

Accessibility & Inclusion Statement – 2026 Bowls Scotland National Championships

Index

1. Accessibility at a Glance
2. Introduction
3. Event Details
4. Venue Accessibility
5. Planning Your Journey
6. Facilities & Services
7. Support Available During Your Visit
8. Communication & Information
9. Contact Us

1. Accessibility at a Glance

-  Step-free access throughout the venue and to all bowling greens.
-  Accessible toilets are available.
-  Designated accessible outdoor viewing areas are available.
-  Assistance dogs and pet dogs are welcome. Dogs must be kept on a lead.
-  Free companion tickets are available for people who require support to attend.
-  Accessible parking is available by advance booking, subject to availability.
-  A free wheelchair-accessible Park & Ride shuttle service will operate during the Championships.
-  Support with finding a quieter space is available.
-  First aid, welfare and emergency support will be available during the event.
-  Visitors are encouraged to contact Bowls Scotland before the event to discuss access requirements.

2. Introduction

Bowls Scotland is committed to creating a welcoming, inclusive and accessible event for everyone attending the 2026 National Championships. This statement explains the facilities, services and support available to help visitors plan their time at the Championships.

We welcome people of all backgrounds, identities and abilities. We recognise that not all disabilities are visible and welcome visitors with physical, sensory, learning, neurodivergent and mental health conditions.

3. Event Details

Dates: Saturday 8 August to Saturday 15 August 2026

Venue: National Centre for Bowling, Northfield, Ayr, KA8 9AL

 **Tickets:** Tickets can be purchased in advance through the Bowls Scotland website or on arrival at the venue.

 **Companion tickets:** Free companion tickets are available for people who require support to attend the Championships. Companion tickets are issued at the same value as the purchased ticket. You may be asked to show evidence such as a National Entitlement Card category C or C+, or a Carer Card.

 The provisional schedule of play is available at:
<https://www.bowlsscotland.com/media/5591/schedule-of-play-2026.pdf>

 Further event information is available on the Bowls Scotland website and social media channels.

4. Venue Accessibility

The venue is wheelchair-accessible and includes:

-  Step-free access throughout the venue and to all bowling greens.
-  Accessible toilets.
-  Free period products in all toilet facilities.
-  Designated accessible outdoor viewing areas for wheelchair users and visitors with limited mobility.
-  Assistance dogs and pet dogs are welcome. Dogs must be always kept on a lead.
-  Grandstand seating is accessed by steps and may be difficult for some visitors with limited mobility.
-  Visitors who need a quieter space or a short break from busy environments should speak to event staff or volunteers for assistance.

 The Championships take place in a temporary outdoor event environment. Some flooring and surfaces may be uneven, particularly in hospitality and retail marquees and during wet weather. Accessibility arrangements may be reviewed or adjusted before and during the event to reflect operational requirements, weather conditions and visitor needs.

 Additional seating is available around the venue, and staff and volunteers will be briefed on accessibility and inclusion arrangements.

5. Planning Your Journey

 Due to parking restrictions enforced by South Ayrshire Council during the National Championships, there is no on-site parking or visitor parking on the streets surrounding the venue. These measures help keep everyone safe, minimise disruption for nearby residents and businesses, and maintain access for emergency and essential services.

Accessible Parking & Accessible Shuttle Bus

-  Accessible parking shuttle bus service is available at Ayr United Football Club, Somerset Park, Tryfield Place, Ayr, KA8 9NB.
- Spaces are limited to 30 vehicles per day and must be booked in advance. Spaces will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis.
- To help ensure these limited spaces are available to those who would benefit most, priority access will be given to para bowlers competing on Tuesday 11 August and Saturday 15 August.
- This service is intended for people who are non-ambulant and rely on a wheelchair, mobility equipment or assistance from others; have a balance impairment; or have trouble walking short distances without support.
- To book, please email info@bowlsscotland.com with your name and vehicle registration number and the dates you are attending the National Championships.
- A parking space is not confirmed until you receive a confirmation email from Bowls Scotland.

Free Park & Ride

A free Park & Ride service will operate throughout the Championships, shuttle minibuses running between the Park & Ride site and the venue.

The Park & Ride surface is grass and may be uneven, particularly during wet weather conditions.

 **Location:** Afton Avenue, Prestwick, KA9 2AG

Visitors are encouraged to plan their journey in advance, particularly on peak competition days.

Rail Travel

From Newton-on-Ayr railway station, regular ScotRail services run to several destinations across Ayrshire and the west of Scotland.

Newton-on-Ayr railway station is located approximately 0.8 miles from the venue, roughly a 15- to 20-minute walk, wheel, or cycle.

Key rail information:

For rail journey planning, please visit: <https://www.scotrail.co.uk/plan-your-journey>

Rail Accessibility

- Newton-on-Ayr railway station has partial step-free access.
- The station is unstaffed and does not have lifts.
- Some platform access may require the use of stairs, depending on direction of travel.
- Passenger assistance can be booked through ScotRail Passenger Assist.

For fully accessible rail travel, Ayr railway station is the nearest fully accessible station and offers:

- Full step-free access.
- Staff assistance.
- Accessible ticket office and toilets.
- Lifts between platforms.
- More frequent services and facilities.

Ayr railway station is approximately:

- 1.8 miles from the National Centre for Bowling
- Around 10 minutes by taxi
- Around 35 to 40 minutes by walking, wheeling, or cycling.

Bus Travel

The nearest bus stops to the National Centre for Bowling in Ayr are:

Cambuslea Road: approximately a 2- to 3-minute walk or wheel from the venue.

Northfield Avenue: approximately a 2- to 4-minute walk or wheel from the venue.

For live departures, full timetables and the latest service information, please visit the Stagecoach West Scotland website.

For bus journey planning, please visit: <https://www.stagecoachbus.com/plan-a-journey>

Electric Vehicle Charging

Nearby EV charging points include:

- Osprey Charging Station, Allison Street area.
- ChargePlace Scotland, New Road Car Park, Ayr, KA8 8HE.
- IONITY Ayr Wheatpark, Wheatpark Place.

For live availability and the latest charger information, please check ChargePlace Scotland, Zapmap, Osprey Charging or IONITY before travelling.

 Petrol stations, supermarkets, and additional travel facilities are available across the Ayr and Prestwick area.

6. Facilities & Services

-  Catering facilities offering a variety of food and drink options.
-  Please speak directly to vendors about dietary requirements, allergies, cultural requirements or religious dietary needs.
-  Retail marquee opens daily with clothing, bowls and accessories.
-  Information tent located at the entrance of the main pavilion for assistance and event information.
-  Seating and sheltered areas located across the venue for visitors wishing to rest during the event.

7. Support Available During Your Visit

-  Companion ticket scheme.
-  Accessibility support from staff and volunteers.
-  Support with finding a quieter space.
-  Information tent support.
-  First aid, welfare and emergency support.
-  Staff and volunteers will be easy to identify in purple Bowls Scotland polo shirts.

8. Communication & Information

Visitors can expect clear, easy-to-read signage, tannoy announcements, event updates through Bowls Scotland social media channels, live streaming of selected matches, and alternative formats on request, including large print.

 Event photography and videography may take place throughout the Championships.

9. Contact Us

If you would like to discuss accessibility requirements before attending, please contact Bowls Scotland so we can help you plan your visit.

-  Email: info@bowlsscotland.com
-  Email: stuartchesby@bowlsscotland.com
-  Bowls Scotland Office: 01292 294623
-  Stuart Chesby, Disability Development Officer: 07907 867026

 We welcome feedback to help improve accessibility and inclusion at future events.