**BOWLS ETIQUETTE**

**Etiquette is mainly a code of behaviour whereby individuals treat one another the way they expect to be treated themselves.**

* Always be on time – at least 15 minutes before calling of the cards.
* Wear the correct uniform
* Wear your name badge – don’t call players “Dear” they have a name badge so use their name.
* Do not dump your bowls on the green.
* It is the responsibility of the second to introduce members of their team to the opposition.
* The skips toss to determine the first to play – the winner of the toss has the option of playing first or giving the mat to their opponents – skips decision.
* It is a courtesy for leads to hand their opposition her first bowl.
* The lead should have the mat ready to be placed as soon as the head is declared – in social bowls, to prevent a lot of kicking the mat can be placed in front of the majority of the head.
* Be ready with bowl in hand when it is your turn to bowl, do not be sitting down, as this slows the game.
* Do not distract the player on the mat – perhaps by talking, allowing your shadow to fall across her aiming line or moving in her line of vision.
* When a player is on the mat make sure you are behind, out of her line of vision.
* Do not leave the green until your opponent has finished bowling.
* The directors at the head should stand still when a player is on the mat.
* The winning third of the previous end should place their skips bowl on the mat – this is not only a courtesy but provides a check on who has possession of the mat.
* Do not talk to the skip on the changeover unless discussion of a difficulty head is necessary.
* Walk in the middle of the rink when changing ends – don’t wander.
* All players must assist in kicking bowls.
* Inform your opponent if you wish to leave the green.
* Do not criticize other player’s performance – everyone tries their best.
* Be a good loser or winner – no post mortems after the game.
* **Always let the last bowler start walking when changing ends. She needs to see the finish of her bowl.**
* Shake hands with members of both teams at the finish of the game.