



Ashtead Bowls Club

ETIQUETTE

A code of behaviour whereby individuals treat one another the way they expect to be treated. The basic concepts are as follows:-

1. Dress correctly for your particular match or game.
2. Be punctual and arrive well on time before the start of play.
3. Check if any duties have been allocated to you before the game e.g. setting up the rink.
4. All players should welcome players to the green and shake hands with team members and opponents before and after the game.
5. Stand still when a player is on the mat.
6. Concentrate on the game and be ready for your turn to bowl (bowl in hand). Wait for instruction from the skip before you deliver your bowl. Thereafter return to wait behind the mat or beyond the head by the time your bowl comes to a rest.
7. Remain well behind the player on the mat when it is not your turn to bowl. Equally remain behind the head and avoid covering the rink markers when at the head end. On sunny days be aware of your shadow and do not let it obscure the jack.
8. Ensure that you keep to your own rink and do not wander and distract other bowlers. Walk down the centre of your rink when changing ends and do not walk through the head or stand over the head when a player is waiting to bowl.
9. Also, when the 3's and skips swap over during a '3's up' rink match, ONLY the team in possession can stop to talk in front of the head. If a 3 and skip 'not in possession' of the rink stop for a 'discussion' this may mean that the skip about to bowl is impeded from taking his shot in a timely manner.
10. Pick the mat up after the last bowl has been delivered.
11. Do not remove any bowls until the result of the end has been agreed. If there is a measure any bowls deemed to be not involved may be removed on instruction from the number three or skip.
12. Help clear the bowls after each end is complete. If you are the home team the 2's maintain the scoreboard. The losing lead uses a pusher to clear the bowls then puts forward a bowl to the winning lead. The winning lead places the mat and delivers the jack.
13. Do not walk across the end of any rink when a player is about to bowl towards you.
14. Inform your opponent and your skip if you intend to leave the rink during the game.
15. Players should warn other players in their rink if they intend to 'fire'. Other players then respond by stand well back from the head when the player is firing. Players should also warn players on adjacent rinks.
16. Do not criticise your opponents or own team members and only make positive comments. It is better to encourage and praise the rest of the team as bowls is a team game and positivity can create the best result.
17. Do not applaud a team member who has just had outrageous luck but do applaud them for playing a good shot. Also compliment your opponents if they play a good shot. Admit a fluke shot with grace and be gracious win or lose.
18. Remember that markers and umpires are voluntary officials and should be treated with respect. Always step away from the head when measuring is taking place. A marker or umpire's decision should not be questioned.
19. At the end of a home match assist with putting the equipment away.
20. FINALLY – If you are the home team then it is customary to offer your opponent a drink. If it's an away game they will usually do similar. It is equally customary to reciprocate buying a drink in return. If it's a singles game, then the marker should also be offered a drink.