

### **Dart and Scoring Etiquette:**

These 10 Commandments were originally written by Sarah Parsons in the 1970's and have been reprinted countless times in dart magazines, dart league newsletters, and tournament programs.

1. Scorekeepers Shall Not talk while keeping score!
2. Scorekeepers Shall Not move about while keeping score, stand still!
3. Scorekeepers Shall Not look at the shooter, stand facing the board!
4. Scorekeepers Shall Not call out a score, of one dart or all three, unless the shooter asks you!
5. Scorekeepers Shall Not tell a shooter what to shoot or what combination to shoot for an out!
6. Scorekeepers Shall Not change a score unless it is brought to the attention of both shooters (teams).
7. Scorekeepers Shall Not change a score regardless if that player (team) has shot again and a second score written down. An error in a shooter's score **MUST** be corrected before he (team) shoots again or it stands.
8. Scorekeepers Shall Not lean out to see where a dart is or is going nor shall he follow the darts with body or head movement!
9. Scorekeepers Shall Not show any emotions while at the scoreboard!
10. Scorekeepers Shall Not change the side of the score sheet of the player in three leg matches. If you start a player on the left side of the score sheet, continue to keep his score on the left regardless of what the bull shots are.

### **Darter's Manners:**

Players like to encourage teammates and even compliment opponents on good play. As in most games, there is also a certain amount of sportsmanship. When a player is throwing, whether he is an opponent or teammate, he deserves certain courtesies from each of us. When a player is on the line: Don't stand beside him/her and stare at him/her. Stay well behind the line; don't shuffle or move around. Don't drop or rattle your darts. Don't talk to him/her, tell him/her their score or the number he/she needs. If he/she wants help, they can step off the line and ask for you or look at you. Limit encouragement to before he/she steps to the line and after their turn is over. In short, do nothing to break a player's concentration while he is on the line. Have fun and a good time, but remember your manners too!

### **Simple Dart Etiquette :**

1. Show up on time for a match or call and let someone know you are running late!
2. Inform your team captain if you cannot make it to the match as early as possible so that he/she can secure a replacement! It is not just your time, but also the other players on your team and your opponent's team that should be considered. If you make a commitment to play, put the time aside in your schedule!
3. A gentleman's game that always starts and ends with a handshake! Always shake your opponents hand prior to and at the end of a match and encourage good play!
4. Respect your opponent by keeping your distance when they are at the oche! Try to stay at least two feet behind them while they are throwing!
5. Stay quiet and still during your opponents throw!
6. Acknowledge a good throw by your opponent only if it is a good throw, otherwise you can come across as patronizing someone and that can be humiliating! Encouragement is always a good thing!
7. Show your opponent respect by not engaging in conversation or chitchat during your match with them! There is plenty of time after the match to talk or have a drink together!
8. Control your emotions and outbursts! These tirades are a distraction to the matches, a detriment to our sport, and a lack of respect to your teammates, opponents, and other patrons dining or drinking in an establishment!
9. Always end your matches the way they were started! A handshake promotes competition and respect.
10. Treat your partner with respect, even if he or she does not play up to your level! Things have a way of changing fast!
11. Stay positive!
12. Do not touch your darts until the scorekeeper has tallied up your score and you are both in agreement on the score!
13. Be patient! Throw your darts AFTER your opponent returns from the board and is BEHIND you!
14. If you are keeping score, stand still while facing the board, and do not say anything unless the player at the oche asks a question about his or her score, where a dart landed, or what he or she might have remaining. DO NOT TELL A PLAYER WHAT TO THROW FOR, EVER!
15. Throw only one dart at a time unless you are "SPLASHING IN" to determine a line up!

16. NEVER throw your darts at anything but the dartboard! Not only is it embarrassing for the sport, but also you look pretty silly throwing or kicking your darts into the wall after a bounce out or bad throw!

17. Play by the rules!

18. Take responsibility for your poor throw! Do not try and pass the blame on to the scorekeeper, lighting, ceiling fan, or the person throwing at an adjacent line!

19. Stay involved! If you are between throws or games, stay involved with your teammates' efforts at the oche!

20. Promote the sport of darts: Join a league Hold a league position Be a team captain Attend league meetings Keep score when needed Introduce the game to friends Run blind draws Play in the qualifiers Volunteer to help set up tournaments Hold dart clinics Recruit league members

21. Always play your best every game, even if you are in a "Round Robin" or "Luck of the Draw" and have nothing to gain except practice! Your opponents expect your best at all times and look forward to the challenge of playing a better thrower!

22. Thank your league directors and tournament organizers for a job well done! It truly is a thankless job!

23. If you are a team captain, do everyone a favor by putting bad sportsmanship complaints in writing and sending them to your league officers so that the behavior does not continue and be a detriment to your league and our sport!

24. "Pointing" in a Cricket game IS THE GAME, but excessive pointing, just to prolong the game, score All-Star points, or embarrass an opponent, is BAD for our sport! Winning is one thing but needlessly humiliating an opponent is another!