Guidance on Rink Behaviours

Rink behaviours is a code of conduct whereby individuals treat one another in the way they expect to be treated themselves. There are some basic rules which will enable you to enjoy your bowls without upsetting other people.

The list below is not a complete list but if you follow these simple rules, both you and your opponents will enjoy your game more.

Players are not permitted to approach their allocated rink until the previous players using that rink have vacated. Should National or County matches need extra time then the Stewards will allocate a different rink where possible.

1. Always introduce yourself to your opponents before the game. Possession of the rink will belong to the player or team whose bowl is being played. Other players at the mat-end of the rink who are not controlling play must stand at least 1 metre behind the mat.
2. Players at the head-end of the rink and are not controlling play must stand behind the jack if they are members of the team which is in possession of the rink, if your team is not in possession of the rink you must stand behind the jack and well away from the head or on the surround if the jack is in the ditch.
3. Do not talk when your opponent is in possession of the rink and about to play / deliver their bowl.
4. Do not move around behind the head when a player is on the mat ready to bowl.
5. Always be aware of what is happening on adjoining rinks, signal some understanding with another player who is about to bowl towards you. Only step onto the mat when you are ready to bowl.
6. Watch your bowl after delivery and ensure you are behind the mat/head as your bowl comes to rest.
7. Do not stray into the adjoining rinks when changing ends, keep to the centre of your rink.
8. You can only give or receive information from other team members when you are in possession of the rink.
9. Never break up the head until the score has been agreed. All leads, two's & threes help to kick back the bowls. (Use the pusher if appropriate).
10. Always acknowledge a good shot by an opponent and accept those 'wicks' with good grace whether played for or fortunate.
11. When walking around the green, never walk past a rink if someone is about to bowl.
12. Finally, no one delivers a bad bowl on purpose, and we all have 'Off Days'. Just accept it with a smile and get on with the game.