

# ETIQUETTE OF BOWLS



The etiquette of Bowls is a combination of good manners, sportsmanship and sociability and is designed to promote the friendliness and sportsmanship which the sport has rightly earned. Be conversant with the laws of the game and etiquette and observe them. Respect the position and decision of the umpires and markers.

## Courtesy

- Be punctual at least 30 minutes before the roll up.
- Know where your games are being played and be at the club to allow sufficient time to travel.
- Pay your green fees as soon as you arrive at the club.
- Shake hands with your opponents before and after the game.
- Always pay your skip respect by waiting for instructions before you step onto the mat.
- Keep your mind on the game and be ready to bowl as soon as it's your turn.
- Hand bowls to one another.
- Acknowledge good shots from your opponents and thank them if they do the same to you.
- Don't applaud unlucky bowls, or urge bowls through.
- Home team players should sit with their opponents and offer to buy the first drink. In singles matches don't forget to buy the marker a drink

## Rules

- Don't drop bowls from the bank to the green - respect the surface of the green.
- Stand at least 1 metre behind the bowler on the mat.
- Keep quiet and still while players are on the mat.
- Do not move any bowls until the thirds have declared the head.
- When at the head of the rink the Director may stand 2 metres behind the jack, but the rest of the players must stand 2 metres behind the backest bowl of the head.
- Do not walk in front of the last third to bowl: they have a right to see where their bowls finishes.
- Walk as close as possible to the centre of your rink when crossing over, and do not stand or wander onto other rinks.
- Don't query the skip's instructions.
- Don't criticise your skip's bowls.
- If you're at the head help with kicking bowls back.
- Don't deliver your bowl until the previous bowl has come to rest.
- Laws of the game demand that you inform your opponent if you wish to leave the green. You are allowed 10 minutes.
- Leads are to return the mats and jacks after the game.
- When the last skipper has bowled, the previous skipper must pick up the mat and place it on the bank.
- Smoking and drinking is not permitted on the greens.
- Mobile phones must be turned off unless you have special permission from the umpire of the day.

