

ETIQUETTE ON THE GREEN

The etiquette of the Game of Bowls is a combination of good manners, sportsmanship and sociability. These courtesies are best described as the unwritten Laws of the Game.

They are extras and designed to promote social ability and the excellent reputation for friendliness and sportsmanship the game of Bowls has rightly earned.

1. Be conversant with the Laws of the Game and observe them.
2. Respect the decision of the Umpire.
3. Be punctual to commence play at all matches and come to each game correctly attired.
4. Keep quiet and refrain from moving when players are on the mat.
5. Stand behind the mat when your opponent is playing their bowls.
6. Stand still at the head when a player is about to bowl. Movement at the head, or talking at the mat can be distracting.
7. Always allow your opponent the right to the head as spelt out in the Laws of the Game, failure to do so decreases the enjoyment of the Game.
8. When changing ends walk close to the centre of the rink with minimum delay. Otherwise you could distract players on the next rink.
9. Do not delay play, always play your bowl with minimum delay.
10. Never step onto the mat to deliver your bowl before the previous bowl has come to rest. Until this happens you do not have possession of the rink.
11. Keep track of play, be ready to bowl when it is your turn.
12. Every player should assist in collecting bowls when the end is complete.
13. Always pay your Skip the respect of waiting for their decision. Don't step onto the mat and indicate your intentions – wait for your Skip's instructions.
14. Never applaud lucky bowls – accept them graciously.
15. Never complain about lucky bowls – they tend to equal each other out over the season.
16. Respect the playing surface at all times. DO NOT
 - a) Drop bowls on the green.
 - b) Stand on the edge of the green
 - c) Stand on the edge of the banks
 - d) Walk in the ditches

Always take care to protect and conserve the green.

17. Always inform your opponent if you wish to leave the green.
18. If you lose, be a good loser. Don't blame your loss on other people, the green, weather conditions etc.
19. Win or Lose - always shake hands with your opponents and thank them for the game. Don't be too taken with your win today, the position could be reversed tomorrow.
20. Offer your opponent a drink or refreshment after the game.
21. When playing singles, whether you have won or lost, be sure to thank the Marker and offer them a drink or refreshment. Remember that they have given up their time to assist in the game. You can repay them by being courteous in return.
22. It is polite to thank the Umpire of the Day before leaving the Club.
23. Learn to be a good Marker. When offering your services remember a Marker can make or break a game. Obtain a copy and learn the "Duties of a Marker"
24. Above all, enjoy the Game of Bowls for the pleasure and lasting friendships it provides.