



**BLACKPOOL
BOCCIA CLUB**

MEMBER'S HANDBOOK



WELCOME TO BLACKPOOL BOCCIA CLUB

Blackpool Boccia Club was established in 2012 when founders Tony Edmonds and Chris Morris noticed that there was a lack of organised sport for adults in Blackpool. Chris was an avid boccia player and had achieved success in a number of national and regional competitions and felt that this sport could help fill this gap.

Buoyed by our desire to make a difference, we set up Blackpool Boccia Club and invited friends to join us. We started with 6 players which soon grew to 10 as word of mouth spread about the club. At this point, we received a grant from John Blackledge and the club became an official member of Boccia England, the national governing body for the sport.

In 2013 we participated in our first tournament and played in the Pan-disability Boccia Championship North West League. We won 5 out of our 10 games and participated again in 2014 winning 50% of the games we played.

At this point Colin Morris, Chris' father, joined the club as coach and has helped us make great progress which has contributed to the progress of the club including winning 80% of our games in 2016.

The club's success has only been achieved through the great support we have had from a number of individuals and organisations. Since 2014, Councillor Jim Elms has provided the club not only with financial support but Jim also takes an active interest in the club. We also have to thank the Blackpool branch of the Cerebral Palsy Association and Glasdon Ltd, the local plastic product manufacturer, for their continued and generous support.

Special thanks must also go to David Burns who not only is an active member of the club but has also been invaluable with his expert knowledge of local sports and extensive contact list of the great and the good in Blackpool.

Elaine Tennant has also been a huge support to the club and has taken on numerous club roles including her current role of Welfare Officer. Elaine is one of many in the club that will 'muck-in' to enable the club go from strength to strength.

Boccia is a sport played by people with additional needs be they physical or learning and we always welcome new members to turn up and play at our weekly session that takes place every Tuesday between 2pm-3.30pm and Thursday 2.30pm-4.30pm at Stanley Park Sports Centre.

Club Ethos– To promote a safe and friendly environment where the sport of Boccia can be played and enjoyed by all Members of all ages and physical disabilities.

Anthony Edmonds,

Manager/Co-Founder

Website: <https://www.blackpoolbocciacub.co.uk/>

BOCCIA ENGLAND

Boccia England is the national governing body (NGB) for the sport of Boccia in England. It is responsible for all aspects of the sport in this country, from beginner to expert, providing for all levels of participation up to England level. It is one of the few disability sport specific governing bodies in England.

ABOUT BOCCIA

Boccia is a disability sport where players aim to propel balls close to a target ball. Two sides compete as individuals, pairs or as a team of three over a set number of ends. Points are accumulated over the course of a match to find a winner. The aim is to score as many points as possible by placing their set of coloured balls closest to the white jack ball.

A ball can be rolled, thrown or kicked. If a player is unable to throw or kick the ball, they can use a ramp. If players are unable to release the ball with their hands, they can use assistive devices – head/hand pointer.

Origin of the Name

The name boccia is derived from the Latin word bottia, meaning 'ball', and is pronounced 'bot-cha'.

History

Boccia originated in Greece, where players threw large stones at a stone target. Originally designed for people with severe cerebral palsy, it is now enjoyed by players from many sectors of the community and is practiced in over 50 countries worldwide ranging from recreational to a variety of competitive events and it became a Paralympic sport in 1984.

MEET THE CLUB OFFICIALS

Name	Role	Telephone	Email
Anthony Edmonds	Chairman	01253 353296	rowedmonds@aol.com
Colin morris	Deputy Chair (coach)	07857552377	Colinjohnmorris48@gmail.com
Elaine Tennant	Club Welfare Officer (CWO)	07468480485	elainetennant2009@gmail.com
Pam knight	Club Treasurer	01253 312923	pamforeveryoung@yahoo.co.uk
James Price	Secretary	01253 765769	M5jag.aol.com
Carla Woods-David Topping- Chris Hubbersley	Members Representatives		
David Burns-Jack Wilder- James Knight-	Club Fund Raising Officers		

CLUB INFORMATION

Training sessions

Time & Day	2pm-3.30pm, Tuesdays
Venue	Stanley Park Sports Centre West Park Drive Blackpool FY3 9HQ
Cost	Membership..... Fee per Year £3 per session Boccia England Membership £5 per Individual player annually National/Super League Members fee £5 annually
Contact person	
Additional information	All fees reviewed annually

Time & Day	1 pm-3pm, Thursday
Venue	Thornton Cleveleys YMCA Sports Centre
Cost	£3 per session
Contact person	
Additional information	All fees reviewed annually

Membership

A club membership form is found at the back of this booklet which needs to be completed and returned to the club secretary along with the relevant payment.

Membership categories

Blackpool Boccia Club provides a membership scheme with exclusive benefits and services, available to all members.

