

ETIQUETTE

The basic elements of good sportsmanship and respect for others playing and administering the game must be respected.

Before the game

- Be on time and correctly attired for the event.
- Prior to commencing the game do not throw or dump bowls onto the green.
- Introduce each other and shake hands with your opponents.

Start of the game / end

- At the first end, it is customary for the opposition lead to hand the first bowl to the lead on the mat, after the jack has been rolled.
- The Lead whose team has won the previous end retains the mat which must be promptly positioned on the green for the next end, pick up the jack and assist in moving the bowls to a central position behind the mat.
- Be ready with a bowl in the hand to take possession of the rink after the opposition's bowl has come to rest.
- Awaiting instructions from your skip before stepping onto the mat.

During the game

- Do not stop in the middle of the rink at the change-over for a chat.
- Walk to the other end of the rink without delay at the change-over and do not linger at the head.
- Do not wander into the next rink or up your rink, to follow a delivery. The law requires you to be behind the mat when your bowl comes to rest.
- Do not move when in the field of vision of a player on the mat.
- Do not make undue noise.
- Applaud your team mates' good efforts. However, do not show undue pleasure at your opponents' misfortunes.
- Players at the non-bowling end must stand a minimum of 1 metre behind the head which is designated by the bowl nearest to or in the ditch.
- Do not allow your shadow to interfere with a bowler on the mat.
- Do not move bowls when an opposition player is on the mat.
- Do not move at the head when a player is about to deliver a bowl.
- The last player to deliver a bowl has possession of the rink until that bowl comes to rest. During this time, all others are obliged to stay behind that player.
- Do not walk in front of the player who has just delivered a bowl and is still on the mat and watching the line taken by the bowl.
- Players attending the head should not stand behind the jack, in front of the rink number or in line with rink markers (*boundary pegs*).
- When the result of an end is being determined, keep well away from bowls that are potentially in the count.

Communication with your skip / team mates

- Only communicate with your skip / team mates when your team is in possession of the rink.
- When advising the Skip the result of an end, signal clearly. Tapping the shoulder or hip to indicate a win or loss score is easier to see than fingers.
- Generally only give advice to your skip when your skip asks for it.
- Skips should refrain from making derogatory or unnecessary remarks about a delivery by a member of his/her team.

Inspection of head

- Opposition Skips may only inspect the head at the invitation of the skip on the mat. It is courteous to extend the invitation to your opponent.
- Opposition seconds are not permitted to go to the head until possession of the rink changes.

End of game

- At the end of the game, assist in retracting shades, restoring the score board and returning mats and the jack.
- Shake hands with your team mates and your opponents. It is customary for the winning team to buy drinks for the opponent team players.