

LAWN BOWLS ETIQUETTE

Bowls is a sport that encourages social interaction and friendship.

Etiquette simply means displaying "good sportsmanship".

Thoughtfulness and common sense are the keys to etiquette.

1. Players at the head end should stand still and remain quiet.
2. When it's your team's turn to bowl it's your mat and head. Your opponents should be away from both – if they are not, ask them nicely to move.
3. Wait for your skip to tell you which shot you should play.
4. Do not trespass into neighbouring rinks. Be aware of others playing. If you are helping your teammate aim, do not infringe upon neighbouring rinks.
5. Walk up the centre of the rink with minimum delay but not in front of the last bowler. They have the right to see how their bowl progresses. They are in possession of the rink until their bowl comes to rest.
6. If it is not your team's turn to bowl do not stop in the middle of the rink. Respect that the mat and the head belong to the opposition.
7. Always show good sportsmanship by acknowledging a display of good skill by another bowler.
8. Do not applaud lucky shots or complain about lucky shots. Admit a lucky shot with good grace.
9. Do not criticize the playing surface.
10. Do not criticize the performance of colleagues. No one plays a bad bowl on purpose.
11. Avoid delaying play by leaving the rink without the knowledge of the other players.
12. Avoid interfering with the head until the results of the end have been agreed upon.
13. If an Umpire is called, move away, you're done, his/her decision is final.
14. Shake hands/ acknowledge your opponent at the beginning and end of a game.
15. Be a gracious winner and a good loser.
16. Punctuality for all games is a courtesy to the other players.
17. Players at the head end should pay attention to the game. Be ready to stop deflected bowls from crossing into the adjacent rink and interfering with neighbouring games; likewise, be alert to prevent bowls from adjacent rinks from messing up your own head.
18. Place your skips bowl on the mat if they are to play first.
19. Pick up the mat after the last bowl has been played.
20. Clean the scoreboard after your game.