



# **BOWLING LEAGUE OF IRELAND**

**Instituted 1927**

## **CONSTITUTION**

## UPDATE HISTORY from April 2014

Updated 12<sup>th</sup> April 2018

See minutes of the SGM of the 11<sup>th</sup> April 2018 for details of changes.

Updated 27<sup>th</sup> November 2017

See minutes of the AGM of 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2017 for details of changes.

Updated 9<sup>th</sup> December 2016

See minutes of the AGM of 24<sup>th</sup> November 2016 for details of changes.

Updated 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2016

See minutes of the SGM of 6<sup>th</sup> April 2016 for details of changes.

Updated 1<sup>st</sup> December 2015 to reflect changes at AGM 2015. Includes splitting the Constitution & Competition Rules into 2 documents.

Updated 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2015

See minutes of the SGM of 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015 for details of changes.

Updated 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2014

See minutes of the AGM of 27<sup>th</sup> November 2014 for details of changes.

Updated 29<sup>th</sup> August 2014

Rule 25 amended to reflect motion passed at the SGM on the 27<sup>th</sup> of August 2014

Updated 10<sup>th</sup> April 2014

Arising out of an automated comparison of the 2013 and 2014 yearbooks a number of errors were found and these have now been corrected. These errors occurred in the following sections

- Rule 4 management
- Rule 10 Development Fund
- Rule 13 Appeals and Protests
- Cullen Cup
- O'D Cup
- Shott Cup

Updated 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2014

Rule 4 Management and Rule 12 Attire amended to reflect motions passed at SGM on the 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2014.

# Constitution

## Definitions

Lawn Bowls – The sport of outdoor flat green bowls played on either a natural or synthetic surface

### 1. Title

The name of the League shall be The Bowling League of Ireland, hereinafter referred to as the BLI, which is the Governing Body of the sport of lawn bowls for male players in the Republic of Ireland, and its colours shall be blue, green and gold.

### 2. Objects

The objects of the League shall be to promote, foster and regulate the game of bowls in the Republic of Ireland in affiliation with the Irish Bowling Association.

### 3. Laws of the Game

The code of laws of the game in force under The World Bowls Board shall be binding on all League Clubs.

Open tournaments must be licensed by The Irish Bowling Association and must comply with the laws of the game.

### 4. Management

The business of the League shall be conducted by a Council consisting of the officers, namely President, Vice-President, Immediate Past President, Honorary Secretary, Honorary Assistant Secretary, Honorary Treasurer, Honorary Competitions Secretary, Honorary League Secretary, Public Relations Officer and National Children's Officer in whose name the League may sue and be sued, and one delegate from each affiliated club. If the Anti-Doping Officer is not on Council as either an Officer or Club delegate, he may sit on council but without voting rights. Similarly if a staff umpire, staff coach, webmaster, or sub-committee convenor who are also members of the BLI are not on Council as either an Officer or Club delegate, they may sit on council but without voting rights.

The Officers mentioned in the first sentence with the exception of the President, Vice President and Immediate Past President shall each be paid an honorarium, the amount of which shall be agreed by Council.

The President and Vice-President shall occupy their respective offices for one year at the conclusion of which the Vice-President shall be appointed President and a member appointed Vice-President who shall have been nominated by an affiliated club in accordance with a Rota of clubs determined from time to time by the Council. If a President or Vice-President vacates office, the club that nominated him shall have the right to nominate a member to fill the vacancy. If at any time the club entitled to nominate one of its members for the position of Vice-President fails to do so, the opportunity shall pass on to the club next in line on the Presidential Rota. Other than the Council giving approval for a change in the Rota to cover a special occasion, clubs that fail to submit a nomination for the position

of Vice President shall not be afforded another opportunity to do so until their turn comes around again in the Rota system.

The President, and in his absence the Vice-President, shall preside at all Council Meetings, and in the absence of both President and Vice-President, Council Members present shall elect a Chairman from their number. In the event of an equality of voting, the Chairman shall have a second or casting vote.

