

BOWLS SCOTLAND CLUB SUPPORT GUIDE

An overview of support and services
available to clubs in Scotland



COLLABORATION. INCLUSIVITY. INTEGRITY. CLARITY.

WELCOME to Bowls Scotland's Club Support Guide.

Bowls Scotland want to develop modern clubs that are welcoming, inclusive, sustainable and at the heart of their local communities.

This includes:

- Working in partnership with clubs to ensure quality, inclusive and positive environments and experiences exist for those taking part as well as the wider community
- Providing focussed support to clubs with the ambition to grow and retain membership
- Providing accessible world leading learning and development opportunities for coaches and volunteers
- Increasing the number of women and girls playing, coaching, and volunteering in Bowls

Whilst adhering to and protecting the strong tradition of our wonderful game, we want to challenge the perceptions and stereotypes through modernising our competitions and practices to welcome more people to play a sport that everyone can take part in.

This guide outlines the services and support available to clubs and is split into the following sections:



Club Development Support and Resources



Support and Resources for Coaches and Volunteers



Development Team Contacts



Club Development Support and Resources

National Development Officer (NDO)



The NDOs work in partnership with clubs to develop quality environments that provide increased opportunities for people to participate at all levels. They offer clubs a variety of solutions to grow their membership, capacity, and activities, based on previous experience along with new opportunities available, through internal and external initiatives.



Try Bowls Activator (TBA)



In 2023 we introduced additional, localised support to clubs through our TBA programme, specifically designed to support the delivery of Try Bowls across Scotland. With support and guidance from Bowls Scotland's NDOs, the TBAs work with Try Bowls Clubs to increase community to club transition, retention and ultimately increase the number of Bowls Scotland members.

Our ambition is to have 24 TBAs by 2027 with scope to increase this if the programme is successful.

SOUTH AYRSHIRE
ROSS BURNS

CLACKMANNANSHIRE
JAMES LINDSAY

DUNDEE CITY
ALEX DONALD

NORTH AYRSHIRE
BOB McCHRISTIE

EAST RENFREWSHIRE
CLARK GOURLAY

EAST AYRSHIRE
JO OLIVER

PERTH & KINROSS
GARY LENNIE

FIFE
IAN SYMONDS

Find out more about TBAs and their contact details, here:
<https://www.bowlsscotland.com/club-development/try-bowls-activators>

Try Bowls Clubs



A Try Bowls Club provides:

- Opportunities for the local community to try bowls – via targeted one off events, open days, or a series of drop in sessions
- Access to equipment and / or coaching
- A fun, safe, warm & welcoming environment for everyone
- Opportunities to 'try before you buy' with discounted or flexible membership options

How do clubs sign up?

To register your club as a Try Bowls Club, click on the purple "Try Bowls Registration" button in the top right corner of our website and enter the clubs details.

Alternatively, clubs can email trybowls@bowlsscotland.com providing their club name and main contact's email and phone number.

For more information visit:

<https://www.bowlsscotland.com/club-development/try-bowls>

BowlsMark



BowlsMark is Bowls Scotland's Club Accreditation Scheme

BowlsMark aims to provide a nationally recognised standard that enables clubs to:

- Develop safe, effective and welcoming environments, based on good practice
- Improve participants experience through well trained coaches and volunteers
- Encourage lifelong participation through sustainable development pathways

How do clubs sign up?

The BowlsMark accreditation process is straightforward with guidance and support resources available from Bowls Scotland's National Development Officers.

To sign up to the BowlsMark journey, clubs can email: bowlsmark@bowlsscotland.com or get in touch with their NDO .

For more information visit:

<https://www.bowlsscotland.com/club-development/bowlsmark>



Disability

Bowls Scotland continues to work in partnership with Scottish Disability Sport (SDS) to support and encourage clubs to work inclusively with players with a disability through appropriate education, development, and local disability sport structures. There are various opportunities for people to access recreational bowling or access the high-performance pathway

Working in partnership with SDS, Bowls Scotland has the following offerings for clubs to help create an inclusive and accessible club environment:

Inclusive Club Resource

An e-Learning Module developed by Scottish Disability Sport, aimed at mainstream clubs and activity providers to further their knowledge of creating an inclusive club culture for participants with disabilities. Bowling clubs can access this for FREE via Bowls Scotland's Brightspace platform.

More information coming soon, keep an eye on our social media channels and website.

