



Welsh Short Mat Bowls Association

CODE OF CONDUCT

Last amended October 2025

These standards have been adopted by the WSMBA to protect everyone in the sport and to ensure that everyone can enjoy the sport of Short Mat Bowls in a safe and inclusive environment. These standards apply to everyone involved in the sport – officers, officials, coaches, volunteers, players and spectators. The standards promote RESPECT throughout the game.

- Respect all participants and decisions.
- Encourage everyone.
- Sportsmanship.
- Play for enjoyment.
- Educate and be knowledgeable.
- Conduct yourself courteously at all times.
- Treat everyone fairly.

Failure to adhere to these standards may mean that an official is removed from their role, a player is prevented from taking further part in the sport or a supporter/spectators is required to leave the premises.

What does RESPECTful behaviour look like?

DO	DON'T
Respect all players, coaches, officials, volunteers and spectators	Participate under the influence of drugs or alcohol
Participate in the right spirit – the sport should be fun at all levels	Use foul, abusive, threatening or discriminatory language or gestures
Take reasonable measures to keep yourself and others safe	Show dissent towards officials and their decisions
Promote the sport in the best possible light through your actions and behaviour	Discriminate against others
Abide by the rules/regulations of the sport and its National Governing Body	Publicly criticise or engage in demeaning descriptions of others (including online)
Abide by the policies of the sport and its national Governing Body	Engage in any behaviours that constitutes abuse as identified in the Safeguarding policy
Speak to someone if you are concerned that any of this code is being broken	Keep your concerns about abuse or poor practice to yourself.

Code of Conduct for NGB, Club and County Officials and volunteers

This group has an essential role to play in upholding and implementing the code of conduct in bowls. All should be advocates of equality, fair play and safety. They should:

- Operate within the letter and spirit of the code
- Promote the etiquette of the sport of bowls
- Treat everyone with dignity and respect
- Listen carefully to all stakeholders and respect their views
- Refrain from any bowls related gambling/betting
- Promote the bowls Safeguarding and Equality Policies to foster a safe and inclusive culture.

Code of Conduct for players

All players have a responsibility to maintain the highest standards in their enjoyment of the sport of bowls. They should:

- Attend and be punctual for games, trials and practise sessions
 - Failure to attend trials, when invited, may mean a player is deemed ineligible for selection
 - Failure to attend scheduled practice sessions may mean a player is deemed ineligible to take part in competitions
- Accept success and failure
- Recognise good play by teammates and opponents
- Set a positive example for young participants and spectators
- Abide by the accepted etiquette of the sport
- Refrain from any bowls related gambling/betting

Code of Conduct for international competitions

From the moment you are selected or win your place you are considered a Welsh International. You are expected to conduct yourself in a manner that befits this honour. Make sure you are in the best position to represent your country to the fullness of your ability by:

- Setting and maintaining the highest standard of behaviour – both on and off the mat. You represent the pinnacle of the sport and, as such, set the examples for other to aspire to.
- Practicing and maintaining a high standard of play ahead of each competition.
- Ensuring that you eat and drink appropriately before and during a competition.
- Refraining from alcohol consumption during playing hours. Consuming alcohol during the playing day - including before, between, or after matches or practice sessions - is strictly prohibited to ensure optimal performance and uphold the integrity of the team. This applies until all play involving Wales players has been completed.

Code of conduct for young players (Under 18s)

Young players are the future of the sport. Everyone has the responsibility to make it fun. They should:

- Always play fairly and apply bowls' standards both on and off the mat
- Respect all advice that you are given
- Treat others as you would wish to be treated
- Always report anything which worries you to a responsible adult e.g. a Club Safeguarding Officer.
- Speak out if you consider that you or others are being poorly treated

Code of Conduct for spectators, parents and carers

The sport of bowls welcomes spectators and values the part parents and carers play in supporting and encouraging the participation of children and adults at risk. They should:

- Remember that bowls is FUN
- Offer encouragement at all times
- Applaud effort and good play as well as success
- Appreciate good play by the opposition
- Encourage all players to respect the opposition, coaches, umpires and other bowls' officials
- Respect the decisions of officials
- Show an appreciation of all volunteers and their efforts
- Moderate their alcohol consumption to avoid any form of inappropriate behaviour.

Acting in breach of this code

Anyone found to be acting in breach of this code of conduct **may** be subject to sanctions under the WSMBA disciplinary policy. The sanction will reflect the severity and context of the incident, and may include:

- A verbal warning
- A written warning
- Ineligibility for selection (for a period determined by the Executive)
- Temporary suspension from matches or events (for a period determined by the Executive). This may include national and/or international events.
- Permanent exclusion from the WSMBA