

Player Code of Conduct Issued: December 2024

We enjoy healthy competition and friendly rivalry at all levels. Our sport will thrive if participants are enjoying great experiences, extracting maximum value from the sport and advocating it to their friends and family.

This Code of Conduct establishes the principles that all players participating in matches under the jurisdiction of Bowls England (and its member clubs/counties) must uphold both on and off the green, ensuring integrity, respect and professionalism.

This Code of Conduct is specific to Players participating in all events under the jurisdiction of Bowls England (including all rounds of events leading to Aviva National Finals). Players are governed by this Code of Conduct and any breaches will lead to immediate referral in line with this document. Due to the nature of the events, it is likely that a form of immediate action will be taken at the event and may be followed up with the appropriate level of further action which will fall in line with Bowls England Regulation 9 procedures and processes.

Purpose of the Code

This Code of Conduct is issued by Bowls England in order to ensure:

- Bowls England's high standards of conduct are clear.
- The rights and enjoyment of anyone involved in our sport are protected and maintained.
- All players are aware of the standards of conduct expected of them, and the consequences of breaching the standard.
- The good name of Bowls England (and its member clubs/counties) and the integrity of our sport of bowls is maintained.
- Our sport is seen by prospective participants as a place they might feel happy and belong.

1. Respect and Sportsmanship

- Show respect to teammates, opponents, coaches, officials, umpires and spectators at all times – winning graciously and accepting that defeat is a necessary part of sport.
- Do not engage in any form of discrimination, harassment, or bullying based on race, gender, religion, sexual identity or other personal attributes.
- Refrain from directing any words, signs or gestures towards opponents or officials that are understood in any language to have an obscene or offensive meaning
- Accept decisions made by umpires, tournament officials and/or staff members with grace, refraining from arguing or showing dissent.
- Play with a spirit of fairness, avoiding unsporting behaviour such as cheating, intentional rule-breaking or non-participation in subsequent rounds of an event without good reason.

2. Discipline and Commitment

- Be conversant with, and comply with, the current Laws of the Sport of Bowls and all Bowls England rules and regulations relating to events under the jurisdiction of Bowls England, including County Championships leading to Bowls England National Finals.
- Adhere to Bowls England Betting Integrity Guidance.
- Adhere to Bowls England Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Policy.
- Adhere to the Anti-Doping policies as set by UK Anti-Doping.
- Do not drink alcohol on the green or within two metres of the green, nor render yourself unfit to play in a match through alcohol misuse.
- Do not smoke (including e-cigarettes/vapes) on the green, surrounding banks or within two metres of any other player or spectator.
- Do not use mobile phones on the green (except in case of emergency, pre-declared medical reasons or other approved exceptional circumstance).
- Avoid engaging in any activities that may bring the sport into disrepute.
- Players must not seek or receive coaching during play except as permitted under the current Laws of the Sport of Bowls.

3. Integrity and Honesty

- Represent your team and sport with pride, ensuring your actions reflect positively on yourself and others.
- Take responsibility for your actions on and off the green.
- Report any suspected misconduct, unethical behaviour or safeguarding concerns promptly.

4. Social Media, Communications and Public Representation

- Adhere to Bowls England's Social Media Policy.
- Use social media responsibly, ensuring posts and comments reflect the values of our sport – collaborative, adaptable, responsible and encouraging.
- Do not make inflammatory, offensive, or unverified statements online or in public forums.
- Players may make public comments or communicate with the media (including web based social media e.g. Facebook, X (Twitter)) in relation to their personal performance provided that they do not make or endorse any public statement that has or may have a negative effect on the interests of World Bowls, Bowls England (or its member clubs/counties), other players, opponents or the sport of Bowls.

5. Player Conduct specific to Aviva National Finals

- In addition to the items highlighted previously, the following will also apply at the Aviva National Finals:
 - Players may only withdraw from the event (either in advance or during) by providing the Tournament Committee with written evidence of a bona fide injury, illness, bereavement or other exceptional circumstance.
 - Players must be on their rink and ready to start play no less than 15 minutes prior to the official start time as published on the draw (or notified in advance by the Tournament Committee).



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- Finalists in all events must attend the Trophy Presentation in playing kit. Should anyone not attend, or not be properly attired, no prize money will be awarded.
- Players must participate in interviews for media coverage immediately after a match as requested by Bowls England officials.
- Any contravention of the Player Code of Conduct during the Aviva National Finals will be dealt with by an Emergency Disciplinary Committee during the event and sanctions (see Appendix A) may be imposed immediately – which could result in a player/team being disqualified from the competition and/or whole event.

6. Consequences of Misconduct

- Violations of this code of conduct may result in immediate disciplinary action, which may include but is not limited to suspensions, fines, or expulsion from an individual competition/event/the sport as per Sanctions listed at Appendix A
- By entering the competition, you accept the authority of Bowls England in addressing breaches of conduct.

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Registration No: 06297656 (England & Wales) Limited by Guarantee

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Appendix A: Player Code of Conduct

Sanctions at Bowls England Events including Aviva National Finals

Bowls England will take action against behaviours that contravene the Player Code of Conduct (Sections 1-6 inclusive).

Action will be taken by the designated authorities at the particular event, and will be proportionate to the scale of the alleged offence. Formal disciplinary action may well be taken following the event, and will be managed in accordance with Bowls England's Regulation 9.

Potential Immediate Sanctions include, but are not limited to:

- Verbal warning
- Written warning
- Suspension from individual event during tournament (i.e. Bowls England Mixed Pairs)
- Suspension from tournament (i.e. Bowls England National Finals)

Bowls England reserve the right to share details of the misconduct and any sanctions imposed with the individual's Club and County to ensure full transparency.

Following the event, further action may be taken at Club, County or National Level which will fall in line with Bowls England Regulation 9 procedures and processes.

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