



Bowls ACT Code of Conduct

Purpose of the Code

Bowls ACT has developed the following Code to ensure that the sport of bowls is played in a safe and enjoyable environment for all who participate in it. The Code specifically applies to all Members, as defined in the Bowls ACT Constitution, as well as others present at events where Bowls ACT is the controlling body, including officials, coaches, volunteers, administrators, parents and spectators. The events to which this Code applies are those covered by the Bowls ACT Conditions of Play, for the relevant period.

General Code of Conduct

1. Respect the rights, dignity and worth of others.
2. Be fair, considerate and honest in all dealing with others.
3. Be professional in, and accept responsibility for, your actions.
4. Be aware of, and maintain an uncompromising adherence to, Bowls ACT's rules, regulations and policies.
5. Operate within the laws of the sport including national and international guidelines which govern the sport.
6. Do not use your involvement with Bowls ACT to promote your own beliefs, behaviours or practices where these are inconsistent with those of Bowls ACT.
7. Demonstrate a high degree of individual responsibility especially when dealing with persons under 18 years of age.
8. Avoid unaccompanied and unobserved activities with persons under 18 years of age, wherever possible.
9. Refrain from any form of harassment of others.
10. Refrain from any behaviour that may bring Bowls ACT, a Member Club or the sport of Bowls generally, into disrepute.
11. Provide a safe environment for the conduct of the activity.
12. Show concern and caution towards others who may be sick or injured.
13. Be a positive role model.
14. Do not tolerate acts of aggression.
15. Support Bowls ACT in adhering to these codes and understand that there may be repercussions if you breach, or are aware of any breaches of, these Codes of Conduct.



Player Code of Conduct

1. Respect the rights, dignity and worth of fellow players, coaches, officials and spectators and refrain from any discriminatory practices against any person regardless of age, gender, sexual orientation or identification, ethnic origin, religion or ability.
2. Respect the talent, potential and development of fellow players and competitors and recognise that individuals may have differing reasons for their participation.
3. Participate within the competition with the spirit of fair play, abiding by the rules and respecting the decision of the official, making all appeals through the formal process and respecting the final decision.
4. Accept victory and defeat with dignity.
5. Care for and respect the greens and their surrounds and any equipment you use as part of your game.
6. Refrain from making derogatory, demeaning or discriminatory remarks about any administrators, players, coaches or other players. [See also the Bowls ACT Social Media Policy].
7. Control your temper. Verbal abuse of officials, sledging other players, using foul language or deliberately distracting or provoking an opponent are not acceptable or permitted behaviours in any sport, including bowls.
8. Be professional in your appearance and manner and accept responsibility for your actions.
For example:
 - i. Display high standards in language, manner, punctuality, preparation and presentation;
 - ii. Display control, respect, dignity and professionalism to all involved, including opponents, coaches, officials, administrators, the media, parents and spectators;
 - iii. Maintain high standards of personal appearance and behaviour;
 - iv. Encourage others to demonstrate the same qualities;
9. Refrain from any form of sexual innuendo or harassment towards any player, coach or official. This includes explicit, implicit, verbal and non-verbal sexual harassment.
10. Refrain from initiating a relationship with your coach.



Coaches Code of Conduct

1. Respect the rights, dignity and worth of fellow players, coaches, officials and spectators and refrain from any discriminatory practices against any person regardless of age, gender, sexual orientation or identification, ethnic origin, religion or ability.
2. Ensure the player's time spent with you is a positive experience.
3. Treat each player as an individual.
4. Be fair, considerate and honest with players
5. Be professional and accept responsibility for your actions.
6. Make a commitment to providing a quality service to your players.
7. Operate within the rules of your state/ territory association.
8. Any physical contact with players should be appropriate for the situation and necessary for the player's skill development.
9. Refrain from any form of personal abuse towards your players.
10. Refrain from any form of harassment towards your players.
11. Provide a safe environment for training and competition.
12. Show concern and caution towards sick or injured players.
13. Be a positive role model for your sport and players.
14. Refrain from initiating a relationship with your players.