The Council each year at their first meeting after the Annual General Meeting shall appoint the following sub-committees

**1. Selection Committee whose term of office shall be two years** and shall consist of four members, each from a different club, and they shall be responsible for selecting both junior and senior inter-association teams and any other representative BLI teams. The election of the four members shall take place at the January Council meeting each year. Selectors shall serve for a period of two years with the exception of the year 2017 when two selectors chosen by lot shall serve only one year. The International Selector, shall be nominated by Council to the IBA for a three-year term according to the Rota as laid down by the IBA and he shall be convenor and chairman of the selection committee, and shall have a vote. The International Selector elected in January 2017 shall serve a 4 year term in order to realign the term with the IBA rota.

Candidates for selection including the International Selector must submit a written CV to the Honorary Secretary for Council's consideration by the December meeting in the year preceding seeking election. These CV's must be circulated by the Honorary Secretary to the clubs for their consideration within two weeks of the that meeting. When assessing the candidate clubs must ensure that the candidate is experienced enough to command the respect of the players and must be available to attend all practices and Inter-Association events. All selectors must be Garda Vetted.

Should a vacancy occur at any stage a replacement will be co-opted on the nomination of the Executive.

The selection committee may select a captain for each team who may be co-opted on to the committee to assist in the selection of that team, but shall not have a vote. Selectors shall not be eligible to play on teams for which they are responsible for selection.

**2. Greens Inspection Committee whose term of office shall be three years** and shall consist of: six members of the BLI with three from a grass club and three from a synthetic club. One of the members who shall be convener must be a member of Council

**3. Finance Committee who shall consist of:** President, Treasurer, Secretary and Asst. Secretary and shall have power to delegate to such subcommittees whatever duties and powers the Council may consider necessary for the proper functioning of the League, subject to the overriding control of the Council.

Both the President and Honorary Secretary shall be an ex officio member of all sub-committees but they shall not have the right to vote at any meeting of a subcommittee unless an elected member thereof.

The Officers shall form the Executive of the BLI and manage the affairs of the BLI when the council is not in session. Four shall form a quorum provided a minimum of 3 clubs are represented. Any decision of the Executive shall be binding unless and until it has been reversed by the Council

The Council shall meet at least once in each calendar month unless the officers decide there is not sufficient business to necessitate such a meeting. At least 7 days' notice of each Council meeting shall be given by the Honorary Secretary and 15 shall form a quorum. The agenda for the meeting and the minutes of the previous meeting will be included in the notice and shall be sent to all clubs.

Any club with a team involved in leagues except the Southern Division" which does not have a delegate present at 3 consecutive meetings shall be fined €100.

The officers of the Council shall hold office from their appointment or election at an Annual General Meeting until the next Annual General Meeting.

The Council shall have power to fill by election any vacancy amongst the officers other than the Vice-President between Annual General Meetings.

**4. Development Committee** which shall consist of at least one member of the Executive who shall be the convenor and members of the BLI, who may or may not be members of Council. They shall have power to conduct widespread consultation and research and co-opt members of the LBLI onto their committee if they feel it appropriate. They will report to the BLI Council on or before the September Council meeting. The initial committee to be appointed at the May 2018 BLI Council meeting.

## **5. Honorary Members**

The Council shall have the power to nominate as an Honorary Member of the BLI any gentleman whose position amongst bowlers or whose services in the interests of the game are such as in the opinion of the Council entitle him to that distinction. The intention to propose the election of an Honorary Member shall be notified to any meeting of the Council, and if agreed at that meeting it shall go forward to the next AGM for approval by the members.

An Honorary Member

1. Shall be exempt from paying both the Affiliation and Development Fees.
2. Shall not be entitled to attend Council Meetings, unless he is an officer of the BLI or a delegate of an affiliated club.
3. Shall be invited as a guest to attend the Unfurling of the BLI Flag and the Annual Dinner.
4. He may attend the Annual General Meeting but shall not have a vote unless he is a delegate from his club.

