



DARLINGTON SOUTH PARK BOWLS CLUB

CONSTITUTION

1. Name

The organisation shall be called Darlington South Park Bowls Club, hereafter referred to as 'the Club'.

2. Status

The Club shall be a non-profit amateur sports club. All income and property shall be used solely to promote the objectives of the Club. No surplus shall be distributed to members except for legitimate expenses incurred on behalf of the Club.

3. Affiliation

The Club shall be affiliated to Bowls England and Bowls Durham and shall comply with their rules and safeguarding requirements where applicable.

4. Objectives

- Promote the sport of flat green bowls.
- Provide opportunities for participation and competition.
- Encourage coaching and player development.
- Provide a safe, inclusive and welcoming environment.
- Support community participation in sport.

5. Equality and Inclusion

The Club shall operate in accordance with equality principles and shall not discriminate on the grounds of gender, age, disability, race, religion, sexual orientation, marital status or social background.

6. Safeguarding

The Club recognises its duty of care to safeguard all members and particularly children, young people and vulnerable adults. The Club shall adopt the safeguarding policies of Bowls England (BowlSafe) and appoint an appropriately experienced/qualified Welfare Officer. Appropriate training will be made available if needed.

7. Membership

Membership categories may include Full Members, Junior Members (under 18), Social Members and Honorary or Life Members. Only Full Members aged 18 or over whose subscriptions are fully paid may vote at General Meetings.

8. Membership Fees

Membership fees shall be proposed by the Committee and approved annually at the AGM. Fees shall normally be payable by 31st March each year.

9. Management Committee

The Club shall be governed by a Management Committee consisting of a President, Secretary, Treasurer and between four and ten additional committee members, three of whom shall be the trustees, elected annually at the AGM.

9.6 Sub-Committees

The Management Committee may establish sub-committees to assist in the organisation and administration of specific Club activities including competitions, events, social activities, fundraising and development projects.

Sub-committees shall:

- operate under the authority of the Management Committee
- report their activities and decisions to the Management Committee
- not commit the Club to financial expenditure without prior approval of the Management Committee.

The Management Committee retains overall responsibility and may appoint or dissolve sub-committees at its discretion.

10. Conflict of Interest

Committee members must declare any personal or financial interest in matters being considered and withdraw from discussion or voting where a conflict exists.

10.1 Family Relationships on the Committee

No more than two members of the same family may serve on the Management Committee at the same time.

Family members shall not hold more than one Officer position between them.

For the purposes of this clause, family members include spouses, partners, parents, children, siblings, or individuals living in the same household.

Where a conflict of interest arises involving family members, the individuals concerned must declare the conflict and withdraw from discussion and voting.

11. Finance

The financial year shall run from 1st October to 30th September.

Club funds shall be held in a bank account in the Club name.

Payments above £200 must be authorised by two officers (President, Secretary or Treasurer).

***Extraordinary payments above £500 must be approved by in a ballot that should have a minimum of 25% of the membership voting**

****In an emergency the Executive Committee may exceed this limit and report back to members at the earliest convenience**

The Treasurer shall maintain accurate financial records and present externally audited accounts at the AGM.

12. Liability

The Club shall take reasonable steps to ensure the safety of members and visitors participating in its activities.

Participation in Club activities is undertaken at the individual's own risk and the Club accepts no liability for injury, loss, or damage to persons or property except where such liability arises from negligence on the part of the Club or its authorised representatives.

The Club shall maintain appropriate public liability insurance through its insurer.

13. Indemnity of Committee Members

Members of the Management Committee shall not be personally liable for the debts or liabilities of the Club provided they have acted in good faith, within their authority, and in accordance with this Constitution.

The Club shall indemnify Committee members against reasonable costs or liabilities incurred in the proper performance of their duties on behalf of the Club.

14. Club Property and Assets

All equipment, funds, and property belonging to the Club shall remain the property of the Club and not of any individual member.

Club property and funds shall be used only for the benefit of the Club and its members and shall be managed under the authority of the Management Committee.

15. Annual General Meeting (AGM)

The AGM shall be held annually

Members shall receive at least 21 days notice of the AGM. Notice may be given by email, post or personal delivery. Email notice shall be deemed delivered when sent provided no delivery failure notice is received.

Members are responsible for ensuring the Club has their correct contact details.

*** A quorum shall be at least 20% of eligible members**

16. Voting

Each eligible member shall have one vote. Decisions shall be made by simple majority except for constitutional amendments. The President shall have a casting vote in the event of a tie.

17. Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM)

An Extraordinary General Meeting may be called by the Committee or by written request from at least 20% of voting members. At least 14 days notice shall be given.

18. Discipline

The Committee may take disciplinary action where a member breaches the Constitution or Code of Conduct. Members have the right to present their case and appeal decisions. ****All disciplinary matters will be dealt with in accordance with Bowls England Regulation 9.**

19. Data Protection

The Club shall comply with relevant data protection legislation and use member information only for legitimate Club purposes.

20. Electronic Meetings

Committee meetings may be held in person or via electronic communication platforms provided that all participants can hear and contribute to the discussion.

Decisions made during electronic meetings shall carry the same authority as those made at physical meetings.

21. Committee Vacancies

If a Committee position becomes vacant during the year, the Committee may appoint a replacement member to serve until the next AGM.

22. Emergency Powers

In urgent circumstances where a decision cannot reasonably wait until the next Committee meeting, the Officers (President, Secretary and Treasurer) may take necessary action on behalf of the Club.

Such decisions must be reported to and ratified by the Management Committee at the next meeting.

23. Constitutional Amendments

Amendments may be made at an AGM or EGM with a two-thirds majority of members present and any proxy votes submitted.

24. Dissolution

If the Club is dissolved, any remaining assets shall be transferred to Bowls England or another non-profit bowls club in the Darlington area.

25. Review

This Constitution shall be reviewed at least every two years by the Management Committee.

* & ** These are amendments that need to be ratified at next EGM/AGM

* & ** These were agreed at AGM of 23/10/26

Update 26.10.26