Bowling Etiquette

Remember you are always representing the Hawthorn Bowling Club.

- Know the rules and always observe them.
- When bowls need to be measured the team who will probably concede a shot should do the measuring.
- Be punctual and wear club uniform.
- Stand behind the mat while your opponent is delivering a bowl.
- The home team should update the scoreboard.
- Always stand still at the head when a player is about to bowl. Movement, talking or gesturing at the head is very distracting and can be considered gamesmanship.
- Always wait for your skipper's instructions before stepping on the mat.
- Respect your skipper's decision even if you think you can see a better shot!!
- Skips should always remember that the players in their rink are doing their best.
- Keep track of play and be ready with bowl in hand to step onto the mat when it is your turn.
- Inconsiderate distractions such as loud noises or conversation, visible movement of players, objects or shadows, impact of kicked bowls, etc, should be avoided while a bowler is on the mat.
- Possession of the rink belongs to the player or team whose bowl is being played. As soon as each bowl comes to rest, possession of the rink transfers to the opposing player or team after allowing time for marking a toucher as soon as it comes to rest. (Law 35 of Laws of the Sport of Bowls).
- Be sure that complete access to the head is given to the team with possession of the rink.
- Neither applaud nor complain about lucky results. Accept them graciously knowing that they even out over time.
- Never say "thanks" for a bad shot that goes your way.
- Never shout instructions for your opponent's bowl to miss its target or fail in its intended task.
- Admit a "fluke" in good spirit.
- Compliment a team member or opponent for a good shot.
- When an umpire is called, move away from the head as you are no longer involved in the decision making. Respect the decision made.
- Help kick the bowls back when an end is complete. The lead who is to roll the jack should place the mat quickly in preparation for the next end.
- Walk close to the centre of the rink when changing ends so as not to distract play on adjacent rinks.
- Do not drop bowls on to the green.
- Be a gracious loser. Do not blame your loss on other people, the green, weather conditions etc.
- Be a gracious winner. 😊

- Always support each other.
- At the end of the game, congratulate the winners and shake hands with the opposition and your teammates.
- Help put the equipment away.
- After the game, offer to buy your opponent a drink if you're the home team. Always offer to buy a return drink if playing away.
- Above all, enjoy the game.