

Winslow Bowls Club

Etiquette for members playing outdoor bowls

Bowling Etiquette is about good sportsmanship, common sense and good manners. Hopefully this guidance is not only useful for newcomers to the sport, but also for those experienced bowlers who can fall into bad habits, perhaps not being aware of doing so. We play the sport for enjoyment, for the pleasure of pitting our skills against others in friendly competition.

Our sport has a long standing tradition for its common courtesy and etiquette. We could never hope to cover all matters that are likely to arise. However, here are a few points for you to consider:

For Bowlers and Spectators

- Do not distract bowlers who are bowling towards you, by moving or walking across the end of the rink. Wait until the bowl has been delivered, then move.
- It is not good etiquette to interrupt players when they are on the green, particularly during competitive matches. If you need to speak to players it should be before or after their game.
- Smoking and vaping are prohibited at all times on and around the green.

Before the Game

- Make sure you know the rules of the game or competition you are playing.
- Know the correct dress and ensure you are correctly dressed for play with time to spare.
- Help to ensure that jacks, mats, scoreboards and other equipment are in place ready for the beginning of the game. Do not leave it to others to put out the equipment.

During the Game

- Mobile phones should not be used on or around the green.
- Respect and protect the green – the Club's most important asset. Never run on the green, and do not drop your bowls onto it from a height.
- Enter and leave the green by the banks and footpaths – do not walk across other players' rinks.
- Introduce yourself and shake hands with your opponent(s) both before play commences and when the game is completed.
- 'Possession of the Rink' must always be respected. Stand well behind the mat or the head, keeping still and quiet while others are delivering their bowls.
- When at the head, bear in mind that some bowlers like a clear view of the rink markers.
- When at the head in sunny conditions, or as the sun sets, avoid standing where your shadow is cast over the jack, making it difficult to see from the mat.
- Follow the direction given by the Skip, whether or not you agree.
- Remember that the directions to the Skip are given only by the number three in rinks, or the number two in triples. Other players should refrain from interfering, unless asked.
- The result of each end (including measuring where required) is determined between the threes (or twos in triples). Other players should refrain from interfering.
- Do not disturb the head until the result of the end has been agreed.
- Encourage, rather than criticize – no one delivers a bad bowl intentionally.
- Commend good shots.
- Learn to accept lucky shots, both for and against you – they will balance out in the long run.

After the Game

- Shake hands. Congratulate (or commiserate with) the opposing team and offer to buy your opposite number a drink (after singles matches, your 'marker' should be included in the invitation).
- Ensure that jacks, mats, scoreboards and other equipment are returned to the store. Again, do not leave it to others.