

# ETTIQUETTE AND HABITS THAT WILL IMPROVE YOUR GAME

**Laws are written in BOLD and you must do these.**

*Etiquette is written in italics and you should do these.*

Good habits are simply underscored and top players will do them.

1. If you can, remain standing on the green and watch all bowls by your team and your opponents until after you have bowled your bowls.
2. **You are allowed to stand on your rink and need to be 1 meter behind the mat or behind the head.** Don't stand in front of boundary markers and *WATCH YOUR SHADOW*. Politely move if asked by the bowler.
3. *If you are the lead, as soon as you know that your team has won the end, pick up the mat and be ready to place it where your skip wants it. No one likes to kick bowls back without the mat down.*
4. Place the mat as soon as the end has been fully declared at the distance where your skip has indicated. Remember, the skip is the one who decides where the mat is to be placed, NOT THE LEAD.
5. *Everyone, including the seconds, should help kick bowls back.*
6. No one should say ANYTHING to a bowler until AFTER they have bowled. Encouragement can often be interpreted as a subtle insult.
7. **When your bowl comes to rest, you need to be 1 meter behind the mat and you are NOT allowed to ask your skip anything about your shot at this point. This is the same for all positions.**
8. **The player at the head, Skip or Third, is NOT allowed to step into the head to see if you got shot after your bowl comes to a rest.**
9. Everyone should watch their bowl until it comes to a rest. Every time.
10. Leads should NEVER change hands unless directed by their skip, nor should they even ask the skip about changing hands during an end. You have a better chance of improving your shot by staying on the same hand. If you watch world class bowlers, they often stay on one side of the rink as much as possible.

11. TOP LEADS WILL PLACE THE MAT AS DIRECTED AND BE ABLE TO ROLL THE JACK WITHIN A METER AS DIRECTED BY THE SKIP. End length is a huge strategic choice by the skip which they can only make if the lead can execute the jack roll.
12. As lead, your job is NOT to be holding shot, it is to get both bowls in the head and staying on the same hand for both bowls gives you a better chance of doing that.
13. Seconds and thirds should stand off of the mat and wait for a shot call by the skip. Never pre-guess the shot you want as we all know the head looks different at the head than from the mat.
14. *Be standing on the rink when the thirds bowl their last bowls and be ready to walk down the rink. You may not walk fast, but if you are ready to go when the last bowl is played, you can easily be at the head when the next player is ready to bowl.*
15. *The skip you are annoying by going slow may be your own skip so always be ready to bowl when it is your turn.*
16. *Few people care if you walk down after they have bowled but be courteous and walk down the opposite side so that they can watch their bowl until it comes to a rest.*
17. The change-over is not the time for you to give your opinion on anything to your skipper. Just tell them they made a great shot and keep walking.
18. No matter how good you think you are, the skip does not need your opinion on their next shot. Unless they ask you, just say "Good bowl last time."
19. **If it is not your turn to bowl next, the changeover is NOT the time to hold a team meeting in the middle of the green. It annoys EVERYONE including the people on adjacent rinks.**
20. It is NEVER a good time to tell everyone within ear shot that you would have called a different shot or should be playing on the top side.
21. Skips and thirds should keep their spray chalk in their hands. Two things, it shows they expect to use it and it really speeds things up.
22. As you are walking past the head on the changeover, DO NOT WALK THROUGH THE HEAD. If you accidentally kick a bowl, your opponent gets to place it back and you will not be able to do ANYTHING about it.

23. Everyone is allowed to stand on the rink behind the head. It can be quite intimidating to the other team. However, you **MUST STAND STILL**.
24. All thirds should carry at least one chock in their pocket. The first action of any qualified measurer is to secure leaning bowls. If it falls during the measuring process, it stays where it falls. If you knock it down during the measuring process, your opponent gets to replace it.
25. Call for a measurer, not an umpire. You can appeal the measurer if they do a poor job.
26. If you are playing third, always look to your skip before you start the measuring process and make sure the skips are done bowling.
27. Measure flat bowls first.
28. Remove declared bowls from the head ONE AT A TIME. Place them on a towel or in an obvious spot away from the head as you continue counting.
29. You can concede a shot without your opponent agreeing but you can **NEVER take a shot without their agreement.**
30. Never kick bowls out of the head as they can easily get mixed up with non-counting bowls or roll onto an adjacent rink.
31. *Yelling encouragement and compliments to teammates across the green is great. Just look to make sure no one near you is about to bowl.*
32. *If your opponent bowls the last bowl in an end, it is your turn to pick up the mat and place it on the bank.*
33. *At the end of the game, while you are shaking hands, it is the duty of the home team to offer to buy a drink for your visiting opposite.*
34. *I shouldn't have to say this but, if you are provided a drink, you should reciprocate and buy a drink for them too.*