

Rules and Etiquette – Player's Handbook

Lawn bowls is built on respect and sportsmanship. The rules of the game are supported by etiquette – the unspoken code that keeps play enjoyable and fair. This guide will help players quickly understand what good etiquette looks like.

Why Etiquette Matters

Good etiquette shows respect for your opponents, teammates, and the game itself. It avoids unnecessary disputes, keeps the game flowing, and creates the right atmosphere.

Key Etiquette Behaviours

Category	Good Behaviour	Why It Matters
Timekeeping	Arrive 10 minutes early, help set up	Shows respect, avoids delays
Dress	Follow the dress code, change shoes at the club	Protects greens, maintains standards
Concentration	Stand still, avoid shadows, stay quiet	Prevents distracting other players
Movement	Use steps, don't walk across rinks	Protects greens and avoids accidents
Possession	Step off the mat quickly after delivery	Keeps the game flowing and fair
Sportsmanship	Acknowledge good shots, shake hands	Builds respect and good spirit

Etiquette Checklist

- ****Before the Game****
 - Arrive early and be ready to start on time.
 - Wear correct dress and shoes.
 - Help set out equipment if needed.
- ****During Play****
 - Stand still and keep silent when others deliver.
 - Avoid casting shadows across the mat or jack.
 - Leave the mat promptly once your bowl is delivered.

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Berkshire Bowls Coaching Scheme



- Do not criticise teammates or opponents.
- **After the Game**
 - Shake hands with opponents and thank the marker/official.
 - Congratulate good play regardless of the result.
 - In many clubs, buy your opponent a drink.

Coach's Tip

Never stand in white shoes directly behind a white jack – it makes the target almost invisible for the bowler aiming.

Handling Poor Etiquette

1. Politely ask the player to stop the behaviour.
2. If unresolved, involve a neutral club member.
3. If still unresolved, escalate to the club committee.
4. Always handle issues calmly and respectfully – relationships matter more than disputes.

Key Takeaways

- Etiquette underpins the spirit of the game.
- Respect time, space, and sportsmanship at all times.
- Small actions (standing still, being silent) make a big difference.
- Handle disputes calmly – the spirit of bowls is respect.

