



Playing the Game

Guidance on what to do, what's appreciated and what's not.

Be safe, be thoughtful



- Before the start of the game stand behind the seating to allow other bowlers to safely vacate the Green
- Take care when stepping on and off the Green
- Make sure all the bowls are gathered behind the mat near to the ditch and into one corner of the Rink before the start and after each End
- When standing at the Head be aware of bowls around and behind
- Warn those at the Head before "Firing"

What to do (when playing in a team of Four)

If you are playing in a competitive match you will need to check "What to wear".



If you are designated "Skip" then you are in charge of your team. You will need to ensure the Score Card is completed and your team is ready to play on time. During play, until it's your turn to bowl, you will be at the opposite end of the Rink, guiding your players on what shot to take. If any of your players' bowls touch the Jack you will need to mark the Bowl with chalk.

In match play the team captains will decide who plays first. Otherwise, the "Leads" will decide on the toss of a coin and the winner will start the game by placing the Mat and bowling the Jack. The Leads then take it in turn to deliver all their bowls.

The "No.2's" then follow and deliver all their bowls in turn. The No.2's may be asked to maintain the Score Card and Score Board but this is normally the task of the Skip.

The "Three's" then follow on and deliver all their bowls in turn.

Then it's the "Skips" turn to deliver their bowls in turn. All the players move to the opposite ends of the Rink and the Skip of the team that won the toss bowls first.

Whilst the Skip is delivering, if any of the Skip's bowls touch the Jack, the Three will need to mark the Bowl with chalk. When all the Bowls, including the Skips' bowls, have been delivered the Three's will decide between them which team has won the end and by how many shots, by measuring if necessary.



Variations

In some competitions (Fours) the Skip and the Three will stand at the Head end, this is known as 'Threes up'. The Leads and Two's come up to the head when the Threes goes to bowl.



In "Triples" the No.2 takes on the responsibility of marking the Skip's bowl if it has touched the Jack; and deciding which team has won the end. In competitions it is possible to have "Two's up" in which case the lead comes to the head as the No.2 goes to bowl.

In "Pairs" the Lead takes on the responsibility of marking the Skip's bowl if it has touched the Jack; and deciding which team has won the end. The Lead comes to the head as the Skip goes to bowl.

In "Singles" a person to act as the "Marker" is nominated to mark any bowls that have touched the Jack and do any measuring if necessary.

What's appreciated



Being courteous

- Shaking of hands with the players before and after the game (provided there are no Government health restrictions in place at the time)
- Commending good play and acknowledging "flukes"
- Congratulating your opponent if you lose the game

Being considerate

- Standing still while the players are delivering their bowls
- Keeping to the centre of the rink when changing ends
- Standing behind the developing 'Head'
- Standing clear of the 'Head' when an umpire has been called onto the Rink
- Comparing the Score Card with your opponent at regular intervals
- Informing your opponent or team mate if you need to leave the green



And what's not



- Making distracting sounds
- Movements across the line-of sight when a bowler is delivering a bowl
- Interfering with the process of deciding shots
- Removing any bowls before the result of an end has been declared
- Applauding "flukes"
- Dropping bowls onto the green
- Inappropriate language
- "Firing" without warning



Just try and enjoy the Game!