

# Bowls Etiquette or How to Behave 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 a 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 while your opponent is playing their bowls.
- 6) Always stand still at the head when a player is about to bowl — movement at the head, or talking at the mat end is very 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) Walk close to the centre of the rink with a minimum delay when changing ends; you could distract play on the next rink.
- 9) Do not delay play; always play your bowl with the minimum delay.
- 10) Never stop onto the mat to deliver your bowl before the previous bowl has come to rest; 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 completed.
- 13) Always pay your skip the respect of waiting for their decision. Don't stop on to 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,
  - i) Drop bowls on to the green.
  - ii) Stand on the edge of the green
  - iii) Stand of the edge of the banks
  - iv) 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 or the 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. Remember they have given their time to assist in your game. You can repay them by being courteous in return.
- 21) When playing singles, whether you have won or not, be sure to thank the Marker and offer them a drink or refreshment. Remember that they have given their time to assist in your game. You can replay 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 its pleasure and the lasting friendships it provides.