Competition Guide

To continue our ongoing commitment to strengthening our club, volunteer, coaching and competition infrastructure, in 2023 we introduced a combined Bowls Scotland and Scottish Disability Sport Calendar of Events.

A wide range of courses and competitions are now available via the Calendar of Events:
<https://www.bowlsscotland.com/competitions/calendar-of-events>

Inclusive Coaching Course

This 3-hour qualification is aimed at allowing coaches to experience and understand coaching all bowlers with a disability.

More information can be found online in the Annual Calendar:
<https://www.bowlsscotland.com/club-development/annual-calendar>

(1 hour pre-course work online + 3 hours practical training)

Partners Pack

Bowls Scotland are proud to be working in collaboration with our partners.

Castle Water, Change Waste Recycling and Gallaghers all offer potential financial savings to our member clubs.

Find out about the benefits our partners offer to bowling clubs and their members in our Partners Pack:

<https://www.bowlsscotland.com/about-us/partners>

SAMH Charter

We are proud to say we have signed up to Scotland's Mental Health Charter for Physical Activity and Sport.

The charter aims to empower physical activity and sport communities to improve equality and reduce discrimination, ensuring mental health and wellbeing is not a barrier to engaging, participating and achieving in physical activity and sport.

Clubs can also sign up to the charter, to help create positive change:

<https://www.samh.org.uk/get-involved/physical-activity-and-sport/our-projects/mental-health-charter/sign-up-to-the-charter-community-level>

Sporting Memories

Local sports facilities across Scotland host sessions for older adults to come together socially, over a cuppa, to reminisce and talk about sport. The aim is to support those in the community who are lonely or isolated and who would benefit from the company of like-minded individuals, or those who simply enjoy talking about sport.

Our ambition is to support 32 bowling clubs to become sporting memories hubs in 32 LA areas by 2027.

For more information visit <https://www.sportingmemories.uk/> or speak to your NDO.

Club Development Workshops



Our NDOs deliver the following workshops throughout the year, either as part of the BowlsMark journey or as standalone workshops for groups of clubs:

Governance



This workshop aims to support clubs to improve governance and encourage communication through providing templates and examples of good practice.

Club Development Planning



This workshop aims to support clubs to set goals and plan for long-term sustainability; understand strengths and weaknesses and the external opportunities and threats; benchmark & understand membership trends; understand gaps in provision and explore opportunities for development. In addition, the workshop supports clubs to consider the culture they are trying to create, how it is delivered and what impact it has on the club.

Basic Financial Planning



Aimed at Treasurers and/or committee members, this workshop examines where the club money comes from, where the club spends it, whilst looking at how the future may impact on both Income & Expenditure and how will the club plan to meet these changes.

School - Club Links



A workshop aimed at assisting clubs to engage with the local authority to establish links with schools with a long term aim to get more younger people engaged in the sport.

The Workshop will explain safeguarding requirements for working with children, how to run safe fun sessions at the club/school and how the Bowls Scotland Coaching courses will help facilitate all of this. Advice on equipment to use and potential funding streams for clubs to access this equipment.

For more information on workshops, contact your NDO or visit our Annual Calendar:
<https://www.bowlsscotland.com/club-development/annual-calendar>

Funding for Clubs



All clubs look for different ways to raise much needed funds to support bowling in their local community. We all must ensure that we make the best use of the valuable resources available and ensure that good practice is built upon and shared for the benefit of the whole bowling community. Bowls Scotland can help clubs identify successful avenues for funding and provide top tips for making successful grant applications.

For more information please visit:

<https://www.bowlsscotland.com/club-development/funding>

Wellbeing & Protection



Bowls Scotland is committed to promoting the wellbeing of players to allow them to enjoy a positive experience and to encourage lifetime participation. We are committed to providing continuous support, training and guidance to our volunteers and staff within this area to ensure everyone in our sport is protected.

It is a requirement for clubs to appoint a Wellbeing & Protection Officer (WPO). Bowls Scotland has a Child and Wellbeing Protection Policy and Information Pack that contains best practice, guidelines, and sample forms for clubs.

For more information contact your WPO or safeguarding@bowlsscotland.com

Marketing Toolkit



A Marketing Toolkit for Clubs has been created including social media tips and example case studies on promoting your club, this is available to all Try Bowls and BowlsMark Clubs.

Speak to your NDO who can send you a digital copy of the toolkit.

