

Bowling Etiquette



Bowling etiquette, observed and honoured by all bowlers as the unwritten laws of the sport, is the foundation to the game's sociability. The rules of etiquette are a combination of good sportsmanship and good manners. They are not optional.

Have a working knowledge of the Laws of the Game and observe them at all times.

Introduce yourself and shake hands with your opponents before the game.

Pay your skip the respect of waiting for his/her instructions.

Skips should always remember that the players on their team are doing their best

As soon as a player's bowl has come to rest, possession of the rink shall be transferred to the other team.

Compliment a team member or an opponent for a good shot.

Never shout instructions for your opponent's bowl to miss its target or fail in its intended task.

A player on the mat should not be distracted in any way by an opponent.

Players should not talk while another player is on the mat.

Do not walk between the mats.

When not playing, leads and seconds should be seated.

The players delegated to measure will decide the number of shots – unless the skips are called to agree the result – other players should not interfere or remove bowls before the result is declared.

When bowls need to be measured, the player conceding the shot(s) should usually do the measuring.

When an umpire is called, retire away from the head as you no longer are part of the decision making. Respect the decision made.

The home team second is responsible for the score being kept.

At the end of the game, shake hands with your opponents, win or lose.

Above all, enjoy the game of bowls for the fun, fitness, pleasure and the lasting friendships it provides.

*Compiled from a variety of sources
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