The number of Honorary Members shall not exceed 8

## **6. Annual General Meetings**

An Annual General Meeting shall be held in November in each year for the purpose of

1. Considering annual reports which shall be submitted by the Honorary Secretary, Honorary Treasurer (Interim Report) Honorary League Secretary, Honorary Competitions Secretary, Public Relations Officer, National Children's Officer, and Anti-Doping Officer
2. Consideration of motions duly submitted to the meeting by the Council or affiliated clubs;
3. Election and appointment of officers;
4. Appoint a Medical Officer and Anti-Doping Officer
5. General Business

The business of the meeting shall be conducted in accordance with the standing orders. A Copy of standing orders, which control the conduct of a General meeting, shall be issued to every club.

Nominations for all officers should be received by the Honorary Secretary not later than one calendar month previous to the Annual General Meeting, and if not so received, shall be invalid.

If no valid nomination has been received for an office, other than the offices of President and Vice-President, the outgoing officer shall be eligible for re-election at the Meeting without nomination. In the event of such officers being unwilling to accept re-election, the meeting shall have power to elect any member of an affiliated club who is known to be willing to accept that office.

It shall be the right of any affiliated club or the Executive to submit a notice of Motion for consideration to the Annual General Meeting such notice must reach the Honorary Secretary at least six weeks prior to the date fixed for the meeting. Notice of amendments must reach the Honorary Secretary at least three weeks prior to the meeting

The Honorary Secretary shall send to the Honorary Secretaries of each affiliated club one copy of:

1. The notice convening the meeting
2. The agenda
3. The reports
  - a. Honorary Secretary,
  - b. Honorary Competitions Secretary,
  - c. Honorary League Secretary,
  - d. Public Relations Officer
  - e. the interim report of the Honorary Treasurer
4. Every notice of motion duly submitted for consideration at the meeting, and one copy to each member of the Council and Honorary Members not less than five weeks prior to the date fixed for the meeting and any notice of amendment two weeks prior to the meeting

The meeting shall be open to all members of affiliated clubs for discussion on any subject raised but voting shall be confined to duly appointed club delegates (each club being entitled to three delegates) and the officers of the League.

## **7. Special General Meeting**

A Special General Meeting shall be summoned only to consider changing constitutional and/or competition rules, or in accordance with clause 12, or to consider any matter considered by the Council to be of sufficient importance to justify the holding of a Special General Meeting. It may be summoned at the discretion of the Council, Executive, or on a written requisition to the Honorary Secretary of the Bowling League from an affiliated club. The requisition must be accompanied by a fee of €100, and must state the matter for consideration at the meeting. When the Council has decided that the requirements for summoning a Special General Meeting have been met, the notice convening the meeting shall be sent to each affiliated club. Only in that event shall the €100 fee be refunded to the club requesting the meeting.

The notice convening the meeting shall state the nature of business to be considered and no other business shall be transacted at the meeting. At least ten days' notice of the meeting shall be given to each affiliated club.

The persons entitled to attend and vote shall be the same as at the Annual General Meeting.

## **8. Membership**

All applications for affiliation to the League shall be made in writing to the Honorary Secretary giving the name of the club and the names, addresses, telephone numbers, and email addresses of its office holders. The appropriate club affiliation fee as specified in clause 9 should be sent with the application. The Council shall at its first meeting after receipt of the application decide by vote whether to accept or refuse the application and a ballot shall be taken if demanded by any member of the Council.

## **9. Subscriptions and Fees**

Each club shall pay an annual subscription to The Bowling League of Ireland at a rate to be proposed by Council for approval by the members at an Annual General Meeting or Special Meeting and calculated as follows:

Each Club shall pay an annual subscription to the BLI of €35.

In addition, each club shall pay an annual fee to the BLI at a rate per member for each member who has been registered prior to the first league match of the season under competition rule 5 to take part in any BLI competition during the current year. All subscriptions and fees for each year shall be payable to the Honorary Treasurer not later than 4 weeks from date of issue of Invoice. If any club fails to pay by within the 4 weeks a fine of €50 will be imposed on the club concerned.

The Honorary League Secretary shall advise the Honorary Treasurer at the end of each season the number of players registered per club subsequent to the above registration. Clubs shall be invoiced for such extra players with the following years invoice.

