



POLICY SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE

<u>Policy Title</u>	<u>Current Version Date</u>
Youth Bowl Ontario Code of Conduct	March, 2026

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 and enforcement of this policy is the responsibility of the Tournament Director.

Policy Sections

- 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 inappropriate 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 subjected to abuse (verbal or physical) by any athlete, coach, or spectator.

1.3 Verbal Threats of Physical Harm and Fighting

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

Any party who feels they are the victim of a verbal or physical threat or attack is obligated to report the incident to a tournament official. Attempting to handle the situation independently may result in disciplinary action for all parties involved.

1.4 General Disruptions and Failure to Comply with Tournament or House Rules

The rules for each YBC event may vary. It is the responsibility of all athletes, coaches, and spectators to adhere to the rules outlined during opening announcements or distributed prior to the event.

Additionally, because YBC events are held at a variety of facilities, individual bowling centres may have their own house rules that must also be followed.

1.5 Excessive Noisemaking

Youth Bowl Ontario recognizes cheering as a form of positive reinforcement and encourages it. All athletes, coaches, and spectators must understand that cheering, chanting, and other loud noises will occur at YBC events.

Accommodation Note:

If a bowler has an invisible disability or sensitivity to loud or sudden noises, accommodations may be made. This may include the use of earplugs or noise-cancelling headphones (these items will not be provided by Youth Bowl Ontario). Bowlers requiring such accommodations must inform the Tournament Director.

There are circumstances when cheering or noisemaking may be considered excessive or disruptive. Participants and spectators are expected to remain respectful to opposing bowlers.

Examples of unacceptable cheering or noisemaking include:

1. Use of physical noisemakers or instruments
2. Sustained yelling or chanting at maximum volume (short celebrations are acceptable)
3. High-pitched screaming
4. Intentionally attempting to distract an opposing bowler
(Note: general cheering while bowlers are on the approach is not considered a distraction.)

Participants are encouraged to have fun but must also show respect and consideration for those around them.

As judgement of excessive noise may be subjective, the determination of unacceptable cheering or noisemaking rests solely with 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 drugs may be consumed by any athlete, coach, or tournament official during the event. This does not include over-the-counter medication used for common ailments.

Any athlete, coach, or tournament official who appears to be under the influence of alcohol or non-prescribed drugs will be 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 and may include the following:

INFRACTION	BOWLER	COACH / SPECTATOR
Foul Language	Warnings will be given. Continued negative behaviour may result in disqualification.	Warnings will be given. Continued behaviour may result in removal from the premises.
Abuse of Tournament Officials	Immediate disqualification.	Immediate removal from the premises.
General Disruptions	Warnings will be given. Continued behaviour may result in disqualification.	Warnings will be given. Continued behaviour may result in removal from the premises.
Excessive Noisemaking	Warnings will be given. Continued behaviour may result in disqualification.	Warnings will be given. Continued behaviour may result in removal from the premises.
Flash Photography	Warnings will be given. Continued behaviour may result in disqualification.	Warnings will be given. Continued behaviour may result in removal from the premises.
Consumption of Alcohol / Non-Prescribed Drugs	Disqualification.	Zero tolerance for coaches and tournament officials with immediate disqualification and removal from event.
Verbal Threats of Physical Harm or Fighting	Disqualification, removal from the premises, and potential suspension from future YBC events.	Removal from the premises and potential suspension from future YBC events.

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 Reporting an Incident or Issue

If you have a concern during an event, it must be directed to the Tournament Director.

Participants and spectators should **not attempt to confront or handle a situation on their own.**

General concerns may also be directed to Youth Bowl Ontario at:
mike@bowlontario.ca

4.0 PARENT CODE OF CONDUCT

Parental involvement in a child's athletic development is extremely important and strongly encouraged. Parents play a significant role in promoting positive behaviour and sportsmanship, and one of the best ways to do this is by leading through example.

Parents are expected to follow this code of conduct:

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 positive role models for my child and will encourage sportsmanship by showing respect and courtesy toward all players, coaches, officials, and spectators.
3. I, and my guests, will not engage in unsportsmanlike conduct with any official, coach, player, or parent, including booing, taunting, or using profane language or gestures.
4. I will not encourage 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 resolve conflicts without hostility or violence.
6. I will never ridicule or yell at my child or another participant for making a mistake or losing a competition.
7. I will respect the officials and their authority during competition and will not confront coaches during play. If necessary, I will arrange an appropriate time and place to speak with an official or coach.