

ETIQUETTE AND POSSESSION

Lawn green bowls is proud of its level of sportsmanship and this is due, in part, to the special etiquette that exists in the game. Etiquette is shown in a number of ways and it is customary:

- To shake hands with your opponent(s) at the start and finish of a game.
- Not to disturb your opponent when they are on the mat by either movement or talking.
- To recognise good play by your opponent.
- To be dressed in team 'colours' for matches.
- For players to be one metre behind the mat or beyond the head, and not to distract other players.
- For the Lead and Second to stand back from the head if and when Thirds need to measure for shot.
- To share a drink and conversation with your opposite number after the match.

Etiquette is enhanced if the law relating to '**possession of the rink**' is followed. Law 50 of the game states that:

'A player or team has possession when the opposition's bowl has come to rest. When a player or team has possession, the opposition must not be between the mat and the head'.

Possession of the mat is enhanced if Law 51 - **position of players** - is also followed. This states that:

'Players should be one metre behind the mat or beyond the head, and should not distract other players (especially the person on the mat)'.

Following etiquette and laws 50 and 51 allows the game to be played in the best possible manner.