In addition, each Club shall purchase at least one ticket for the Annual BLI Dinner.

The Council shall have the power to reduce the subscription rate for a particular club due to special financial circumstances that the Council deems appropriate. Any club requesting a reduction must send a written request annually to the Honorary Secretary at least two weeks before the 1<sup>st</sup> May of that year. Any requests received after that date will not be considered.

Clubs who do not partake in the BLI Leagues shall be charged 50% of the of the Capitation Fee.

## **10. Development Fund**

A development charge at a rate to be proposed by Council for approval at an Annual General Meeting shall be charged for each member of a club who has been registered prior to the first league match of the season under competition rule 5 to take part in any BLI competition during the current year. All subscriptions and fees for each year shall be payable to the Honorary Treasurer not later than 4 weeks

from date of issue of Invoice. If any club fails to pay by within the 4 weeks a fine of €50 will be imposed on the club concerned.

The Honorary League Secretary shall advise the Honorary Treasurer at the end of each season the number of players registered per club subsequent to the above registration. Clubs shall be invoiced for such extra players with the following years invoice.

From the year 2013 until further notice, the charge for each member shall be €3.

Honorary Members, players under 25 who have a current student card, and players under 18, are exempt from paying the BLI subscription and development charges.

The development charge together with any funds appropriated by the Council shall comprise the Development Fund. At no time will the total aggregate loans outstanding to clubs exceed 60% of General Reserves, less Presidential Funds, as stated in the latest Annual Report and Financial Statement.

No club will be advanced a loan exceeding 75% of cost of project.

The Finance Committee shall manage the funds comprising the Development Fund and all matters concerning the investment of the funds shall be determined by a unanimous decision of the Finance Committee. The Secretary and the Treasurer shall jointly have the authority to sign on behalf of the Bowling League of Ireland any documents relating to the management or investment of the funds.

The funds shall be available to foster and develop the game of bowls in the Republic of Ireland by way of interest-free loans to member clubs and to finance the acquisition and development of bowling greens and premises.

An application by a member club for a loan shall be considered by the Council on the recommendation of the Finance Committee. All loans approved shall be paid back to the Bowling League of Ireland by either 6 monthly or 12 monthly instalments and must be paid in full within three years. Each loan approval will include a drawdown date as specified in the loan application. If the proceeds are not drawn down within 12 months of this date, then the approval will expire.

If a loan or any part of it remains unpaid after three year's then interest at the rate of 5 % will be added to the outstanding balance. Before a loan is advanced, the club must return the approval for a loan form, duly signed by the President and Secretary and dated.

## **11. Attire**

When the Council so rules, players must wear club blazers and white trousers.

For all Saturday and Sunday league or cup matches, semi-finals and finals of cup competitions and semi-finals and finals of the Championships, competing players must wear regulation dress comprising white, cream or club coloured trousers or tailored shorts, white socks and outer garments as defined at the end of this clause. Belts and braces, if worn, shall be white or cream. Regulation bowling shoes shall be worn for all matches.



Players on teams or sides shall wear white or club coloured shirts/polo shirts, with or without a sponsor's logo, as have been approved in advance by the Council. All players must wear shirts/polo shirts of the same colour.

Cardigans, pullovers, headgear, jackets and wind protectors, where worn, shall be white or club coloured, with or without a sponsors' logo, providing such colours and designs have been approved in advance by the Council.

Outer rainwear shall be white, as per manufactures' designs, or such other club coloured rainwear as has been approved in advance by the Council.

## **12. Appeals and Protests**

Should any dispute arise as to the meaning or interpretation of any of these rules or of the competition rules or upon any point not covered by the rules, any of the parties to the dispute may appeal to or lodge a protest with the Council.

All such appeals and protests shall be sent in writing to the Honorary Secretary who shall thereupon refer the matter to the next ordinary meeting of the Council or if the matter is of an urgent nature the Secretary may if practicable call a Special General Meeting of the Council to deal with it or otherwise refer it to the Executive Committee.

