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Etiquette in the Sport of Lawn Bowls – Guidelines

Applicable Legislation, policies & references:

- *Laws of the sport of Bowls*, Chrystal Mark v3
- RNSWBA Etiquette guide: www.rnswba.org.au

Other Related Legislation, that need to be considered

- *Tobacco Amendment Bill 2012*
- *Smoke-Free Environment Act 2000*
- BA & RNSWBA "Smoke-Free Greens" Policy

Reference document: www.valebowlingclub.co.uk/Assets/Documents/etiquette.PDF

Authority: Women's Bowls NSW

Applies to: All members WBNSW

A. Guideline Statement

Bowls is a sport that encourages social interaction and friendship. Etiquette is a code of behaviour whereby individuals treat one another in a way they themselves expect to be treated by applying common sense, honesty, fairness and consideration for others. Etiquette and good behaviour applies to all members, players, markers, umpires and spectators at a game of bowls and during other club activities.

B. Club Etiquette and Game Etiquette.

1. Club Etiquette

1.1 Respect for your Club and each other: Adhere to club regulations and policies and always treat each other with respect.

1.2 New Members:

(a) When a new member joins a club it is good etiquette to be polite and friendly by introducing yourself and other members; if someone hasn't already done so, show them the club facilities, and introduce them to the club officials and staff.

(b) When a new member is ready to play her first game and is selected in your team it is polite to make her feel welcome as a valued member of the team.

1.3 Members rights: Members have a right to question the decisions or actions of officials but this should be done in a manner that is courteous, respectful and not in breach of the Laws of the Sport or club by-laws.

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1 of 4

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1.4 Observing silence: Regardless of whether you are a member of the host club or a visiting team, when officials are making club announcements, it is etiquette to listen and remain silent.

1.5 Employees of the club: (a) Employees of the club should be respected and only club officials have authority to direct them.

(b) Members should abide by the laws governing Responsible Service of Alcohol and conform to all requests made by staff in relation to them.

2. Game Etiquette

2.1 Timeliness: Always be on time e.g. at least 15 minutes before the calling of the cards. If a game has been arranged whether formal (club competition or tournament) or informal (social or roll up) if you are running late or you need to reschedule, call your skip or the club and advise them of your situation. (most people have mobile phones and are easily contactable).

2.2 Mobile Phones: Before commencing a game all mobile phones should be switched off or put on silent. Pagers and other electronic devices must be switched off for the duration of a game. Music listening devices such as iPods must not be used during a game. See Conditions of Play 1(k) page 2

2.3 Greeting your opponents: Always greet your opponents with a handshake before the commencement of the game.

2.4 In any game: Whether it be Singles, Pairs, Triples or Fours, after the mat is placed, it is a nice gesture to hand your opponent the jack and first bowl (be aware that not all players like you touching their bowls).

2.5 During the course of the game: Acknowledge good bowls and good luck bowls (such as "fluky" bowls), and do not show excessive emotion when bad or fluky bowls are delivered and you get the result.

2.6 Show respect: Show respect for every opponent you play by not moving about while they are on the mat, or talking while they are about to deliver a bowl. There are specific rules regarding standing behind the mat or behind the head. (See *Laws of the Sport*) When asking a player(s) to move, be sure to be polite, courteous and show good sportsmanship at all times.

2.7 During a game: No player should leave the rink without reasonable cause and must inform their opponent as play should not be held up for more than 10 minutes. (Law 33.1) In the event of illness the skip will inform the Umpire who will then inform the Controlling Body for appropriate action in line with WBNSW Controlling Body Guidelines.

2.8 If an end is declared dead and is to be replayed: If you need to go back to the other end to re-commence that end, pick up the bowls and carry them, do not roll them as a wayward bowl may disturb players and/or bowls on an adjoining rink.

2.9 When players should walk to the head: It is etiquette to not walk to the head in front of a player who has delivered a bowl and is watching it come to rest, so that you obstruct her

view of that bowl. It is also etiquette to make sure that if you run after a bowl in progress that you reach the head before it comes to rest.

2.10 At the completion of the game: The losing team should congratulate the winning team graciously. It is etiquette to avoid making excuses for lack of success, or gloating about how good you or your team were on the day.

2.11 Bowls is a very inclusive sport: Your opponent may be a person with a disability or from a culturally and linguistic diverse group or from a different generation to you. Remember to treat all players with respect.

2.12 The Team: The skip should lead the team with confidence by being supportive of any special needs and by providing continual encouragement before, during and after a game. Poor body language and or derogatory comments by any team member can not only affect the overall performance of the team but also may reflect poorly on the club and the sport of bowls as a whole.

2.13 The Umpire:

(a) The role of the umpire is to adjudicate on any measures or rules of the game that arise during play. Remember they have given up their time voluntarily so that you can enjoy the game of bowls. Show them respect and always thank them with a handshake and a smile. This also applies when a Marker is marking Singles.

(b) It is etiquette for players to stand on the bank away from the head while the Umpire is on the rink measuring. In the Officiating Manual it actually states that the umpire should request players to move away from the head.

2.14 Offensive Language, Bullying and Harassment: Inappropriate, bad or offensive language should not be used by players out of frustration, anger, disappointment or in celebration. Bullying and harassment toward **anyone is illegal and will not be tolerated under any circumstances.** If you are with someone who is beginning to behave in an inappropriate manner take them aside and calmly remind them of their obligation to display "good sportsmanship".

2.15 Over Enthusiasm: Excessive shouting and jumping around after a delivery has the potential to affect players on other rinks. Umpires need to be mindful of this behaviour and if necessary give a first warning to the offending team.

2.16 Spectators:

(a) If you are a spectator, display good sportsmanship so that those around you are not distracted or offended in anyway. We all want our player or team to win and there are acceptable and unacceptable ways to show support. All good shots should be applauded and no loud remarks or laughter should be expressed at bad shots. Clapping and cheering is common place at sporting events and should be encouraged, but should never be done when a player is on the mat ready to deliver their bowl or when players are at the head measuring. It is advisable not to attempt to interact with a bowler while they are playing a game.

(b) Spectators are not allowed on the green unless: the player has a disability and requires the assistance of a carer or director who, after informing the Controlling Body, can enter the green to push a wheelchair or assist a bowler that has visual impairments. (The Controlling Body is to be made aware of this requirement prior to the game commencing)

3. Guideline Review:

These Guidelines will be reviewed annually or sooner if changes occur within this time frame.