Membership Costs

Adult - £30 per year plus £3 per session per member plus £5 Boccia England Membership

Insurance

Blackpool Boccia Club holds a 'club/organisation membership with Boccia England that includes £5m Public Liability Insurance cover for Boccia England recognized activities.

SAFEGUARDING

Blackpool Boccia Club has a strong commitment towards safeguarding Children and Young People and Adults at Risk and have implemented, follow and adhere to the Boccia England Safeguarding Children and Young people and Safeguarding and protecting Adults at Risk policies.

In addition to the Boccia England policies, Blackpool Boccia Club has developed its own Safeguarding and Protecting Children and Adults at risk policy and guidelines and will ensure that the procedures set out in the Boccia England Policies are followed in the case of any incidents.

The Boccia England Policies are found here;

<https://bocciaengland.org.uk/organisation/policies/>

Club Safeguarding and Protecting Children and Adults at risk Policy

Blackpool Boccia Club acknowledges the duty of care to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and Adults at risk is committed to ensuring safeguarding practice reflects statutory responsibilities, government guidance and complies with best practice and Boccia England requirements.

The policy recognizes that the welfare and interests of Children/ Adults at risk are paramount in all circumstances. It aims to ensure that regardless of age, gender, religion or beliefs, ethnicity, disability, sexual orientation or socioeconomic background, all children;

Have a positive and enjoyable experience of sport at Blackpool Boccia Club in a safe and centered environment

Are protected from abuse whilst participating in Boccia or outside of the activity.

Blackpool Boccia Club acknowledges that some children, including disabled children, young people and Adults at risk or those from ethnic minority communities, can be particularly vulnerable to abuse and we accept the responsibility to take reasonable and appropriate steps to ensure their welfare.

As part of our safeguarding policy Blackpool Boccia Club will:

- Ensure all Club coaches, helpers and officials working with young people and Adults at risk should read and adhere to the Boccia England Safeguarding Children and Young People Policy. The Club will follow the guidance of the policy in the event of any concerns or allegations.
- Promote and prioritise the safety and well-being of children and young people.
- Ensure everyone understands their roles and responsibilities in respect of safeguarding and is provided with appropriate learning opportunities to recognise, identify and respond to signs of abuse, neglect and other safeguarding concerns relating to children and young people.
- Ensure appropriate action is taken in the event of incidents/concerns of abuse and support provided to the individual/s who raise or disclose the concern.
- Ensure that confidential, detailed and accurate records of all safeguarding concerns are maintained and securely stored.
- Prevent the employment/deployment of unsuitable individuals.
- The Club will ensure that anyone who meets the eligibility criteria for a Disclosure check will not be deployed until a satisfactory check has been returned.

- Ensure robust safeguarding arrangements and procedures are in operation.

The Club will obtain written contact, and medical details of all club players which will be made known to coaches, where deemed appropriate and/or necessary

The Club will identify a person whose role it is to deal with any issues concerning Child Protection and Harassment (Club Welfare Officer) and notify this person to all members. Anyone with concerns with respect to Child Abuse or Harassment should contact that person. If that person is unavailable they can contact the Club Chairman or the Boccia England Lead Safeguarding Officer.

The policy and procedures will be widely promoted and are mandatory for everyone involved in Blackpool Boccia Club. Failure to comply with the policy and procedures will be addressed without delay and may ultimately result in dismissal/exclusion from the organisation

Monitoring

The policy will be reviewed a year after development and then every three years, or in the following circumstances:

- Changes in legislation and/or government guidance
- As required by the Local Safeguarding Children Board, UK Sport and/or Home Country Sports Councils.
- As a result of any other significant change or event.

Signed by CWO:

Name.....

Signed.....

Date:

RAISING AWARENESS OF ABUSE

It is important to understand exactly what is meant by abuse. There is sometimes a fine line between acceptable and unacceptable behaviour, and it is vital that staff and volunteers, understand this boundary. It is also essential that the signs of abuse are understood, as the victims of abuse often feel unable to tell anyone.

The table below is a guide to some possible physical and behavioural signs of abuse.

