

Hatfield Bowls Club Ltd

Club Rules

Name of the Club

- The official name of the club shall be **Hatfield Bowls Club Ltd**.
- The constitution of the Club shall be that of a company limited by shares. Copies of the Memorandum and Articles of Association are available to members.

Objectives of the Club

- To promote, develop, and encourage the sport of bowls in a safe, inclusive, and friendly environment for all members.
- To provide an accessible and supportive space for individuals of all ages and abilities to participate in bowls, from beginners to advanced players.
- To offer social opportunities for non-bowlers through a variety of club events and activities.
- To adhere to and promote the principles of the Bowls England Code of Conduct, ensuring fairness, integrity, and sportsmanship in all aspects of the club's activities.
- To create a welcoming and inclusive community where respect, teamwork, and sportsmanship are valued by all members.

Eligibility for Membership

Membership is open to any individual who supports the aims and objectives of the Club and agrees to abide by the Club Rules.

Categories of Membership

The Club shall offer the following categories of membership:

1. **Life Members**
 - Existing members who are invited by the Board of Directors to become honorary life members, in recognition of exceptional contribution to the Club or the sport.
2. **Full Bowls Members**
 - Individuals aged 18 years and over, who pay the full bowls membership fee and are entitled to participate in all bowls activities (indoor and outdoor).
3. **Outdoor Bowls Members**
 - Individuals aged 18 years and over, who pay the outdoor bowls membership fee and are entitled to participate in outdoor bowls only.
4. **Indoor Bowls Members**
 - Individuals aged 18 years and over, who pay the indoor bowls membership fee and are entitled to participate in indoor bowls only.
5. **Social/Darts Members**
 - Individuals aged 18 years and over, who pay the social membership fee. Social members may access club facilities and participate in social events and darts activities.


- Social members may also participate in casual bowls "roll-up" sessions at a rate of £3 per person, per session.
- 6. **Junior Members**
 - Individuals under the age of 18, with written consent from a parent or guardian. Junior members may participate in age-appropriate bowls activities.
- 7. **Honorary Members**
 - Individuals who have made significant contributions to the Club or the sport, and are granted honorary membership at the discretion of the Board of Directors. (Note: Honorary members may also be recognised as Life Members if invited by the Board.)

Application for Membership

- All applications for membership must be submitted in writing or via an approved form.
- Applications must be accompanied by the relevant membership fee.
- Membership applications are subject to approval by the Board of Directors.

Membership Fees

- Membership fees shall be reviewed annually by the Board of Directors.
- Fees will vary based on membership category (e.g., Full, Outdoor, Indoor, Social, Junior).
- A separate fee of £3 per person per session applies to social members wishing to participate in casual bowls roll-up sessions.

 **Please note:** The Club's insurance policy does **not** cover social members while participating in any bowls activities (including casual roll-ups), and they do so entirely at their own risk.

Club Rules and Code of Conduct

Adherence to Bowls England Code of Conduct:

The club and its members shall adhere to the **Bowls England Code of Conduct**, which promotes:

- **Integrity:** Members must act with honesty, fairness, and respect in all interactions.
- **Respect for Others:** Members shall respect the dignity and rights of others, promoting equality, diversity, and inclusion.
- **Safety and Welfare:** The club is committed to providing a safe environment for all members and will adhere to health and safety guidelines and ensure that any member under 18 or vulnerable adults are safeguarded.
- **Discipline:** Members must adhere to club rules and policies, including those related to misconduct, bullying, and harassment.
- **Fair Play:** All members must ensure the integrity of the sport by playing fairly and respectfully.

Code of Conduct for All Members:

- Members are expected to:
 - Treat all individuals with respect, courtesy, and consideration.
 - Promote good sportsmanship and fair play.

- Not engage in any form of bullying, harassment, or discrimination.
- Follow all club rules, regulations, and policies as well as the Bowls England Code of Conduct.
- All members must adhere to the club's code of conduct, respect the facilities, and contribute to a positive atmosphere.

Misconduct and Disciplinary Action

Types of Misconduct:

- Disruptive behaviour during club events.
- Verbal or physical abuse.
- Breach of the Club Code of Conduct
- Breach of the Bowls England Code of Conduct.

Types of Gross Misconduct:

Gross misconduct includes, but is not limited to:

- Physical violence or threats of violence.
- Theft or fraud.
- Bullying (including cyberbullying), serious verbal abuse, harassment, or discrimination.
- Use of illegal substances.
- Actions that seriously undermine the safety or reputation of the club.

Disciplinary Procedures:

- If necessary, a disciplinary hearing will be held to determine the course of action, which may include a verbal warning, written warning, suspension, or expulsion.
- Gross misconduct, including bullying, may result in immediate expulsion from the club without a hearing.

Commitment to Safeguarding

We are committed to providing a safe, welcoming, and inclusive environment for all its members, especially vulnerable individuals. We take safeguarding seriously and have established a policy to ensure that all members, including children and vulnerable adults, are protected from harm, abuse, and exploitation while participating in bowls activities or attending the club. Our Safeguarding Policy can be found on our website, or you can request to view a hard copy at any time

The club has appointed a Designated Safeguarding Officer (DSO) to oversee safeguarding matters and provide guidance.

6. Social Section

The Social Section of the club aims to offer a range of activities for non-bowlers and bowlers, such as:

- Social gatherings (e.g., quiz nights, dinners, charity events).
- Fundraising events to support the club's activities.
- Opportunities for members to become involved in the community and develop connections with full members.
- Social members may participate in non-bowls related events and activities organised by the club. They may engage in social bowls events, i.e. Bowlers v Social
- All members are expected to adhere to the club's Code of Conduct and contribute to a positive social environment.

10. Visitors and Guests

For all Club activities members may be permitted to introduce visitors to the Club upon payment of the appropriate fee of 50p per visitor, up to 6 times in one membership year. The fee currently in force for visitors wishing to play bowls, both Indoor and Outdoor, for 5 sessions is £2.00 per hour. After all visits are consumed, the visitor will then have to apply for a class of membership.

All visitors and guests shall be signed into the visitors Book by the fee-paying member introducing them. The fee-paying member must ensure their guest/s adhere to the Club Code of Conduct.

9. Miscellaneous Notices

The property and funds of the Club cannot be used for the direct or indirect private benefit of members other than as reasonably allowed by the Rules and all surplus income or profits are reinvested in the Club.

The Club may provide sporting and related social facilities, sporting equipment, coaching courses, insurance cover, medical treatment, away-match expenses, post match refreshments and other ordinary benefits of Community Amateur Sports Clubs as provided for in the Finance Act 2002,

The Club may also in connection with the sports purposes of the Club:

- (a) sell and supply food, drink and related sports clothing equipment;
- (b) employ members (though not for playing) and remunerate them for providing goods and services, on fair terms set by the Club without the person concerned being present;
- (c) pay for reasonable hospitality for visiting teams and guests;
- (d) indemnify the Club and members acting properly in the course of the running of the Club against any liability incurred in the proper running of the Club (but only to the extent of its assets).

The Club will have due regard to the law on disability discrimination and child protection.

The Club Rules shall be reviewed annually and amended if appropriate.