

# BOWLS NEW ZEALAND INCORPORATED

## CODE OF CONDUCT

### 1. Introduction:

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- 1.1. **Purpose:** The purpose of this Code is to ensure that all Participants participating in a National Event are aware of the standard of conduct expected of them and the consequences of breaching that standard.
- 1.2. **Commencement:** This Code supercedes and replaces all previous Bowls NZ Codes of Conduct. This Code came into force on 18 September 2015 and was updated on 1 December 2015.

### 2. Definitions:

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- 2.1. For the purposes of this Code:
- (a) **“Anti-Match Fixing Regulation”** means the Bowls NZ Anti-Match Fixing Regulation, as amended from time to time.
  - (b) **“Bowls NZ Integrity Officer”** means the Bowls NZ Chief Executive, unless the Board decides otherwise.
  - (c) **“Bowls NZ Tournament Director”** means the director of a National Event as appointed by Bowls NZ.
  - (d) **“Conditions of Play”** means the playing conditions, eligibility and other rules of the tournament under which a National Event is to be played, as determined by the Bowls NZ Tournament Director in accordance with the Regulations
  - (e) **“Event Officials”** means any individuals who are appointed by Bowls NZ, a Centre or Club to positions of responsibility at a National Event including, but not limited to, volunteers, employees, officers, umpires and the Tournament Director at which a National Event is being held.
  - (f) **“Judicial Committee”** has the meaning given to it in the Bowls NZ Judicial Regulation.
  - (g) **“Judicial Regulation”** means the Bowls NZ Judicial Regulation as may be amended from time to time.
  - (h) **“Laws of the Sport”** means the laws for playing the Game of Bowls as approved by World Bowls (including all domestic Regulations and the Conditions of Play).
  - (i) **“Match Fixing”** means conduct defined as prohibited conduct in the Anti-Match Fixing Regulation including corruption, betting, misusing inside information and other offence.
  - (j) **“Misconduct”** in this Code means, but is not restricted to, situations during a National Event where a Participant:
    - i. breaches any provision of the Laws of the Sport;

- ii. deliberately loses or attempts to lose a game of bowls or plays unfairly;
  - iii. engages in Match Fixing;
  - iv. alters a bowl after it has been stamped by a registered bowls tester without submitting it for retesting and restamping;
  - v. uses any profane, indecent or improper language;
  - vi. at any time or place engages in offensive or insulting behaviour towards Bowls NZ, any Centre, any Club or any member of any Centre or Club, or any person acting for or on behalf of Bowls NZ, a Centre or a Club;
  - vii. acts in a manner which brought, or could bring, Bowls NZ, any Centre or any Club into disrepute;
  - viii. acts in a manner unbecoming of a Participant, or a member of a Centre or Club or which is prejudicial to the Objects and/or the objects of a Centre and/or Club;
  - ix. aids or abets any of the conduct specified in (i) to (vii) above.
- (k) **“National Event”** means a bowls event held by, or under the auspices of, or administered by, Bowls NZ (and held at a Centre or Club venue as determined by Bowls NZ). National Events may be held on an open, invitation or limited entry basis. A National Event shall be deemed to start at the commencement of the official opening, manager’s meeting or pre-event briefing immediately preceding the event (whichever is the earlier) and shall end at the conclusion of the official closing, prize giving or official Bowls NZ function for the event (whichever is the latter).
- (l) **“Participant”** means any person who participates in a National Event, including but not limited to players, coaches, managers who:
- i. are Members of Bowls NZ; or
  - ii. have acknowledged in writing that they are bound by this Code.

2.2. All other defined terms have the same meaning as defined in the Bowls NZ constitution or the Bowls NZ Regulation Ten – National Events.

### **3. Players Obligations:**

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- 3.1. **Sportsmanship:** Participants must conduct themselves in a proper manner, including maintaining a high standard of personal conduct, so as not to bring themselves, Bowls NZ, a Centre, Club or the game of Bowls into disrepute. Accordingly all Participants will:
- (a) *Best efforts:* always playing to the best of their ability and to perform as part of a team (if relevant).
  - (b) *Respect:* maintaining an attitude of respect and politeness towards their opponents and Event Officials.

