

Coquitlam Lawn Bowling Club

Position Duties - Basic Rules & Etiquette

This document is available to all members of the club, and is intended to provide a common understanding of basic duties, rules, & etiquette. Members are expected to know these basics, as a common understanding among all members will enhance everyone's enjoyment of the game.

A: Position Duties:

Leads:

- 1) Place the large green mat more than 2 metres from the edge of the Green.
- 2) Centre the large green mat on the lane number. Easiest method is to face the lane number. The large green mats are for the protection of the Green & may not always be required, as determined by a Games or Greens Director / Coordinator.
- 3) Place the foot mat at least 2 metres from the edge of the Green, overlapping a portion the large green mat if it is in use.
- 4) Centre the foot mat on the lane number. Easiest method is to face the lane number. The foot mat is always required & cannot be re-located once set by the Lead.
- 5) Throw the Jack, having at least one foot touching the foot mat. The Skip may indicate the distance desired for the Jack by standing at a desired distance.
- 6) Centre the Jack by standing in the centre of the foot mat facing the Skip. Raise your arm to horizontal on the same side as the Jack; for example, if the Jack is to your Right, raise your Right arm. Have your palm facing the Skip, in order to be easily seen by the Skip. Gradually lower your arm as the Jack is centered. Slap your thighs when the Jack is centered.
- 7) When changing ends, walk past the Head & stand at least 2 metres behind the Vice-Skip, remaining still & quiet, offering advice or opinions only when asked by the Vice-Skip.
- 8) Do not move any bowls until the Vice-Skips have agreed on a score for the end. An end is not concluded until the score has been agreed upon and the Jack has been lifted by a Vice-Skip.
- 9) At the conclusion of each end, the Lead of the winning team will proceed immediately to set up to deliver the Jack for the next end, & the other Lead will immediately rake the bowls. Posting scores is done by the losing Vice-Skip, or if playing Pairs, by the losing Lead after raking the bowls. To maintain a reasonable pace to the game, rake first, score later.

Vice-Skips:

- 1) After delivering your bowls, & before walking to the other end of your lane, place your Skip's bowl on the mat, if your Skip is set to bowl first.
- 2) In the Head end of your lane, stand at least a metre behind the Jack and slightly to the side, sharing the space with the other Vice-Skip.
- 3) Each Vice-Skip is allowed in the Head only when their Skip is in possession of the mat. Your team's possession of the mat ends as soon as your Skip's bowl comes to a stop.
- 4) Mark your team's bowls that are "touchers". Mark the bowls at a time when it does not overly delay the game.

- 5) Remember that the Skip is in charge of your game, so offer advice & answer questions only when asked by the Skip. Hand signals are usually best, as voices often do not carry well to the other end, & shouting is distracting to bowlers on other lanes.
- 6) Have your own measure & towel to assist with accurate counting of points at the conclusion of each end. Ask your Skip for the assistance of an umpire or an impartial bowler if a measure cannot be agreed upon with the other Vice-Skip. Either Vice-Skip may measure for scoring, & Vice-Skips may assist each other for measuring.
- 7) Convey the scoring to your Skip by tapping your shoulder once for each UP shot, or tapping your thigh once for each DOWN shot.
- 8) After the count is concluded, the winning Vice-Skip should lift the Jack, & both Vice-Skips should move all bowls into a line or group for quick & easy raking. If playing Pairs, the losing Lead should immediately rake the bowls - to maintain the pace of the game, rake first, score later.
- 9) The winning Vice-Skip should deliver the Jack to the Lead who is preparing to start the next end.
- 10) The losing Vice-Skip updates the scoreboard.

Skips:

- 1) In the Head end of your lane, stand at least a metre behind the Jack and slightly to the side, sharing the space with the other Skip.
- 2) Advise your team often on the status of a shot and the status of the Head. Be communicative and as clear as possible, indicating such information as which bias to use, where to place the next shot, and what target to aim for.
- 3) Mark your team's bowls that are "touchers". Mark the bowls at a time when it does not overly delay the game.
- 4) Each Skip is allowed in the Head only when their team is in possession of the mat. Your team's possession of the mat ends as soon as your team's bowls come to a stop.
- 5) Warn bowlers at the opposite end if you are planning to deliver a "Drive" shot. Make them aware so that they stay at a safe distance.
- 6) Call an umpire or an unbiased experienced bowler to assist with a measure if needed. Respect and accept the decision made.
- 7) When changing ends do not engage in lengthy discussions with your team members. Keep the games moving at a reasonable pace, with no undue delays.

B: Basic Rules & Etiquette:

- 1) Both Leads & both Vice-Skips should stand off the Green when it is NOT their turns to bowl.
- 2) Be ready with a bowl in hand when it is your turn. This will help maintain a reasonable pace to the game.
- 3) Communication between Skips & team members should be done only when your team is in possession of the mat.
- 4) Stand on the mat until your bowl has come to a stop, so that you can ascertain what adjustments may be needed for your next shot.
- 5) Rake all bowls to a position behind the mat, as bowls sitting out front of the mat can be a visual distraction.

- 6) Good shots should be complimented.
- 7) Poor shots should not be mocked in any way.
- 8) Sighting a bowl to be in bounds or not is always done from the mat end of the lane, and should be done by standing on the curb directly above the lane marker. A lined mirror can be used if casual sighting is not conclusive.
- 9) If the Jack is not delivered properly by either Lead, the Jack is then placed on centre 2 metres from the edge of the Green by the Skip whose Lead delivered the first Jack.
- 10) When the Jack stops less than 2 metres from the edge of the Green, the Skip will move the Jack to a spot that is on centre 2 metres from the edge of the Green.
- 11) A "toucher" is a bowl that makes contact with the Jack while on its original course, even if it wicks off other bowls. Bowls already in the Head that are hit onto the Jack are NOT "touchers". All "touchers" should be marked as soon as it is feasible to do so.
- 12) The marks on "touchers" must be erased before the bowl is used again. This ensures there is no confusion in subsequent ends.
- 13) Cell phones are not to be used on the Green, as they can be an unnecessary distraction & cause undue delay.