

BISHOPTHORPE BOWLING CLUB CONSTITUTION

1. **The Club** shall be known as Bishopthorpe Bowling Club.
2. **The object of the Club** is to foster the game of bowls and to afford Members the facilities for meeting and playing the game in a friendly competitive spirit.
3. Games shall be played under the **rules** of Bowls England and the Club run under the **regulations** of Bowls England.
4. **The annual subscription** for all Members shall be fixed at an Annual General Meeting. A reduced subscription may be agreed for Junior Members under 18 years of age. Subscriptions shall be due on the 1st day of April and paid to the Treasurer no later than the first day of the season.
5. **Membership of the Club** shall be open to all persons irrespective of ethnicity, nationality, sexual orientation, religion or beliefs, age, gender or disability, except as a necessary consequence of the requirements of bowling as a particular sport.

5.1 **Application for membership** shall be on the form provided by the Club and shall be signed by the applicant. If accepted the applicant shall be bound by the Rules of the Club and shall be a Member of the Club from the date of payment of the first annual subscription. The Committee at its discretion may reduce the first annual subscription commensurate with the remaining playing season. Only Members paying the adult membership subscription shall be entitled to vote at a General Meeting.

5.2 **The Club may refuse membership** only for good and sufficient cause such as conduct or character likely to bring the Club or sport into disrepute. Appeal against such a decision may be made to the Committee and decided by a simple majority vote. Expulsion of an existing member for such reasons must be dealt with using the Disciplinary Procedure.

5.3 Code of Conduct:

All members when joining the club will be required to agree to and sign a code of conduct form based on R.E.S.P.E.C.T. A copy of this is displayed on the noticeboard and can also be downloaded from the Governance page of the Club's website.

5.4 Disciplinary and Grievance:

Bishopthorpe Bowling Club will adopt and adhere to the Bowls England Discipline Regulations 9 and 9A which can be downloaded from the Governance page of the Club's website.

5.5 Safeguarding:

Bishopthorpe Bowling Club shall adhere to the Safeguarding Policy of Bowls England and will ensure that all the contents are communicated to members by the Safeguarding Officer. The Safeguarding Policy can be downloaded from the Governance page of the Club's website.

Details of the Safeguarding Officer can be found on the club noticeboard and the Club's website.

6. **The Bowling Green** shall be open for play from mid-April to mid-September subject to maintenance and repair of one or more rinks, which shall be under the control of the Committee. The playing season may be altered at the discretion of the Committee, provided that maintenance of the green shall have priority at all times.
7. **An Annual General Meeting** of the Club shall be held on a day in the months of October or November, to be determined by the Committee, for the election of Members to serve on the Committee and of Officers of the Club and for such other business as may be determined in accordance with the Rules. At least 21 days notice of the Annual General Meeting shall be posted on the Club Notice Board and circulated to all members.
8. **A Special General Meeting** may be summoned at any time by the Committee and shall be summoned immediately upon at least 10 Club Members delivering to the Secretary a written request. Such a request shall state the nature of the business to be discussed at the Special General Meeting. At least 21 days notice of a Special General Meeting shall be posted on the Club Notice Board and circulated to all members, but this period may be reduced if the urgency of the business so requires.
9. **The Committee** shall exercise the powers given to it under these rules and such other powers of management as the affairs of the Club may from time to time require. The Committee shall have control of all aspects of play and the maintenance of the green and premises. The Committee shall consist of:
 - the Honorary President, who shall be elected for life or until he/she resigns or can no longer discharge his/her responsibilities,
 - the Officers of the Club, namely the Chair, Secretary and Treasurer, and
 - at least four, but no more than seven, other Members,

all of whom shall be elected in accordance with these Rules.

Five Committee Members shall be a quorum.

The Committee may from time to time appoint Committee Members and/or other Club Members to undertake specific roles and/or to serve on sub-committees, until the next Annual General Meeting.

Non-Committee Appointments

- A Safeguarding Officer shall be appointed in accordance with the Safeguarding Policy, ideally not a Committee Member.
- An Examiner shall be appointed annually to review the accounting records and report thereon to the Annual General Meeting.

10. **All Officers and other Committee Members**, except the Honorary President, shall retire after one term in office but shall be eligible for re-election. A casual vacancy occurring during the year of office of any of the Officers may be filled by the Committee appointing one of their own number or some other Member of the Club to be the appropriate Officer until the next Annual General Meeting. A casual vacancy for a Committee Member occurring during the year may be filled by the Committee appointing another Member of the Club to serve until the next Annual General Meeting. Nominations for the Officers and other Committee Members for election at the Annual General Meeting shall be in writing and the Committee shall invite nominations at least twenty-one days before the appointed date of the Annual General Meeting. Candidates for election to the Committee and as Officers of the Club must be proposed and seconded by Members of the Club. If no nominations, or an insufficient number of nominations, of candidates eligible for election be received, then candidates to fill remaining vacancies may be proposed and seconded at the Annual General Meeting without notice. Officers and other Committee Members shall be elected unopposed or, if necessary, by secret ballot at the Annual General Meeting.
11. **Meetings of the Committee** shall be decided by the Committee and called by the Secretary as required. Additional meetings may be requested by the Chair. In the absence of the Chair the chair is to be taken by a member of the Committee nominated by those members present. Every member of the Committee shall have one vote on every question and, in the case of a tied vote, the Chairman or other member presiding at the meeting, shall have a second or casting vote. The Secretary shall keep minutes of the proceedings of each meeting, which shall be posted on the Club notice board, circulated to all Club Members, and confirmed at the next meeting and signed by the Chair.
12. Any Member shall be entitled to **introduce guests to the Club**. The Member introducing the guest shall be responsible for the guest observing the Club Rules, for collecting the visiting guest's fee and for issuing a signed receipt from the book of receipts, which shall be available at the Club. The visiting guest fee shall be fixed by the Committee. The number of games played by a visiting guest shall generally be limited to five sessions each season and, if the visitor wishes to continue playing with the Club, he or she shall be requested to complete and submit to the Secretary an application form for full membership. In exceptional circumstances, to be determined by the Committee, a visitor may be allowed to play more than five sessions each season.
13. The Committee may appoint as an **Honorary Member of the Club** any former Member who has given outstanding service to the Club during their playing years. Any member of the Committee may propose candidates for Honorary membership and the Committee must vote in favour of each candidate for successful appointment.

