

A collage of nine athletes in various sports uniforms (baseball, soccer, basketball, etc.) in dynamic poses against a blue background. The athletes are arranged in a layered, overlapping fashion. At the bottom left, a male baseball player in a red cap and dark jersey is in a batting stance. Next to him is a female soccer player in a white and green jersey. In the center, a male basketball player in a dark jersey is in a crouching position, holding a basketball. To his right, a female basketball player in a dark jersey is also in a crouching position. Above them, a female basketball player in a purple jersey is holding a basketball. To the left, a female basketball player in a purple jersey is holding a basketball. At the top, a female basketball player in a purple jersey is holding a basketball. A pink ball is visible at the bottom right.





PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

Welcome to Bowls New Zealand's Youth Bowls Programme!

This handbook outlines what Bowls New Zealand can offer schools — a range of engaging, inclusive, and skill-building bowls sessions for students from **Year 4 to Year 13**, including our Rookie Rollers programme tailored specifically for students with disabilities.

Trying bowls for the first time is a fantastic experience — it's a sport that's easy to pick up and fun to play.

Bowls is especially great for young people who may struggle with other sports, offering a welcoming and low-impact environment where everyone can get involved, build confidence, and enjoy being active.

- **Target Age Group:** Year 4 to Year 13
- **Session Format:** Delivered by Bowls New Zealand facilitators during school hours
- **Duration:** 45–60 minutes per session
- **Equipment:** Provided by Bowls New Zealand
- **Location:** School gymnasium, hall, or field

Tamariki Bowls (Year 4–6)

Overview:

Tamariki Bowls is designed to introduce primary school students in Years 4-6 to the fun and fundamentals of lawn bowls in an inclusive, fast-paced, and engaging way.

Delivery Method:

Location: School hall or gymnasium

Format: Indoor Bowls or using soft Rookie Roller kits

Group Size: Up to 30 Tamariki at a time

Session Duration: 45 to 50 minutes

What Students Will Experience:

- A chance to "Give Bowls a Go" through fun, age-appropriate games.
- An introduction to the basics of bowling technique.
- Team-based challenges and friendly competition.

What Schools Need to Provide:

Hall or gym space

Supervision (Bowls New Zealand facilitator leads the session)

Rangatahi Bowls Awareness Sessions (Year 7–13)

Overview:

Rangatahi Bowls sessions aim to expose intermediate and secondary school students to the sport in a way that promotes participation, teamwork, and enjoyment.

Delivery Method

Location: Astroturf, or local bowling club

Format: Outdoor bowls

Group Size: Up to 30 students at a time

Session Duration: Up to 1 hour

What Students Will Experience:

- A practical introduction to lawn bowls.
- Modified games and challenges suited to the age group.
- Opportunity to connect with local clubs and volunteers.
- Emphasis on enjoyment, social play, and skill development.

What Schools Need to Provide:

Sand-Based Astro-turf or ability to walk to Bowling Club.

Inclusive Bowls – Tamariki & Rangatahi with a Disability

Overview:

Bowls New Zealand is committed to inclusive participation. Students of all abilities can take part in bowls through our **All Abilities Rookie Roller Kits**.

Delivery Method:

Location: Indoor (hall / gym) or Outdoor (field / bowling green)

Equipment Provided: Ramps, bowling arms, targets, soft bowls

Group Size: Flexible, up to 30 students

Session Duration: 45 to 60 minutes

What Makes It Inclusive:

- Adapted equipment ensures everyone can participate, regardless of mobility or physical ability.
- Activities are modified to meet individual needs.
- Sessions focus on fun, achievement, and inclusion.
- Equipment can be integrated into general Tamariki and Rangatahi sessions to support mixed-ability groups.

Support:

- **Bowls New Zealand** facilitators trained in inclusive delivery
- Assistance provided to schools on how to support students



Opportunities Beyond Awareness Sessions

Tamariki Bowls (Years 4 to 6):

Schools can book multiple sessions to establish bowls and programmes can be tailored to align with term goals.

Rangatahi Bowls (Years 7 to 13):

- Schools can book in multiple sessions and schools can host sessions at local bowling clubs to provide an authentic experience.
- Set up inter-house competitions to drive interest and school spirit.
- Participate in Bowls Blitz events or regional and national secondary school bowls tournaments.

Support From Bowls New Zealand:

- We assist with connecting schools to clubs
- Provide ongoing coaching support
- Supply promotional material to build student interest

A close-up photograph of a young woman with dark hair, wearing a black baseball cap, glasses, and a black t-shirt. She is holding a blue bowling ball with both hands, positioned near her face as if preparing to bowl. The background is slightly blurred, showing other people in blue shirts.

YOUTH PARTICIPANTS 2024

16,782

(2010: 3,828)





Contact Us

To book sessions or learn more, contact:
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*Let's work together to bring the sport of
bowls to life in your school community –
where every student can play, participate,
and belong.*



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