

# WHY BOWLS?

SCHOOL  
GAMES

## What are the benefits of playing my sport?

Bowls is a sport open to all, requiring players to get one or more of their bowls closest to the target ball. Whilst not physically demanding, it requires accurate rolling, tactical awareness and good teamwork.

## TOP Tips!

One of the biggest selling points for the sport of bowls is the diversity of participants. It can be tailored to meet the requirements of all, regardless of age/gender/disability/ethnicity. It is a game that all youngsters can engage in and enjoy.

'Target-based' activities offer a more appealing initial introduction to the sport to young players than its traditional formats.



## Spirit of the Games: Excellence through competition.

How does your sport exemplify these values?



As a game, the appeal of bowls is attached to the joy and satisfaction of seeing your ball reach its target.



In team events, players work together to achieve their goal and make decisions collectively.



All bowls players recognise that their individual views are all equally valid, and learn to respect the views of others alongside their own as well as the officials.



Bowls encourages players to acknowledge their mistakes (intentional or accidental) and to recognise 'lucky' shots, and not to bemoan any 'lucky' shots that their opponent may enjoy.



In the sport of bowls, players will have the opportunity to learn a number of core rolling skills and to develop those skills through purposeful practice whilst having fun with other players.



In a game of bowls, players/teams will need to adapt their tactics – either to make best use of their own strengths or nullify those of their opponent/s. They will also need to retain concentration at times when it is not their turn to bowl. Improving technique demands determination.

## Priority competitions:

**Name of the competition:** Inter School Bowls

**Age group:** 2 v 2. Mixed

**Level / location:** Two age categories: Yr7/8, Yr9/10/11

**Who runs it:** SGO, Young Leader, secondary pupil

**How to enter:** Via SGO

**Name of the competition:** Square Bowl

**Age group:** 2 v 2. Mixed. Yr 3/Yr4, Yr5/Yr6

**Level / location:** Inter School

**Who runs it:** SGO. Young Leader. Yr5/6 pupil

**How to enter:** Via SGO

**Next steps:** County Final Inter School (Level 3 ) for older age groups

## Young leader/Officials courses/ qualifications available

Our coaching body, Coach Bowls, has in place a number of modules that would assist with the delivery of the sport of bowls within schools.

We would suggest the following are most relevant:

Activator Module

<http://coachbowls.org/courses/play-bowls-activator>

Working with Disabled Bowlers Module

<http://coachbowls.org/courses/working-with-disabled-people-in-bowls-module>

## Where do young people go next (from school to club/community)?

Young participants are encouraged to seek a local club where they will be able to receive coaching and participate in matches and competitions as they develop their skills. Clubs are vital to the transition from school games to county and national events.

Details on local clubs may be found at:

[www.bowlsengland.com](http://www.bowlsengland.com)

## Signposted competitions:

### National Junior Singles Championship - Male

- Open to players aged under 25 on 1st April annually
- National Finals held in Royal Leamington Spa
- Organised by Bowls England
- Qualification via County
- Takes place in August
- National winner progresses to British Isles Championships as England representative

### National Junior Singles Championship - Female

- Open to players aged under 25 on 1st April annually
- National Finals held in Royal Leamington Spa
- Organised by Bowls England
- Qualification via County
- Takes place in August
- National winner progresses to British Isles Championships as England representative

### Sutton Winson Tournament – Open Gender

- Open to players aged under 18 on 1st April annually
- Open Entry – two day event held during National Finals in Royal Leamington Spa
- Organised by Bowls England
- Entry via Bowls England – first come, first served (limited to 96 entrants)
- Takes place in August
- Highest-ranked male participant progresses to British Isles Championships as England representative (no British Isles event for females at this age group presently)

## Relevant web links

To access resources to support School Games events or to find out more about the sport, its rules, coaching qualifications and local clubs who may be able to support/advise on events and coaching, visit [www.bowlsengland.com](http://www.bowlsengland.com) or email [enquiries@bowlsengland.com](mailto:enquiries@bowlsengland.com)

## Competition card 1

### Primary or Secondary: Secondary

### Name of competition: Inter-School Bowls

### Age Group: Yr7/Yr8 & Yr9/Yr10/Yr11

### How to enter: Via SGO

**Tournament format:**  
In line with local need. One day multi-team tournament format preferred. All teams playing multiple games. Round robin in pools of 4, followed by brackets of 4 or 8, with all teams playing 5-6 games.

