



## BOWLS ETIQUETTE

These unspoken rules of etiquette make the game flow pleasantly for all involved.

In essence, bowls etiquette is the code of behaviour that, if followed, ensures that bowlers generally treat each other with respect. There is no place in bowls for argument or vulgarity, and players are expected to consistently uphold good behaviour both on and off the green.

- Players start and finish a game with a handshake.
- Always welcome visitors.
- Be punctual and ready for play at the start of the day and for each game.
- When ready to play, check neighbouring rinks to ensure your bowls won't collide with someone else's.
- Be quiet and still when another player is about to deliver a bowl.
- Avoid criticism of any played bowl – even your own.
- Take an active interest in the game. Follow how the head is building so you don't have to ask another player what is going on.
- Remember that the time for socializing with other players is between games, not during play. Every player has the right to concentrate on his/her own game.
- Before changing ends, wait for the last player to walk first so that he/she has an unimpeded view of the passage of the last bowl.
- Help to gather bowls together into a single group at least a metre behind the mat after each end. The exception is that, in time-limited games, the lead who is going to deliver the jack should do so promptly.
- Demonstrate good sporting spirit. Win and lose gracefully.
- Walk purposefully and within the confines of the rink when changing ends.
- During the changeover, only the player and 'head' director in possession of the mat have rights to stand over the head. Other players must respect that right.
- When a player approaches the head before delivering his/her bowl, the opposing player may not follow unless invited to do so.
- When the end is complete, give measurers space to work and refrain from retrieving bowls until you're sure the head has been declared.
- If an umpire is called to measure a shot, all bowls not involved in the measure should be removed to the back of the rink and players should retire to the bank to allow the umpire unimpeded access.