



## Basic Etiquette for the Game of Bowls

1. Be familiar with the Laws of the Game and observe them.
2. Respect the decision of the Umpire.
3. Be punctual to commence play and come to all matches correctly dressed.
4. Do not walk across other rinks to leave or return to your rink.
5. Respect players who are on the mat and wait until they have bowled before crossing the end of a rink.
6. Keep quiet and refrain from moving when players are on the mat.
7. Stand behind the mat while your opponent bowls.
8. 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.
9. 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.
10. Walk close to the centre of the rink with minimum delay when changing ends, you could distract play on the next rink.
11. Never deliver your bowl until the previous bowl has come to rest.
12. Keep track of play, be ready to bowl when it is your turn.
13. Every player at the mat end should assist in collecting bowls when the end is completed.
14. Always pay your skip the respect of waiting for their decision. Don't step on to the mat and indicate which way you intend to bowl – wait for the skip's instructions.
15. Never applaud lucky bowls – accept them graciously.
16. Never complain about lucky bowls – they tend to equal each other out.
17. Respect the green surface at all times: -
  - DO NOT** a) Drop bowls on to the green.
  - b) Stand on the edge of the green.
  - c) Stand on the bank.
  - d) Walk in the ditches.
18. Always take care to protect and conserve the green at all times.
19. Always inform your opponent if you intend to leave the green.
20. If you lose, be a good loser, don't blame the loss on other people, the green, the weather conditions etc.



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21. Win or lose always shake hands with your opponent and thank them for the game. Don't be too taken with your win today, the position could be reversed tomorrow.
  22. Offer your opponents a drink after the game.
  23. When playing singles, whether you have won or lost, be sure to thank the marker and offer him/her a drink. Remember they have given their time to assist your game. You can repay them by being courteous in return.
  24. It is polite to thank the umpire of the day before leaving the club.
  25. Learn to be a good marker. When offering your services, remember a marker can make or break a game. Obtain a copy of the Duties of the Marker.
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