

# BURPHAM BOWLING CLUB

## ETIQUETTE or GOOD MANNERS

There are often unwritten guidelines for making Bowls more enjoyable for everyone involved which are listed below, but first the **TOP TWO COMPLAINTS** are:

### 1) DISTRACTING THE BOWLER

**Always check whether the bowler is about to bowl before walking behind the head. Avoid distracting them by talking, jingling coins etc when they are on the mat. This applies both when you are in the bowlers eyeline and when you are standing behind the bowler.**

### 2) DRESS CODE

**Ensure your dress complies with the dress code as per club rules and constitution: -**

“Players, Markers and Umpires shall wear smooth soled, heel-less regulation footwear while on the Green. For all competitive and representative matches against other clubs, and on other occasions decided by the Committee, dress shall be Club shirts with navy below. On all other occasions, except where the Committee has decided otherwise, players shall have the option to wear SMART casual clothing.

Non-regulation footwear, denim jeans, leggings and collarless shirts are not acceptable. Shorts may be worn, provided they are knee length or below.”

## BEFORE THE GAME

Arrive at least 30 minutes before a game to give you time to change and help set up the rink. Wear the correct clothing as above and remember to change into your bowling shoes before going on to the green. Your street shoes may carry traces of harmful material that may damage the green.

Meet your team and check your playing position and discuss any strategies or techniques. Some bowlers may prefer bowling on one hand or the other and some bowls may be straighter or more hooked than others. Ensure that you have equipment for measuring and scoring as appropriate.

Mobile phones and smoking (including e-vapes) should not be used on or near the green. The clubhouse is a no smoking area.

Be conversant with the Laws of the Sport of Bowls.

## PLAYING THE GAME

Always take care when stepping onto the green, use steps when available and avoid standing at the edges to avoid wear. Do not drop bowls on to the green, it can damage the green and requires more effort to repair.

Try to avoid obscuring rink numbers, boundary pegs and ditch markers as well as the score board. Do not encroach on a neighbouring rink and watch out for shadows covering the jack and head.

Determine your position in the team.

**Leads** place the mat, centre it on the skips instructions and deliver the jack to where the skip requests it. Lead should aim to get bowls close to the jack and, ideally, behind it. Lead and 2 should ensure that one of them delivers at least one bowl to a position behind the jack.

**Nos. 2 (or 3** when playing with 4 bowlers) aim to gain shot wood and consolidate the head on the skip's instructions. They also advise the skip if the head changes (establish first that the skip requires feedback, some don't) chalk any touchers, remove dead bowls and afterwards agree the shots won or lost with their opposite number, measuring as necessary. Signal the agreed score to the skip.

After the score has been agreed the losing Lead gathers up the bowls with the pusher. The other players kick the bowls gently to a centre line to make gathering up the bowls easier.

Skips should always encourage their teams and advise which hand to deliver and indicate the aiming point if necessary. Skips should also keep their team advised on whether they are holding or not.

Introduce yourself to the opposition and shake hands at the start and at the end of the game.

Keep track of play and be ready to bowl when it is your turn.

After checking your skip's instruction, step onto the mat from the left and leave to the right to ensure a smooth flow to the game. A bowler has possession of the rink until their bowl comes to a stop. Do not step onto the mat to bowl until the previous bowler's bowl has stopped.

Avoid doing anything to distract the bowler on the mat (e.g. talk, fidget, jingle coins in your pockets etc), do not crowd them. stay out of their peripheral field vision, and stand at least 1 metre behind and to the side of the mat.

Walk briskly up the centre line when changing ends and walk around the head, NOT through it. At the head stand still and to one side of the centre line.

Do not enter the head or move any bowls in the head until all the score has been agreed. Stand back away from the head whilst Nos. 2 (or 3 when playing with 4 bowlers) measure the shots.

Nos. 2 (or 3 when playing with 4 bowlers) should clearly signal the result of each end to the skips after confirming it with their opposite number.

Skips may remove the mat for your opposing skip when the last bowl of the end has been played.

## **AFTER THE GAME**

Shake hands with the opposition players, help clear the rinks and pack away equipment.

Offer to buy your opposite number a drink or other type of refreshment.