## **13. Suspension**

Any club refusing compliance with or acting in contravention of a decision of the Council may be suspended or expelled from the League by the Council. Such suspension or expulsion shall be pronounced by the Council at a Special Meeting called to consider same and of which meeting the club concerned shall receive at least 7 days clear notice.

A notice of such suspension or expulsion shall be sent by the Honorary Secretary by registered post on the day following the decision, to the Honorary Secretary of the club and thereupon the said club shall forfeit all subscriptions and other fees paid by it and all rights, benefits and privileges of League membership, but the said club shall nevertheless have a right of appeal to a Special General Meeting of the League against the decision of Council provided that the requisition for such appeal is sent to the Honorary Secretary in accordance with clause 7 not later than 10 days after the said decision of the Council.

## **14. Role of Officers**

- a) The **Honorary Secretary** shall be responsible for the proper carrying out of the day to day secretarial work of the League as directed by the Council including the maintenance of proper records of all business transacted at General and Council Meetings, and shall be an ex officio member of all committees without voting powers unless he is an elected member of such committee.
- b) The **Honorary Assistant Secretary** shall be responsible for such duties as may be assigned to him by the Honorary Secretary and the Council.
- c) The **Honorary Treasurer** shall be responsible for the receipt and disbursement of all League funds and for the maintenance of proper accounts in respect of such. He shall submit his

report and accounts duly audited in respect of the previous financial year at an S.G.M. to be held before the 30<sup>th</sup> of April of each year. At the S.G.M. the election and appointment of an Auditor shall take place. Annual accounts shall be kept and made available to the Revenue Commissioners on request. The financial year shall end on 31<sup>st</sup> December annually.

- d) The **Honorary Competitions Secretary** shall be responsible for the organisation and the carrying into effect of the Singles, Pairs, Triples and Fours Championships (Senior and Junior) and the Senior Fours including the closing dates for each round thereof and the maintenance of proper records of these Championships.
- e) The **Honorary League Secretary** shall be responsible for the preparation of all League and Cup fixtures and the maintenance of proper records of League and Cup Competitions.

The **Honorary Competitions Secretary** and the **Honorary League Secretary** will both be members of the Competitions Committee and each is empowered to convene meetings of that Committee either collectively or in part to assist in the efficient carrying out of his duties.

- f) The **Public Relations Officer** shall be responsible for the promotion of the game of bowls and the Bowling League of Ireland affairs through the media, television, radio, press etc. and also to attain where possible sponsorship for the competitions run by The Bowling League Of Ireland.
- g) The **National Children's Officer** will be responsible for the mandatory vetting of Persons who wish to undertake certain work or activities relating to children or vulnerable persons who participate in the sport of bowls within The Bowling League of Ireland.

## 15. Inspection of Greens

Before the start of each season all clubs shall be circulated with a 'Bowling Green Approval Form'. The precise dimensional details of the club's green shall be inserted against the appropriate section on the form, which shall then be signed by the club secretary and returned to the Honorary Secretary before the commencement of play in any League, Cup or BLI Championship matches.

All forms shall be submitted by the Honorary Secretary to the Greens Committee for scrutiny and the preparation of a full written report, which shall be presented to the Council at its May meeting.

Clubs who have not returned their 'Bowling Green Approval Form' in time for the Greens Committee to prepare a report for the May Council Meeting shall have their green closed. The club shall then be responsible for arranging all their fixtures until such time as they submit their 'Bowling Green Approval Form' and receive notification from the Honorary Secretary that their green has been approved for play. Upon receipt of the 'Bowling Green Approval Form' the Greens Committee shall review it and report on it to the Honorary Secretary. The Honorary Secretary shall immediately notify the Executive Committee and the club concerned of the Green Committee's report. He shall also, within three days, notify the secretaries of all other clubs of the Greens Committee's report.

The BLI Greens Committee shall, prior to the start of the bowling season, inspect any green on which the BLI Championships, National Championships, Inter-Association or Internationals are to be held.”

