

### *Visiting your opponent's green*

Do remember that you are the guests of the home team and treat their club and green accordingly. If you are one of those lucky people who belongs to a club with superb facilities do try to show some tolerance of those less fortunate. Your host's green may not be all you would wish but beware of criticism. It doesn't cost much to be nice to your hosts, and they are probably doing their best to correct their shortcomings.

### *As a spectator*

Most players enjoy the presence of spectators and appreciate their odd shout of encouragement even when these are not directed to them.

However spectators should not stand so close to the players, for example immediately above the ditch, that they have an undue affect on the bowlers; this is unporting as well as contravening Law 63. Clubs and team captains should be alert to the behaviour of their supporters and take the necessary action to keep this within the bounds of good sportsmanship.

***We thank Norman Williams  
(Secretary for EBA Northern Area  
Umpires) for this material, checking  
our work and unfailing patience!  
Amended 2006***

### *The duties of a marker*

1. Be familiar with Law 60 - Duties of Marker.
2. Confirm the regulations of the competition, e.g. ends to be played, shots to be scored, time limits.
3. Make sure names of competitors are known and you can identify their woods.
4. Remember to be alert, decisive but unobtrusive.
5. Dress as far as possible in a similar style to players.
6. Stand still unless required to chalk a toucher or answer a question.
7. Leave the head untouched until players have reached agreement on the result.
8. Wait until the players have agreed the shots before leaving the head or marking the scorecard.
9. Keep the players informed of the score after at least two ends.
10. Walk quickly up the green/rink so as not to delay the players starting the next end.
11. Have measuring equipment and wedges readily available if player require a measure to be made and no umpire is available.
12. NEVER stand on the bank, chat to spectators, etc. Always be vigilant.
13. NEVER offer advice to players.
14. NEVER declare the shot.

## **ETIQUETTE ON THE BOWLING GREEN**



### **A CODE OF PRACTICE FOR N.Y.E.B.A. BOWLERS**

(prepared 2000 by MJ 2000)

The North Yorkshire E.B.A. Executive Committee offers these notes to new bowlers hoping that they will assist us all to enjoy the game more. They may serve as a reminder to others.

### ***What you should wear***

The N.Y.E.B.A. League requires whites above the waist, grey trousers and brown or white shoes with flat soles; trainers are not accepted because these do not have flat soles. Clubs who have been given permission and have registered their colours, may play in coloured shirts.

### ***On the mat***

The E.B.A. Law 21 states that a player must have one foot entirely within the confines of the mat at the moment of delivery. Some bowlers forget this law and deliver their bowl with their foot an inch or so in front of the mat, this gives them no advantage but it does cause some slight and unnecessary damage to the bowling green. A more serious breach of this law is to deliver your bowl with your foot protruding from the side of the mat; this gives a bowler an advantage if he is trying to

miss a short bowl. Too many players break this law – please don't be one of them.

### ***When it is your turn to bowl***

Do remember that once your bowl (or that of any member of your rink) has come to rest the possession of the rink transfers to your opponent. All the members of your rink must be behind the head or behind the mat from this time (this is Law 44)

Most of us have broken this law at one time or another, and this occasional breach can be forgiven and put down to over enthusiasm. However, if you are one of those bowlers who follow every bowl you deliver, do make sure that you are behind the mat (or the head) at the time your bowl comes to rest. Bowlers who break the law regularly annoy their opponents and are guilty of bad sportsmanship.

### ***When your opponent bowls***

When your opponent is in possession of the head Law 43 require that you do nothing that would "interfere with, annoy, or distract your opponent in any way". This means that if you are at the head you should stand well back so that your opponents can decide what the situation is and what shot to play, neither you nor any member of your rink, should be standing over the head trying to decide who is shot.

When you are behind the head and your opponent is about to bowl do stand still, and don't distract him in any way. There is no law that forbids you from praying that your opponent misses his target (so long as you do it silently whilst standing still!). During the progress of your opponent's bowl it is understandable if you hope it fails to achieve its target, but you break Law 43 if, for example, you shout at it or wave it towards the ditch. Such behaviour annoys your opponents, and can hardly be described as sporting.

### ***Bowlers on nearby rinks***

There are no laws concerning how you should behave towards people playing on the next rink; however, common courtesy suggests that you should do nothing to detract from their enjoyment or success. Do try to keep on your own rink, and even if you are within the confines of your rink don't go near the edge of it when someone is about to bowl on the next rink as this may distract him. After all, you would like other people to show you the same consideration.

### ***General behaviour and attitudes***

Most people play bowls to enjoy themselves, to improve their ability to play the game, and to make new friends. In order to satisfy these requirements we need opponents, and these people will usually have the same objectives as ourselves.

It seems logical that if both you and your opponents are to satisfy your desires to the maximum that you should help each other. Good sportsmen applaud their opponents when they play a good shot and sympathise when they are unlucky.

If you can't resist the odd swear word when your opponent gets a lucky wick (or at any other time) try to do it under your breath, many people find swearing offensive; swearing within earshot of ladies is never excusable.

When the game is finished and you have been beaten, shake hands and congratulate your opponent, don't ever tell him how lucky he was for only losers and bad sportsmen talk about luck under these circumstances. Of course, if you have won there is no reason why you should not show some sympathy and admit to having had the rub of the green.