



## INFORMATION FOR NEW BOWLERS

Welcome to the game of lawn bowls and your coaching sessions.

The aim of your time with your coach is to equip you with the knowledge and skills to start playing bowls. The sessions you have with your coach are all about you. Do not hesitate to stop and ask questions when you do not understand something or need more time on a skill.

Let your coach know if you have a problem with session times or any other matter. When you have begun to play bowls regularly, let your coach know if you would like extra help with your game. You may receive well-meaning advice from others wanting to help you. It is advisable to check back with your coach before adopting others' theories.

Your coaching time should be the start of many years of enjoyment as a lawn bowler.

A document "Coaching Basics and the Etiquette of Bowls" produced by Bowls Queensland provides an overview of the basics of the game and is likely to be beneficial to relatively inexperienced bowlers. It can be found on the St Lucia Bowling Clubs website.

### THE GAME

- The object of the game is to deliver your bowl to the jack or a point designated by the skip or director of the head.
- Games are played in fours, triples and pairs to a number of ends or a set period of time. Singles are played to a prescribed number of points. The controlling body for each event will tell or display the conditions of play for each event.
- After the completion of an end, the number of a team's bowls closer to the jack than that of the opponents score one point each. The team with the highest number of points at the end of the game wins.

### THE GREEN

- A green is divided into a number of playing areas called *rinks*.
- *Boundary pegs* show the area of the rink and a *rink number* is displayed at the centre of both ends of the rink.
- *Corner flags* are located in each corner of the green. These are wind indicators at green level.

- A *ditch* surrounds the green and the lip of the grassed area near the ditch is called the *plinth*. Do not step on the plinth to protect the edge of the grass and to avoid accidents.
- The *bank* is the vertical wall of the outer edge of the ditch above the surface of the green.
- A *chalk line* is marked on the centre of each end of the rink with a T, two metres from the ditch. The chalk line is referred to as the *centre line*. The mat is placed on the chalk line to start an end by facing the rink number on the nearest bank.
- A *score board* is located at one end of each rink.

**Green Care** – The quality of our greens is vital. Our green keeper and Greens Director work hard to maintain a high quality of the greens. All bowlers need to treat the greens with a high level of care and avoid actions that will damage the greens. For example, place your bowls on the green rather than dropping them from the bank.

## **LAWS OF THE GAME**

- Purchase of a law book is recommended for all bowlers. The current law book may be purchased from Bowls Australia's online shop.
- Knowledge of the rules enables a bowler to enjoy the game and avoid embarrassment.

## **GENERAL ETIQUETTE**

Bowls etiquette is a combination of good manners, sportsmanship and social skills. Some points to keep in mind are:

- Be punctual. Arrive at least half an hour before the game commences.
- Listen for your name and rink number when the cards are called. Proceed to the rink and ready yourself for play.
- Check with the opposite lead to see if they want the bowl handed to them after the mat is placed and the jack delivered. Some people prefer to pick up their own.
- It is a law that you need to inform your opponent when you need to leave the green briefly.
- Watch the progress of the game carefully and always be ready when it is your turn to play and, when the end is finished, to kick the bowls back behind the mat. All players assist in kicking the bowls.
- The lead needs to drop the mat close to the desired position promptly and then help with kicking bowls. The mat can be straightened after the bowls are in place two metres behind the mat.

- When changing ends, walk down the centre of the rink. Spreading out may interfere with adjacent rink bowlers.
- Follow your skip's instructions.
- Learn the laws of the game.
- At the end of the game, shake hands with your opponents and thank them for the game. Be a good sport. Winning or losing is not as important as enjoying the game. As a winner, it is a custom followed by most people that you should offer to buy your opponent the first drink. If the opponent is a guest at our club, you are the host.

## **PRACTICE TIMES – ST LUCIA BOWLING CLUBs**

Monday	All afternoon. Coaching by appointment.
Tuesday	Tuesday mixed bowls is played commencing mid-morning. Tuesday afternoons is available for practise. Coaching by appointment.
Wednesday	Wednesday mixed bowls is played in the afternoon. Greens are prepared during the morning, therefore limited practise space is available.
Thursday	Thursday mixed twilight bowls begins play at 3 pm (winter) or 4 pm (summer). Practise space is available prior to that time.
Friday	Available all day.
Saturday	Saturday mixed bowls is played in the afternoon. During Pennant Season, Saturday morning games may also be scheduled. Limited practise space is available.
Sunday	Available all day.

### **NOTE:**

- To distribute wear of the green, practice is encouraged to be conducted in an East-West direction, that is, to and from the clubhouse.
- Practice mats must be used. These are on the veranda table.
- Disks and half tennis balls are available in the table drawers. Any other equipment there can be used.
- Correct footwear must be worn.
- Sometimes the clubhouse will be open and you may use the jacks and mats inside the door. These must be replaced inside on completion of practice.
- Make sure that the clubhouse doors are closed as you exit to stop birds from going inside.