

# Torquay Bowls Club

## BOWLING ETIQUETTE

**Etiquette:** A code of behaviour whereby individuals treat one another the way they would like to be treated. Breaches of etiquette are sometimes willful, and sometimes inadvertent. Thoughtfulness and common sense are keys to etiquette.

Etiquette is an important part of Lawn Bowls and our members should not only practise it but inform new members of what is proper and expected behaviour on the green and in the clubhouse.

### **Rules of Etiquette for bowling include (but are not limited to) –**

1. Players and spectators at the head end should stand still and keep quiet.
2. When it's your turn to bowl it's your mat and head, your opponents should be away from both. If they are not, ask them nicely to move.
3. Wait for your Skip to tell you which shot you should play. Keep up with play at all times.
4. There should be no trespassing into neighbouring rinks; this includes going to or from the clubhouse, moving to better see the jack; and particularly when walking from one end of your rink to the other. Please be aware of others playing. If you are helping your teammate aim, do not infringe on neighbouring rinks.
5. Walk up the centre of the rink with minimum delay if it is not your team's turn to bowl. **DO NOT STOP TO CHAT IN THE MIDDLE OF THE RINK, IT'S NOT YOUR MAT OR HEAD.**
6. As you approach the mat to bowl, do so from the rear left. After bowling, step off the mat to the right. Though not essential, this is a useful habit of convenience to avoid collisions!
7. Always show good sportsmanship by acknowledging a display of good skill by another bowler.
8. Never applaud lucky shots; never complain about lucky shots and admit a lucky shot with good grace. Do not say thanks for a bad shot that goes your way.
9. Do not criticise the playing surface.
10. Do not criticise the performance of fellow bowlers. No one plays a bad bowl on purpose.
11. Avoid delaying play by leaving the rink without the knowledge of the other players.
12. Avoid interfering with the head until the results of the end have been agreed upon by the Thirds.
13. If an Umpire is called, move away, you're done, his/her decision is final.
14. Bowlers should shake hands before and after the game.
15. Be a gracious winner and a good loser.
16. The plinth area of the green is fragile and should be treated with care. This includes, but is not limited to, wearing proper footwear; not dropping or tossing bowls on the green; or pouring liquids (water, coffee, etc) on the grass.
17. Punctuality for all games is a courtesy to the other players.

18. While standing at the head end waiting for the player on the mat to bowl, stand between the markers in your rink so the bowler can see and use the boundary markers to aim.
19. Generally, the Third or Skip at the head will signal the bowler on the mat the position of the head using hand signals denoting for and against.
20. Players at the head end should be ready to stop deflected bowls from crossing into the adjacent rink and interfering with neighbouring games. Likewise, be alert to prevent bowls from adjacent rinks from entering your rink. Pay attention!
21. No rules prohibit bowlers running after their bowl (enthusiasm nor youthful exuberance is not discouraged), however you must arrive at the head before your bowl stops. Where there is a clear violation, an umpire who is notified should take action.
22. Thirds must have chalk, wedges for securing a bowl during measuring and a measuring tape so that bowls that touch the jack can be immediately marked and, if necessary at the finish of an end, measuring can be undertaken without delay.
23. All bowlers should share the task of 'kicking' the bowls after completion of an end.
24. It is a courtesy to hand bowls to your teammates when convenient.

No laws governing a sport can cope with every situation.

Unusual situations not covered can arise.

The Laws of the Sport of Bowls have been drawn up in the spirit of true sportsmanship.

Common sense should be used when unusual situations not covered by the Laws arise.

All lawn bowlers should familiarise themselves with the current "Laws of the Sport of Bowls.