If a club regards its green as being unsuitable for play the club secretary shall inform the Honorary Secretary of the BLI in writing. The Honorary Secretary shall advise the Greens Committee Convenor and all clubs of the situation. The club concerned shall keep the Honorary Secretary informed on the remedial action it undertakes and shall inform him when the necessary work has been completed. The Greens Committee shall then inspect the green. The Honorary Secretary shall inform the secretaries of all clubs regarding the outcome of the inspection.

The Council shall have the power at any time to close any green during the course of the season if considered unfit for the playing of matches under the control of the BLI.

The process shall follow the following procedure:

- If a club believes a particular green to be unfit for play the club secretary shall submit a complaint in writing to the Honorary Secretary. The Honorary Secretary shall immediately advise the Greens Convenor who shall arrange to have the green inspected by the Greens Committee, of which a minimum of three of its members shall be present for the inspection.
- Immediately following the inspection, the Greens Convenor shall advise the Honorary Secretary of the outcome.

If the complaint is upheld:

- The Honorary Secretary shall immediately notify the Executive Committee, the complainant club, the club against whose green the complaint was made that the green is unfit for play. He shall also advise the secretaries of all other clubs, within three days, of the Greens Committee's report.
- The club whose green is deemed to be unfit for play shall then be responsible for arranging all their outstanding fixtures until such time as the work deemed necessary to make the green suitable for play has been carried out and the Greens Committee have reinspected and approved the green for play.
- The Executive shall decide upon the action to be taken regarding the match played which gave rise to the complaint and subsequent matches played prior to the inspection of the green.
- Once the remedial work deemed necessary by the Greens Committee has been carried out, the club shall advise the Honorary Secretary, who shall arrange to have the Greens Committee re-inspect the green.
- No league, cup or BLI Championship matches shall be played on the green until it has passed an inspection by the Greens Committee and all clubs have been advised accordingly.

If the complaint is not upheld:

- The Honorary Secretary shall immediately notify the Executive Committee, the complainant club and the club against whose green the complaint was made of Green Committee's report. He shall also, within three days, notify the secretaries of all other clubs that the green has been approved for play by the Greens Committee.

## **16. Alteration in Competition Rules**

The Competition Rules shall not be enlarged, repealed or altered except by (1) a resolution of a General Meeting passed in the same manner as a resolution altering the Constitution or (2) a resolution of the Council passed by two thirds of those present and voting at a Special Meeting called for that purpose, the notice convening which shall state the exact nature of proposed alteration or addition, and which notice the members of the Council shall receive at least 14 days prior to the date of meeting.

## **17. Interpretation of Constitution and Competition Rules**

The Council shall have the power to interpret these Rules and the Competition Rules and to decide all matters not specifically provided for therein and their decision shall be final.

## **18. Doping**

The Anti-Doping rules of the Bowling League of Ireland are as the Irish Anti-Doping rules as amended from time to time. All members of Clubs affiliated to the Bowling League of Ireland are bound by the Irish Anti-Doping Rules, which have been circulated to each club, as amended from time to time, and the disciplinary procedures and sanctions contained therein.

## **19. Income and Property**

The income and property of the Bowling League of Ireland shall be applied solely towards the promotion of its main objects as set forth in this Constitution. No portion of the Bowling League of Ireland's income and property shall be paid or transferred directly or indirectly by way of dividend, bonus or otherwise howsoever by way of profit, to the members of the Bowling League of Ireland. No Officer shall be appointed to any office of the Bowling League of Ireland paid by salary or fees, or receive any remuneration or other benefit in money or money's worth from the Bowling League of Ireland in respect of such office. However, nothing shall prevent any payment in good faith by the Bowling League of Ireland of:

- (a) reasonable and proper remuneration to any member or Officer of the Bowling League of Ireland for any services rendered to the Bowling League of Ireland (other than as an Officer).
- (b) interest at a rate not exceeding 5% per annum on money lent by Officers or other members of the Bowling League of Ireland to the Bowling League of Ireland.
- (c) reasonable and proper rent for premises demised and let by any member of the Bowling League of Ireland (including any Officer) to the Bowling League of Ireland.
- (d) reasonable and proper out-of-pocket expenses incurred by any Officer in connection with their attendance to any matter affecting the Bowling League of Ireland.

