99 + taxes
- Diadora Stride Indoor Court Shoes (Women's) - \$49.99 less 25% = \$37.49 + taxes
- Diadora Defender Indoor Court Shoes (Women's) - \$35.97 less 25% = \$26.98 + taxes

4. **TOMS Shoes**

This company has sneakers that have flat soles. The Carlson, Carlo and TRVL Lite lines of shoes range from \$65.00 to \$100.00 + shipping + taxes and can be purchased on-line. If you spend more than \$70.00, the shipping is free.

The website is www.toms.com/ca for more details.

5. **Ked's Shoes**

The Shoe Company in Park Royal South mall carries this brand of sneakers that have flat soles. The models run from \$54.99 to \$74.99 + taxes. The Ked's Champion Originals (see Flat Sole Example # 2) is a shoe model that fits our requirements well.

6. **Lynn Valley Shoe Repair**

Some of our members have arranged to have the soles of their sports shoes filled or ground down to make them flat at Lynn Valley Shoe Repair in the Lynn Valley Centre (1199 Lynn Valley Road). The owner was not willing to quote a price, but, if your existing shoes are in good shape, this should be a reasonable alternative to purchasing new shoes.

Thank you, to Pat Skinner, Pat McKenzie, Robin Woods, and Bruce Murray, for your help with this research.

Michael Ditlove