English Indoor Bowling Association Ltd

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Guidance on Setting up a Junior Section

To attract and retain young people to a club you need to consider setting up a junior section that is appealing and exciting in its format and to provide an opportunity for friendship, personal development and enjoyment

The junior section should be an integral part of the membership and is fundamental to the future health of the indoor bowling club.

It is essential that clubs adopt good practice when dealing with young people and ensure that their safety is paramount.

It is encouraged now that all clubs show a positive commitment to proactive development and work towards established national kite mark/accreditation scheme such as Clubmark. Please see http://www.sportenglandclubmatters.com/ for more information.

Key issues to consider before creating a new junior section

It is essential that clubs adopt good practice when dealing with young people and ensure that their safety is paramount.

Reasons for the Junior section
Think about why the club wants to attract juniors, and how that compares to why children may want to play Bowls. Whatever you decide the Club will need to provide appropriate information, a structure and intentions of what the junior section is going to consist of throughout the season. E.g. Under 18 and Under 16 Round Robin tournaments or purely have a Junior section for them to have fun and be with their friends.

Who is going to be involved in the Junior section?
The first objective would be to appoint a Junior Officer and /or possible a Junior Coach who can relate to young people. Remembering that the Junior section won't just run on its own.

Has your Club got a sufficient infrastructure in place that can sustain and develop a quality junior section? It could be a wonderful plan, but have you got both financial and personnel commitment on a long-term level? Do you have Officials commitment as to not to disappoint new participants when they turn up for coaching session and there aren't the bodies to look after them.

By offering specific activities that are of high quality the club's profile and reputation will grow. Helping young people develop skills, self-discipline, team building, confidence, awareness and enjoyment.

Coaching

How many coaches have you got? Is the pool of Coaches the right mixture? Do they have the correct qualification and insurance? *Clubs must ensure all coaches are appropriately qualified and their relevant qualifications / insurance are recorded and membership is up-to-date*.

For example

A Level 1 Bowls Coach can coach under the supervision of a Level 2 Qualified Coach (through Coach Bowls) and they can deliver the content of the Level 1 course/Play Bowls 4 Fun session on their own providing they stick to the programme, otherwise they must be supervised by a Level 2 Coach.

See www.coachbowls.org for further details.

Criminal Record Checks for Coaches and Volunteers? - Lead coaches working in regulated activity are subject to a DBS check at enhanced level (including a barred list check); whereas supervised individuals including volunteers in DBS eligible roles undertake an enhanced level DBS check (without a barred list check). Guidance for Bowls Clubs, please click here. Alternatively contact Joanne Shore on 01664 481900 for further details and to access an on-line DBS application form.

Subscription charges

How will the section be financed? Make all fees affordable and be prepared to compromise.

Promotion and publicity for the Junior section

How will you promote your club so bowls is seen to be enjoyable and fun? Advertising doesn't necessarily have to be expensive, the more traditional methods such as placing adverts in newspapers or on the notice boards in the doctor's surgery.

How to Involve the Parents/Guardians

This can be achieved by giving them the opportunity to become involved in its running of the junior session especially if you are short of assistant coaches or helpers.

They would be sharing an activity with their child/(ren) which in turn could create more members.

Links with the wider community local schools

Do you want to involve the wider community in the development of the club, i.e. schools, youth workers, other sports clubs? This approach may help with additional resources, expertise and funding and can be achieved by contacting your local County Sports Partnership (CSP) and Local Authority Sports Development Team - contact details at www.eiba.co.uk/bda/countysportspartnerships.php

Parental consent forms – *Clubs must ensure that all juniors complete a Parental Consent form as it contains vital information that the lead coach may require.*

For example

A player may be asthmatic, Is the coach aware of this? Do they know who to contact the parent/guardian? All this information is kept on the Parental Consent Form.

Equity

Encouraging new participants of varied ability, gender and cultural background is important. Activity must be progressive and exciting to retain participants during a time when there is a lot of competition from other sports and pass-times.

How to start a Junior Section

Appoint a Junior Officer and /or Junior Coach who can relate to young people.

Duty of Care and Welfare
In recognition of the importance of protecting children. The Safeguarding bowls website www.safeguardingbowls.org is extremely helpful and has produced guidelines to Clubs to ensure safety. A checklist and policy template for clubs and guidelines is available on this website.

The Club ensures that all Junior activities take place in a safe environment and has necessary provision in place for the safeguarding and welfare of its members. With the assistance of the Safeguarding Bowls website www.safeguardingbowls.org the club may wish to follow the Club Action Plan, which can be found within the Template policy - Template 3 Club Action Plan www.safeguardingbowls.org/downloads/word/Template%203.docx

Parental consent forms –*Clubs must ensure that all juniors complete a Parental Consent form as it contains vital information that the lead coach may require. For example, Has a player any health issues? How do you contact the parent/guardian all this information is kept on the PC form.*

Safety and first aid
It is vital to have easy access to first aid for children and young people, with a qualified person available to deal with emergencies during a session.

When junior members are on the premises – How will they know who the Junior Coach, Club Welfare Officer is or any other Officials within the Club? This can be achieved by photographs of all Club Officials with contact details published on the Clubs notice board and it will help with parents also identifying Club officials.

Other information

Sport England offers support and advice please https://www.sportengland.org/our-work/children-and-young-people/ for more information

Youth Sport Trust this is a registered charity, established in 1994. Their mission is to build a brighter future for young people by enhancing the quality of their physical education (PE) and sporting opportunities. For more information please visit their website on- www.youthsporttrust.org/

EIBA Guidance Notes

EIBA Schools Guide - www.eiba.co.uk/youth/schoolsguide.pdf

EIBA National Youth Awards - www.eiba.co.uk/youth/youthawards.php

EIBA Schools Group - the EIBA has established a special working group for Youth & Schools projects. Denis Goodley (Chairman) can be contacted by clicking onto this e-mail link.