



LAWN BOWLING ETIQUETTE

Lawn bowls remains one of the few sports where common courtesy and etiquette is still prevalent. We should be proud of this and in order to make the game as enjoyable as possible bowling green etiquette should be promoted to members old and new. Much of this is common sense but here are some of the main rules of etiquette.

1. Dress appropriately, ensuring that you comply with our dress code for each game or match in which you are participating. Do not show disrespect for your opponents by arriving late, ensure that you leave sufficient time to change before the game. If you are representing the club on another green remember that you are an ambassador for Helmsley Bowling Club.
2. Enter and leave the bowling surface by the steps provided (if any). Do not walk across rinks that other people are using and do not stand or sit on the banks while waiting to play. Introduce yourself and shake hands with your opponents both before play and after the game is completed.
3. Skips and vices should have chalk and a measuring tape for all matches.
4. During the game do not move around the head when your opponent is about to deliver his bowl. Stand well back from the head, keep quiet and do nothing that would distract your opponent. Wait until the bowl has been delivered before moving.
5. If you are at the same end as the player delivering a bowl you must stand behind the mat thus staying out of the players line of vision.
6. Bear in mind that some players like to see the rink boundary markers and the rink marker while playing so make sure that you are not obscuring them. On sunny days you must also ensure that your shadow does not fall on the Jack.
7. If you are spectating and in the player's line of vision you should keep still while bowls are being delivered and should not distract player on the green.
8. Don't drop your bowls onto the green and ensure that your delivery is not causing scuff marks or otherwise damaging the green.
9. Observe the rules for possession of the rink:- "Possession of the rink shall belong to the team whose bowl is being played. The players in possession of the rink for the time being shall not be interfered with, annoyed, or have their attention distracted in any way by their opponents. As soon as each shall have come to rest, possession of the rink shall be transferred to the other team, time being allowed for marking a 'toucher'."
10. Do not delay play - always play your bowl with minimum delay.
11. Never play your bowl until the previous bowl has come to rest.

12. Always inform your opponent if you wish to leave the rink.
13. Keep track of play and be ready to bowl when it is your turn.
14. Before you deliver your bowl stand on the mat and look to see if your skip is indicating how and where he would like you to put your bowl. After you have delivered your bowl and before it has come to rest you have two options. If you want to track your bowl's progress you must be behind the head as it stops. In other words you must beat it to the head. If you don't want to go to the head you must be behind the mat as your bowl stops.
15. Do not turn your back on a bowl you have delivered until it has stopped and your skip has indicated its length or position in the head. You will then learn whether you need more or less weight or direction.
16. After bowling each bowl, step off the mat to the right. As you approach the mat to bowl do so from the rear left.
17. Change ends purposefully, do not dawdle and stay within your rink boundary.
18. When all bowls have been delivered do not stand in the head and do not talk or offer an opinion. Only the vice is allowed in the head while the score is determined.
19. Bowlers not raking the bowls after an end should help by kicking the bowls into an approximate line to help make raking easier.
20. After the game you should once again shake hands with your opponents and congratulate or commiserate with them appropriately.