Type of abuse	Physical signs	Behavioural signs
Physical abuse	Unexplained, unusual or repetitive bruising or swelling. Finger, strap and/or bite marks. Burns or scolds, this includes cigarette burns. Fractures, missing teeth. Injuries that are particularly situated on a part of the body not normally prone to such injuries.	Inappropriate excuses to explain injuries, reluctance to change or uncover body, fear of returning home, fear of contact, aggressive temper, depression withdrawal and cowering.
Sexual abuse	Genital pain, bruising, bleeding, Sexual Transmitted Infections (STI), itching, stomach pains, discomfort, pregnancy, incontinence, anal pain on passing motions.	Inappropriate sexual awareness, engaging in sexual explicit behaviour, unexplained changes to their behaviour, inappropriate use of language, unexplained money or gifts, issues regarding eating, bed-wetting, running away, distrust of adults or specific gender.
Emotional abuse	Low self-esteem, continual self-depression, emotional immaturity, weight change, clothing inappropriate for individuals age, gender or culture, lack of growth/development, self-harm, unexplained speech disorders.	Behavioural extremes, decline in concentration levels, withdrawn, few friends, unable to play, difficulty communicating.
Neglect	Poor personal hygiene, inappropriately fitting clothes, change in weight and/or constant hunger. Untreated conditions/injuries, failure to supply appropriate equipment for the quality of life.	Isolation seeks attention from adults or withdraws from people, continually tired, absent, late, few friends, no money, wanting to steal, lack of communication, low self-esteem. Bullying Unexplained injuries, bruising and/or body pains, disturbed sleep, weight change. Isolated, anxiety over attending activities, withdrawn, suicidal, aggressive, bullying others, moodiness, depressed, reduced performance, lack of concentration.

Recognising abuse is not always easy. BE and our safeguarding partners acknowledge that staff, coaches, volunteers and officials whether in a paid or voluntary capacity, are not experts at such recognition. It is not the responsibility of those working with young people in our sport to decide whether or not an individual is being abused; however it is their responsibility to share concerns.

Guidelines on Responding to Disclosures, Suspicions and Allegations

We have a duty to advise you what to do if you suspect that a person is being harmed or at risk of being harmed. If you are concerned about a person welfare then in the first instance you should contact the Club Welfare Officer (Elaine Tennant) who will advise on the next steps to be taken.

If you are unable to contact your CWO then you can contact the local Safe Guarding Board or the Boccia England Lead Safeguarding Officer who will guide you through the next steps.

How to respond and actions to avoid

It is known that that on average it takes a person, several attempts to disclose and be heard. Boccia England encourages environments which are engaging, respectful and which encourage feedback in order to raise awareness of issues.

Do's :

- Stay calm – do not rush so you don't frighten the individual, as this may lead to the withholding of information.
- Always reassure – the individual that he/she is not to blame that they were right to raise awareness of this issue.
- Follow confidentiality procedures – this includes telling the individual that you may have to inform others to help stop the abuse. Confidentiality must be maintained but any concerns or information relating to possible abuse must be shared on a need to know basis.
- Ensure the safety of the individual – if urgent medical attention is required, then call an ambulance, inform the paramedics/doctor of concerns and ensure they are aware of the safeguarding/protection issue.
- Take notes - Completion of the incident report form. All concerns will be treated with a 'non-judgemental' and 'open mind' and be handled in a fair and equitable manner.
- You – in order to ensure that your well-being is not hindered during a safeguarding issue please be aware that there are support mechanisms for you to access. If you think the situation is an emergency, contact your Club Welfare Officer or BE LSO. If they are not immediately available then you should contact your local Children's Social Care, LADO or Police without delay. Expert advice can also be provided by the NSPCC Helpline on 0808 800 5000.

Guidelines on Responding to Disclosures, Suspicions and Allegations

Don't s:

- No Rushing – into actions that may be inappropriate. Do not approach the alleged accuser and do not take actions that may compromise/destroy evidence e.g. washing clothes, showering etc.
- Express your emotions and or make promises – the individual will need reassurance not an emotional response, blame or denial. Don't guarantee promises you cannot keep.
- Take sole responsibility – ensure that you consult, refer and hand on appropriately.
- Speculate or make assumptions – outcomes will be focused on evidence and fact. In addition do not assume that someone else is aware of the abuse and that they are taking action to stop the abuse.
- Interview the person or probe them for detailed information as this could compromise future police enquiries. Ascertain basic information in order to pass the concern on.

It should be noted that not all players are able to express themselves verbally. Communication difficulties may mean that it is hard for them to explain or be understood. Sometimes it is difficult to distinguish the signs of abuse from the symptoms of some disabilities or conditions, in relation to the nature of an individual's impairment.

However, the welfare of the person is paramount and where there are concerns about the safety of a young player, record what has been observed in detail and follow the procedures to report these concerns.

How to respond / take action

It is important that information regarding the concerns is recorded properly and promptly. To assist with this process, BE has developed a Safeguarding Incident Form which outlines the Information that is required, available to download from our website on the policies page.

<https://bocciaengland.org.uk/organisation/policies/>

AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AFTER CONCERNS HAVE BEEN REPORTED TO YOU, COMPLETE THE SAFEGUARDING INCIDENT FORM AND CONTACT THE BOCCIA ENGLAND LEAD SAFEGUARDING OFFICER.