(e) fees, remuneration or other benefit in money or money's worth to any Company of which an Officer may be a member holding not more than one hundredth part of the issued capital of such Company.

## **20. Winding-up**

If upon the winding up or dissolution of the Bowling League of Ireland there remains, after the satisfaction of all its debts and liabilities, any property whatsoever, it shall not be paid to or distributed among the members of the Bowling League of Ireland. Instead, such property shall be given or transferred to some other institution or institutions having main objects similar to the main objects of the Bowling League of Ireland. The institution or institutions to which the property is to be given or transferred shall prohibit the distribution of its or their income and property among its or their

members to an extent at least as great as is imposed on the Bowling League of Ireland under or by virtue of clause 19 hereof. Members of the Bowling League of Ireland shall select the relevant institution or institutions at or before the time of dissolution, and if and so far as effect cannot be given to such provisions, then the property shall be given or transferred to some charitable object.

## **21. Code of Ethics and Good Practice for Children in Sport**

The Bowling League of Ireland is fully committed to safeguarding the wellbeing of its members. Every individual in the Bowling League of Ireland should, at all times, show respect and understanding for their rights, safety and welfare, and conduct themselves in a way that reflects the principles of the Bowling League of Ireland and the guidelines contained in the Code of Ethics and Good Practice for Children's Sport in Ireland. It shall be the responsibility of the Children's Officer to make member clubs aware of their responsibilities in accordance with the Code of Ethics and Good Practice for Children's Sport. It shall be the duty of the Children's Officer to provide or to make arrangements for the provision of training for Clubs Children's officers.

## **22. Indemnity**

Members of the Council, its Standing Committees and any ad-hoc committee appointed by the Council shall be indemnified by the Association against all costs, losses and expenses which they may incur, or may become liable for, by reason of any contract entered into or act or thing done in good faith in accordance with the instructions of the Council, or a General Meeting of the Association.. It shall be the duty of the Association to provide insurance to indemnify the officers for such cost, losses and expenses.

## **23. Dispute Resolution**

### Just Sport Ireland:

- (a) Subject to all internal avenues of appeal having been exhausted, this clause shall apply to any dispute or difference arising out of, in connection with or under this Constitution or any rules, bye-laws, codes, policies or equivalent of the BLI. This shall include without limitation any dispute arising out of, under or in connection with the legality of any decision made or procedure used by the BLI or any part of it.

- (b) Each such dispute or difference shall be referred to Just Sport Ireland (JSI) for final and binding arbitration by a single arbitrator in accordance with the JSI Arbitration Rules and in accordance with the Arbitration Act 2010 as amended.
- (c) This clause shall also apply to every participant and member of every Unit (as defined below). Each such participant or member is bound to refer any dispute or difference which remains unresolved after all internal avenues of appeal have been exhausted to JSI arbitration in accordance with sub-clause b) above.
- (d) The provisions of this clause shall apply notwithstanding any other provision to the contrary contained within this Constitution and/or any other rules, bye-laws, codes, policies or equivalent of the BLI and/or any Unit from time to time. This clause applies notwithstanding the level within the BLI that any such dispute or difference occurs in the first instance.
- (e) The effect of this clause is to prohibit any party to such dispute or difference from commencing legal proceedings before the Courts.
- (f) For the purpose of this clause, "Unit" means any team, association, club or committee or sub-committee or other grouping, association or entity of any type which is in turn a member, part of, affiliated to or governed by the BLI.

#### **24. Alterations to Constitution**

The foregoing body of rules forming the Constitution of the League shall not be enlarged, repealed or altered except by a resolution for which a Notice of Motion shall have been given in accordance with the foregoing rules, passed by a majority of those present and voting at an Annual or Special General Meeting. The said Notice of Motion shall specify the exact nature of the proposed alteration to the rules. No addition, alteration or amendment shall be made to the objects and/or the income and property clauses in this Constitution for the time being in force unless the same shall have been previously approved in writing by the Revenue Commissioners.