- (c) *Integrity*: refraining from any conduct which might reflect on the integrity of a National Event, Bowls NZ, a Centre, Club or the game of Bowls generally.
  - (d) *Discrimination*: refraining from any discriminatory practices (or making any discriminatory statements) based on age, sex, race, religion, ethnic background or special ability/disability bowlers.
  - (e) *Misconduct*: refraining from engaging in Misconduct.
- 3.2. **Laws:** Participants must accept any ruling given by an Event Official during a National Event (subject to any right of appeal given by Regulation 10 - National Events, Conditions of Play and the Laws of the Sport) and strictly comply with:
- (a) the Bowls NZ Regulations (including the Bowls NZ Anti-Doping Regulation, Bowls NZ Anti-Match Fixing Regulation and Bowls NZ Judicial Regulation, as may be amended from time to time); and
  - (b) the Laws of the Sport.
- 3.3. **Media:** Participants are entitled to make public statements or any other communication with the media (including via web-based social media e.g. Facebook, Twitter) in relation to their personal performance at a National Event provided that Participants **do not** make, or endorse, any public statement in the media (including web-based social media) that has (or may have) a negative effect on the interests of any other Participants, Event Official(s), the Bowls NZ Tournament Director, Bowls NZ, a Centre, or a Club involved in a National Event.
- 3.4. **Late Withdrawal:** Once the draw for a National Event has been published players may only withdraw from the National Event by providing the relevant Event Officials with evidence of a bona fide injury, illness, bereavement or other exceptional circumstance.
- 3.5. **Best efforts:** A Participant must always use his/her best efforts to complete a game and must not default unless he/she is reasonably unable to play or complete a game.
- 3.6. **Late Arrival:** A Participant must not arrive late for a game, resulting in the default of the game, without providing Event Officials with evidence of an exceptional circumstance that prevented the Participant's attendance.
- 3.7. **Default:** A Participant must not default or withdraw from a National Event in order to allow the Participant to compete in another National Event (or other event) that is to occur on the same day.
- 3.8. **Playing after withdrawal:** A Participant must not compete in another National Event (or any other event) after declaring themselves unavailable to compete in a National Event, unless otherwise agreed with Bowls NZ.
- 3.9. **Obscenities:** Participants must refrain from directing any words, signs or gestures towards any other Participants, Event Official(s) or the Bowls NZ Tournament Director that are understood in any language to have an obscene or offensive meaning.
- 3.10. **Dress:** Participants must present themselves for play in suitable sports clothing and must comply with any Bowls NZ Regulations and with all reasonable directions of Event Officials regarding dress standards while competing in a National Event.

#### **4. Match Fixing:**

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- 4.1. **Match Fixing Prohibited:** Match Fixing by Participants at, or in connection with, National Events is prohibited as specified in the Anti-Match Fixing Regulation.

## 5. Breach of Code:

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- 5.1. **Breach of Obligations:** If an Event Official, player, coach or other person entitled to do so under the Laws of the Sport, considers that a Participant may have breached any obligation under this Code, the Event Official shall refer the matter to the Bowls NZ Tournament Director who shall:
- (a) where it is alleged to be Match Fixing, refer it to the Bowls NZ Integrity Officer for investigating in accordance with the Anti-Match Fixing Regulation;
  - (b) Where it is for any other matter:
    - i. dismiss the matter without a hearing if the Bowls NZ Tournament Director considers that the matter is frivolous or is brought for vexatious reasons; or
    - ii. refer the matter to the Judicial Committee in accordance with the Judicial Regulations and, subject to clause 5.2 below, suspend the alleged offending player from the National Event with immediate effect pending the determination of the Judicial Committee .
- 5.2. **Right to Natural Justice:** Prior to imposing a suspension, the Bowls NZ Tournament Director must inform the alleged offending Participant of the alleged breach of the Code and give the Participant the opportunity to provide their version of the events giving rise to the alleged breach.