Useful contacts

Organisation	Contact details
Boccia England	Tel.: 0115 967 8455 Website: www.bocciaengland.org.uk
Boccia England Lead Safeguarding Officer	Tel.: 0115 9678455 / 07809336321 E-mail: rmiller@bocciaengland.org.uk
Adult Services	1, Bickerstaffe Square, Talbot Road, Blackpool FY1 3AH Email adult.socialcare@blackpool.gov.uk Telephone 01253 477592
NSPCC – Child Protection in Sport Unit (CSPU)	Tel.: 01162 34 7278 E-mail: cpsu@nspcc.org.uk
BSCB (Blackpool Safeguarding Children's Board)	1, Bickerstaffe Square, Talbot Road, Blackpool FY1 3AH Email duty.assessment@blackpool.gov.uk Telephone 01253 477299
Victim Support Helpline	Tel.: 0845 3030 900 Website: www.victimsupport.org.uk

Anti-bullying Policy for Blackpool Boccia Club

Statement of Intent.

The Committee and Officers of Blackpool Boccia Club are committed to providing a caring, friendly and safe environment for all of our members so they can train in a relaxed and secure atmosphere. Bullying of any kind is unacceptable at our club. If bullying does occur, all boccia players or parents should be able to tell and know that incidents will be dealt with promptly and effectively. We are a telling club. This means that anyone who knows that bullying is happening is expected to tell the Club Welfare Officer or any committee member.

This club has a responsibility to respond promptly and effectively to issues of bullying.

What is bullying?

Bullying is the use of aggression with the intention of hurting another person. Bullying results in pain and distress to the victim.

Bullying can be:

- Emotional being unfriendly, excluding (emotionally and physically), sending hurtful text messages, tormenting, (e.g. hiding kit or equipment, threatening gestures)
- Physical pushing, kicking, hitting, punching or any use of violence
- Racist racial taunts, graffiti, gestures
- Sexual unwanted physical contact or sexually abusive comments
- Homophobic because of, or focussing on the issue of sexuality
- Verbal name-calling, sarcasm, spreading rumours, teasing.

Objectives of this policy

- All committee members, coaches, players and parents should have an understanding of what bullying is and what they should do if bullying arises.
- All committee members and coaches should know what the club policy is on bullying, and follow it when bullying is reported.
- As a club we take bullying seriously. Boccia Players and parents should be assured that they would be supported when bullying is reported.
- Bullying will not be tolerated.

Signs and Symptoms

A child or adult may indicate by signs or behaviour that he or she is being bullied. Adults should be aware of these possible signs and that they should investigate if a child:

- Says he/she is being bullied
- Is unwilling to go to club sessions
- Becomes withdrawn anxious, or lacking in confidence
- Feels ill before training sessions
- Comes home with clothes torn or possessions damaged
- Has possessions go “missing”
- Asks for money or starts stealing money (to pay bully)
- Has unexplained cuts or bruises
- Is frightened to say what’s wrong
- Gives improbable excuses for any of the above.

In more extreme cases:

- Starts stammering
- Cries themselves to sleep at night or has nightmares
- Becomes aggressive, disruptive or unreasonable
- Is bullying other children or siblings
- Stops eating
- Attempts or threatens suicide or runs away.

These signs and behaviours may indicate other problems, but bullying should be considered a possibility and should be investigated.

Procedures

1. Report bullying incidents to the Club Welfare Officer or a member of the committee.
2. In cases of serious bullying, the incidents will be referred to Boccia England for advice.
3. Parents should be informed and will be asked to come in to a meeting to discuss the problem.
4. If necessary and appropriate, police will be consulted.
5. The bullying behaviour or threats of bullying must be investigated and the bullying stopped quickly.
6. An attempt will be made to help the bully (bullies) change their behaviour.
7. If mediation fails and the bullying is seen to continue the club will initiate disciplinary action under the club constitution.

Recommended club action

If the club decides it is appropriate for them to deal with the situation they should follow the procedure outlined below.

1. Reconciliation by getting the parties together. It may be a genuine apology solves the problem.
2. If this fails/not appropriate a small panel (Made up from Chairman, Club Welfare Officer, Secretary or committee members) should meet with the parent and child alleging bullying to get details of the allegation. Minutes should be taken for clarity, which should be agreed by all as a true account.
3. The same 3 persons should meet with the alleged bully and parent/s and put the incident raised to them to answer and give their view of the allegation. Minutes should again be taken and agreed.
4. If bullying has in their view taken place the bully should be warned and put on notice of further action i.e. temporary or permanent suspension if the bullying continues. Consideration should be given as to whether a reconciliation meeting between parties is appropriate at this time.
5. In some cases the parent of the bully or bullied boccia Player can be asked to attend training sessions, if they are able to do so, and if appropriate. The club committee should monitor the situation for a given period to ensure the bullying is not being repeated.

All coaches involved with Boccia Players should be made aware of the concerns and outcome of the process i.e. the warning.