An Honorary Member will have access to the Bowling Green and the Club Pavilion at any time during the playing season and may join in any social bowling session or social bowling event with the permission of the Committee

Member in charge of play for the day. No membership subscription will be payable.

An Honorary Member may not play in any league matches or club competitions or represent the Club in any matter whatsoever whether this be on the Club premises or anywhere outside the Club premises. An Honorary Member may not vote at an Annual General Meeting or at any other meeting of Club members.

14. Members who are no longer able to play may become **Social Members** paying a reduced membership subscription to be set by the Committee. A Social Member will have access to the Club Pavilion at any time during the playing season and may join in any social activities but may not represent the Club in any matter whatsoever whether this be on the Club premises or anywhere outside the Club premises. A Social Member may not vote at an Annual General Meeting or at any other meeting of Club Members.
15. **The Income and Property of the Club** shall be applied solely towards the promotion of the objects of the Club as set forth in this Constitution and no portion thereof shall be paid or transferred directly or indirectly, by way of dividend, bonus or otherwise, to the Members of the Club.
16. In the event of the **dissolution of the Club**, any assets remaining after the satisfaction of all debts and liabilities shall not be paid to or distributed among the members of the Club, but shall be given or transferred to one or more of the following:
 - A recognised charitable organisation(s) having objects similar to those of the Club
 - Another Club with similar sports purposes which is a registered Community Amateur Sports Club (CASC) and/or
 - The Club's National governing body for use by them for related community sports.
17. **The Rules of the Club** may from time to time be revoked, altered or added to by a resolution passed at a General Meeting of members of the Club. At least 28 days notice of any proposal to amend these Rules must be given to the Secretary who must circulate a copy of the revised Rules to all members at least 14 days prior to the General Meeting.
18. **A copy of these Rules** shall be permanently posted at the Club and available to download from the Club's website and this shall be deemed to be sufficient notice to all Members. These Rules shall be binding on all members of the Club.
19. Neither the Club nor any Officer thereof shall be liable to any member or guest for any **loss or damage to property** occurring from whatever cause in or about the Club premises, nor for any injury sustained by any member or guest whilst on or entering or leaving the Club premises and a notice to this

effect shall be at all times displayed in a prominent position on the Club premises.

20. Trustees

- 20.1 There shall be at least two Trustees of the Club who shall be appointed from time to time as necessary by the Committee of the Club from among the Full or Honorary Members who are willing to be so appointed.
- 20.2 A Trustee shall hold office until they resign by notice in writing given to the Club Secretary or until a resolution removing them from office be passed at a meeting of the Committee by a majority comprising two-thirds of the members present and entitled to vote.
- 20.3 All the property of the Club, including land and investments, shall be held by the Trustees for the time being, in their own names so far as it is necessary and practicable, on trust for the use and benefit of the Club. In the event of the death, resignation, or removal from office of a Trustee, the Committee shall nominate a new Trustee in their place and shall as soon as possible thereafter take all lawful and practicable steps to procure the vesting of all Club property into the names of the Trustees as constituted after such nomination. For the purpose of giving effect to any such nomination, the Club Secretary for the time being is hereby nominated as the person to appoint new Trustees of the Club within the meaning of Section 36 of the Trustee Act 1925 and they shall by Deed duly appoint the person or persons so nominated by the Committee.
- 20.4 The Trustees shall in all respects act, in regard to any property of the Club held by them, in accordance with the directions of the Committee and shall have power to sell, lease, mortgage or pledge any Club property so held for the purpose of raising or borrowing money for the benefit of the Club in compliance with the Committee's directions (which shall be duly recorded in the Minutes of the proceedings of the Committee) but no purchaser, lessee or mortgagee shall be concerned to enquire whether any such direction has been given.
- 20.5 The Trustees shall be effectually indemnified by the members of the Club out of the assets of the Club from and against any liability, costs, expenses and payments whatsoever which may be properly incurred or made by them in the exercise of their duties or in relation to any property of the Club vested in them, or in relation to any legal proceedings, or which otherwise relate directly or indirectly to the performance of the functions of a Trustee of the Club.
- 20.6 The Committee shall endeavour to ensure that the following clause is incorporated in every contract, lease, licence or other agreement entered into by the Committee and/or Trustees of the Club, as appropriate.

“The liability of the Trustees for the performance of any contractual or other obligation undertaken by them on behalf of the Club shall be limited to the assets of the Club from time to time.”

Last updated 7 August 2025 following virtual EGM.