

**MILLICENT BOWLING CLUB INC**

Bowls Etiquette

1. Once on the mat, look at your skip for instructions, guidance or information. Do not prepare to bowl until you clearly understand what the skip wants. If the skip indicates nothing to you, you should implicitly take it that you should try to draw as close to the jack as you can on your preferred hand.
2. Never under any circumstances ignore your skipper’s instructions. You are part of a team and need to work together.
3. Shake hands with both your team mates and your opponents before th beginning and after the end of play.
4. Stay on or near the mat until your bowl comes to rest, then quickly move behind the mat area by 2-3 metres as possession of the rink passes to your opponent immediately your bowl comes to rest.
5. Stand back on the bank while others are delivering their bowls from the same end as you.
6. Do not speak or comment while another player, whether team mate or opponent, is in the process of delivering a bowl.
7. A player should not enter an adjoining rink at any time when play is in progress.
8. As long as any player still has a bowl to deliver all the other players should remain behind the mat.
9. Whenever you walk down your own rink always walk as nearly as practicable to the middle to avoid interfering with neighbouring games.
10. Never clap an opponent’s mistake or bad luck.
11. The skip not in control of the rink should never hold up the opposing skip from playing their shot. When changing ends arrive at the mat end of th rink at the same time or earlier than the skip ‘in possession’ so as not to inconvenience them.
12. Skips and thirds when crossing over should not stand discussing the head if not in possession of the head. It is better for the ‘skip not in possession’ to remain behind the head and allow his opposite number to bowl, then when the bowl comes to rest, they have possession of the rink and may move in front of the head and discuss the next shot if they wish.
13. If not in possession of the rink, thirds and skips may not call o information to each other. This can only happen when your side has possession of the rink.
14. Thirds must not move into or get involved in the head when not in possession of the rink. Stay away until possession passes to you.
15. The thirds are the only players involved in the declaration of an end. Leads and seconds are to remain out of the way until the thirds agree on the result of an end and should not get involved in their deliberations.
16. Do not move any ‘close’ bowls from the head until the thirds have agreed and declared the result of the end.
17. Do not leave the rink without consent unless absolutely essential. Get back as quickly as possible and certainly try not to keep other payers waiting.
18. Applaud good shots and generally encourage your team mates.
19. Applaud your opponents’ good bowls.
20. When a measurer is called, stand back on the bank. You are admitting in calling the measurer that you are unable to make a decision so let the measurer make that decision for you without interference or undue pressure.
21. Make sure your mannerisms do not indicate displeasure with your team mates’ efforts.
22. When watching a match applaud both teams’ good bowls.
23. Any objections re infraction of the rules by the opposing side should be relayed immediately to your skip who will take the action they deem appropriate on behalf of the team.
24. Under no circumstances should a lead or second try to influence the third’s decision-making or implore the third to offer particular instructions to the skip unless invited by the third to do so.
25. Skips must remain still when leads, seconds and thirds from both sides are delivering their bowls so as not to distract them.
26. Skips should not stand in front of the boundary pegs.
27. Avoid developing mannerisms which indicate displeasure at indifferent play or success. Accept both success and lack of it equally gracefully.
28. Place your bowls on the green when unpacking them from your bag. Dropping them on the green can cause serious and expensive damage to the surface of the green.
29. Place your bowls bags away from thoroughfares and preferably under seats. Always avoid leaving bowls bags on seats as these seats are provided for player rest and comfort when not involved in play, not for storing bags during play.
30. Avoid sitting on the bank of the green.
31. Wear a name tag or badge. Embarrassment at forgetting an opposition player’s name is easily avoided by all the players wearing a clear, easily read name tag.
32. Always wear the required attire for the game being played.

*Written by Club Coach – John Scudds September 2014*