

Etiquette & Sportsmanship



THE LAWS OF THE GAME

Develop an understanding of the laws of the game: Bowls Australia's website - www.bowls.com.au - contains a link to the Laws.

RESPECT GAME OFFICIALS

Do's

- ✓ Show respect for Umpires, Markers, Officials and Club Staff at all times.
- ✓ Thank and Offer to buy your marker a drink after your singles game.

Don'ts

- X Do Not stand around the head while an umpire is making a measurement, preferably stand off the green.
- X Do Not dispute an umpire's or controlling body's decision.

SPORTSMANSHIP and COURTESY

Do's

- ✓ Greet your opponent (and introduce yourself if necessary) with a friendly handshake before starting a game.
- ✓ Keep silent when any bowler is on the mat.
- ✓ Be aware that once your team's bowl has come to rest, it is the other team's mat – only they should be walking around the head, directing their team, advising shot count etc.
- ✓ After your bowl has come to rest, ensure you are either behind the mat or past the jack.
- ✓ Commend good bowls but acknowledge fluky or lucky bowls.
- ✓ All players (except skips) should kick the bowls back behind the mat after completion of an end.
- ✓ Be aware of the rules for drinking and smoking on the green. Smokers – please consider non-smokers.
- ✓ Switch off (or silence) your mobile phone during play – only make calls in emergencies (away from the green).

Don'ts

- X Do Not ride an opponent's bowl i.e. call it through a gap, call for your bowl to be knocked up, or applaud a miss or bad shot.
- X Do Not move behind the head or stand in front of a boundary marker when a player is on the mat.
- X Do not attempt to cheat on measures or kick bowls in before the result of an end has been agreed by both sides.
- X Do Not "Delay play" by leaving the rink of play or their team unless the opponent agrees, and then only for no more than ten minutes" – Law 51.1
- X Do Not make excuses for a poor result if beaten but rather congratulate your opponent on their good play/victory.
- X Do Not drink excessive amounts of alcohol, use rude or abusive language, or make obscene gestures.

PUNCTUALITY

Do's

- ✓ Aim to arrive at least 15 minutes prior to any scheduled start or roll-up time for a match – Always advise if you are held up and will be late.
- ✓ Always remain in your own rink of play and be ready to bowl when it is your turn
- ✓ It is common practice to socialise with your team and the opposition after the game, if for some reason you need to leave immediately after the game make your apologies at the start of the game.

ATTIRE

Do's

- ✓ Always be appropriately attired for the day's play including footwear.
- ✓ Ensure your bowls have correct stickers attached and in good order if required for the days competition.

RESPECT & LOOK AFTER THE GREEN & SURROUNDS

The bowling greens are an asset of the club and are expensive to maintain, do your part to keep them in good order for the benefit of all.

Dont's

- X Do Not drop your bowls on the green, be careful when taking your bowls from your bag and putting them on the green. The damage made by dropping bowls is difficult to remove and a nightmare for the green keeper, as well as effecting the trajectory of bowls on the green.
- X Do Not stand on the "headlands" (past the 2M mark when unnecessary).
- X Do Not stand on the Plinth (the edge of the green at the ditch).

Do's

- ✓ Try not to scuff the green when walking and when kicking bowls back
- ✓ After the game mats and jacks should be returned to their storage areas and shades should be retracted.
- ✓ If you have developed a dumping bowling action talk to a club coach to remedy the situation, this action severely damages the green surface and affects the trajectory of bowls on the green.

FELLOW CLUB AND TEAM MEMBERS.

Do's

- ✓ All Players: be supportive of your fellow team members – a cohesive team is more often the better team.
- ✓ Skips provide positive comments and body language to get the best out of your team.
- ✓ Only thirds (or seconds in a triples game) should direct the skip on the mat or measure or count shots. Know the responsibilities and expectations of your position.
- ✓ Support fellow club members when they have reached a final or match of significance (Home or Away)

Dont's

- X Do Not openly argue with or criticise the skip about a shot to play... or influence the skip's shot unless the head has changed.

REMEMBER TO BE PROUD OF YOUR TEAM MATES, BE PROUD OF YOUR CLUB, and more importantly, **ENJOY THE GAME**