



# Irish Bowling Association Code of Conduct

The Irish Bowling Association (IWBA) is fully committed to safeguarding and promoting the well-being of all its members. The IWBA believes that it is important that everyone associated with the IWBA (including officials, club members, bowlers, parents and young people) should, at all times, show respect and understanding for the safety and welfare of others. Therefore, everyone is encouraged to be open at all times and to share any concerns or complaints that they may have about any aspect of the IWBA with the Designated Safeguarding Officer.

## **GUIDANCE FOR COACHES/OFFICIALS**

### **Everyone associated with the IWBA is expected to:**

- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of all participants and refrain from any form of discrimination against others (including age, gender, ability, race, cultural background or religious beliefs or sexual identity).
- Respect the rules and decisions of officials.
- Avoid bullying, the use of bad language or making offensive remarks (including inappropriate use/abuse of social media or networking websites and mobile technology), making racial/sectarian references, and general inappropriate behaviour.
- Refrain from taking illegal drugs or being involved with the use of illegal substances/activities.
- Not be involved in inappropriate behaviour.
- Never condone rule violations, cheating or any of the above behaviour from others associated with the IWBA.
- Not let any allegations of abuse of any kind to go unchallenged or unrecorded if appropriate.
- Be fully aware of child protection issues and protect themselves from inappropriate situations or any false accusation (as outlined in IWBA Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults Policy).
- Report inappropriate behaviour or risky situations for youth members and ensure parents/guardians are informed.
- Report accidents or incidents of alleged abuse or poor practice to the designated person.
- Treat everyone fairly and ensure they feel valued and avoid favouritism.
- Maintain confidentiality about sensitive information.
- Always respect opponents and be gracious in defeat.
- Show appropriate loyalty, be positive, approachable and offer praise to promote the objectives of the Association.
- Ensure they maintain healthy, positive and professional relationships with all players. Coaches and others in positions of authority and trust in relation to players aged 16 and 17 years must not engage in sexual relationships with them while that unequal power relationship exists.
- Coaches/officials should only use electronic<sup>1</sup> based communications to share bowling related information with young members and avoid personal, non-sport messages/photographs/videos or banter.
- Make the sport **fun** for members.

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<sup>1</sup>Electronic communication may include texting, facebook, twitter etc.

**Everyone associated with the IWBA has a right to:**

- Enjoy bowling in a safe, happy and protective environment.
- Be listened to, respected and treated fairly at all times.
- Participate on an equal basis, appropriate to their ability.
- Privacy.
- Be protected from any form of abuse from others and support in the reporting of suspected abuse.
- Be protected from slanderous, derogatory or inflammatory remarks, including those made on Social Networking Sites.
- Access to professional support services.
- Not to be left vulnerable when working with young people.
- Access to ongoing training and information on all aspects of leading/managing activities for youths, particularly on Safeguarding.
- Fair and equitable treatment by the IWBA.

Any misdemeanours and general misbehaviour will be dealt with immediately and reported verbally to the designated person. Persistent breach of the code will result in dismissal from the club/association dependent on level of participation.

Dismissals can be appealed by the coach/official with final decisions taken by the club committee or referred to the IWBA.

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Signature of coach/volunteer

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Printed name of coach/volunteer

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Date

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