ABCA

Lawn Bowls- Notes on Laws and Etiquette Rev1b

These notes are a broad-brush approach to the Laws, rather than referring to the Law Book, but references to some of the Laws are noted.
The Law Book mentions ***'the use of common sense and a spirit of fair play'*** which is a good basis for playing the Game of Bowls:
Extract: is from the introduction to the Crystal Laws of the sport of Bowls.

Always be at the venue in time for your trial ends and to start the game on time

Starting the Game – Tossing of Coin
The skips should toss before the beginning of each game, and the winner of the toss can elect to take the mat or give it to the opposition. 5.2
However, the skip can elect to let another member of the team make the toss but should advise the other skip of their decision. 40.1.10

This frequently occurs in Club games and in triples, and is mostly taken for granted to speed up the game, but it is not normally done in Championship play, 3Five Play or Interclub where the side manager or Captain does the toss.

Placement of the Mat
The mat is to be placed on the centreline of the rink, with the FRONT of the mat no further back than the 2-metre mark, but it can be up to 25-metre mark. It must be squarely centred on the centreline. 6.1.1

Side of the Green Markers
These are placed at the 2-metre and 25-metre positions. If the centreline is not chalked, these markers are to be used as a guide. 49.12

Delivery of the Jack
Players must have part of one foot on or over the mat at the point of delivery – that is when the Jack is released from the hand. 7.1

Centring the Jack
The player delivering the Jack must ensure that it has been correctly centred. If the Jack has passed the 2-metre mark, place it at the 2-metre mark. 9.2

If the Conditions of Play allow for placement of the Jack if it goes into the ditch or outside the rink of play, it is to be placed by the other skip – club play only. [For Championship play – it must be redelivered by the opposing lead.] Skip can also ask Lead to change the position of the mat. 10

Distance to Jack
This must be not less than 23-metres from the FRONT of the mat, after the jack has been centered.10.1.3

Position of the Mat [Only when asked]
The mat position is measured from the 2-metre mark, to the FRONT of the mat. 6.1.1

Delivery of a Bowl
Players must have part of one foot on or over the mat at the point of delivery – that is when the bowl is released from the hand. 7.1

Movement of the Mat
If the mat is moved during play, it must be correctly replaced on the centreline, before further play. That is squarely centred in the centreline. 6.2.1 / 6.2.2

Position on the Rink – at the Mat

All players must stand at least 1 metre behind the player delivering a bowl. 12.1.1

- A player is required to be behind the mat after their bowl comes to rest.
- The next player must be able to play their bowl as soon as yours comes to rest. 13.2

You must NOT play your bowl before the last bowl has come to rest. 11.2.2

Should your bowl be near the edge of the rink, **YOU** are required to check it. Even if the smallest part of the Jack or Bowl which is on the line, but on the outside of your rink, it is still considered to be **IN**. 17.1.4 / 19.1.2

Position on the Rink – at the Head

All players must stand behind the head either on the rink or on the bank.

- You are NOT permitted to sit on the bank. 12.1.2

You are not permitted to go into, or stand in the next rink, when an opponent is about to deliver a bowl – even if that rink is not being used. 12.2.2

This still applies to ALL players, even if the jack has been moved towards the edge of the rink.

A player must not go into a rink where play is in progress. 12.2.1

All players, including opposing skips, are required to stand behind the jack and away from the head, when their opponents are bowling. 12.1.2

12.2.2 A player must neither go into nor walk along a neighbouring rink, even if it is not being used, while an opponent is about to deliver or is actually delivering a bowl.

12.2.3 If the rink of play is an outside rink (see law 49.6), a player must neither go into nor walk along the section of green that lies between the outside side boundary of the rink and the side ditch while an opponent is about to deliver or is actually delivering a bowl.

12.2.4 If a player does not meet the terms of this law, law 13 will apply.

13 Possession of the rink

13.1 Possession of the rink will belong to the player or team whose bowl is being played.

13.2 As soon as each bowl comes to rest, possession of the rink will transfer to the opposing player or team after allowing time for marking a toucher as soon as it comes to rest.

Marking a toucher

A toucher should always be as soon as it comes to rest if it is not marked or indicated as a toucher before the next bowl comes to rest it is no longer a toucher

The skip can mark where the jack is by using a foot or indicating where they would like the bowl to be played to but must also move away as soon as the bowl is delivered. 12.1.3

Placing or dropping a bowling cloth on the green, is not permitted. 34
But you are permitted to hold it to indicate where the jack is, or where you would like the bowl to finish up. [It is considered to be part of the player.]

Clearing of the head.

Once the number of shots has been declared, then all players are required to assist in clearing the head after each end, and the lead is required to be ready, with the jack and mat in hand, to start the next end.