### Relevant web links

To find out more about bowls and local clubs who may be able to support/advise on events and coaching, visit [www.bowlsengland.com](http://www.bowlsengland.com) email [enquiries@bowlsengland.com](mailto:enquiries@bowlsengland.com)

### Simple rules:

- Pairs (two players per side)
- Open gender
- Two balls per player plus one target ball (hereafter referred to as the 'jack')
- A set number of 'ends' are played subject to time available – suggest four ends per game with each player taking their turn to play first and select jack length
- Flat surface i.e. sports hall/artificial sports surface/playing field
- Playing area ideally eight metres long – jack is placed on spot selected by first team to play at either 5, 6 or 7 metres
- Players deliver from behind the delivery line
- Players take it in turns to roll their ball towards the jack (alternate turn between players of each side)
- Each team scores one point for the number of their team's balls that are nearer to the jack than the nearest ball of their opponent – maximum score per team is four per end
- Players ideally wear shirts of the same colour that make them easily identifiable as a team, but they do not need to be identical in design

### Think Inclusively!

- Format welcomes players of both genders and/or those with disabilities to participate in the event.
- The size of the playing area can be adjusted subject to ability/success rate.
- Vary the starting position of the target ball.
- Vary the size of the target ball (to increase/decrease difficulty).
- For those with limited mobility, players may play from a seated position using a ramp to deliver their ball.

### Roles for young people:

- Score-keepers – including management of the tournament (fixtures/results/groups standings/scheduling).
- Set-up of target/s.
- Removal of equipment at conclusion of session.

### How can regularity be achieved?

- League format can be used.
- At a multi-team tournament, every place is 'played out' to ensure that all teams have the same number of games.
- Inter event could be tiered, with County tournaments running for top-8/16, second 8/16, third 8/16, etc.
- Both indoor and outdoor events could be run at different times of year.

### How can depth in competition through extra teams be achieved?

- Running multi-team tournaments (as is preferred format) allows schools to bring all teams to an event together, reducing the burden on staff time and transport resources (as compared to head-to-head league games at multiple venues).
- 'Playing out' all positions ensures that B and C teams don't get knocked out early and have to wait for advanced teams to finish the competition.
- The open format requires that players of both genders can participate together.

### The route from here to County Final - Inter School Competition (Level 3)

County Final - Inter School Competition (Level 3) occurs following Inter School Competition (Level 2) in a county/region. Preferred format is multi-team tournament.

## Competition card 2

### Primary or Secondary:

**Primary**

### Name of competition:

**Square Bowl**

### Age Group:

**Yr3/Yr4 Yr5/Yr6**

### How to enter:

**Via SGO**

### Tournament format:

**In line with local need.**

**One day multi-team format preferred.**

### Simple rules:

- Four players – open gender (to play in two pairs)
- A smooth playing surface measuring 4m x 4m
- Four marker cones to indicate the four corners of the playing area
- Two balls per player i.e. tennis balls – ideally different colours for the opposing pairs (soft balls/tennis balls should be used)
- One target ball i.e. cricket ball
- Ensure no spare or loose balls are left lying around the playing area
- Alternate play. Ensure players wait their turn
- Ensure players roll bowls underarm towards the target – no throwing
- Points are awarded to each pair based on the four balls that finish closest to the target – 4-3-2-1 points depending on position (e.g. closest to the target is awarded four points and the furthest away is awarded one point)
- Complete four games with each player taking a turn to play first
- Players must wait until all players have delivered both balls before retrieving balls from the scoring area and returning to their allocated corner ready for the next game

### Think Inclusively!

- Format welcomes players of both genders and/or those with disabilities to participate in the event.
- The size of the playing area can be adjusted subject to ability/success rate.
- Vary the starting position of the target ball.
- Vary the size of the target ball (to increase/decrease difficulty).
- For those with limited mobility, players may play from a seated position using a ramp to deliver their ball.

### Roles for young people:

Primary age children may act as:

- Score-keepers
- Set-up of target/s
- Return of balls to players from the target
- Removal of equipment at conclusion of session

### How can regularity be achieved?

- A league format could be used, with 2-4 schools competing on at a single venue every week. Teams can earn league points dependent on their finishing position (out of the teams involved in the game) or by carrying forward the total points scored.
- At a multi-team tournament, each team should play multiple matches over the event, playing each other team in a 'round robin' format.
- The overall winner could be determined by the number of games won (all playing together) or the total number of points scored.

### How can depth in competition through extra teams be achieved?

- Running multi-team tournaments (as is preferred format) allows schools to bring all teams to an event together, reducing the burden on staff time and transport resources (as compared to head-to-head league games at multiple venues).
- All teams should play the same number of games (rather than getting 'knocked out'), to ensure the same level of participation for all players.
- The format requires that both genders are encouraged to take part in the sport and have an equal contribution to the success of the team.

### The route from here to County Final - Inter School Competition (Level 3)

County Final - Inter School Competition (Level 3) occurs following Inter School Competition (Level 2) in a county/region. Preferred format is multi-team tournament.

### Relevant web links

To find out more about bowls and local clubs who may be able to support/advise on events and coaching, visit [www.bowlsengland.com](http://www.bowlsengland.com) email [enquiries@bowlsengland.com](mailto:enquiries@bowlsengland.com)