

HOVE AND KINGSWAY BOWLING CLUB

BOWLS ETIQUETTE

Remember: You are an ambassador for Hove and Kingsway Bowling Club. Good sporting spirit begins before the first bowl is rolled and continues into the clubhouse after the game.

Please be familiar with the following guidelines

Getting Ready to Play

- **Be on time:** arrive at the venue (home or away) with plenty of time to change your shoes, get your bowls, and be ready for the start of the game. It demonstrates respect for your teammates and your opponents
- **Shake Hands:** Before the game starts, introduce yourself to your opponents and shake hands. It sets a friendly tone for the match ahead.
- **Dress Code:** Be correctly dressed – club shirt and dark bottoms for all matches, with non-ridged soles to your shoes at all times.

On the Rinks

- **Keep to your own rink:** Don't become a wanderer – it can distract other bowlers on neighbouring rinks; walk down the centre of the rink when changing ends, do not walk across other players' rinks to reach your own – use the paths. Cutting across another rink where a game is in progress is an absolute no-no
- **Stay behind the Head or the Mat:** at the Head end, players who have already bowled should stand well behind the jack. At the Mat end, players waiting to bowl should stand behind the mat to minimise distraction to the bowler.
- **On sunny days:** ensure your shadow does not fall on the jack, or in front of the mat when a player is about to bowl
- **Marking Touchers:** if a bowl touches the jack during its original course, it becomes a "toucher". Mark it promptly with chalk or spray. Be careful not to move it.
- **Pace of Play:** No-one enjoys a slow game! Be ready, with your bowl in your hand and step up as soon as your opponents bowl comes to rest. As soon as your bowl comes to a rest, step away from the mat to allow your opponent to play.
- **Measuring:** when the end is finished, and if it is too close to call to measure with the naked eye, then the bowls should be accurately measured. In a team game the "number three" is responsible for measuring; in pairs, the skips will measure; and in singles the Marker will measure. If you are not involved in measuring, step back and allow space.
- **Be a good sportsperson:** praise good shots of your teammates and your opponents; accept victory and defeat gracefully. At the end of the game, shake hands and thank your opponents for the game.

After the Game

- **Offer a drink:** It is customary for the winner to offer to buy the loser a drink
- **Clearing the rink:** ensure all jacks, mats, scoreboards etc are returned to the clubhouse ready for the next bowlers to use.

By following these simple guidelines, you contribute to the fantastic spirit of our sport. You show respect for the game, respect for the club and respect for your fellow players.

Thank you.