

Harrogate Bowling Club

Guidance on Playing Guests & Visitors

1. Purpose of this Guidance

This note sets out a clear and consistent approach to guest and visitor play at Harrogate Bowling Club. It aims to support members and volunteers by clarifying the arrangements that apply when non-members use the green.

The club is required under its lease to allow public access to the green on payment of a fee. This guidance ensures that access is managed responsibly, safely and fairly.

2. Definitions

- **Guest** – a non-member invited to play by a current playing member, with that member present and responsible.
- **Visitor** – a non-member who attends independently (i.e., not accompanied by a member) and wishes to play during an organised session where supervision is available.
- **Social Member (playing as a visitor)** - a current social member who wishes to play bowls.

3. Fees (Rink and Equipment)

Adult visitor/guest fee: £5 per person per session

Under 18 visitor/guest fee: £2 per person per session

- Applies to juniors accompanied by a responsible adult member/visitor.
- Encourages youth participation while maintaining fairness.

Hire of shoes and club bowls/equipment: £1 per person

Fees are paid into the **Honesty Box in the clubhouse**, which is monitored by the Treasurer. This system is working well and should continue.

4. Signing-In Requirements

All guests and visitors **must**:

- Sign the **Visitors Book** before playing.
- Record their name, date, and the name of the member hosting them (if applicable).
- Pay the appropriate fee.

This ensures compliance with lease obligations, supports safety, and provides a record of usage.

5. Member Responsibilities When Hosting Guests

Members bringing guests are responsible for:

- The **behaviour, conduct and safety** of their guest(s).
- Ensuring guests understand basic green etiquette and do not disrupt other play.
- Supervising their guest(s) at all times.
- Ensuring fees are paid and the Visitors Book is completed.
- Ensuring green protection mats are used where appropriate to protect the green.
- Ensuring guests only use facilities permitted under this guidance.

Guests may use:

- The green
- Toilet facilities
- Bar/kitchen **only when open and staffed**.
- Guests may **not** use club equipment unsupervised.

6. Limits on Guest/Visitor Use

The following limits apply:

- Any individual may attend **up to 5 times per season** as a guest or visitor.
- After 5 visits, they will be encouraged to join the club.
- This maintains fairness and prevents long-term play at visitor rates.

7. When Visitors May Play

Visitors (i.e. unaccompanied non-members) may attend **only during supervised or organised sessions**, subject to rink availability.

This ensures:

- Someone is responsible for opening/closing the green
- Safety and conduct can be monitored
- Visitors are integrated into appropriate sessions

Visitors **cannot** book rinks independently or attend at unsupervised times, as this creates responsibility and safety issues.

8. Guests of Members – Rink Bookings

Members may book a rink for social play with guests, provided:

- The member is present throughout the session
- The booking does not conflict with club events or competitions

- All guests sign in and pay the appropriate fee

This supports social bowling and encourages potential new members.

9. Juniors

We encourage family and junior members to experience lawn bowls. In line with Bowls England frameworks, we simply ask that junior visitors possess the physical strength to grip and roll a bowl safely, can follow basic safety instructions on the green, and a respectful attitude toward the playing surface and fellow players.

Supervision: All visitors under the age of 18 must be accompanied by a parent, legal guardian, or a designated responsible adult/family member who must remain at the club for the duration of the session.

- Under-18 fee: **£2 per session**
- Must be supervised by the responsible member at all times
- Must follow safety guidance and use equipment appropriately

All junior activities are strictly governed by our club's Safeguarding Policy, which fully aligns with Bowls England Safeguarding standards.

10. Review and Approval

This guidance was reviewed by the Bowling Group and submitted for approval by the Management Committee.

**Helen Hamer
Club Secretary
10th August 2026**