



General Code of Conduct

Introduction

Tenpin Ireland, as the officially recognised **National Governing Body (NGB) for the sport of tenpin bowling across all 32 counties of Ireland**, is committed to promoting respect, integrity, and fair play at all levels. This code is adapted from the **Sport Ireland national code of conduct template** and outlines the expected behaviour of all involved — whether as athletes, officials, coaches, parents, supporters, or committee members.

The code applies to all bowling activities and competitions, including training, events, and team gatherings, whether on the island of Ireland or internationally.

Scope

This code outlines the **minimum standards** of good conduct and respectful behaviour expected of everyone involved in the sport. The roles it covers include:

- Participants
- Coaches/Selectors/Assistants
- Supporters
- Parents/Guardians
- Referees/Officials
- Committees & Volunteers

The document should be read in conjunction with Tenpin Ireland's additional safeguarding, selection, and disciplinary policies, and it applies equally in both the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland under the unified NGB structure.

Positive Conduct

All involved — including coaches, selectors, assistants, supporters, parents/guardians, referees/officials, and committee members — are expected to:

- Adopt and uphold this Code of Conduct as a shared agreement with Tenpin Ireland.
- Respect the rules of the sport and support referees/officials in upholding them.
- Accept personal responsibility for conduct in line with Tenpin Ireland's values and policies.
- Promote inclusivity and mutual respect, regardless of gender, civil status, family status, sexual orientation, age, disability, race, religion, or membership of the Traveller community.
- Respect the roles and decisions of referees, officials, and committees.
- Act as ambassadors for the sport by displaying integrity and sportsmanship.
- Cooperate with coaches and officials, and listen to their guidance.
- Show appreciation to volunteers, coaches, and officials.
- Thank opponents and match officials — win or lose.
- Promote fair play and encourage others to do the same.

- Include and support all players to engage positively in the sport.
 - Avoid foul language or gestures and refrain from abusive, intimidating, or aggressive behaviour.
 - Complete any Garda Vetting or AccessNI checks (as applicable) if working with minors.
 - Maintain composure and professionalism in all interactions.
 - Avail of training, education, or CPD opportunities provided by Tenpin Ireland.
 - Report any breaches of conduct or safeguarding concerns in line with official procedures.
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Unacceptable Behaviour

The following behaviours are strictly prohibited under this Code:

- Verbal or physical abuse of players, referees, coaches, or supporters.
 - Intimidation, harassment, or bullying of any kind.
 - Any form of discriminatory, racist, homophobic, sectarian, or sexist remarks.
 - Aggressive or foul language toward children or vulnerable individuals.
 - Social media misuse, including taunting, online bullying, or spreading rumours.
 - Publicly undermining Tenpin Ireland officials or the resolution of disputes.
 - Disrespect toward opponents, volunteers, or others in the sporting environment.
 - Consuming alcohol or smoking/vaping while wearing national apparel.
 - Entering bowling or competition areas without permission.
 - Breaching confidentiality or misusing internal communications.
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Reporting & Disciplinary Action

Any individual who witnesses or experiences breaches of the Code should report concerns to the appropriate Tenpin Ireland official or committee via established procedures.

Tenpin Ireland may impose disciplinary actions, including but not limited to:

- Verbal or written warnings.
- Suspension from events or competitions.
- Monetary fines or forfeiture of competition points.
- Expulsion or suspension from the sport, team, or organisation.
- Referral of serious incidents to statutory authorities.

Disciplinary matters will be handled according to the most current disciplinary policies of Tenpin Ireland. Alleged criminal conduct will be referred to An Garda Síochána or the PSNI as appropriate.

Glossary of Terms

- **Participants** – Anyone engaging in tenpin bowling in a formal or informal capacity.
- **Coaches/Selectors/Assistants** – Individuals responsible for player development, team selection, or support roles.
- **Supporters** – Anyone attending to support teams or athletes.
- **Parents/Guardians** – Adults responsible for participants under the age of 18.
- **Referees/Officials** – Persons charged with enforcing rules or managing play.
- **Committees** – Designated groups overseeing governance, compliance, selection, or development activities.
- **Sporting Environment** – All locations and conditions where sport takes place (e.g. bowling centres, training venues, competitions).

Declaration

I, _____, acknowledge that I have read, understood, and agree to comply with the Tenpin Ireland General Code of Conduct while participating or engaging in the sport in any capacity.

Signed: _____

Role(s): _____

Date: _____

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