Local Bowls Forums



We support clubs to form partnerships with other local clubs and agencies to deliver a wider offering which benefits everyone in the community. The aim of the forums is to share and adapt good practice, share resources and work collectively. Our National Development Officers and District Coordinators work in partnership to support the development of Bowling within each Local Authority area District.

For details of local bowls forums in your area contact your NDO.

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Support and Resources for Coaches and Volunteers

Bowls Scotland have a variety of support available to coaches and volunteers to develop and progress in their roles at a local level but also nationally and internationally.



COACH & VOLUNTEER
MANAGER
ADAM MARTIN

Adam is responsible for providing quality opportunities for coaches, leaders and volunteers to develop and in turn increase the quality, quantity and diversity of the Bowls coaching and volunteering network across Scotland.

To ensure we can support all areas of Scotland, we are always looking for Tutors to join our team. If you are interested in becoming a Tutor, get in touch with Adam.

Coach Education & Development Programme



Bowls Scotland is committed to developing and delivering accessible coaching awards which lead to a knowledgeable, skilled, and highly effective bowls coaching workforce throughout our affiliated clubs.

Introduction to Bowls Coaching Award



Play your part in introducing new players of any age to the brilliant game of bowls. Coaches will leave with the knowledge, skills, and confidence to deliver fun and safe sessions to new bowlers of any age.

(2 hours pre-course work online + 2 hours practical training)

Level 1 Bowls Coaching Award



Develop and improve existing players within your club. Coaches will leave with the knowledge, skills and confidence to deliver fun, safe and progressive sessions to develop club players using skills-based practices to produce a more consistent line and length. Coaches will also design and deliver practices to improve the decision-making abilities of players.

(2 hours pre-course work online + 8 hours practical training)

Level 2 Bowls Coaching Award



This course allows experienced coaches to develop their coaching abilities across a range of areas. Coaches will examine technical and tactical aspects of team and individual play and will learn how to profile bowlers and develop action plans to help improve their player's game. The course will explore – profiling, bowler assessments, nutrition, fitness, tactical approaches, planning linked sessions, coaching teams, and coaching through games.

(36 hours across Zoom, practical training and project work)

Bespoke Coach Education



While we make every effort to ensure every part of Scotland is covered, clubs can contact us to host or request a specific course.

Please use the Note of Interest form which can be found here: <https://bit.ly/3wzTqq5>

Find out more about Coach Education here:

<https://www.bowlsscotland.com/club-development/coaching>

Club, Coach & Volunteer Development Calendar

As part of our ongoing commitment to strengthening our club, volunteer and coaching infrastructure, an Annual Calendar is delivered with a wide range of courses, workshops and forums available to book via our Online Club and Membership System. Providing opportunities for coaches, club staff and volunteers to learn and develop in their roles.

For more information visit:

<https://www.bowlsscotland.com/club-development/annual-calendar>

Player Development Framework

The Player Development Framework is a free coaching resource available to all Bowls Scotland affiliated clubs. This is a digital tool to help provide your players with a process driven approach to developing their skills by testing themselves against benchmarked scores.

For more information, please visit:

<https://www.bowlsscotland.com/club-development/player-development-framework>

National Volunteer Awards

Our National Volunteer Awards recognise the dedication of volunteers in bowling clubs across Scotland. Nominations are open year-round via an online form.

To view previous winners and to nominate, please visit:

<https://www.bowlsscotland.com/club-development/volunteering>

Child Wellbeing & Protection Officer Training (CWPO)

This 3-hour workshop supports clubs to put child protection policies into practice. It is most suitable for those acting as the Club WPO but is also relevant for those responsible for managing or organising the club. Those attending this workshop must have attended the Child Wellbeing and Protection in Sport workshop.

For more information contact:

safeguarding@bowlsscotland.com

Courses are free of charge and are valid for 3 years

Child Wellbeing & Protection in Sport (CWPS)

This 3-hour workshop is suitable for coaches and volunteers who may encounter children. The workshop explores the code of conduct for those in contact with children and provides basic information on recognising child abuse and responding to concerns. It is recommended that all volunteers and coaches attend.

For more information, please visit:

<https://www.bowlsscotland.com/safeguarding>



Development Team Contacts



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For Try Bowls Activator contacts please visit:

<https://www.bowlsscotland.com/club-development/try-bowls-activators>

Find out more about the Bowls Scotland team here:

<https://www.bowlsscotland.com/about-us/meet-the-staff>

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