

# Etiquette

## Help and Advice for New Bowlers

These points are intended as a guide for new bowlers before they play a game of Fours and as a reference for more experienced bowlers to ensure the game is always played well and enjoyed by all.

1. Always **dress properly** for all games and at all times.
2. Always **be ready** in plenty of time before a game. It is best to aim to arrive at least 20 minutes before the game is due to start.
3. At the start of a game **introduce yourself** and shake hands with your opponents.
4. If you are playing Lead, hand your opposite Lead the **jack or mat** when it is their turn to play.
5. **Show respect** both to your own team and your opponents at all times.
6. Keep quiet and **listen carefully** while the Captains give instructions before the match begins.
7. Always **keep still and as quiet as possible** while others are bowling.
8. Always **do as your Skip asks** and acknowledge his/her instructions.
9. The Lead who plays first should **place the mat and deliver the jack**. The Skip may indicate **how long or short** he/she would like it to be.
10. Make sure that when you deliver the bowl, **part or all of one foot** is on or above the mat.
11. The Lead should **indicate clearly** to the Skip, who wishes to centre the jack, **in which direction and how far it is** from the centre of the rink.
12. Remember to **compliment your opponent** as well as members of your team on a particularly good bowl.
13. After you have delivered your bowl and it has come to rest, **step back behind the mat** straight away.
14. Before it is your turn to bowl, give your opponent who has just bowled **plenty of room** to leave the mat and return to his/her place.
15. Make sure that you do not deliver your bowl **before the previous bowl has come to rest**.

16. Give the game your full attention and **do not wander off your rink during play**. If you need a **toilet break** tell a team member where you are going and be as quick as possible.
17. Threes may offer advice to the Skip if he/she asks for it or when to do so would be helpful. **Threes and Skips should work closely together at all times**.
18. **Teamwork is important** and team-mates should support one another wherever possible, particularly those who are new to the game.
19. Bowls delivered straight into the ditch without touching the jack are **dead bowls** and should be lifted out and placed on the bank.
20. A bowl which touches the jack is a **“toucher” and remains live** even if it is in the ditch **so do not remove it. The toucher should be marked** as soon as it comes to rest.
21. Keep out of the head when Threes are counting the number of shots scored and **make no observations about the result as you see it**.
22. Threes **should always measure** if there is the slightest doubt.
23. When Threes have agreed the count for that end the woods should be pushed back well **behind the mat and a little to the side** to avoid accidents.
24. When the Threes have agreed the score for an end, **Twos or Skips should mark it** on their scorecard and should add the number of shots won on the scoreboard.
25. When the game is over, **shake hands** with your opponents.
26. If you are in the home team, **offer to buy your opposite number a drink** from the bar.
27. Following a match, join with your team and your opponents for **tea at the same table**.
28. If your game finishes but other games are still going on, **leave the scoreboard where it is** so everyone can see the final score on your rink and relate it to their own game.
29. Always help out by **returning bowls equipment** to the store.
30. Be careful not to **distract bowlers** by walking along the bank behind the head when players on other rinks are about to bowl.