



TOORAK BURNSIDE BOWLING CLUB INC

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YOUTH POLICY

1. PURPOSE AND CONTEXT

Toorak Burnside Bowling Club ('TBBC', 'the Club') is committed to providing a safe and respectful environment and an enjoyable place for children and young people to play the sport of lawn bowls at TBBC.

TBBC is aware that we are operating under the auspices of the National Integrity Framework for Safeguarding Children and Young People which is underpinned by the National Principles for a Child Safe Organisation. With this Framework in mind, TBBC has developed a Child Safe Policy and has a Child Safe Officer. The TBBC Constitution has also established a Junior Member category for those under 18 years of age.

As part of our Strategic Planning, TBBC will prioritise the sporting and social development of children and young people. The Club's vision is to establish itself as a well-known, family-friendly environment where families can enjoy playing bowls together while socialising and connecting with others in a welcoming community setting.

2. SCOPE

This policy applies to all children/young people bowling at TBBC (whether social or competitively in pennants) and all TBBC volunteers and members who have dealings with children/young people and their parents and caregivers.

3. POLICY PRINCIPLES

Ensuring a Welcoming Environment

- 3.1 TBBC is committed to equity and inclusion, ensuring opportunities for children of all genders, abilities and cultural backgrounds.
- 3.2 Children and young people will be made welcome at social bowls events, including Night Owls and competition days such as the Diggers' Day Tournament and at Club events, including Opening of The Greens, Closing of The Greens and Christmas celebrations. In the Night Owls competition, requests for teams of children and young people to play together is given a high priority. Families will be encouraged to join in all club activities.

Recruitment and Promotion

- 3.3 TBBC will encourage and engage children and young people to join the sport of lawn bowls by providing a friendly and supportive atmosphere where they feel valued and respected, and they will be treated with care and consideration.

- 3.4 Through the lawn bowls Inter School Challenge, TBBC will continue to recruit students from surrounding high schools to become members (either social or competitive) of the Club. Training for this competition by members of our Youth Committee will be offered to all high school students from all schools within a five kilometre radius of the Club. Students who reach the State and National levels of this competition will be offered financial and logistical support from TBBC, with members attending these events where possible.
- 3.5 TBBC will offer to run lawn bowls training for schools in the surrounding areas as part of their school curriculum, elective sport or as part of co-curricular school activities, or as separate to the schools' activities.

Coaching and Skills Development

- 3.6 TBBC will support the development of children and young people through providing age-appropriate coaching support, training opportunities and skills development by accredited coaches who have completed appropriate child safe training.
- 3.7 TBBC will provide accessible facilities for children and young people, including providing lawn bowls equipment suitable to their age.

Selection

- 3.8 The selection of children and young people in pennant sides will consider their age, skill level, experience and readiness with the aim of supporting both individual development and overall team performance.
- 3.9 Selection decisions will be made in a fair and transparent manner, having regard to player availability, performance and team balance.
- 3.10 Where players are assessed as being of comparable ability, consideration will be given to player development and the long-term sustainability of the club, including providing opportunities for children and young people to participate and progress.
- 3.11 Selectors will have regard to the broader objectives of this policy, including fostering a positive, inclusive and supportive environment for children, young people and their families.
- 3.12 Where a parent or caregiver and child are both participating in pennants, reasonable consideration will be given to requests to play together, where this aligns with team balance and other selection decisions.

Financial Support

- 3.13 TBBC has established a Youth Scholarship Fund with the main objective of promoting the sport of lawn bowls to children and young people. Application of this fund includes, but is not limited to, the following:
- TBBC annual membership fees
 - TBBC uniform/cap
 - Contributing towards expenses for selected bowls events approved by the TBBC Board
 - Any incentive or recognition awards for our young members' achievements approved by the TBBC Board.
- 3.14 The Club will provide sets of bowls for children and young people to use which are suitable for their hand sizes. These bowls will remain the property of the Club for use on the premises or to borrow when playing away for competition or development purposes.

Pathways

- 3.15 Through the Champion of Champions program run by Bowls SA, the Club will continue to support school children competing in this initiative by attending these events and thus supporting our school children when possible.

