



Wellesbourne BC general rules, etiquette and other useful information

1. Rules of the game

- 1.1. The Laws of the Sport of Bowls are set by the World Bowls Council and are adopted by Bowls England and its affiliated clubs for all outdoor play in England. They are available on the [World Bowls website](#) and members are encouraged to familiarise themselves, particularly those playing regularly in league matches and competitions.

2. Dress Code

- 2.1. League matches, friendly matches, competitions entered by the Club, the Club Finals Day and other Club days such as the Whitehouse Triples:
 - Club shirts, grey trousers/shorts/skorts and bowling/flat shoes of any colour.
 - The Club and Women's Captains and Competitions Secretary will advise of different requirements/colours for specific matches.
- 2.2. Matches during inclement and cold weather:
 - As above, plus preferably white or grey jackets, fleeces, jumpers and over-trousers. Other light colours are acceptable.
- 2.3. Club Night, roll-ups, practising, coaching, social nights and preliminary rounds of Club competitions:
 - Casual clothing and bowling/flat shoes or club kit if a member prefers.
- 2.4. Guests:
 - Casual clothing. They can wear flat soled trainers. No sandals.
- 2.5. Footwear:
 - This must be changed on Club premises to avoid the transfer of spores and chemicals.

3. Etiquette and conduct on the green during and after matches

- 3.1. Match players should be ready to play 15 minutes before the official start time so the skip can log player attendance and be satisfied of a full team turn out. This applies to home and away matches. If you are running unavoidably late, do try to inform the captain/skip or another player.
- 3.2. Match players shall play with bowls identified with Wellesbourne Bowls Club stickers fixed to both sides of each bowl.
- 3.3. In addition to delivering their bowls, players have specific duties which are set out later.
- 3.4. During a match, players must stand behind and out of the delivering bowlers line of sight and be silent.
- 3.5. When standing at the jack end, players must stand clear of the head and avoid any unnecessary movement when a player is on the mat and ready to bowl. Be aware of not standing in the line of sight of a bowler on an adjacent rink. Keep an eye on where your shadow is falling.
- 3.6. When an end is completed, all the bowls are collected and placed about a metre behind the mat to reduce the likelihood of an accident.
- 3.7. After a home match it is customary but not compulsory for a home player to offer his/her opposite player the first drink. If food is provided after a match, players sit at the table corresponding to their rink number. It is good etiquette for Club players to wait for all visiting players to be seated before eating.

- 3.8. A match fee is payable to the skip at the end of the match (applies to home and away matches).
- 3.9. For home matches, Wellesbourne players are expected to assist with the clearing of tables, washing up and cleaning of the floor.
- 3.10. When a home match or Club competition is in progress, there might be spare rinks which can be used for roll ups and practice. Ideally, these should start after the match has started to avoid interference with the match.

4. Etiquette and conduct on the green and club facilities at all times

- 4.1. Club members are expected to take an interest in the preservation of the green and should not play on it without wearing bowling/flat shoes.
- 4.2. No sitting on the ditch wall or deliberately stepping into the ditch itself. Try to avoid standing right on the edge of the green.
- 4.3. No smoking, vaping or betting on Club premises.
- 4.4. Roll up games should be kept to 2 hours if other members are waiting to play.
- 4.5. If all rinks are in use, ask members waiting to play if they want to join your game.
- 4.6. Only plastic drinking glasses are to be taken outside of the clubhouse but must not be taken onto the green.

5. Role of players (4 on each team)

Lead

- Leads should be adept at jack delivery and drawing close to the jack. Your aim is to draw close to the jack unless the skip says otherwise. You should ignore what the opposition lead is doing and remember that a close second bowl is as important as the shot bowl.
- You place the mat (if the team has it) ensuring that it is straight and centred. Your skip will tell you if any adjustment is necessary.
- You deliver the jack (if the team has it) to the distance determined by the skip. The skip may leave the decision to you. Assist the skip in the centring of the jack. It is up to the skips to decide whether the jack has been delivered to the legal length.
- If the end is lost, you gather the bowls as soon as the score has been agreed by the number threes of both teams – other players will usually assist.

Two

- Your role, under the skip's direction, is to consolidate a good position or salvage a bad one. The number two's skill set includes being able to draw shots as well as varying length and line.
- If playing at home you will be responsible for updating the scoreboard.
- The skip might ask you to hold the scorecard and record the points throughout the game.

Three

- You will be required to play a variety of shots as you will face every conceivable situation.
- You advise the skip when the head changes or when they ask for advice.
- You remove dead bowls from the rink and chalk the skip's touchers.
- You will need to place markers on the bank when a jack or toucher bowl enters the ditch.
- You agree the score of each end with the opposing number 3. You also measure the head when required.
- Inform the skip of the agreed score.

Skip

- It is your job to give direction, motivate and encourage the team and ensure that morale is maintained.
- You read the head and give instructions to the team on how you would like the game to progress e.g. which side to bowl and the weight of shot.

