

BOWLS ETIQUETTE

Bowls etiquette is based on the principal of courtesy and good sportsmanship.

Before the game:

- Check you know the correct dress for the occasion - and wear it;
- Make sure you know the starting time of the game and arrive in sufficient time to be ready to play;
- In a home game always arrive in time to welcome your guests and to help put out the equipment (at least 30 mins before the start of the match).
- On arrival report promptly to your captain or event organizer;

At any time please do not:

- Drop your bowls on the green;
- Sit on the banking nor rest your feet on the edge of the green;
- Smoke on the green;
- Drop litter in the ditches, please use the receptacles provided;
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During the game:

- Shake hands with your opponents before and after the game (kissing is not necessarily appreciated!);
- Stand still while the player is delivering his/her bowl and avoid making distracting sounds;
- Avoid sideways movements across the rink, which may distract players on adjoining rinks;
- Do not allow your shadow to distract a player who is about to bowl;
- When changing ends always keep to the centre of the rink;
- Stand well back from the developing 'head' and leave all instructions to the designated player;
- Do not interfere in any way with the process of deciding shots unless delegated to do so;
- Wait until the result of an end has been declared before removing any bowls;
- If an umpire has been called, stay well clear of the 'head' until a decision has been made;
- If you are responsible for keeping the score compare your card with your opponent at regular intervals;
- Always inform your opponent and/or skip if you require to leave the green;
- Never be heard to criticise the state of the green or other players;
- Commend good play at all times and acknowledge your "flukes";
- If you lose the game remember to congratulate your opponent;
- Be courteous at all times and refrain from using abusive or inappropriate language.

Duties of each member of the team for Rinks (4 players) and Triples (3 players):

All players on the Green fall under the control of their 'Skip';

Rinks (4 players)

- The Skip is in charge of the rink;
- The Lead (No 1) of the team that wins the toss or the previous End will place the mat and deliver the Jack;
- The Lead (No 1) of the team that lost the toss or the previous End, will gather the bowls when the end has finished if there is a pusher available; otherwise everyone helps.
- The No 2 has in the past kept the scorecard, but from April 2011 the skip will keep the card in all games.
- The No 3 will give guidance to the Skip, if asked, when the Skip is bowling and carry out any measuring if necessary when the End has finished. If there is a tight measure the skips should be asked to measure first and the skip will call the umpire if necessary.

In some competitions the Skip and the No 3 will stand at the Head end, this is known as 'Threes up'; the leads and twos come up to the head when the No. 3 goes to bowl.

Triples (3 players)

- As for rinks except that the No.2 takes the place of the No.3 in a rink.

In a serious competition it is possible to have "2s up" in which case the lead comes to the head as the No.2 goes to bowl.