

Bowls Etiquette

Occasionally we are all guilty of forgetting the niceties of courtesy when playing games. Here are some gentle reminders:-

1. Ensure you know the rules of the game, and observe them
2. Be punctual. You could even be early and help set up equipment for the game!
3. Be correctly attired
4. Introduce yourself and shake hands. Wish your opponent(s) well
5. Keep quiet and refrain from moving when players are on the mat
6. Stand still at the head when a player is about to bowl
7. Before the skips come to the mat to bowl, number threes (usually) should place the correct bowl on the mat in readiness
8. Try to avoid obscuring the rink numbers, boundary pegs and toucher markers (for ditched bowls and jacks)
9. When not bowling, stand on the bank, or, if on the green, well back and to one side or other of the mat
10. Be aware of anyone about to bowl from the other end of the green, and do not move in their sightline. This applies even if you are not involved in a game at the time
11. Keep track of the play, and be ready to bowl when it's your turn. Wait a moment to see if your skip wants to guide you
12. When your opponent is bowling, stand well out of his/her line of sight, keeping still and silent
13. Do not wander around, distracting attention. You can socialise after the game
14. Walk quickly down the centre of the green when changing ends, and around the head, not through it, possibly moving bowls or the jack
15. Do not stop to exchange information when between mat and jack. Information should be given at either end of the rink. A good skip will remain at the head, awaiting his/her team for this purpose
16. Never deliver your bowl until the previous one has come to a stop. Remember that possession of the mat is your opponent's until his/her bowl is still. Just remain on the mat until your skip has given you the 'distance from the mat' signal
17. Concentrate on the game at all times. Do not chatter with others. They should be concentrating too!
18. Do not criticise the green, team members, poor play, 'fluke' bowls, lucky wicks etc, but compliment well played bowls of either team
19. Respect the green. Do not drop bowls on it or throw them from the bank. Much damage can be caused by such actions
20. If you need to leave the green, alert both teams, or your opponent and marker if playing singles
21. On sunny days be aware of your shadow. Keep it from covering the jack or falling in front of or within the peripheral vision of the player on the mat
22. Keep cheerful at all times, even when losing. It boosts your team's morale and shows good sportsmanship

23. If a drive has been indicated, warn your fellow players to stand well back or on the bank.
Also let adjacent rinks know the situation
24. When the game is over, congratulate or commiserate with your opponents, compliment them on their play, shake hands all round and each other offer their opponents a drink
25. Be a gracious winner or a cheerful loser
26. Enjoy every game for the pleasure and the friendship it provides
27. If necessary, help clear the green of equipment