

# Titwood Bowling Club

Glencairn Drive, Glasgow, G41 4PS

Telephone: 0141 423 0481

## Code of Lawn Bowling Etiquette

Or Good Manners (for bowlers and spectators)

### Introduction

Please note that this guidance is specific to Titwood Bowling Club. Some rules and guidance in other clubs may be different. Lawn bowls remains one of the few sports where common courtesy and etiquette is still important. We should be proud of this and in order to make the game as enjoyable as possible for all, we encourage all members to follow the rules of good etiquette. Much of this is common sense but here are some of the main rules of etiquette.

### Dress

Dress appropriately and ensure that you know the dress code for each game or match in which you are participating. Please respect your opponent(s) by arriving on time and leaving sufficient time to change before the game. If you are representing the club on another green you should remember that you are an ambassador for the Titwood Bowling Club. Behave appropriately. Uniform (white dress shirt and tie or club shirt with black or grey trousers for gentlemen – equivalent for ladies) is normally worn for inter-club games and other club events, but is not required for practice, bounce games, most ties and club nights.

On the green you should wear shoes that are designed for, and sold as, bowling shoes and this is what we encourage you to do. If you go to another green as a member of Titwood then you should always use proper lawn bowling shoes. If you are at Titwood then it is not essential for **new members** to wear shoes sold as 'bowling shoes', but to minimise mechanical damage to the green your shoes should be flat (no heel). The sole may have a slight tread, but not one that can damage the delicate turf as you walk. If this is a problem, then consider using over shoes or borrowing a pair of bowling shoes. We also need to protect the green from diseases that may be brought in from outside. Designate your bowling shoes as such. Do not wear them to the club, but either keep them at the club or carry them to the club and change into them once here. If you wear your bowling shoes outside the grounds then the soles **must** be cleaned before walking onto the green. Once you have decided to become a bowler then we strongly recommend that you obtain a pair of bowling shoes.

### On the green

At Titwood we have two of the best greens in the area, but they are expensive to maintain. Look after them! Enter the green by the steps/ramps provided. When on the green avoid walking across rinks that other people are using and do not stand or sit on the banks while waiting to play. Avoid standing on the very edge of the green as that can cause serious damage. Don't drop your bowls onto the green and ensure that your delivery does not

cause scuff marks or otherwise damage the green. If you have problems with your delivery, or the conditions are such that the green is likely to be damaged please be willing to use green protection mats either because you are asked to do so or because you realise that it is necessary.

## The game

Introduce yourself and shake hands with your opponent(s) both before play commences and after the game is complete (except when this is not appropriate as is the case during a pandemic).

During the game do not move around the head when it is your opponents' turn to deliver a bowl. Stand well back from the head, keep quiet and do not do anything that would distract your opponent. Wait until the bowl has been delivered before moving.

If you are at the same end as the player delivering a bowl you must stand behind the mat thus staying out of the player's line of vision.

Bear in mind that some people like to see the rink boundary markers and the centre pin while playing so make sure that you are not obscuring them. On sunny days you must also ensure that your shadow does not fall on the jack.

Spectators who are in the player's line of vision should also keep still while bowls are being delivered and they should not distract payers on the green. For example, if you need to arrange a tie with another member don't try to do this while he is playing someone else!

Observe the rules for possession of the rink!

As soon as each bowl shall have come to rest, possession of the rink shall be transferred to the other team, time being allowed for marking a 'toucher'. We also allow communication to disabled players.

After you have delivered a bowl and before it has come to rest you have two options. If you want to track your bowls progress you must be behind the head as it stops. In other words you must beat it to the head. If you don't go to the head you must be behind the mat as your bowl stops.

Bowls should not be kicked in until the shot has been decided. Shots are normally 'given' by the losing player with close decisions agreed by both skips (or normally by the thirds in a fours game). Measures are usually avoided in friendly and bounce games.

Bowling is a friendly game and all players should show courtesy and good sportsmanship.

Don't delay the game.

Matches, cigarette ends, etc., should be placed in the litter-baskets and not in the ditches.

Please do not bring alcoholic drinks onto the green. Non-alcoholic drinks may be left at the ends of the rink.

Mobile phones should not be used on or around the green.

It is also customary to offer to offer to buy your opponent a drink if you have won the game. Where a marker has been involved in a singles game you should also offer them a drink.

Knowledge of the above will make you a more respected bowler, keep things friendly and contribute towards the enjoyment of the game for everyone involved, both on and off the green.

## Player Roles in Team Games

The Skip shall have sole charge of his team, and his instructions shall be observed by his players. With the opposing Skip he/she shall decide all disputed points, and when both agree, their decision shall be final. If the Skips cannot agree, the point in dispute shall be referred to, and considered by, an Umpire whose decision shall be final. A Skip may at any time delegate his powers any of his duties to other members of his team, but not the responsibility to maintain an accurate scorecard, provided that such delegation is notified to the opposing Skip.

The Third is often deputed to measuring any disputed shots.

The Second is often deputed to keep the score card in which case they shall compare the record of the game with that of the opposing Second player as each end is declared, and at the close of the game, after which the score card is passed to the Skip.

The Lead places the mat and delivers the Jack.

It is also worth emphasising that the head must not be disturbed by any player until the shots have been finally agreed. When the Thirds or Skips are deciding the shots the other player should stand well back from the head and give them the space to do so.

During the game encourage your team mates – nobody plays a bad shot deliberately. Commend good shots and learn to accept that flukes are a part of the game. Sometimes they go for you, sometimes against.

## Etiquette for Markers of Bowling matches

During the season, when we are heavily involved in singles ties, markers are frequently required. Consider making yourself available as a marker whenever you can. We all know that there is nothing worse than playing an important tie without a marker. It is poor etiquette to watch games from the side lines or from the clubhouse while there are people playing without markers. If you have the time please get out there and mark. A marker is serving two people. If we all marked one tie for every two we played there would not be a problem.

If you are marking a tie the following guidance should be observed.

When a player has delivered the jack, the marker should centre it then stand back and to one side, ensuring that all rink markers are visible to the players, but close enough to be able to assess which bowl is shot unless the decision is difficult. The marker may also draw attention to the legality of a jack.

He or she should answer any specific question (from the player in possession of the rink) about the state of the head. He or she should not offer any additional information that has not been requested.

If you are unsure of the situation, for example you cannot decide who is lying, don't guess. You can offer an opinion but make sure that the player who is asking the question is made aware of this.

A marker should mark all touchers before the next bowl comes to rest and remove chalk marks from non-touchers. He/she should also remove all dead bowls from the rink with the players' agreement and mark the position of touchers and or the Jack which are in the ditch.

The marker should not move any bowls until the end is complete and the players have agreed the number of shots.

He/she shall measure disputed shots when required but once again he should not move the bowls until the players agree. If an Umpire is available then he may be called upon for a decision. Where no Umpire is available the marker may select one. Both players may also agree that the marker should make the decision. This is acceptable at local level.