In the case of adults reported to be bullying players under 18:

- Boccia England should always be informed and will advise on action to be taken.
- It is anticipated that in most cases where the allegation is made regarding a member or coach, child/adult protection awareness training may be recommended.
- More serious cases may be referred to the police, social services or Boccia England disciplinary procedure.
- In cases where a coach or teacher who is employed by an outside organisation is implicated the matter should be referred to Boccia England and to the person's line manager or as detailed in that person's employment contract.

Prevention

- The club will have a written constitution, which includes what is acceptable and proper behaviour for all members of which the anti-bullying policy is one part.
- All boccia players and parents will sign to accept the anti-bullying policy upon joining the club.
- The club welfare officer will raise awareness about bullying and why it matters, and if issues of bullying arise in the club, will consider meeting with players to discuss the issue openly and constructively.

Cases of bullying should be resolved with the utmost speed to avoid further distress to the victim.

Codes of Conduct

The Codes of Conduct form the ethical philosophy under which the sport operates. They describe the behaviour that is expected of all within Boccia in England in line with the values of Boccia England, 'to be honest, fair, respectful, ambitious, excellent, and professional'.

All those involved with boccia have a responsibility to uphold the highest standards of integrity and to ensure that the reputation of the sport is preserved. Failure to adhere to the Codes of Conduct may result in disciplinary action.

Everyone involved in boccia is expected to adhere to the principles set out in these Codes of Conduct. Some individuals may have multiple roles and are expected to use the respective Code of Conduct for each role.

It is important to note that the Codes of Conduct are expected to be followed by all; whether at a Boccia England organised competition or a locally organised competition; whether part of the National Squad or playing at a local club; and whether or not a member of Boccia England.

Allegations of a safeguarding nature, relating to the breaking of these Codes of Conduct, must follow the reporting procedures as contained in the Boccia England Safeguarding Children and Young People and Safeguarding and Protecting Adults at Risk policies. (<http://bocciaengland.org.uk/organisation/documents/>)

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR BOCCIA PLAYERS

As a player I will:

- Be honest and play fairly within the rules of the sport and never deliberately cheat or be dishonest.
- Treat everyone equally regardless of age, gender, ability, race, cultural background, religious beliefs or sexual identity.
- Respect and never bully or take unfair advantage of another player, coach, official, classifier or volunteer.
- Abide by the safeguarding guidelines set out by Boccia England for children and young people and adults at risk.
- Not abuse or misuse any relationship of trust or position of power, or influence held by me.
- Report any concerns about a child or adult's welfare to the Club Welfare Officer or Boccia England Lead Safeguarding Officer.
- Always conduct myself in an appropriate manner and display courtesy and good manners to others.
- Promote the code of conduct to other players, especially those new to the sport.
- Abide by the disciplinary sanctions that might be imposed on me.
- Cooperate with everyone involved in boccia, including players, coaches, officials, parents/carers, classifiers, volunteers and Boccia England.
- Always play to the best of my ability and give 100% to myself and my team.
- Recognise that I am an ambassador for my sport and act in a way that displays the values of the sport.
- Take responsibility for informing Boccia England, coaches, officials, classifiers and volunteers about any illness, disability or particular support needs to allow me to participate fully.

- Not participate under the influence of alcohol or illegal substances.
- Not wager on any match or event where I am playing.
- Not use any form of communication to bring the game into disrepute or make an inappropriate comment about a fellow player, coach, official, classifier, volunteer or Boccia England, Including but not exclusive of social media, email, direct verbal or physical.
- Not behave in a way that would disrespect or harm anyone involved in boccia.
- Not offer or accept any consideration whatsoever with a view to influencing the result of a match.

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR COACHES

As a coach I will:

- Comply with all rules, regulations and requirements of the sport including any leagues and competitions in which I am involved.
- Treat everyone equally regardless of age, gender, ability, race, cultural background, religious beliefs or sexual identity.
- Respect and never bully or take unfair advantage of another player, coach, official, classifier or volunteer.
- Abide by the safeguarding guidelines set out by Boccia England for Children and Young People, and Adults at Risk.
- Not abuse or misuse any relationship of trust or position of power, or influence held by me.
- Report any concerns about a child or adult's welfare to the Club Welfare Officer or Boccia England Lead Safeguarding officer.
- Report any suspected misconduct by anyone involved in boccia.
- Uphold an appropriate boundary between coach and player, especially when one person is under 18 of age. While the coach player relationship exists, the coach should not only refrain from initiating personal a relationship, but should also discourage any attempt by a player to initiate an intimate personal relationship, explaining the ethical basis of the refusal.
- Always conduct myself in an appropriate manner and display courtesy and good manners to others.
- Promote the code of conduct to other coaches, especially those new to the sport.
- Abide by the disciplinary sanctions that might be imposed on me.
- Be a positive role model for boccia by acting in a way that projects a positive image of coaching and being fair, considerate and honest with players.
- Be particularly aware of coaching children in a positive way that builds them up and does not use embarrassment or humiliation as a mean of discipline or control.
- Declare any potential conflicts of interest.
- Never argue with an official.
- Cooperate with everyone involved in boccia; including players, coaches, officials, parents/carers, classifiers, volunteers and Boccia England.
- Display the highest standards in my language, manner, punctuality, preparation, and presentation, ensuring that a player's time spent with me is positive.
- Ensure the training environment is safe.
- Keep up to date with the latest coaching practices and developments by taking up further coach education and other personal and professional development opportunities.

