



Mapleton Bowls Club

Junior Bowls Policy

Issued: 21/06/2022

Last reviewed: 18/08/2022

Responsibility: Management Committee

Relationship to the constitution: Section 48. Conduct of Members

Relationship to other club policies: Disciplinary Policy, Child Safeguarding Policy

Relationship to external policies: Bowls Queensland Member Protection Policy, Bowls Australia Child Safeguarding Policy

Purpose

The purpose of the club junior bowls policy is to support the club in creating a sporting environment where under 18yrs players can be introduced to the sport of lawn bowls and develop their bowls skills. The primary aim of this policy is to ensure that young participants are provided with the appropriate support for a safe, fun, and meaningful bowls experience.

Allegations of prohibited conduct listed at the end of this policy should be dealt with under the Bowls Australia Child Safeguarding Policy and/or, the Bowls Queensland Member Protection policy and/or the clubs disciplinary policy.

It is a requirement that the club adopt, implement, and comply with child safe practices, recruitment, and screening.

Scope

This policy applies to all ordinary members, life members, junior members, temporary members, social members and honorary members, and visitors (including contractors) to the club.

Benefits

By ensuring that the club caters not just for adults but also for young people, the club will be ensuring that it is attractive to a wider audience which in turn results in:

- a greater number of potential volunteers,
- community contacts
- and a stronger and more meaningful community presence.

Further to this a younger membership will

- have positive and beneficial impacts on older club members through direct contact or indirect influences (conversely younger members and visitors will benefit from direct contact with older members)
- Make the club more attractive to sponsors
- Improve its public image
- Improve fitness and wellbeing of its younger members
- Strengthen applications for funding and grants

A younger average age group will ensure the viability of the club going forward.

The Value of Instilling Good Sportsmanship

Good sportsmanship is a value that crosses the boundaries of sports into other areas of life. The concept of 'activity can be enjoyed for its own sake' is one that the club actively promotes. The virtues of good sportsmanship can be described as follows

Respect for:

- rules,
- officials,
- social conventions,
- and your opponent.

Policy

Etiquette

The following etiquettes will be taught and practiced remembering that breaches of etiquette are often unintended and should be managed carefully with younger players.

- Appropriate footwear
- Avoid dumping of bowls
- Avoid resting feet on the bank
- Appropriate bowls attire
- Punctuality to training and competitions
- Players should shake hands at the beginning and end of games
- Avoid straying on to neighbouring rinks
- Address peers using the name
- Avoid leaving the rink for long periods of time
- Share task of 'kicking bowls' after the completion of an end
- Assist in handing the mat and jack
- Avoid distracting behaviours on the rinks
- Acknowledge displays of exceptional skill or and be supportive of less skilled players where appropriate
- Players should not interfere with the head until the result of an end has been agreed
- Mats and jacks should be collected and returned to the distribution point

Coaching

The club will support the development of the club coach. The club recognises that the coach has a major influence on participants enjoyment of the sport. The club has high expectations for safety and behaviour within coaching and therefore it will support the training, continuing professional development and accreditation of its coach(es).

The coach and the club officers will:

- maintain a fun attitude and a sense of humour
- treat all junior members and visitors equitably
- create opportunities for all skills levels
- praise in public and never criticise juniors in front of their peers.

Maintain a Safe Bowls Environment

The club will promote a healthy and family friendly environment to attract both parents and junior participants.

The club will do this by:

Proving safeguards that comply with legal requirements around physical and psychological welfare of young people:

- Ensure a duty of care to junior participants
- No smoking in the presence of junior participants
- No swearing/bad language in the presence of junior participants
- Ensure that junior participants are appropriately always supervised
- Ensure that junior participants are treated fairly in all aspects of their participation
- Support separate junior competition
- Ensure appropriate insurance cover

The club has a legal duty to protect junior members and to ensure that they are not exposed to unacceptable risk while participating in the game. This means that the club has a responsibility to identify and manage safety concerns such as:

- Personal abuse (harassment, discrimination)
- Environmental conditions
- Medical conditions
- Facilities
- Equipment
- Drugs and dealing with emergencies

Particular attention must be made to junior health and safety regarding heat, hydration, and sun protection. The club will strongly encourage junior members to wear long sleeved shirts where shade may be an issue during competition, use sun protection, wear broad brimmed hats throughout competition, and keep hydrated.

Photography and/or Image use

The club will ensure that club personnel are familiar with the risks linked to improper and/or unauthorised image use of junior members and visitors. Appropriate action will be taken to ensure that images containing junior members and visitors are not misused or accessed by unauthorised individuals. Permission must be granted by the parent/guardian prior to taking the picture. All club officers/personnel taking images must be authorised by the club. No image will be posted digitally without written permission from the parent/guardian. (For specific information regarding the photography and/or the use of images of children involved in bowls, see section 2.7 Australia Bowls Child Safeguarding Policy.)

Blue Card

Club members who have direct contact with junior members for training, coaching, travel, event (selection, competition, marker, measurers, umpires), or other purposes must also hold a current Queensland Government blue card.

Child Safeguarding

The safety and wellbeing of bowls junior members and/or participants is a necessary and legal consideration. Indeed, the club considers this to be a priority consideration. Those directly working with juniors will be required to undergo working with children checks which may be unwelcome. For further information specific to child safeguarding see the Bowls Australia Child Safeguarding Policy.

The following behaviours are considered prohibited conduct and are managed outside of this policy.

- Child abuse: includes physical, psychological, emotional ,sexual abuse, neglect, or exposure to family violence.
- Grooming
- Misconduct with a child
- Request or infer that the child keep any communication secret from their parents, guardian, carer, or other relevant person such as a coach, club officer or organisation.
- Supply alcohol or drugs (including tobacco) to a child.
- Supply medicines, except when permitted by law or with the consent of the parent, guardian, or carer and under a valid prescription for that child and the prescribed dosage.

Prohibited conduct also includes where a person has knowledge of a breach of any of the above and does not report the breach or have engaged to breach the above.

Notification of Amendments to this Policy

From time to time this policy will be reviewed and updated. It is your responsibility to ensure that you review the clubs' policies regularly. We will notify you of any significant changes to this policy either by email, the club website and/or our Facebook page.

Disciplinary Action

The club may have to take disciplinary action against members who repeatedly or intentionally fail to follow this policy.