

JUNIOR BOWLERS

Note: In determining the policy of a club regarding junior bowlers, it is recommended that each club which has the intention of commencing a junior programme should obtain the official BOWLS AUSTRALIA (BA) publication "Developing junior bowls: Bowls Australia policy and Guidelines".

The XYZ Bowling Club accepts the policy of Bowls Australia which states that a junior participant to be aged less than 18 years.

The BA Policy regarding junior bowlers states that "skill and ability plays a critical role in determining the relevance of category for individuals," and that "junior participants under the age of 5 are encouraged to participate through informal activity where appropriate."

Junior participants can be broken down into three distinct groups:

Junior – Primary	Ages 5 to 9 years old
Junior - Intermediate	Ages 10 to 13 years old
Junior - Youth	Ages 14 to 18 years old

The XYZ Bowling Club recognises that fostering an appropriate junior pathway to develop juniors' skills and meet their competitive needs will provide for a successful long-term involvement with this club and with the sport of bowls.

The game of bowls is steeped in tradition and etiquette, both of which play an important role in preserving the traditions of the game. Respect for tradition is necessary, and should be extended to include respect for team members, opponents and officials.

Five facets of sportsmanship have been identified:

- Full commitment to participation;
- Respect and concern for rules and officials;
- Respect and concern for social conventions;
- Respect and concern for the opponent; and
- Avoiding poor attitudes toward participation.

It is important to remember breaches of etiquette are often unintentional and that any indiscretion is managed carefully, particularly when dealing with younger participants. Coaches and volunteers act as role models and mentors of appropriate etiquettes related to participating in bowls.

CODES OF BEHAVIOUR (PLAYERS, OFFICIALS, PARENTS, ETC.)

The codes of behaviour identify a series of key principles on which young players, parents, coaches, teachers, administrators, officials, the media and spectators develop good sporting behaviours and have an enjoyable experience of bowls, which will assist to encourage them to remain involved for life.

Players:

- Play by the rules
- Never argue with an official. If you disagree have your skip or coach approach the official at the conclusion of the end or after the competition
- Control your temper. Verbal abuse of officials, sledging other participants or deliberately distracting or provoking an opponent are not acceptable or permitted behaviours
- Work equally hard for yourself and/or your team. Your team's performance will benefit and so will you.
- Be a good sport. Applaud all good shots whether they are made by your team or the opposition.
- Treat all participants as you would like to be treated. Do not bully or take unfair advantage of another competitor.
- Co-operate with your coach, teammates and your opponents. Without them there would be no competition.
- Participate for your own enjoyment and benefit, not just to please your parents and coaches.
- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of all participants regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion.

Parents

- Remember that junior participants participate for their enjoyment, not yours
- Encourage junior participants to participate, do not force them to
- Focus on your child's efforts and performance rather than whether they win or lose
- Encourage junior participants to play according to the rules and to settle disagreements without resorting to hostility or violence
- Never ridicule or yell at a junior participant for making a mistake or losing a game
- Remember that junior participants learn best by example. Appreciate good performance and skilful plays by all participants
- Support all efforts to remove verbal and physical abuse from sporting activities
- Respect officials. decisions and teach junior participants to do likewise
- Show appreciation for coaches, officials and administrators. Without them, your child could not participate
- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every junior participant regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion

Coaches

- Remember that junior participants participate for pleasure, and winning is only part of the fun
- Never ridicule or yell at a junior participants for making a mistake
- Be reasonable in your demands on junior participants. time, energy and enthusiasm

- Operate within the rules and spirit of bowls and teach your players to do the same
- Ensure that the time junior participants spend with you is a positive experience. ALL junior participants are deserving of equal attention and opportunities
- Avoid overplaying the talented players in key positions: the 'just average' need and deserve equal time
- Display control, respect and professionalism to all involved with the bowls. This includes opponents, coaches, officials, administrators, the media, parents and spectators. Encourage junior participants to do the same
- Show concern and caution towards sick and injured participants. Follow the advice of a physician when determining whether an injured participant is ready to recommence training or competition
- Obtain appropriate qualifications and keep up to date with the Latest coaching' practices and the principles of growth and development of junior participants. Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every junior participant regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion

