Braunton Bowling Club

ETIQUETTE OF THE GAME

The etiquette of the game of bowls is a combination of good manners, sportsmanship and sociability. You can refer to these courtesies as the unwritten laws of the game.

There are a few rules which you need to observe in-order to make your time and the time of your fellow club members, enjoyable:-

Be punctual to commence play at all matches and come to each game correctly dressed.
A game is commenced with a friendly handshake and introductions all round with first names being observed.
Stand still and keep quiet behind the mat while your opponent bowls.
Always stand still at the head when a player is about to bowl – movement at the head or talking at the mat end is very distracting.
Always pay attention to the end being played. Do not delay the play; always be ready to play your bowl when it is your turn.
A player should always keep to his own rink and not wonder off and chat to other players or people on the bank, it can be distracting to other players. Nothing will be more frustrating to other members of the team than to feel that you are not giving of your best because you are not concentrating fully.
Never deliver your bowl before the previous bowl has come to rest – A player has possession of the mat from the time the previous players bowl comes to rest, until their bowl has stopped.
Walk close to the centre of the rink with minimum delay when changing ends; you could distract play on the next rink.
Every player on the mat should assist in collecting bowls when the end is completed. Do not start moving bowls unless the persons deciding on the shots are happy for you to do so. If the teams are using a bowls gatherer then generally the No 1 in a rinks game collects it while the shots are being decided. The lead player of the team who has won the end leaves the collection of bowls to the other members, but prepares to commence the next end by laying the mat and making sure he has one of his bowls – this keeps the game flowing.
Always pay your skip the respect of waiting for their decision.
When you step onto the mat, look at your skip to check if he wants to give you instructions.
It is etiquette to acknowledge a fluke or lucky bowl. All players have them from time to time. Don't applaud or say well bowled when you know they were just lucky.
Never complain about lucky bowls – they tend to equal each other out over the season.

Respect the surface of the Green at all times

DO NOT -
a) Drop Bowls
b) Stand on the edge of the Green
c) Stand on the Bank
d) Walk in the Ditches

Always inform your opponent if you wish to leave the green.
Some players, quite subconsciously, follow their bowls up the green in such a manner as to obliterate the view of the running bowl from their opponent. It is polite to step to one side to allow an opponent sight of your bowls path up the green.
Avoid wasting time arguing which is shot. If there is any doubt the person asking for the shot should get down and measure.
If you lose, be a good loser, don't blame your loss on other people, the green, weather conditions, etc.
Win or lose shake hands with the opponents and your team members and thank them for the game. Don't be too taken with your win, the position could be reversed tomorrow.
Offer you opponent a drink after the game.
When playing singles win or lose thank the marker and offer them a drink. They have given up their time to assist you so repay them by being courteous in return.
Respect the decision of the umpire. If you call an umpire to make a decision on a shot, stand back from the head and leave them to it and don't try to tell them how it should be done. His decision is final. Thank the umpire.
Be conversant with the Laws of the Game and observe them.
Learn to be a good marker.

ABOVE ALL, ENJOY THE GAME OF BOWLS FOR ITS PLEASURE AND THE LASTING FRIENDSHIPS IT PROVIDES.