

Dursley Bowls Club - Code of Conduct for Club Members - 2026/27

Dursley Bowls Club is fully committed to safeguarding and promoting the well-being of all its members, ensuring a positive and enjoyable experience for all. The club believes that it is important that members, coaches, administrators, and parents associated with the club should always show respect and understanding for the safety and welfare of others. Report any safeguarding concerns promptly to our Club Safeguarding Officer, Miss Gillian Meadows.

As a Member of Dursley Bowls Club, you are expected to abide by the following code of practice:

- All players and markers must take responsibility in ensuring they are up to date with the Rules and Laws of the Sport, understand and adhere to them.
- All members must respect the rights, dignity and worth of all participants regardless of age, gender, ability, race, cultural background, religious beliefs, or sexual identity.
- Members should recognise the valuable contribution made by coaches and officials who are usually volunteers. They give their time and resources to provide bowls for you.
- All members must respect officials and publicly accept their decisions.
- All members should be a positive role model, always show respect to teammates, opponents, coaches, officials, umpires and spectators, and treat others with the same level of respect you would expect to be shown to you.
- Always use correct and proper language and avoid taunting, bullying, harassment or discrimination. Bullying of any sort will not be tolerated.
- Players are requested to arrive at the green 30 mins before, and ready to start play 20 minutes prior to the official published start time. Those due to perform a specific task must arrive in plenty of time to fulfil their duties.
- Members should keep to agreed timings for training, competitions and matches, or inform their coach or team manager / Captain if they are going to be late.
- Members must wear suitable footwear and approved club uniform on the green, as per the club rules. When we look like a team, we feel like a team.
- Members are not allowed to smoke including e-cigarettes within the Club. Please use the designated areas.
- Encourage everyone to enjoy sport and understand that people have different motivations for taking part.
- If Members are driving fellow bowlers to games, to the best of their knowledge their vehicle is roadworthy and has a current MOT. They will inform all passengers of the legal requirements to wear seat belts. The driver must have appropriate vehicle insurance and a valid licence and will be responsible for the maintenance and care of the vehicle during the trip.

All volunteers and Club Officials must adopt good ethical conduct and practice: -

- Develop an appropriate relationship with participants, based on mutual trust and respect.
- Ensure all activities organised by the club are appropriate to the age, ability, and experience of those taking part.
- Promote the positive aspects of the sport (e.g. fair play).
- Display consistently high standards of behaviour and appearance.
- Follow all guidelines laid down by the National and Local Governing Body and the Club.
- Ensure the club holds appropriate insurance cover for its members.
- Ensure club officials hold appropriate qualifications relevant to their role.
- Never exert undue influence over performers to obtain personal benefit or reward.
- Never condone rule violations and adhere to the Anti-Doping policies or the use of prohibited substances.
- Encourage and guide participants to accept responsibility for their own performance and behaviour.
- Encourage participants to value their performances and not just results.
- Ensure adequate supervision of Under 18s and vulnerable adults, ensure the right number of supporting adults are present based on the group size, age, the activity and their specific needs.

Digital and Social Media Policy:

Social media, including personal and professional website, blogs, chat rooms and bulletin boards, social networks such as LinkedIn, Facebook, Instagram, X and My Space, video sharing sites such as You Tube, and email, are common means of communication and expression.

It is essential that volunteers, members, and players make informed decisions about how they use the internet, mobile devices, and email communications to protect our club and our people. Everyone in our club has the responsibility to safeguard both on and off the green, including communications.

It is the responsibility of all members to: -

- Refrain from publishing negative comments about players, umpires, our club, or other clubs and any controversial, or potentially inflammatory subjects.
- Avoid hostile or harassing communications in any posts or other online communications.
- Clubs should identify all copyrighted or borrowed material with citations or links. When publishing direct paraphrased quotes, thoughts, ideas, photographs, or videos, give credit to the original publisher or author.

You will be asked to sign on your application form / at membership renewal time, that you have read the above Code of Conduct, and agree to abide by this Code. Ignorance of the Code is no excuse.