- Take responsibility for being informed about specific coaching needs of the player and discuss how coaching should be adapted to address these needs.
- Always speak to the player / players in an appropriate manner and ensure they understand my request.
- Wear appropriate coaching uniform, or the uniform provided.
- Always pick up the balls and not throw, kick, or roll the balls to move them while on court
- Not coach under the influence of alcohol or illegal substances.
- Not wager on any match or event where I am coaching.
- Not use any form of communication to bring the game into disrepute or make an inappropriate comment about a fellow player, coach, official, classifier, volunteer or Boccia England, including but not exclusive of social media, email, direct verbal or physical.
- Not behave in a way that would disrespect or harm anyone involved in boccia.
- Not offer or accept any consideration whatsoever with a view to influencing the result of a match.

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR OFFICIALS

As an official I will:

- Comply with all rules, regulations and requirements of the sport including any leagues and competitions in which I am involved.
- Treat everyone equally regardless of age, gender, ability, race, cultural background, religious beliefs or sexual identity. Everyone has the right to be protected from abuse.
- Respect and never bully or take unfair advantage of another player, coach, official, classifier or volunteer.
- Abide by the safeguarding guidelines set out by Boccia England for children and young people, and adults at risk.
- Not abuse or misuse any relationship of trust or position of power, or influence held by me.
- Report any concerns about a child or adult's welfare to the Club Welfare Officer or Boccia England Lead Safeguarding Officer.
- Report any suspected misconduct by anyone involved in boccia.
- Uphold an appropriate boundary between myself and players, especially when one person is under 18 of age. An Official should not only refrain from initiating a personal relationship, but should also discourage any attempt by a player to initiate an intimate personal relationship, explaining the ethical basis of the refusal.
- Always conduct myself in an appropriate manner and display courtesy and good manners to others.
- Promote the code of conduct to other officials, especially those new to the sport.
- Abide by the disciplinary sanctions that might be imposed on me.
- Be a positive role model for boccia by acting in a way that projects a positive image of officiating and being fair, considerate and honest with players.
- Remember that the game is for the players. Always be fair and impartial and control the game in a manner that will provide a positive experience for all players.
- Declare any potential conflicts of interest.
- Cooperate with everyone involved in boccia. Including players, coaches, officials, parents/carers, classifiers, volunteers and Boccia England.
- Display the highest standards in my language, manner, punctuality, preparation, and presentation, ensuring that a players time spent with me is positive.

- Keep up to date with the latest rules and officiating practices and developments by taking up further officiating education and other personal and professional development opportunities.
- Arrive at the competition on time and well prepared with a clear head. Always check the game schedule and be ready for the next game.
- Respect other referees and their decisions and not publicly criticize another official.
- Stay calm when confronted with emotional reactions from players, assistants, coaches, parents / carers or spectators.
- Always speak to players in an appropriate manner and ensure they understand your request.
- Make decisions with confidence.
- Wear appropriate referees uniform, or the uniform provided by the competition organisers.
- Always pick up the balls and not throw, kick, or roll the balls to move them while on court.
- Not officiate under the influence of alcohol or illegal substances.
- Not wager on any match or event where I am officiating.
- Not use any form of communication to bring the game into disrepute or make an inappropriate comment about a fellow player, coach, official, classifier, volunteer or Boccia England, including but not exclusive of social media, email, direct verbal or physical.
- Not behave in a way that would disrespect or harm anyone involved in boccia.
- Not offer or accept any consideration whatsoever with a view to influencing the result of a match.

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR CLASSIFIERS

As a classifier I will:

- Comply with all rules, regulations and requirements of the sport including any leagues and competitions in which I am involved.
- Treat everyone equally regardless of age, gender, ability, race, cultural background, religious beliefs or sexual identity.
- Respect and never bully or take unfair advantage of another player, coach, official, classifier or volunteer.
- Abide by the safeguarding guidelines set out by Boccia England for children and young people, and adults at risk.
- Not abuse or misuse any relationship of trust or position of power, or influence held by me.
- Report any concerns about a child or adults welfare to the Club Welfare Officer or Boccia England Lead Safeguarding Officer.
- Report any suspected miss conduct by anyone involved in boccia.
- Uphold an appropriate boundary between myself and players, especially when one person is under 18 of age. A Classifier should not only refrain from initiating a personal relationship, but should also discourage any attempt by a player to initiate an intimate personal relationship, explaining the ethical basis of the refusal.
- Always conduct myself in an appropriate manner and display courtesy and good manners to others.
- Promote the code of conduct to other classifiers, especially those new to the sport.
- Abide by the disciplinary sanctions that might be imposed on me.
- Be a positive role model for boccia by acting in a way that projects a positive image and being fair, considerate and honest with players.