- You stand at the head while team mates play their shots.
- You work with the lead to align the mat and jack. You also determine whether the jack has reached the required distance from the mat.
- You remove dead bowls from the rink and chalk touchers.
- You are responsible for the score card while play is in progress – you can delegate the filling of the score to another player, usually the number 2.
- At the end of the game, you and the opposing skip compare score cards and sign each other's.
- You decide all disputed points and issues with the opposing skip, making sure that any decision reached is in line with the Laws of the Sport of Bowls.

General points to note

- In a triples match, the roles of the number 2 and 3 are combined.
- In a pairs match, the lead does everything that the number 2 and 3 would do.
- To ensure that the game progresses smoothly be ready with your bowl when it is your turn.
- Take your time on the mat, you do not have to vacate it until your bowl comes to rest. The skip may ask you to remain on the mat until the bowl comes to a rest so that they can communicate with you.
- When a bowl is delivered one of your feet must be on or over the mat as the bowl leaves your hand.

6. Opening times of club facilities

- 6.1. The green will generally be available for play from mid-April to the end of September. The Committee will inform members of the dates and has discretion to suspend the use of the green at any time for whatever reason.
- 6.2. During the bowling season the green will normally be available to play on from 11am to dusk. This is to allow for daily maintenance.
- 6.3. The clubhouse will be open during home matches and at other times as required.
- 6.4. During the playing season, Friday evening is Club Night when members can take part in roll ups or coaching/training sessions. The bar is also open.

7. Matches, competitions, fixtures, roll ups and practicing

- 7.1. Members can take part in a variety of matches and internal and external competitions. Details of these are on the 'When, where and who we play' page on the Club website.
- 7.2. The fixtures list (as at March 2025) is included in this handbook. There is also a fixtures calendar on the website which may include additions and changes to the printed version.
- 7.3. The process for putting your name forward for league matches and the selection process is as follows:
 - a) The Club Captain will send an email to playing members at the start of each month detailing matches to be played that month. These include home, away and friendly matches. Members can opt out of receiving these emails on the membership form.
 - b) If you would like to be considered for any of the matches, reply to the Club Captain detailing the ones you wish to play in.
 - c) All playing members will be given the opportunity to play in all positions.
 - d) Once the teams have been selected a confirmation email will be sent out.
- 7.4. The process for entering internal Club competitions is set out in this handbook.
- 7.5. Members can also enter themselves into Warwickshire County and national individual competitions. Entry into County and national pairs and team competitions is handled by the Club Captain and you can express a wish to take part.
- 7.6. Members are encouraged to use the green for practicing. Even when matches are on, there might be free rinks that can be used.

- 7.7. Members may bring a guest or guests, including new players, for roll up games. A guest bowler may only use the green 6 times during the season. The green fee is waived for guests in order to promote membership take up. It is expected that a guest member will become a full member if they wish to use Club facilities after the 6th visit.

8. Supporting the maintenance of the green and club facilities, and helping out with events.

- 8.1. The green requires continual maintenance, particularly during the playing season. Members are requested to offer whatever time and expertise they can spare to support this. There is a small group of volunteers maintaining the green and more support is always welcome. Please speak to the Green Team Liaison Officer.
- 8.2. The areas surrounding the green and the buildings require periodic maintenance which often requires the setting up of a working party. Please volunteer for these when they are called for.
- 8.3. Similarly, we hire out the clubhouse to local organisations for events, parties etc. This is an essential income stream for the Club. Please volunteer to help when a request is made.

9. Health and Safety

- 9.1. The health and safety of all members and guests who use the Club facilities is very important. This requires the Committee, members and visitors to be aware of and to discharge their respective responsibilities.
- 9.2. Similarly, the health and safety of members and contractors working in/on and maintaining Club facilities is very important. The Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 requires the Club to do what is reasonably practicable to ensure people's health and safety. Members and visitors should conduct themselves in such a manner as to ensure that they pose no risk to their own or any other person's health and safety.
- 9.3. Member volunteers using machinery for the maintenance of the facilities and those working in the kitchen and bar shall be given adequate instruction in the safe use of equipment being used.
- 9.4. The hirers of Club facilities, particularly the kitchen, will be provided with the conditions of hire which will include instruction on the use of equipment.
- 9.5. To address these requirements, the Club has a Health and Safety Statement.

10. Safeguarding and welfare of members and visitors

- 10.1. The Club recognises its responsibilities for the safeguarding of all children and young people under the age 18 and vulnerable adults over the age of 18 who may be unable to take care of himself or herself, or unable to protect himself or herself against significant harm or exploitation, regardless of gender, ethnicity or ability.
- 10.2. To support this responsibility, the Club has produced a Safeguarding Statement, a copy of which will be given to every member. This Statement sets out the details of the Club's Safeguarding Officers who are registered with Bowls England.

11. Staying informed of Club news, fixtures, match reports and activities

- 11.1. For 2025 and onwards, the main channels for this will be the Club website and Facebook page, and occasional newsletters. Email will be used for time critical communications. Email will also be the primary channel used by the Club Captain for team selection purposes.
- 11.2. The fixtures list (as at March 2025) is included in this handbook. There is also a fixtures calendar on the website which may include additions and changes to the printed version.