



The Etiquette of Darts and Scorekeeping

Darts is considered a "gentlemanly sport". There are certain things that are expected of players, scorekeepers and spectators. Stick to these simple rules, and you will have a much more enjoyable game and make a lot more friends than enemies.

Sportsmanship

Generally, dart players are good sportsmen. They will shake hands at the beginning of a match and wish each other good luck. Similarly at the end of the game, they will shake hands and say "good game" or "nice shooting".

Distractions

Much like professional golfers making an important putt, dart players like no distractions while throwing. On the flip side, dart matches are typically played in bars/pubs, so outside distractions such as loud music, other background noise, etc. is typically unavoidable. No dart shooter can expect total silence while they are on the throw line. But if you are involved in a dart match, follow these simple rules of dart etiquette:

- Do not speak to the player who is shooting.
- No "oohs" and "aahs" after each dart that is thrown - wait until all three darts have been thrown to say "good darts" or offer other congratulations.
- Do not make sudden movements in front of the shooter.
- Scorekeepers should remain statue-still while a player is throwing.
- Scorekeepers should look only at the dart board while a shooter is on the throw line
- Scorekeepers should not look at the shooter while he/she is throwing
- Scorekeepers should not follow the darts thrown with head movements
- Scorekeepers should wait until all three darts are thrown before moving toward the board to see what was scored (unless the shooter asks you to verify where a thrown dart has scored)
- Spectators should try to keep movement and noise to a minimum while a player is shooting.
- No one but the scorekeeper or a teammate should tell the shooter what has been scored.
- What has been scored, and/or what score is remaining, should only be announced by the scorekeeper if the shooter asks.
- No one except a teammate, not even the scorekeeper, should ever tell the player what to hit next, what combination of darts should be thrown for an out, etc. THE SCOREKEEPER SHOULD ONLY VERIFY WHAT WAS SCORED AND WHAT SCORE REMAINS WHEN ASKED – EVEN IF THE SHOOTER IS HIS TEAMMATE – SCOREKEEPERS MUST REMAIN NEUTRAL WHEN SCORING.
- It is the shooter's responsibility to verify the remaining score after the scorekeeper has recorded it. If a math error is discovered after the fact, it can be verified and changed by the scorekeeper upon request prior to that shooter's next turn only. If a math error is discovered after the shooter has had another turn it cannot be changed. DO NOT BLAME THE SCOREKEEPER - IT IS THE SHOOTER'S RESPONSIBILITY TO VERIFY HIS OR HER SCORE!

Don't Pull Your Darts Until The Scorekeeper Records Your Throw

This can avoid many arguments. If you leave your darts in the board until the scorekeeper has recorded your throw, you will be able to point out any discrepancy.

Don't Be A Sore Loser

Appreciate what the other player has accomplished. If the other player bested you, congratulate him or her and move on. Remember if you had thrown something really amazing, you'd be happy about it, so be happy for the other player too. Not only will this show that you are a lady/gentleman, but by keeping your own spirits up, you will remain relaxed and throw your next darts better than if you got angry or tense. MANY players lose a game purely because they got angry, and their game suffered because of it.

MOST IMPORTANTLY - HAVE FUN!