



Etiquette and responsibility:

The game of lawn bowls has been described as a game for gentlemen and gentlewomen and while changes are inevitable, the basic elements of good sportsmanship and respect for others playing and administering the game must be respected.

These are some of the more important points of etiquette, in no particular order:

- ✓ Be on time and correctly attired for the event.
- ✓ When unpacking your bowls do not throw or dump them onto the green.
- ✓ The Lead whose team has won the previous end retains possession of the mat and must:
 - 1) Position it promptly on the rink
 - 2) Gather the Jack
 - 3) Assist in moving the bowls behind and to the side of the mat. **All players are expected to assist.**
- ✓ Walk to the other end of the rink without delay at the change-over and do not linger at the head. Do not stop in the middle of the rink for a chat.
- ✓ Do not wander into the next rink or up your rink to follow a delivery. **The law requires you to be behind the mat when your bowl comes to rest; at that time the opposition has possession of the rink!**
- ✓ Be ready to take possession of the rink after the opposition's bowl has come to rest.
- ✓ When advising the Skip the result of an end, make your signals clear. Tapping the shoulder or hip to indicate number of points won or lost is easier to see than fingers.
- ✓ Do not applaud an opposition's bowl which results to your advantage. Excessive jubilation by an individual or team can be very distracting to the opposition and penalties can apply!
- ✓ Players at the non-bowling end must stand a minimum of 1 metre behind the Head which is designated by the bowl nearest to or in the ditch.
- ✓ Do not allow your shadow to interfere with a bowler on the mat.
- ✓ Do not move bowls when an opposition player is on the mat.
- ✓ Do not move at the Head when a player is about to deliver a bowl.
- ✓ Players attending the head should not stand behind the jack, in front of the rink number or in line with rink markers.
- ✓ Refrain from making derogatory or unnecessary remarks about a delivery or of an individual.
- ✓ The last player to deliver a bowl has possession of the rink until that bowl comes to rest. During this time, all others must remain behind that player. Do not walk in front of the player who has just delivered a bowl and is still on the mat watching the line taken by the bowl.
- ✓ While in opposition, a Skip may only inspect the Head in conjunction with and at the invitation of the skip who has possession of the mat. It is courteous but not obligatory to extend the invitation.
- ✓ **PICKING UP THE MAT:** Following delivery of the last bowl of an end, by a Skip, the mat should be picked up by the opposition Skip who did not deliver the bowl.
- ✓ The home team is responsible for attending to the score board. This includes rinks and the main board.
- ✓ All players are required to move off the rink when the umpire has been called to assess a close call.
- ✓ A player who needs to leave the rink for any purpose must advise the opposition before leaving. Penalties can apply.