



<u>Policy Title</u>	<u>Current Version Date</u>
Youth Bowl Ontario Code of Conduct	September, 2024

This policy shall govern all levels of YBC events under the jurisdiction of Youth Bowl Ontario.

The demonstration of positive behaviour and respect is foundational to the YBC program. Our sport has been and shall continue to be an enviable example of sportsmanship and dignity.

All bowlers, coaches, and spectators are subject to this policy. Application of this policy is the responsibility of the Tournament Director.

- **Section 1.0: Policy**
- **Section 2.0: Discipline for infractions**
- **Section 3.0: Complaints**
- **Section 4.0: Parent Code of Conduct**

1.0 POLICY

1.1 Foul language and gestures

Foul language and gestures are prohibited for all athletes, coaches and spectators.

1.2 Abuse of tournament officials

Tournament officials are individuals, often volunteers, who give their time for the benefit of youth bowling.

Under no circumstances shall a tournament official be subject to abuse (verbal or physical) by any athlete, coach, or spectator.

1.3 Fighting

Fighting of any kind, physical or verbal, between any parties is strictly prohibited.

Any party that feels they are the victim of a verbal or physical attack is obligated to report it to a tournament official; handling such an incident on one's own could result in all parties being disciplined.

1.4 General disruptions and failure to comply with tournament or house rules

The rules for each YBC event may vary, as such it is incumbent upon all athletes, coaches and spectators to adhere to the rules as outlined in the opening announcement, or distributed in advance of the event.

Similarly, in consideration of the fact that YBC events are held at a wide variety of facilities, some facilities may have individual house rules that are to be obeyed.

1.5 Excessive noisemaking

It is Youth Bowl Ontario's position that cheering is a form of positive reinforcement and as such is encouraged. **IT IS INCUMBENT UPON ALL ATHLETES, COACHES, AND SPECTATORS TO UNDERSTAND THAT THERE WILL BE CHEERING, CHANTING, AND OTHER LOUD NOISES AT YBC EVENTS.**

NOTE: Should a bowler have an invisible disability or sensitivity to loud or sudden noises, accommodations can be made, including permitting the use of ear plugs or noise-cancelling headphones (such items will not be provided by Youth Bowl Ontario). Bowlers with such requirements must inform the Tournament Director.

There are circumstances when cheering or noisemaking is deemed to be excessive or disruptive, and we ask that those cheering be respectful to opposing bowlers.

Examples of unacceptable cheering / noisemaking:

- 1) Any use of physical noisemakers or instruments.
- 2) Sustained yelling or chanting at maximum volume (short exclamations or celebrations not included).
- 3) High-pitched screaming of any kind.
- 4) Purposefully distracting an opposing bowler (*Note: the general act of cheering while opposing bowlers are on the approach is not considered a distraction*).

Please have fun, but it is the responsibility of each athlete, coach and spectator to also practice respect and consideration for those around them.

Understanding that the judgement of such things is subjective in nature, judgements of unacceptable cheering and noisemaking are at the sole discretion of the Tournament Director.

1.6 Flash photography

Flash photography is prohibited during competition.

1.7 Consumption of alcohol and non-prescribed drugs

No alcohol or non-prescribed drug shall be consumed by any athlete, coach, or tournament official during the event. (excludes over-the-counter medication for common ailments).

Any athlete, coach, or tournament official obviously under the influence of alcohol or non-prescribed drugs is subject to discipline as outlined in section 2.0.

2.0 DISCIPLINE FOR INFRACTIONS

Enforcement of discipline for infractions outlined in section 1.0 is at the sole discretion of the Tournament Director, but may range as follows:

	BOWLER	COACH / SPECTATOR
FOUL LANGUAGE	Warnings will be given, but continued negative behaviour may result in disqualification	Warnings will be given, but continued negative behaviour may result in a request to leave the premises
ABUSE OF TOURNAMENT OFFICIAL	Disqualification	Request to leave the premises
FIGHTING	Disqualification	Request to leave the premises
GENERAL DISRUPTIONS	Warnings will be given, but continued negative behaviour may result in disqualification	Warnings will be given, but continued negative behaviour may result in a request to leave the premises
EXCESSIVE NOISEMAKING	Warnings will be given, but continued negative behaviour may result in disqualification	Warnings will be given, but continued negative behaviour may result in a request to leave the premises

FLASH PHOTOGRAPHY	Warnings will be given, but continued negative behaviour may result in disqualification	Warnings will be given, but continued negative behaviour may result in a request to leave the premises
CONSUMPTION OF ALCOHOL / NON-PRESCRIBED DRUGS	Disqualification	Zero tolerance for coaches; spectators may be given a warning or request to leave the premises

ALL INFRACTIONS ARE SUBJECT TO REVIEW BY YOUTH BOWL ONTARIO, WHICH RESERVES THE RIGHT TO SUSPEND OR BAN INDIVIDUALS FROM COMPETING IN, OR ATTENDING ANY YBC EVENT IN SOUTHERN ONTARIO.

3.0 COMPLAINTS

3.1 How to report an incident or issue

Should you have a concern at an event, you are to direct it to the Tournament Director. **PLEASE DO NOT ATTEMPT TO CONFRONT OR HANDLE A SITUATION ON YOUR OWN.**

More general concerns may also be directed to Youth Bowl Ontario (E: info@bowlontario.ca).

4.0 PARENT CODE OF CONDUCT

The involvement of parents in their child's athletic endeavours is very important and strongly encouraged. Due to this involvement, parents play an important role in promoting good behaviour, and one of the best ways to do this is leading by example. As such, the following is a code of conduct for parents that should lay the groundwork for a positive experience:

- 1) I will remember that children participate to have fun and that the game is for youth, not adults.
- 2) I, and my guests, will be a positive role model for my child and encourage sportsmanship by showing respect and courtesy, and by demonstrating positive support for all players, coaches, officials and spectators at every event.
- 3) I, and my guests, will not engage in any kind of unsportsmanlike conduct with any official, coach, player or parent such as booing or taunting, or using profane language and gestures.
- 4) I will not encourage any behaviours or practices that endanger the health and well being of the athletes.
- 5) I will teach my child to play by the rules and to resolve conflicts without resorting to hostility or violence.
- 6) I will never ridicule or yell at my child or other participant for making a mistake or losing a competition.
- 7) I will respect the officials and their authority during competition, nor confront coaches during play, and will take time to speak with any official or coach at an agreed upon time and place.