

Bermuda Bowls Association

Constitution Version 1.0

4 February 2025

Purpose and Objectives

The Bermuda Bowls Association (the “Association”) shall be the National Sports Governing Body for the sport of Bowls in Bermuda.

The Association is not-for-profit and its objectives are to:

- a) Promote the sport of Bowls in Bermuda;
- b) Manage the rules and regulations of Bowls in Bermuda, including anti-doping, child protection and equality;
- c) Prepare and implement a vision and strategic plan for Bowls in Bermuda and determine how it will be implemented locally and internationally;
- d) Implement a governance framework for Bowls in Bermuda;
- e) Encourage and grow Bowls participation in Bermuda;
- f) Develop coaches, athletes, officials and participants;
- g) Organise and host competitions.

Organizational History

The Bermuda Bowls Association was founded informally in March 2024 following identification of the National Stadium hockey pitch as a suitable venue to play Bowls in Bermuda.

An Annual General Meeting of the Association took place on Tuesday 4 February 2025 at which this Constitution was approved.

The Association is unincorporated.

Background

Bowls is a sport in which players roll heavy balls (called bowls) along a (generally flat) surface to gain as many shots as possible by getting their bowls nearer to a smaller ball (known as a jack) than their opponent(s). The bowls are biased so that they follow a curved path when rolled. The sport can be played indoors or outdoors. Indoor surfaces are often carpet and outdoor surfaces are typically grass or synthetic equivalent. For avoidance of doubt, bowling involving unbiased bowls or pins e.g. 10-pin bowling, or any throwing of balls e.g. pétanque, are **not** forms of Bowls as here defined.

Bowls is a sport that requires physical and mental skill, involves formal rules where an individual or team plays against another for enjoyment, for competition or both. It has the following additional characteristics:

- a) It requires tactics and strategies;

- b) It is competitive involving two or more participants engaging for the purpose of competitively evaluating their personal performance;
- c) It requires trained coaching personnel with specific skills related to the activity.

Affiliation to World Bowls

The Association shall affiliate to World Bowls, the recognised International Federation for the Sport of Bowls (the “Sport”), which is also the guardian of the laws of the Sport.

Application of the Rules of the Sport in Bermuda

The Association shall adopt the laws of the Sport as maintained by World Bowls. To the extent that local facilities do not permit play to be fully compliant with those laws (for example due to the absence of ditches or banks), the Association shall be entitled to publish Bylaws to promote fair play of the Sport in Bermuda.

Membership and Fees

Membership of the Association is open to all and no application for membership will be refused other than on reasonable grounds that would be prejudicial to the Objectives of the Association as set out above.

There will be no discrimination on grounds of any protected characteristic set forth in the Bermuda Human Rights Act.

The Membership Year runs from 1 April to 31 March.

New membership applications may be made at any time.

Membership of the Association shall consist of the following Membership Classes:

- Adult Full Membership
- Junior Full Membership
- Adult Temporary Membership
- Junior Temporary Membership

All Members shall be deemed to accept the terms of this Constitution and any Bylaws from time to time adopted by the Association, including the requirement to conduct themselves respectfully.

Only Members in the Adult Full Membership category shall be Voting Members.

Events organised by the Association shall be available to Association Members only.

No Member shall be entitled to play in any Bowls event organised by the Association should they be in arrears to the Association.

The relevant membership fees for each Membership Class are fixed at each Annual General Meeting.

Annual membership fees for existing Members shall fall due one month prior to the commencement of the Membership Year. If the annual subscription is not paid by the first day of the Membership Year, then membership will be automatically and immediately terminated at that time. Membership shall be reinstated following payment in full of any and all amounts due to the Association.

Applications for new Adult or Junior Full Membership received by the Association during a Membership Year shall, for that Membership Year only, attract a pro-rated annual membership fee for the relevant class of membership from the start of the calendar month in which the application for membership is received. Membership fees for new Full membership shall fall due on the date of membership approval by the Association. New Full membership becomes effective on the later of: a) the date of receipt by the Association of the pro-rated annual membership fee, and b) the date of membership approval by the Association. The conditions of the preceding paragraph apply in respect of any subsequent Membership Year.

Temporary Membership is only intended for situations in which Full Membership is unsuitable. Temporary Membership shall be available for the period of 1 month. New Temporary Membership becomes effective on the later of: a) the date of receipt by the Association of the membership fee, and b) the date of membership approval by the Association. No more than 3 periods of Temporary Membership are permitted within a single Membership Year for a single individual.

Management Committee

There shall be a Management Committee responsible for the overall management of the Association. The Management Committee shall have the power to make Bylaws and shall consist of the following Officers:

1. President (Chair)
2. Secretary
3. Treasurer
4. Wellbeing Protection Officer

The members of the Management Committee shall be drawn from the membership and shall be elected by ballot at the AGM. Those elected shall be members of the Management Committee from the conclusion of that AGM until the conclusion of the following AGM.

