

# The Etiquette of Bowls

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ETIQUETTE OF LAWN BOWLS.

## ALL PLAYERS

1. Don't drop bowls from the bank to the green.(Remember the Greenkeeper)
2. Keep quiet and still when players are on the mat.
3. Stand two metres back while your opponent bowls.
4. Watch all bowls and know their position.
5. Don't step onto the mat and indicate to the skip which way you intend playing.
6. All ways wait for your skip's instruction behind the mat.
7. Don't worry your opponent with your past success.
8. All at the head assist in kicking bowls back behind the mat.
9. Don't complain about your skipper's game- He or She only has two bowls and the rest of the team have six.
10. Take an interest in your skip's bowls when his/her turn comes, they do with your bowls.
11. Don't query your skip's instructions, ask to come down to see the shot he/she wants you to play if you can't see it from your end.
12. Acknowledge good shots from opponent and thank him/her if they do the same to you.
13. Don't applaud unlucky bowls.
14. Don't applaud lucky bowls by saying (GOOD BOWL) instead (good result could be used).
15. Don't deliver your bowl before the previous bowl comes to rest, it's not your mat till the opponent's bowl has stopped. (playing prematurely)

LEAD – (Note: this player is “LEAD” and not “LEADER”).

1. Have good communication with your skipper. Discuss the length of ends he/she requires either prior or after the practise ends.
2. Become an expert in delivering the jack as close to the line as possible and making sure you get as close to the skipper's foot.
3. At completion of an end, winner gets mat and places it down on the green in place for the next end then help kick bowls back behind the mat.
4. Loser of the mat – locate opponent's bowl and place beside the mat.

5. Home side lead on completion of the game picks up mats and jack and puts them back on the trolley provided.
6. To be a good team member stay at your rink help pick up bowls for your team mates and don't wander around.

## SECOND

1. Introduce your team to opposition then yourself.
2. A second could be called on a variety of shots, don't anticipate the shot you think you could be called on.
3. Stand behind your mat and wait for directions, you are not the one building the head.
4. Good seconds pick up bowls for their team mates and help kick bowls after each end.
5. The seconds keep score card and record all scores and keep the score board up to date after every second end home team second to keep the scoreboard up to date.
6. Both seconds confer with each other to avoid mistakes after each end is completed.
7. On completion of the game return scorecards signed by your skip to the team manager or controlling body.
8. Be a good team member and don't wander around.

## THIRD

1. Encourage your lead and second to do well, don't instruct the lead or second- that's the skipper's job.
2. Don't criticise your skip's bowls or instructions.
3. Advise your skip only when asked, or when the head has been changed.
4. If your skip has first bowl, put their bowl on the mat when changing over.
5. Don't give instructions to your skip as you cross over, because this could help in distracting his/her concentration.
6. Don't speak or give signals to your skip after the bowl comes to rest- (not your mat- unless it is the last bowl of that end).
7. Watch for bowls from next rink. Be alert to what's on around you. Be ready to lift bowls on your rink to allow next doors bowls to go through. If this is impossible, (STOP) the bowl from next rink. (REPLAYABLE)
8. Never move onto the next rink to lift their bowl to allow passage for your bowl. That rink does the lifting or (STOP) the bowl. (REPLAYABLE) Give next rink a warning, that a bowl could be near their head.
9. Loser of the end usually does the measuring unless you can't agree then both of you have ago, if you can't agree call an umpire.

10. Once the umpire is called clear away all bowls that don't matter with each other consent and stand back. (the umpire may ask you for the length of the measure to save time and bring the right measure to do the job).
11. Signal the score to the skip and the second clearly.
12. Help kick back bowls and pick up the jack and give to the winning lead.
13. Remember don't do anything on the green without you consulting with your opponent first.

### SKIPPERS

1. Shake hands with all your opponent's and wish them to have good bowling.
2. Give praise to your team's good bowls, and acknowledge those of your opponents.
3. GIVE CLEAR and CONCISE INSTRUCTIONS- don't write a book.
4. Don't talk to your players after the bowls come to rest- (not your mat).
5. It is good courtesy to consult with your Third on the cross over- or at least occasionally.
6. Don't wave your opponent's bowl through, or to knock their shot bowl out.
7. Don't complain to your opponent about your team.
8. Watch for bowls from next rink and be ready to lift bowls at your head, to allow through- or (STOP) the offending bowl if no time to lift.  
(REPLAYABLE)
9. Never lift bowls from next rink to allow passage for your bowl. (WARN NEXT RINK).
10. Remember: DON'T do anything on the rink without consulting with each other beforehand.
11. Remove the mat if your opponent plays the last bowl.
12. Skips to sign the score card and confer with other skip to avoid making any mistakes.
13. Finish the game with a handshake all round and invite your opponents in for refreshments.

### GOOD BOWLING

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