

STOKE FLEMING BOWLING CLUB

Founded 1919 & Affiliated to Bowls England, Bowls Devon and the Mid Devon League

CLUB PROTOCOL / CODE OF CONDUCT



Bowls is a sport that thrives on its traditions of fairness, respect, and camaraderie. It should be played not only in accordance with the Laws of the Sport of Bowls, but also in the spirit of the game.

The responsibility for upholding these values lies with everyone involved - players, social members, the club's officers and supporters. This Code of Conduct reflects our Club's commitment to creating a welcoming, inclusive and enjoyable environment for everyone - on and off the green. These guidelines are designed to support a thriving community where everyone feels valued and inspired.

1. Respectful Behaviour

- Treat everyone with courtesy and respect, regardless of differences in opinion, background or ability.
- Use positive, respectful language, avoid offensive language, taunting, bullying, harassment or discrimination.
- Celebrate and congratulate good play and positive behaviours. Always demonstrate good sportsmanship, win or lose.

2. Celebrate Our Differences

- Embrace the diversity of our club community and encourage participation from individuals of all backgrounds, abilities, genders and ages.
- Be mindful that some disabilities may be hidden - always approach others with kindness and understanding.

3. Maintain a Safe Environment

- Help create a safe and inclusive space for all. Ensure you notify club management of any unsafe conditions. (See the Club's Health and Safety Policy).
- Report safeguarding concerns promptly to our Club Safeguarding Officer.

4. Online Conduct

- Treat others online with the same respect you would in person.
- Do not send messages or make/interact with posts that could be perceived by others as harmful, offensive or threatening via any media, such as Email, Text, WhatsApp, Facebook, etc.
- Do not post content that could bring you, our Club, County Association or the sport into disrepute.
- Respect members' privacy - always seek permission before sharing images or personal information.

5. Our Club, Our Responsibility

- Keep the clubhouse clean, safe and welcoming.
- Report any health and safety concerns to the Club's Health & Safety Officer or a Committee Member.
- Ensure all equipment is put away in the correct place.
- The Club requests that members, players and visitors **do not** smoke or vape in the clubhouse and associated club buildings but should only use the designated outside area(s).

6. Opening and Closing the Club

- Access to the green and clubhouse is by coded entry.
- Please ensure that the clubhouse, toilets and any storage sheds are all locked before leaving the club.
- The kitchen appliances should be switched off except for the fridge(s) / freezer(s).

7. Appropriate Attire

- Dress suitably for club events and activities (see below):

MDL matches – white trousers and new club shirts

Friendlies – white trousers and club shirts (old design or new) except for Dartmouth Ashes, which will be grey trousers and club shirts (old design or new)

Top Club – grey trousers and new club shirts

Club Competitions – grey trousers and club shirts (old or new design)

Opening the Green – grey trousers and club shirts

Club Nights and roll ups – smart casual please

- If unsure about dress code expectations, ask a fellow club member - we're here to support each other.
- There are, on occasion, exceptional circumstances where flexibility in dress code may be required.

8. Volunteer Appreciation

- Our volunteers are the heartbeat of our club and their dedication makes our sport possible. Take time to acknowledge and appreciate their efforts - a simple thank you goes a long way.

9. Breaches of Conduct

The club takes breaches of this Code seriously. If behaviour falls short of these expectations and a complaint is made, the Club's disciplinary process will be initiated.

Acknowledgment by being part of our Club, every member, parent or guardian and supporter agrees to uphold these standards. Together, we commit to creating a positive and supportive environment where everyone can enjoy the sport and thrive.

Review date: March 2027