If time is limited on the clock, the jack can be delivered over any bowls still on the rink, but the player must be standing correctly on the mat. Score Board
The score should only be put up AFTER all bowls have been cleared

- Usually done by the three (or two) of the side that has lost the end.

Dead End
If an end is declared dead, it must be replayed again from the same end, unless both skips agree to play in the opposite direction. 20.2

- A dead end is not counted as a played end.

Tied End
In a game with a fixed number of ends being played, if the opposing teams' bowls are both resting on the jack, or are measured at the same distance from the jack, then the end is declared as a tied end. 24

- A tied end is recorded as a played end, but the score stays the same.
- The same lead as per the tied end has the mat.

Practice on the day of Competition play
Ask the umpire or controller if you have a bye in the first game and your opposition dose not.
Practice is not permitted on the rinks that you will be playing on, in an event that day.

Trial Ends

May be permitted prior to play but only on the rink you will be playing on, with not more than the number of bowls you will e playing with. 5.1 / 5.1.6 / 5.2.4

- This is normally covered in the Conditions of Play for each event.
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Sportsmanship, Etiquette & Courtesy

All teams are expected to watch for bowls that are likely to come through the head. If the players beside you call out "Watch your head" you should either temporarily lift any bowls in the path of their oncoming bowl, - or stop the bowl and return it. 37.6.1

BUT you are not permitted to move any Jack, or any bowl that could be shot bowl on the head. The bowl should be stopped and returned. 38.6 / 37.6.1.1

If the players on an adjacent rink do not respond to your call to "watch your head", you can take reasonable efforts to allow the progress of your bowl. But you must not infringe on the path of any bowl in their rink. [Remember you are actually trespassing on their rink.}

When changing ends, you are not supposed to stop in the middle of the rink to talk as this shows disrespect for players waiting to play on adjacent rinks.

Also, when changing ends, the LEADS should be amongst the first players to the opposite end of the rink, not the last as is frequently the case, as you are likely to be holding up play – especially if you then stop to inspect the head on your way past.

When an end has finished, the mat must be placed (not thrown) fully on the bank – it is not permitted to be hanging over the edge of the bank. 6.2.7

No objects are permitted to be placed on the bank, at the ends of the rink. This includes drink bottles, bowls carriers, or any other items that could be used as a marker by you, or someone in an adjacent rink. 34

Bowls that have gone into the ditch or stopped outside the rink are accepted; however, ensure the bowl is not a toucher before removing it to the bank.

Etiquette

Etiquette is about the customs and rules that govern social interaction within any specific environment. For bowlers it is about behaviour on the green and in and around the club.

A dictionary definition of etiquette is

"The unwritten or conventional laws of courtesy between players

15 x Do's

- Be ready – always be on time for the start of play and for the start of each game.
- Bowlers tend to start and finish a game with a handshake.
- Visitors are always made welcome.
- When ready to bowl check with the next rink to see if another player is ready to bowl, so that you don't bowl at the same time.
- First names on used on the scoreboard, club names if playing a visiting team.
- Make sure that the path of the bowl is clear to avoid hitting another bowl.
- Remember that your opponent has possession of the rink as soon as your bowl comes to rest, do not linger on the head and thereby obstruct the skips first bowl.
- Take an interest in the game; follow how the head is building up so you do not have to ask other team members.
- Do keep still and silent whilst your opponent or members of your team are on the mat, give consideration to adjacent rings delivering their bowl?
- Help clear the head after the result has been determined.
- Show a good spirit – win or lose with good grace.
- Walk quickly when changing ends and walk within the confines of the rink you are playing on.
- All bowlers should know and understand the Laws of the game as laid down by Bowls New Zealand.
- Give full support to members of your team and skip.
- Play always for the team and not individual success.

15 x Do not's

- Abuse the privileges offered by the club to you.
- Argue with the Skip on the shot to play.
- Interfere with the skip unless position has changed.
- Develop mannerisms which indicate displeasure at indifferent play or success.
- Do not encroach on an adjoining rink when delivering your bowl.
- Do not talk when another player is about to deliver a bowl.
- Do not walk around talking to bowlers participating in other games; allow them to concentrate on their own game.
- Do not pass or walk in front of the player who was last to play – they have the right to see how their bowl progresses.
- Dispute the Umpires Decision.
- Do not comment on a player's ability, style or anything else that may be disrespectful.
- Give advice to players from the bank (unless registered as coaching the team).
- Do not criticise bowls-either from your team or another.
- Do not rejoice or comment on an opposing bowl that unluckily promotes one of your teams' bowl to a winning position. Just say "bad luck" if anything.
- Do not make excuses for bad play and accept praise for success.
- Do not leave a bowl lifter or anything else on the green when you do not have possession of the mat.