

Basic Laws and Etiquette for New Bowlers

(some excerpted from Bowls Canada Bouligrin)

- * Dress appropriately for all games. Dress code applies on holidays and in certain club competitions and inter-club tournaments.
- * Allow enough time to prepare for the game, i.e. putting on shoes, stretching, getting bowls out.
- * Wear approved footwear - flat, smooth-soled, heel-less shoes.
- * Introduce yourself to your team and to your opposition. Begin and end each game with a friendly handshake.
- * *When playing Lead the mat cannot be placed less than two (2) meters from the ditch.
- * Do not foot-fault. Before delivery all or part of the foot must be on or above the mat. It is also acceptable to have both feet on the mat.
- * Ensure that you do not damage the green. Deliver the bowl smoothly.
- * Following the bowl up the green obscures your opponent's view and is considered poor etiquette, if you do follow your bowl up the green, you must reach the head before the bowl does!
- * As soon as your bowl comes to rest, possession of the rink passes to your opponent. Remain behind the mat or behind the head when it is not your turn to play.
- * Do not openly criticize the green, particularly if you are a guest at another club.
- * Compliment your opponent on a good shot.
- * Admit a 'fluke' in good spirit.
- * Do not criticize your teammates for a poor shot. No one wilfully plays a bad bowl.
- * Encourage and cheer on your team mates
- * Do not distract a player when s/he is preparing to deliver a bowl either by standing too close or talking to her/him.
- * Stand out of the head or off the green when not actively engaged in the play.
- * Be ready to play when your turn comes. Stay 'in the game'. Give your full attention to the game.
- * The Leads are responsible for pushing the bowls in at the conclusion of an end. Do your share.
- * Learn the laws of the game and abide by them.
- * Help to return the mats, jacks and other equipment to their storage place when a game is finished.
- * Be a gracious winner and a good loser.

**** These items are mandatory since they are regulated by the Laws of the Game. The other items and those niceties which come under the heading of etiquette and serve to make the game more enjoyable for all.**