- 3.16 Through the SA schools competition, TBBC will continue to support high school students who are selected to represent South Australia at State and National levels. This support will be both financial and logistical with members attending these events where possible.
- 3.17 Through Bowls SA, TBBC will support people under the age of 18 to be considered for the Under 18 SA State squad. The Club will encourage and promote this involvement with our young members. Students selected in the SA State Squad will be given financial and logistical support.

Communication and Evaluation

- 3.18 TBBC will gather feedback from children, young people and their families to continuously improve our engagement with them. The Club will monitor their participation and satisfaction as well as our retention to strengthen our involvement with children and young people.
- 3.19 Regular and open communication with children, young people and their families about events, training and competitions will be part of TBBC's normal operational procedures.
- 3.20 TBBC will make necessary adaptations to its practices in order to reflect best practice in the development of children and young people in the sport of lawn bowls.
- 3.21 TBBC will lodge a Child Safe Environments Compliance Statement with the SA Department of Human Services and review this Policy every five years or earlier, if required.

4. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- 4.1 TBBC members who are involved with children and young people as defined in the Club's Child Safe Policy must hold a Working with Children Check. Checks must be current and verified before participation.
- 4.2 Where possible, TBBC members in positions of responsibility will have completed the following Sports Integrity online courses including, but not limited to:
 - Safeguarding Children and Young People in Sport Induction
 - National Integrity Framework
 - Safeguarding Recruitment and Screening.
- 4.3 The TBBC Board will be responsible for overseeing the well-being and safety of children and young people.
- 4.4 The TBBC Board has appointed a Child Safe Officer.
- 4.5 All TBBC officials and volunteers are mandatory notifiers under South Australian law and must report any suspicion of child abuse or neglect.
- 4.6 TBBC members will be equally responsible for recruiting, encouraging, supporting and welcoming children and young people and their families to the Club.
- 4.7 The TBBC Youth Committee will oversee the administrative and logistical requirements necessary to establish and deliver programs and activities for children and young people.

5. COMPLAINTS PROCESS

TBBC will maintain a clear complaints process for children and families, ensuring confidentiality, fairness and escalation to Bowls SA or Sport Integrity Australia where appropriate.

RESOURCES

Legal & Compliance Requirements (South Australia)

1. **Child Safe Environments Compliance Statement:** In SA, clubs must lodge a compliance statement with the Department of Human Services every five years or when policies are updated.
<https://dhs.sa.gov.au/how-we-help/ngo-and-sector-support/child-safe-environment/compliance-statements>
Review Cycle: SA requires child safe policies to be reviewed at least every five years. See above link.
2. **Mandatory Reporting:** SA law requires certain people (including coaches, volunteers and Board members) to be mandatory notifiers of child abuse or neglect.
<https://www.childprotection.sa.gov.au/report-suspected-harm/process-for-mandated-reporters/the-role-of-mandated-reporters>
3. **Working with Children Checks:** Checks must be current and verified before participation.
<https://www.sa.gov.au/topics/rights-and-law/rights-and-responsibilities/screening-checks/screening-wwcc#title0>

REFERENCES

1. Child Safe Environment Requirements
<https://www.bowlssa.com.au/wp-content/uploads/sites/6/2024/10/CHILD-SAFE-ENVIRONMENT-REQUIREMENTS.pdf>
2. Governance: Bowls SA - Constitution & Policies
<https://www.bowlssa.com.au/about-us-bowls-sa/governance-policies/>
3. Safeguarding Children and Young People Policy Template 2023
<https://www.bowlssa.com.au/wp-content/uploads/sites/6/2024/01/Bowls-Australia-NIF-Safeguarding-Children-and-Young-People-Policy-2023-SIA-Approved.pdf>
4. Jurisdictional Child Safe Legislation and Child Safe Standards
https://www.sportintegrity.gov.au/sites/default/files/CHILD_SAFEGUARDING_LEGISLATION_STANDARDS_FACT_SHEET_accessible.pdf
5. Juniors & Kids - Bowls Australia
<https://bowls.com.au/get-involved/juniors-kids/>

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