

LANCASTER BOWLING LEAGUE CODE OF CONDUCT

1. INTRODUCTION

This Code of Conduct should be seen as a guide to best practice to allow enjoyment of the sport by all those involved and should be read in conjunction with the Bye Laws of The British Crown Green Bowling Association. In addition, safeguarding processes and procedures are available on the Bowls Development Alliance website.

2. AIMS & PURPOSE

Crown Green Bowling is a sport suitable for the widest range of individuals – young and old, male, and female, able-bodied and disadvantaged. However, in order to maximise the benefits and opportunities available, the Lancaster Bowling League expects the highest standards of conduct at all times from all those involved – players, spectators and administrators. This document sets out the rights and expectations of the conduct of all parties.

3. PLAYERS AND SPECTATORS

Playing and supporting a team is a fundamental part of the game but fair play and respect for all others is equally fundamental.

At all times, all participants and spectators, where applicable, have the right to:

- Enjoy safe participation in the game
- Be treated as individuals at all times
- Express their views and to be listened to
- Seek support and guidance free from bias and favouritism
- Be treated with respect
- Enjoy an environment free of discrimination and threat of abuse or insult
- Expect officials to act fairly and honestly in accordance with the rules

At all times, all participants and spectators, where applicable, are expected to:

- Adhere to the rules and procedures of their Club, League, Association, BCGBA rules and bye laws
- Act in accordance with the rules of the competition or event
- Accept the decisions of officials without dissent
- Act in a sportsmanlike way at all times
- Treat officials, other competitors and spectators with respect
- Refrain from any behaviour or comments which might reasonably be perceived as harassment, discrimination, bullying, insulting or intimidation
- Refrain from any illegal behaviour
- Refrain from any inappropriate behaviour or behaviour which might bring the sport into disrepute
- Respect the rights and dignity of other participants
- Keep to agreed timings or inform their Captain or the competitions' relevant person if they are going to be late.

- Treat the green and facilities with respect

At all times, all participants and spectators, where applicable, should adhere to the following:

- No drinks allowed on the green (playing area)
- No unauthorised persons allowed on the green
- No smoking or vapes permitted whilst playing on the green
- No telephones or electronic devices permitted whilst playing unless required for medical monitoring.
- No use of illegal substances or drugs

4. OFFICIALS AND ADMINISTRATORS

Officials and administrators are an important part of the game. Their efforts can greatly enhance or sometimes even diminish the enjoyment of the game. It is essential that the authority of their position is recognised and accepted. However, that authority must be used responsibly.

Officials should:

- Perform their duties in a fair and efficient manner free from bias or favouritism
- Know the rules and act as a confident source of advice and information
- Be open and transparent in all their decisions and be prepared to explain their reasons
- Accept fair and constructive criticism
- Share their knowledge with others
- Expect to be treated with respect and not subjected to personal comments or verbal abuse

5. PARENTS

Parents should:

- Recognise the rights of their children to have fun.
- Encourage long term participation.
- Support their child's involvement in practicing and playing.
- Be a good role model at club competitions and events and abide by safeguarding procedures at all times.
- Accept that errors are an important part of learning and not condemn children for making them.

6. USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA

Social media provides a forum for an exchange of views or constructive debate. It can be an enjoyable experience and can make a difference by bringing people together, supporting a mutual interest or cause. However, it is not the appropriate setting for creating disputes, to discredit other users or organisations, or to lodge complaints or grievances. It is certainly not the forum for anonymous slurs and insults.

Lancaster Bowling League expect all users of social media to:

- Remember that all social media programmes are a public forum.
- Be aware that any comment or information added will be visible to other users and assumed to be true and relevant.

- Remember that they are responsible for their contribution and for any possible consequences to their reputation and that of their subject.
- Treat other users with respect; using appropriate and correct language and acting as though they are in the presence of the other person i.e. face to face.

Lancaster Bowling League expect all users of social media to respect other users by:

- Being courteous, honest and fair
- Treating all people how they would like to be treated
- Acting in ways that supports the reputation of the sport
- Maintaining appropriate confidentiality with regards to personal matters
- Avoiding behaviour or comments which might reasonably be perceived as harassment, discrimination, bullying insulting or intimidation
- Being genuine and avoiding hiding behind aliases or nicknames
- Asking themselves questions before posting comments such as: Is it true? Is it necessary? Is it relevant?
- Comply with relevant actions from the Online Safety Act 2023.

7. NON-COMPLIANCE

It is essential that a fair, robust and transparent process is in place to deal with anyone contravening this Code of Conduct to enable appropriate action to be taken where necessary. In such cases, reference should be made to the Lancaster Bowling League Disciplinary policy in the first instance.

Disciplinary proceedings may be instigated by the BCGBA without reference from a third party in the following cases:-

- (i) Where all other avenues have been exhausted, allegations of bringing the game into disrepute may be reported directly to the BCGBA.
- (ii) Cases of misconduct occurring at events which are the direct responsibility of, or are directly organised by, the BCGBA.
- (iii) Breaches of Bye Law 11(c) covering Open Contests.

No other complaint shall be determined by the BCGBA unless the matter has been considered by the relevant Club, League, Association, County Association, or other relevant affiliated body.

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