Teachers

- Encourage junior participants to develop basic skills, discourage overspecialisation in one format or playing position
- Create opportunities to teach appropriate bowls behaviour as well as basic skills
- Give priority to free play activities, skill learning and modified games over highly structured competition for junior {primary} participants
- Prepare junior participants for intra and interschool competition by teaching the basic bowls skills
- Make junior participants aware of the positive benefits of participation in sporting activities
- Keep up to date with coaching practices and the principles of physical growth and development.
- Read and use the latest coaching and teaching resources for junior bowls
- Help junior participants understand the differences between the junior competition they participate in and professional sport
- Help junior participants understand that playing by the rules is their responsibility
- Give all junior participants equal opportunities to participate in administration, coaching and umpiring as well as playing
- Support the implementation of the developing junior bowls policy
- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every junior participant regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion

Administrators

- Set an example. Your behaviour and comments should be positive and supportive
- Involve junior participants in the planning, leadership, evaluation and decision-making related to the activity
- Give all junior participants equal opportunities to participate

- Create pathways for junior participants to participate in sport, not just as a player but as a coach, umpire and administrators
- Ensure rules, equipment, length of games and training schedules are modified to suit the age, ability and maturity
- Provide quality supervision and instruction for junior participants
- Remember junior participants participate for their enjoyment and benefit. Do not over emphasise awards
- Help coaches and officials highlight appropriate behaviour and skill development, and help improve the standards of coaching and officiating
- Ensure that everyone involved in junior bowls emphasises fair play, rather than winning at all costs
- Support implementation of the developing junior bowls policy
- Make it clear abusing junior participants in any way is unacceptable and will result in disciplinary action
- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every young person regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion

Officials

- Be flexible when enforcing rules and regulations to match the skill level, needs and understanding of junior participants
- Compliment and encourage all junior participants
- Be consistent, objective and courteous when making decisions
- Condemn unsporting behaviour and promote respect for all opponents
- Emphasise the spirit of the game rather than the errors
- Be a good sport yourself. Actions speak Louder than words
- Keep up to date with the latest trends in officiating and the principles of growth and development of junior participants
- Set an example. Your behaviour and comments should be positive and supportive
- Place the safety and welfare of the junior participants above all else
- Give all junior participants a 'fair go' regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion

Media

- Provide coverage of junior competitive and non-competitive bowls as well as reporting adult sport
- Be aware of the differences among adult sport, professional sport and modified programs for junior participants
- Do not highlight isolated incidents of inappropriate sporting behaviour
- Focus on a young player's fair play and honest effort
- Do not place unfair expectations on junior participants. They are not miniature professionals

- Describe and report on the problems of junior participants participating in organised bowls
- Focus on the abilities and not the disabilities of junior participants
- Avoid reinforcing stereotypical views on the involvement of boys and girls in bowls
- Give equal time and sport to reporting boys and girls
- Familiarise yourself with the developing Junior bowls policy
- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every junior participant regardless of their gender, ability, cultural

Spectators

- Junior participants participate in bowls for their enjoyment and benefit, not yours
- Applaud good performances and efforts from all individuals and teams. Congratulate all junior participants performance, regardless of the game's outcome
- Respect the decision of officials and teach junior participants to do the same
- Never ridicule or scold a participant for making a mistake. Positive comments are motivational
- Condemn the use of violence in any form, whether by spectators, coaches, officials or players
- Show respect for your team's opponents. Without them, there would be no game
- Encourage players to follow the rules and the officials' decisions
- Do not use foul language, sledge or harass players, coaches or officials
- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every junior participants regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion

OTHER MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION

The other matters which need to be considered when planning a junior bowls programme.

These include:

Coaching Standards Coaches play a vital role in developing athletes through sport. They provide athletes with the skills and knowledge needed to develop, improve and succeed. More often than not, coaches have a major influence on participants and their enjoyment of their chosen sport.

All coaches of junior athletes should be accredited through the National Coaching Accreditation Scheme.

Officiating Principles Officials play a critical role in ensuring bowls is played under fair and reasonable conditions. Umpires, measurers and markers provide clarification of the laws and make decisions when called upon to do so. Officials should be accredited by Bowls Australia.

Maintaining a Safe Bowls Environment The following recommendations are examples of methods which may be employed by bowls clubs and members in order to ensure the developing junior bowls policy is effective:

- Provide safeguards that comply with legal requirements dealing with the physical and psychological welfare of junior participants
- Ensure duty of care to participants
- No smoking in the presence of junior participants
- No consumption of alcohol in the presence of junior participants
- No indecent language in the presence of juniors
- No smoking in the presence of junior participants
- No gambling in the presence of junior participants
- Ensure junior participants are appropriately supervised at all times
- Ensure junior participants are treated fairly in all aspects of their participation in bowls
- Ensure the club facilities are available at appropriate times to allow junior participants to practice and compete
- Support separate junior competitions
- Have adequate insurance cover