



**GENERAL CODE OF BEHAVIOUR
BOWLS ETIQUETTE**

**A GUIDE TO ENJOYING LAWN BOWLS
IN A SPORTING MANNER**



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YOUR CLUB:

All clubs are reliant on good members and each one should be treated equally.

All members should try to contribute to their club, whether that contribution be large or small.

- Privileges are not awarded to those volunteering their services, only a “vote of thanks.”
- Show respect to Club officials, including selectors as they are performing a thankless task.
- Make new members feel welcome at your club.

YOUR TEAM:

- Always be a positive member of the team you have been selected to play in.
- Remember – you are representing your club, not yourself.
- Always play your selected position to the best of your ability.

YOUR OPPONENT:

- Never criticise your opponent’s bowl.
- Always be punctual – keeping your opponent waiting is unsportsmanlike and also affects your own team.
- Never distract your opponent when he/she is at the point of deliver and never obstruct his/her view of their bowl in motion.

GREENS:

- Greenkeepers and volunteers spend countless hours preparing greens and their surrounds, so DO NOT toss bowls on the green, step into the ditch or close to the ditch.
- Be aware of current legislation regarding smoking at sporting venues and familiarise yourself with the Bowls Australia and Bowls Tasmania smoking policies.

DRESS:

- Always adhere to the proper dress code for the particular event you are participating in and that includes Bowls Australia approved footwear.

ENJOYING THE GAME:

We all play bowls for enjoyment so it is appropriate to treat others as you would like to be treated.

Listed below are some points that ensure the game is enjoyed by all.

- Bad language/behaviour is not tolerated and can result in disciplinary action from both your club and the regional authority.
- Do not argue with your skip – simply ask to confer with him/her at the head.
- Make visitors welcome at your club.
- Always stay focused on your game and contribute positively.
- Try not to speak when a player is on the mat – if you must speak quietly.
- Do not allow your shadow to fall across the mat or green whilst a player is delivering his/her bowl.
- Players should not delay play unnecessarily and should not leave the green for extended periods of time.



- If part of your team's duty rink, ensure all equipment, flags etc is put out before the start of the game and returned to storage at the end of the day's play.
- Listening to radios or speaking to spectators for lengthy periods should be avoided.
- Mobile phones should be switched off.
- Always observe the rules regarding practice on pennant days.
- After the game, the home team should offer a refreshment to the opposition. At a neutral venue, the winner should offer the first refreshment and, in a singles game, should be extended to the marker.

TEAM:

- Members of the team should not interfere with the third when he/she is measuring. If the third has overlooked a possible counter, members of the team may draw his/her attention to this.
- Never criticise a member of your team to outsiders. This achieves nothing except for a loss of unity.
- Never make disparaging remarks about a poor shot by a teammate.
- Remember the skip is in charge so support him/her even if you doubt their decisions.

DUTIES OF THE MARKER:

- Assist the player to align the mat.
- Align the jack.
- Advise the players if you consider the jack has not been rolled the minimum 21 metres. If any player disagrees, call the umpire.
- Stand in a position that does not obscure the boundary peg or allows your shadow to fall on the head.
- Mark any touchers.
- Carefully remove any chalk marks from non-touchers.
- Replace any bowl that might accidentally be moved.
- Remove any bowl that is dead.
- Give information regarding the position of the head to the player in possession of the mat.
- Answer any question briefly and do not mislead the player.
- If requested, measure for any shot or call the Umpire if unable to decide.
- Record the score of each end and advise the player of the score.
- Alter the scoreboard every second end.

RULES:

- Know the rules of the game and respect them. Do not get involved in decision unless it is your duty and you have been asked for advice.
- Officials should act impartially and in the spirit of the game.
- As soon as each bowl comes to rest and any toucher has been marked, possession of the rink transfers to the other team.
- A skip may delegate his/her position and duties to another member of the team provided the opposing skip has been notified.

GAMEMANSHIP:

- Be humble in victory and gracious in defeat.
- Allow your opposition an unobstructed view of the head when it is his/her mat.
- Never show delight or applaud your opposition's misfortune.



- Do not move behind the head when a player is delivering a bowl.
- Confine yourself to the rink you are playing on, taking particular care when changing ends.
- If following your bowls, make sure it is done within the rules. It is your responsibility to reach the head Before your bowl comes to rest.

COACHING TIPS:

- Practise your weaknesses and look after your physical well-being. General fitness greatly assists mental preparation.
- Turn negatives into positives and get to know your teammates.
- Work on your consistency in all facets of the game, including your attitude.
- Do not be afraid to ask for help, accept responsibility for yourself and do not blame other factors such as the green and weather conditions.
- Believe what you see.

REMEMBER:

EACH CLUB OR TEAM ONLY IS AS STRONG AS THE WEAKEST LINK!