- Treat all discussions with colleagues as confidential.
- Declare any potential conflicts of interest.
- Be courteous, objective, honest and impartial in performing classification duties for all players.
- Cooperate with everyone involved in boccia. Including players, coaches, officials, parents/careers, classifiers, volunteers and Boccia England.
- Cooperate with my fellow classifiers, coaches, officials and volunteers.
- Display the highest standards in my language, manner, punctuality, preparation, and presentation ensuring that a players time spent with me is positive.
- Keep up to date with the latest rules and classifying practices and developments by taking up further classifying education and other personal and professional development opportunities.
- Explain decisions in a calm and measured way
- Accept responsibility for all actions and decisions taken and be open to discussion and interaction with players and player support personnel.
- Make classification rules widely known and understood by players and player support personnel.
- Always speak to players in an appropriate manor and ensure they understand your request.
- Wear appropriate clothing or the uniform provided.
- Not operate under the influence of alcohol or illegal substances.
- Not wager on any match or event where I am classifying.
- Not use any form of communication to bring the game into disrepute or make an inappropriate comment about a fellow player, coach, official, classifier, volunteer or Boccia England, Including but not exclusive of social media, email, direct verbal or physical.
- Not behave in a way that would disrespect or harm anyone involved in boccia.
- Not offer or accept any consideration whatsoever with a view to influencing the result of a match.

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR PARENTS AND P.A.s

As a parent or P.A. I will:

- Teach and treat everyone equally regardless of age, gender, ability, race, cultural background, religious beliefs or sexual identity.
- Abide by the safeguarding guidelines set out by Boccia England for children and young people, and adults at risk.
- Report any concerns about a child or adult's welfare to the Club Welfare Officer or Boccia England Lead Safeguarding Officer.
- Report any suspected misconduct by anyone involved in boccia.
- Always conduct myself in an appropriate manor and display courtesy and good manners to others.
- Promote the code of conduct to other parents and PA'S, especially those new to the sport.
- Abide by the disciplinary sanctions that might be imposed on me.
- Support all efforts to remove verbal, physical and racist abuse from boccia.
- Not force an unwilling participant to take part in boccia.
- Encourage all to play by the rules and respect the match officials.

- Never ridicule or shout at a participant for making a mistake or losing a game.
- Teach that effort and teamwork are as important as victory, so that the result of each game is accepted without undue disappointment.
- Remember that young people and vulnerable adults learn best by example.
- Take responsibility for informing Boccia England, coaches, officials, classifiers and volunteers about any illness, disability or particular support needs of my child.
- Refrain from publicly questioning the judgement or honesty of match officials.
- Recognise the value and importance of volunteers in boccia. They give their time, energy and resources to provide recreational activities for others.
- Set a good example by recognising fair play and applauding good performances of all.
- Encourage regular participation in sport.
- Not attend a boccia setting under the influence of alcohol or illegal substances.
- Not wager on any match or event where I am attending.
- Not use any form of communication to bring the game into disrepute or make an inappropriate comment about a fellow player, coach, official, classifier, volunteer or Boccia England, Including but not exclusive of social media, email, direct verbal or physical.
- Not behave in a way that would disrespect or harm anyone involved in boccia.
- Not offer or accept any consideration whatsoever with a view to influencing the result of a match.

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR VOLUNTEERS

As a volunteer I will:

- Comply with all rules, regulations and requirements of the sport including any leagues and competitions in which I am involved.
- Treat everyone equally regardless of age, gender, ability, race, cultural background, religious beliefs or sexual identity.
- Respect and never bully or take unfair advantage of another player, coach, official, classifier or volunteer.
- Abide by the safeguarding guidelines set out by Boccia England for children and young people and adults at risk.
- Not abuse or misuse any relationship of trust or position of power, or influence held by me.
- Report any concerns about a child or adults welfare to the Club Welfare Officer or Boccia England Lead Safeguarding Officer.
- Report any suspected misconduct by anyone involved in boccia.
- Uphold an appropriate boundary between myself and players, especially when one person is under 18 of age. A volunteer should not only refrain from initiating a personal relationship, but should also discourage any attempt by a player to initiate an intimate personal relationship, explaining the ethical basis of the refusal.
- Always conduct myself in an appropriate manner and display courtesy and good manners to others.
- Promote the code of conduct to other volunteers, especially those new to the sport.
- Abide by the disciplinary sanctions that might be imposed on me.
- Be a positive role model for boccia by acting in a way that projects a positive image and being fair, considerate and honest with players.