Nomination of candidates for election to the Management Committee shall:

- have the consent of the nominee;
- be in writing;
- be seconded by a different Voting Member from the proposer, each different from the nominee; and
- be received by the Secretary before the AGM.

In the event of there being no nomination for a post then nominations may be accepted at the Annual General Meeting (proposed and seconded by different Voting Members of the Association at the Annual General Meeting).

In the event that no person is voted on to a Management Committee post or in the event of resignation or retiral from a position, the remaining Management Committee shall assume responsibility for the duties of the vacant post until such time as the post is filled. Elections to fill such a vacant post should take place at a Special General Meeting and shall be subject to the same rules, where applicable, as the Annual General Meeting.

Individuals may occupy Management Committee positions for multiple years, without limit, if duly elected at successive AGMs.

The Management Committee shall meet at least twice per Membership Year.

At least 50% of Officers shall be present (online or in person) for the Management Committee to be quorate.

The Management Committee shall have authority to set fees for Events organized by the Association. Membership Fees shall be recommended by the Management Committee to the AGM for approval.

Management Committee shall seek to reach consensus on the matters it considers. When opinion is divided, matters shall be decided on the basis of majority vote. In the event of a tie, the Chair shall have the casting vote.

Management Committee meetings shall be minuted.

General Meetings

An Annual General Meeting shall be held once per Membership Year and attendance shall be open to all Members. However, only Voting Members shall be entitled to vote on Association business:

- The presentation of the Annual Report and Accounts for the past Financial Year;
- The election of the Management Committee;
- Approval of the minutes of the last Annual General Meeting and any other General Meetings held during that year;
- Approval of any changes to the Constitution;
- Dealing with any other relevant business.

Notice of an Annual General Meeting, including the agenda, must be circulated to all Members at least seven calendar days in advance.

The quorum for any Annual General Meeting shall be at least the higher of: a) 3 Voting Members, or b) 25% of the Voting Membership.

The President or appointed Chair, or in their absence a Member selected by the meeting, shall chair the Meeting.

Voting on any matters other than a change to the Constitution shall be by simple majority of Members present (in person or online) and voting.

Each Voting Member shall have one vote. In the event of a tied vote, the Chair may exercise a casting vote.

The Secretary shall be responsible for ensuring that all General Meetings are minuted, including all proceedings and resolutions.

A Special General Meeting may be called by the Management Committee or by two thirds of the Voting Members. Any such request must be submitted to the Secretary by written motion, setting out the rationale and basis for the Special General Meeting being called.

Rules for Special General Meetings shall, where applicable, be in accordance with those for Annual General Meetings above.

Finance

The Financial Year for the Association shall be the same as the Membership Year.

All monies shall be lodged in a Bermuda bank account in the name of the Association.

The income and property of the Association, however derived, shall be applied solely towards the objectives of the Association as set out in this Constitution. No portion of the income and property of the Association shall be paid or transferred directly or indirectly by way of dividend, distribution, bonus, honoraria or otherwise howsoever to any or all Members.

The Association shall have the power to raise money or acquire assets by means of membership fees as approved at the Annual General Meeting, and from sponsorship.

The Treasurer shall be responsible for securing the preparation of the Annual Accounts of the Association and laying these before the Annual General Meeting for approval.

Any expenditure by the Association shall be with the written approval of the Treasurer.

Suspensions and Termination of Membership

If the conduct of any Member brings the Association into disrepute or contravenes the objectives of the Association as set out in this constitution, The Management Committee has the right to terminate or suspend any membership provided that the Member concerned shall have the right to be heard by the full Management Committee before a final decision is made.

Any Member who fails to pay their annual subscription by the date required (see Membership above) shall forfeit their membership rights and shall not be entitled to take part in any event under the control of the Association until such fees are paid.

Any Member under suspension shall be barred from taking part in any match or event under the control of the Association.

Complaints

All complaints must be made in writing to the Secretary and signed by the persons complaining, and none shall be attended to unless this rule is complied with. The Secretary shall submit all such complaints to the Management Committee, who shall take the matter into their consideration and have the authority to take action as they consider necessary.

Closure of the Association

A motion to close the Association requires the approval of two thirds of Voting Members present (in person or online) and voting at a General Meeting.

Closure accounts shall be drawn up and presented to a General Meeting for approval.

If upon closure, there remains after the satisfaction of all liabilities any property whatsoever, this shall be transferred to one or more active sports associations in Bermuda. The receiving association or associations shall be determined by the members of the Association by resolution passed at a General Meeting.

Changes to this Constitution

This Constitution shall only be altered by consent of at least two thirds of Voting Members present (in person or online) at a General Meeting.

Declaration

This Constitution has been approved in accordance with its requirements and represents a true and up to date version of the Constitution of the Bermuda Bowls Association.

President: DAVID LEACH

Date: 4 February 2025

Secretary: JUDE BARTON

Date: 4 February 2025