Officials Code of Conduct

1. Respect the rights, dignity and worth of fellow players, coaches, officials and spectators and refrain from any discriminatory practices against any person regardless of age, gender, sexual orientation or identification, ethnic origin, religion or ability.
2. Keep up to date with the latest trends in officiating.
3. Be consistent, objective, and courteous when making decisions.
4. Condemn unsporting behaviour and promote respect for all opponents.
5. Emphasise the spirit of competition rather than the errors.
6. Be a good sport yourself. Actions speak louder than words.
7. Ensure your behaviour and comments are positive and supportive.
8. Place the safety and welfare of the participants above all else.
9. Compliment and encourage all participants where appropriate.



Administrators Code of Conduct

1. Be fair, consistent, considerate and honest in dealings with others.
2. Operate within the relevant laws such as those applying to Privacy, Workplace Health and Safety, Working with Vulnerable People and any other laws in force at the time.
3. Be professional in your actions, language, presentation, manner and punctuality in order to reflect high standards.
4. Do not allow prejudice, conflict of interest or bias to affect your objectivity
5. Maintain confidentiality in regards to sensitive and/or commercial information
6. Resolve conflicts fairly and promptly through established procedures
7. Maintain strict impartiality in matters relating to the Member Protection Policy
8. Maintain a safe environment for others
9. Show concern and caution towards others
10. Be a positive role model for others.

Parent/Guardian Code of Conduct

1. Respect the rights, dignity and worth of others
2. Remember that players participate in sport for their own enjoyment, not yours
3. Focus on the player's efforts and performance rather than winning or losing
4. Never ridicule or yell at players for making a mistake or losing a competition
5. Show appreciation for good performance and skilful plays by all players (including opposing players)
6. Encourage children to play according to the rules and to settle disagreements without resorting to hostility or violence.
7. Demonstrate a high degree of individual responsibility especially when dealing with, or in the vicinity of, persons under 18 years of age, as your words and actions are an example
8. Respect officials' decisions and promote these to others
9. Do not physically or verbally abuse or harass anyone associated with the sport (player, coach, umpire and so on).
10. Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every person regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion.
11. Be a positive role model.



Spectators Code of Conduct

1. Remember that people participate in sport for their enjoyment and benefit, not yours.
2. Applaud good performances and efforts from all individuals and teams. Congratulate all participants on their performance, regardless of the game's outcome.
3. Respect the decisions of officials and teach young people to do the same.
4. Never ridicule or scold a young player for making a mistake. Positive comments are motivational.
5. Condemn the use of violence in any form, whether it is by spectators, coaches, officials or players.
6. Show respect for your team's opponents. Without them, there would be no game.
7. Encourage players to follow the rules and the officials' decisions.
8. Do not use foul language, sledge or harass players, coaches, officials or other spectators.
9. Respect the rights, dignity and worth of all involved in the sport regardless of their age, gender, sexual orientation, ability, race, culture or religion.

Breaches of the Code

Breaches of the Code will be dealt with in accordance with the disciplinary process as prescribed in the Bowls ACT Constitution and By-Laws in force at the time.

Penalties for breaching the Code will depend on a number of factors, such as:

- Who breached the Code?
- How and when did they breach the Code?
- What were the effects of the breach?
- Whether this behaviour has taken place repeatedly or is a one-off.

Penalties may include:

- Requesting a person to change their behaviour
- Issuing a formal or informal warning
- Asking a person to leave a facility
- Banning a person from entering a facility
- Imposing a fine on a player, club or league
- Imposing a match ban on a player, spectator, official
- Deducting championship points from a player, team or club

In rare and serious cases, where a breach of the Code constitutes unlawful behaviour, it may be necessary to involve the Police.

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