

Mooroolbark Bowls Club

Lawn Bowls Etiquette

Etiquette is a code of behavior whereby individuals treat each other the way they would like to be treated. It includes displaying good sportsmanship, thoughtfulness and common sense.

Rules of Etiquette for Lawn Bowls include but are not limited to the following:

- Be punctual and prepared both before the game and following breaks, if late walk around the bank to join your rink
- Do not walk across any rink when play is in progress
- Be sure to treat your opponents with the same amount of respect that you would like to be treated
- Show your opponents a warm greeting by introducing each other before the start of play
- If playing at home, point out drinking fountains, toilets etc. to your opponents
- It is good manners to inform your opponent if you wish to leave the green at any time
- Mobile phones and other electronic devices (unless for emergencies) should be in your bowls bag turned off or in silent mode
- Respect the “laws of the game” and the role of the umpire
- Hand your opponent the mat and jack at the start of play
- It is customary to pick up the mat in a game whenever your opponent has delivered the last bowl of an end
- Be aware of the rules regarding drinking alcohol and smoking and use of offensive language. Smokers are required to smoke only in designated areas
- Remain behind the mat when others are in possession
- Show respect and keep silent while others are on the mat delivering their bowls and remain outside their gaze
- Stay within your rink, including after delivering your bowl and walk up the centre of your rink when changing ends
- Wait until your opponent leaves the mat before walking down the green, be careful not to obscure your opponents view of the run of the bowl
- Avoid obscuring the boundary pegs and rink numbers
- Do not let your shadow rest over the jack
- No rule prohibits a bowler running after their bowl, however you must arrive at the head before your bowls stops
- Do not play your next bowl until your opponents bowl has stopped
- Commend good bowls and acknowledge your own fluky or lucky bowls
- Never clap an opponents misdirected bowl or your lucky shots: never complain about lucky shots as you may no doubt receive a lucky shot yourself in the future

- Always show good sportsmanship by acknowledging a display of good skill by another bowler
- Do not criticize the performance of fellow bowlers, no one plays a bad bowl on purpose
- If a dead end is declared and you need to go back to the other end , pick up the bowls and carry them do not roll them back
- Give your Skip credit for having a plan in mind to build a head, even though you may not understand his/her reason for asking for a particular shot
- Pay your Skip the respect of waiting for directions, don't have your mind already made up for the shot you want to play
- Thirds who are unable to measure (because of a physical restriction) should nominate another team member and inform their opposition before the game commences
- Refrain from interfering with the head until the result of the end has been agreed
- Bowls should not be kicked or raked in until the end has been declared
- All players should assist in kicking the bowls back at completion of an end
- Once an umpire is called, move away from the head your involvement is finished and his/her decision will be final for that end
- If your Skip asks a question of the third, when he is in charge of the head, it is not etiquette for the lead or second to respond or give their opinion
- It is an insult to an experienced player to tell him/her what grass to take
- It is prudent for the player keeping the score to confer with his opponent regularly to avoid any score dispute later in the game
- Excuses for bad play should not be blamed on the condition of the green, wind or other weather conditions. These conditions are the same for all players
- Always be gracious in defeat and humble in victory
- After the game is finished always shake hands with the opposition team and invite them into the Clubhouse for refreshments
- At the end of the game collect all mats, jacks and rakes should be returned to the usual place of they are stored
- Remember what you get out of the game is what you put into the game
- When using the services of a Marker, it is of the utmost importance that you extend your thanks and appreciation for the services rendered and offer refreshment on completion of the game
- Remember that no player is so good that he/she cannot be defeated, any player can beat any other player on the day

LAWN BOWLS – PLAY THE GAME, LOVE THE GAME