- Cooperate with everyone involved in boccia, including players, coaches, officials, parents/careers, classifiers, volunteers and Boccia England.
- Display the highest standards in my language, manor, punctuality, preparation, and presentation ensuring that a player's time spent with me is positive.
- Always speak to players in an appropriate manor and ensure they understand your request.
- Wear appropriate clothing, or the uniform provided.
- Always pick up the balls and not throw, kick, or roll the balls to move them while on court.
- Not attend a boccia setting under the influence of alcohol or illegal substances.
- Not wager on any match or event where I am attending.
- Not use any form of communication to bring the game into disrepute or make an inappropriate comment about a fellow player, coach, official, classifier, volunteer or Boccia England, including but not exclusive of social media, email, direct verbal or physical.
- Not behave in a way that would disrespect or harm anyone involved in boccia.
- Not offer or accept any consideration whatsoever with a view to influencing the result of a match.

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR SPECTATORS

As a spectator I will:

- Treat everyone equally regardless of age, gender, ability, race, cultural background, religious beliefs or sexual identity. Everyone has the right to be protected from abuse.
- Remain outside the field of play and in the designated spectator area (where provided).
- Encourage all players irrespective of their ability and never ridicule any individual player regardless of the team they play for.
- Avoid sudden loud noises when a player is preparing or playing a shot.
- Always conduct myself in an appropriate manor and display courtesy and good manners to others.
- Promote the code of conduct to other spectators, especially those new to the sport.
- Abide by the disciplinary sanctions that might be imposed on me.
- Encourage all to play by the rules and respect the match officials.
- Never ridicule or shout at a participant for making a mistake or losing a game.
- Refrain from publicly questioning the judgement or honesty of match officials.
- Not attend a boccia setting under the influence of alcohol or illegal substances.
- Not use any form of communication to bring the game into disrepute or make an inappropriate comment about a fellow player, coach, official, classifier, volunteer or Boccia England, including but not exclusive of social media, email, direct verbal or physical.
- Not behave in a way that would disrespect or harm anyone involved in boccia.
- Not distract anyone involved in the game in any way at all.

Equity Statement for Blackpool Boccia Club.

This club is committed to ensuring that equity is incorporated across all aspects of its development. In doing so it acknowledges and adopts the following Sport England definition of sports equity:

Sports equity is about fairness in sport, equality of access, recognising inequalities and taking steps to address them. It is about changing the culture and structure of sport to ensure it becomes equally accessible to everyone in society.

The club respects the rights, dignity and worth of every person. The club will therefore provide an environment suitable to the nature of the club where everyone will be treated equally within the context of boccia, regardless of age, ability, gender, race, ethnicity, religious belief, sexuality or social/economic status.

The club is committed to provide according to its ability and in a safe environment the opportunity for everyone to enjoy their sport in an environment free from threat of intimidation, harassment and abuse.

All club members have a responsibility to oppose discriminatory behaviour and promote equality of opportunity.

The club will deal with any incidence of discriminatory behaviour seriously, according to club disciplinary procedures.

DECLARATION OF PARENTS/CARERS

I, (name) agree to my son/daughter taking part in club sessions.

I consent to any emergency medical treatment necessary during the sessions. I therefore authorise the supervisor to sign any written form of consent required by hospital authorities on my behalf, should the delay required to obtain my signature be considered likely to endanger my child's health by the said authority. In such circumstances I understand that every effort shall be made to contact me prior to this action being taken.

I understand that the sessions are insured in respect of legal liabilities (third party and public liability) but that personal accident insurance for my child is not covered. I also understand that any extension of insurance for my child is my responsibility.

All members will be subject to the regulations of the constitution and by joining the club will be deemed to accept these regulations and codes of practice that the club has adopted.

Name of member:	
Signature of Parent/Carer:	
Date:	
Please return this Declaration Form and retain the Code of Conduct for your reference.	

CODES OF CONDUCT DECLARATION

I, (name) confirm receipt of the Coaches and Volunteers / Parents and Carers / Club Member (delete as appropriate) Code of Conduct and agree to abide by the terms and conditions there in.	
Name of member:	
Signature of member:	
Date:	
Please return this Code of Conduct Declaration Form and retain the Code of Conduct for your reference.	

ANTI BULLYING POLICY DECLARATION

I, (name) confirm receipt of the Anti-Bullying policy and agree to abide by the terms and conditions there in.	
Name of member:	
Signature of member:	
Date:	
Please return this Anti-Bullying Declaration Form and retain the Policy for your reference.	

EQUITY POLICY DECLARATION

I, (name) confirm receipt of the Equity Policy and agree to abide by the terms and conditions there in.	
Name of member:	
Signature of member:	
Date:	
Please return this Open Access Declaration Form and retain the Policy for your reference.	