BUNINYONG BOWLING CLUB Incorporated

BOWLS ETIQUETTE

Bowls etiquette can be defined as the unwritten laws of sportsmanship, courtesy and respect that make the game more enjoyable to all who are taking part, including players and spectators.

Friendly and sporting acts towards your team-mates and your opponents should be appreciated and reciprocated. We should all approach our bowls with enthusiasm, friendliness and tolerance.

Tips for good etiquette:

Play must be in line with any health regulations that may be in place at the time.

Before Play

- Be punctual and always welcome visitors.
- Introduce yourself to all your opponents prior to the start of play.
- Make sure you have your bowls and any other requirements out of your bag and are ready to start play.

During play

- Respect the laws of the game and the role of the umpire. When an umpire is called, move to the bank or well away from the head and remember his/ her decision is final.
- If you are a smoker, be aware of and respect the smoking regulations of the host club.
- Be polite and friendly to your opponents, and don't use offensive language or boisterous behavior.
- The control of the mat lies with the bowler on the mat, from the time of delivery until their bowl comes to rest.
- Remain quiet and refrain from causing any distraction to the bowler on the mat.
- It is recommended that you stand 1 metre behind the mat when waiting for your turn. If you are at the head, make sure you are not standing in line with the bowler's view of the boundary pegs.
- if you are the lead and it is your mat, quickly place the mat so the others know how far to kick the bowls back.
- Watch your bowl until it stops, to learn from the shot.
- The seconds keep the scorecards, check the scores with their opponent and update the scoreboard.
- Remain behind the mat until the last bowler has delivered their bowl and has moved off the mat.
- When changing ends, do not stray onto neighboring rinks – walk in a straight line, allowing the bowler on the mat to see the path of their bowl.
- Concentrate on the game and the state of play.
- Compliment your team-mates and opponents when they play a good shot.
- Never clap a bad bowl from your opponent or express delight that they have missed their shot.
- Excuses for bad play should not be blamed on the conditions of the green, wind or other weather conditions. They are the same for all players.
- Mobile phones should be in your bowls bag turned off or on silent. (unless needed for emergencies).

After play

- It is the usual custom to offer your direct opponent a refreshment at the end of the game.
- If you are playing at home, check to see if your rink is on duty for any tasks that need to be done.

Remember - you will get out of the game what you are prepared to put into it.