



Ladbury Bowling Club

Lawn Bowls Etiquette - Guidelines

Lawn Bowls places a high value on etiquette and sportsmanship, considering them to be an integral part of the actual rules of the game itself. Adherence to these guidelines ensures a respectful and enjoyable experience for all participants.

Before and After the Game:

- **Punctuality & Dress:** Arrive in good time for all games, wearing the appropriate attire as per club or competition rules.
- **Greetings:** Shake hands with opponents and teammates before and after the game. Congratulate winners and be gracious in defeat.
- **Offer Refreshments:** It is customary for the winner(s) to offer opponents a drink after the game. On occasions it may be appropriate to offer drinks to a visiting team, regardless of the outcome of a match.
- **Help with Equipment:** Assist in setting up and tidying away equipment (scoreboards, mats, jacks, bowls) before and after play.

During Play:

- **Silence & Stillness:** Maintain silence and stand still when a player is on the mat and about to deliver their bowl. Avoid any distracting movement or noise.
- **Positioning:**
 - **At the Mat End:** If not delivering a bowl, stand well behind the mat, out of the player's line of vision.
 - **At the Head End:** Stand behind the jack and clear of the head. If the jack is in the ditch, stand on the bank behind the head. Remain still when an opponent is about to bowl.
 - **Shadows:** Be aware of your shadow; ensuring it does not fall on the jack, or in front of the mat when a player is about to bowl.
- **Respect the Rink:**
 - **No Walking Across Rinks:** Do not walk across adjacent rinks, especially if a game is in progress. Use designated paths or walk around the outside of the green.
 - **No Sitting on Banks:** Avoid sitting or standing on the banks with your feet on the green, as this can cause damage to both the bank and the edge of the rink.
 - **Gentle Bowl Handling:** Never drop or throw your bowls onto the green; place them gently to avoid damage.
- **Possession of the Rink:** The rink belongs to the player or team whose bowl is currently being played. Possession transfers to the opposing player or team as soon as a bowl comes to rest.
- **No Interference:**
 - Do not deliver your bowl until the previous bowl has come to rest.
 - Do not interfere with the head until the score for the end has been agreed upon by the designated players (usually the Thirds or Seconds).
 - If an umpire is called, step back and allow them to make their decision with neither interference nor comment.
- **Communication:**
 - **Skip's Instructions:** Always wait for and follow your skip's instructions for the shot to be played. Do not step onto the mat and indicate your intended shot without guidance.
 - **Compliments & Acknowledgment:** Congratulate opponents and teammates on good bowls. Gracefully acknowledge an opponent's "lucky" shot; and avoid excessive celebration when you are the beneficiary of one.
 - **No Criticism:** Never openly criticise the green, your teammates, or your opponents. If constructive criticism is appropriate, deliver it privately and discreetly.
- **Focus:** Pay attention to the game on your rink. Avoid distractions such as using mobile phones on the green or engaging in prolonged conversations with players on other rinks.