



Battle Bowls Club Code of Conduct/Etiquette of Bowls.

The rules of the game are defined in full in the official 'Joint Laws of the Game' booklet. All bowlers should familiarise themselves with these rules.

In addition to the rules, a certain Code of Conduct is required, in order to make the game as enjoyable as possible for everyone. The guidelines offered here should be noted by beginners and experienced bowlers alike. There might seem to be rather a lot of points, but they are all based on common courtesy, so they do become easy to remember. Some of them, highlighted in bold, are part of the Laws of the Game.

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 other 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.
- Respect and protect the green – the Club's most important asset. Make sure that in wet conditions, where the green can be damaged by bowls when they are delivered, the delivery mats are used and bowls delivered onto the mat, not over it. Deliver the bowl smoothly onto the green, try not to throw it from a height.
- Do nothing in your actions, words or appearance that will reflect against your Club.

Before the Game

- Make sure you know the rules of the game or competition you are playing.
- Know the correct dress (it will differ for different types of games) and ensure you arrive correctly dressed, with time to spare.
- Ensure that jacks, mats, scoreboards and other equipment are in place ready for the beginning of the game.

During the Game

- Enter and leave the green by the banks and footpaths – do not walk across other players' rinks.
- Do not drop your bowls on the green.
- Do not drop litter on the green or in the ditches.
- Don't sit on the bank – it causes unwanted wear on the edge of the green.

'Possession of the Rink' must always be respected.

- "Possession of the rink shall belong to the team whose bowl is being played. **The players in possession of the rink ... shall not be interfered with, annoyed, or have their attention distracted in any way by their opponents.**" Such behaviour can result

in a player being penalised by having their own deliveries declared dead and their recently delivered bowls removed from the head.

- Stand well behind the mat or the head, keeping still and quiet while others are delivering their bowls.
- Questions, information or instructions should only be shouted while you have 'possession of the rink' – as soon as your bowl comes to rest, 'possession of the rink' is transferred to the opposing player or team.
- Skips should not shout information to the player who has just delivered a bowl after the bowl has come to rest – wait until one of your players has possession of the rink.

Positions

- When at the head, bear in mind that some bowlers like a clear view of the rink markers. Stand behind the head, inside the rink markers, but not obscuring the central rink number.
- 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.
- Similarly, standing directly behind a white jack in white shoes can make the jack difficult to see.
- Players at the mat-end of the rink who are not delivering a bowl should stand at least 1 metre behind the mat.

Responsibilities

- Follow the direction given by the 'skip', whether or not you agree.
- Remember that the directions for the 'skip' are only given by the number three in rinks, or the number two in triples. Other players should not interfere, unless asked.

Results of an end

- The result of each end (including measuring where required) is determined between the threes (or twos in triples). **Other players should not normally be involved.**
- Do not disturb the head until the result of the end has been agreed.

General

- Encourage, rather than criticize – no one delivers a bad bowl intentionally.
- 'Call' or shout at your own bowls by all means – but do not 'call' your opponent's bowls to go through gaps, get 'wrecked', or to promote your own bowls – wishing misfortune on your opponent's bowls is unsporting.
- Commend good shots.
- Learn to accept lucky shots, both for and against you – they will balance out in the long run. 'Flukes are simply revelations of unrecognised opportunities.'

After the Game

- Shake hands. Congratulate the opposing team. Remember that your opponent may be a guest of the Club.
- Ensure that jacks, mats, scoreboards and other equipment are returned to the store. It is every player's responsibility to help with this.
- Avoid making excuses for your lack of success the topic of conversation.