



Coronado Lawn Bowling Club

LAWN BOWLING CUSTOMS & COURTESIES

It is indisputable that any game of rivalry can be more enjoyable when **every** participant has a thorough and complete knowledge of the rules, customs, and courtesies applying to that particular game and **observes** them.

What follows is not intended to either mechanize or regiment the game of LAWN BOWLING. However, it is intended to further enhance the fine reputation of the CORONADO LAWN BOWLING CLUB and its many highly skilled bowlers.

Let us strive to reaffirm and perpetuate that reputation by conducting ourselves in a manner that clearly shows we know and observe the rules (as set forth in the USLBA Laws Of The Sports of Bowls 2007), the customs and courtesies applicable to this ancient game.

This is a **MUST** for NOVICE and NEW BOWLERS who have not been properly instructed, and refresher for EXPERIENCED BOWLERS who have acquired some bad habits.

This writing concerns itself with positions of LEAD, VICE SKIP, and SKIP. Thus, it is also concerned with the most common gripes heard on our greens and is a response from “they ought to’s” who are always charged with the responsibility for correcting such matters.

Whatever you call them – whether these points be rules, customs or just common courtesy – it is important to the game that you understand and observe them so that you, your team members and your opponents may better enjoy the game of bowls.

IF YOU ARE A LEAD:

1. The SKIP of your team is in charge! You are to follow the SKIP's instructions, when given, without question with regard to:
 - (a) the direction (or "hand") used to deliver your bowl; and
 - (b) where to place your bowl (to the best of your ability).

If for any reason you cannot or did not comply, call your SKIP aside while moving to the next end and explain.

Though you will probably blame the SKIP if your team loses, remember a SKIP's instructions are part of the strategy designed to win, but no SKIP can win with a LEAD who consistently fails to obey those instructions.

2. Except when delivering your bowl or when raking bowls at the completion of an end, you should be well back from the area of play – preferably seated on chairs or standing still behind the ditch and scoreboards. It will be appreciated by all in your game if you do just that and nothing more.
3. Currently at the Coronado Lawn Bowling Club:
 - (a) The losing LEAD for an end shall rake the bowls, and insure that all bowls are on the proper side and behind the end of the mat. (Note: At some clubs, LEADS will simply alternate raking). When finished raking the bowls, place the rake on the concrete behind the ditch with the wheels pointing toward the Green. When sharing a rake with another rink, place the rake where it is accessible to both rinks.
 - (b) The winning lead shall place the mat and prepare to roll the jack.
4. LEADS never attempt to take part in or offer advice in the score determination at the completion of an end. This is the sole responsibility of the two VICE SKIPS, and in some cases of the SKIPS or a REFEREE.

IF YOU ARE A VICE SKIP:

1. As with the LEAD, remember your SKIP is in charge and you must try to follow the SKIP's instructions on the delivery direction and placement of your bowls. After completing delivery and the exchange of ends, your

function is to report (signal) the status of the progress of that end to your SKIP and any other specific information regarding the position of the bowls the SKIP may request. Do not volunteer more than is required.

Some SKIPS may give you general instructions preceding the game on the type of information required throughout the game. Just remember the SKIP is in charge and will tell you what he or she wants to know.

2. While the SKIPS are up, the VICE SKIPS are to stand at least six feet behind the jack and on either side of it. Above all, stand still when the SKIPS are delivering their bowls. Your movements are cause for distraction and are an act of discourtesy.
3. You will chalk-mark all touchers by marking the bowl before the next bowl is delivered (unless otherwise instructed by the SKIPS).
4. When an end is completed with all bowls delivered, it is the responsibility of both VICE SKIPS to determine the score count of that particular end. Never signal the resulting score until your opponent and you have mutually agreed. Losing VICE SKIP or SKIP depending on the score board position at the conclusion of an end, shall record the score. A LEAD should never record the score. This is done to avoid duplication of entry.
5. Both VICE SKIPS will aid the LEAD raking the bowls at the end by kicking in bowls to more or less group them so as to make raking easier on both the LEAD and on the green.

IF YOU ARE A SKIP:

1. You are in charge of your team. It is a part of your job to instruct your LEAD and VICE SKIP as to how you want them to play their shots with the best chance of producing a score for your team. Should one of your teammates fail to make the shot called for, don't be too critical. Remember, the player knows without being told that it was a bad shot and will try to take corrective action on any remaining shots.

2. Stand still. Don't move around in the head. This can be quite distracting to players at the other end.
3. It is important to remember that as leader of your team, your attitude toward your teammates and the game will often make the difference between a loss or a win.
4. As stated earlier, the purpose of the game is to enjoy yourself, make it enjoyable for others, and win if you can. But when your team is “down” and the breaks seem to be all against you, even the most naïve should recognize that constructive encouragement of your teammates may accomplish what caustic criticism or languishing on the bench when your LEAD or VICE SKIP is on the mat, can never, never accomplish. You may not win your game but your popularity will measurably increase.

