

Bowls England insurance FAQs

Your questions answered...

Questions about Civil Liability cover

Q) What is specifically covered in the Civil Liability insurance policy?

Legal Liability for third party injury, loss, or damage to premises, that you are deemed to be negligent whilst conducting the playing and non-playing activities of your club, county, associate member or group's activities.

This includes indemnity to principals and liability arising out of goods sold or supplied including refreshments - and Professional Liability. The cover is written on a claims made wording.

Q) What is the difference between Civil Liability and Public Liability?

In addition to indemnifying against negligent damage/injury caused to third party property/persons, it also includes:

- Financial Loss covers the pure financial loss, where no injury nor property loss is sustained but where your business is still held to be legally liable.
- Advice protects third parties against injury, loss, or damage as a result of negligent advice, tuition or coaching.
- Libel & Slander (to cover websites/publications/emails and other communications).

Q) What is specifically excluded from the Civil Liability insurance policy?

Principal exclusions are liability arising out of:

- The ownership, possession or use of mechanically propelled vehicle
- Product guarantee or recall repair or replacement
- Damage to any computer data
- Medical malpractice (except for first aid delivered in an emergency)
- Deliberate, dishonest or foreseeable acts
- Pension Trustees Liability
- Actions arising from activities in USA/Canada other than official club/county/Bowls England teams
- Incidents prior to the retroactive date (which excludes claims prior to 1st April 2006)
- Incidents/claims known to you but not reported to insurers

Q) Does the Civil Liability section cover a bowls club in the event of a claim made because of food poisoning from food and drink supplied by the club to visiting teams / individuals etc.?

Yes

Q) Our club plays indoor matches as well as outdoors. Will we be covered by the Civil Liability insurance for this?

Bowls England recognises that some outdoor clubs play against indoor clubs during the winter months. There is no limit to the number of matches an outdoor club plays against an indoor club. Indoor clubs must affiliate to EIBA Ltd and the outdoor club to Bowls England.

Q) Does the cover include accidents to members in the clubhouse or on and around the green?

Should the member be injured as a result of negligence on behalf of the club, its committee, officers, officials and members the policy would respond.

For instance, if the committee had been made aware of a loose paving slab and didn't repair it and it was the cause of a member to trip and injure themselves, the policy would provide protection. However, if a member had a pure accident, for instance tripping on a shoe lace, the policy wouldn't respond.

Q) Does the Civil Liability insurance provide cover if one of our club members has an accident on another green?

There is no personal accident cover under the policy.

The Civil Liability policy is not site specific and covers the club for third party injury and/or property damage that they are deemed negligent, whilst conducting the playing and non-playing activities of their club. If a member of your club sustains an injury as a result of the 'hosting' club's negligence, the claim should be directed to them and passed onto their insurers to deal.

Q) £5,000,000 or £10,000,000 Civil Liability indemnity limit, which is best for my club?

We recommend that a club holds a minimum indemnity limit of £5,000,000, which is generally considered sufficient for the low risk activities clubs participate in.

However, if you have a lease agreement with your local authority, it may be a requirement of the lease to have an increased limit of £10,000,000 or, you may feel it more prudent to hold a higher indemnity limit. This is the reason why you now have the option to increase the limit.

Q) In simple terms, what is the indemnity clause for and why do we need it (or put it in our club constitution)?

This refers to the Bowls England requirement for all committee members to be indemnified by their club for any decisions they make. Unincorporated clubs have no legal identity. Therefore, any individual member of a committee can be sued for a decision made at committee level. It would be the individual's own assets (e.g. house) that would be at risk. Bowls England have responded to this (in order to protect club committee members) in two ways:

a. Request all clubs include a clause in their constitution providing an indemnity to committee members in the event of there being a legal action against them as individuals. This would mean that all the assets of the club would be at the disposal of the individual.

b. Directors & Officers cover is automatically included within the Civil Liability policy.

Questions about Employers Liability cover

Q) Why is Employers Liability covered automatically rather than being an optional cover?

It is a legal requirement when you have people providing employment type duties (including volunteers) on behalf of your club, county, associate member, or group.

As a result, and the knowledge that all clubs, counties, associations and groups have volunteers to some degree, Employers' Liability is covered as standard.

Q) What is the definition of an Employee?

- Any person under a contract of service or apprenticeship with the Insured
- Any of the following persons whilst working for the club in connection with the business:
 - Any labour master of labour only subcontractor or person supplied by him
 - Any self-employed person providing labour only
 - Any home worker or outworker
 - Any trainee or person undergoing work experience
 - Any voluntary helper
 - Any person who is borrowed by or hired to the Insured
 - Any person working under the Community Offenders Act 1978, the Community Service by Offenders (Scotland) Act 1978 or similar legislation
 - Any prospective employee being assessed by the Insured as to their suitability for employment
 - Any person a court of law in the United Kingdom deems to be an employee

Q) Why am I required to have Employers' Liability for volunteers at the club?

The law doesn't restrict the definition of employees to those who receive payment for their services only. They're treated in the same way as other employees (e.g. if they do the same work under the same conditions as someone you employ and pay for services provided).

For example, you may ask a volunteer to change a light bulb and use a ladder. If that volunteer fell off the ladder and the club were to be found negligent but didn't have Employers' Liability insurance, the club is vulnerable. This is why Employers Liability is a compulsory cover under the Civil Liability scheme.

Q) We have paid employees such as bar staff. Does the Employers Liability adequately cover for this scenario?

Yes, it covers all persons conducting employment type duties on behalf of the club.

Questions about membership fees

Q) All our associate members pay a yearly membership fee so in effect they are club members. Are they covered by the insurance policy?

Yes. The policy provides cover to all playing and social members recorded in the club records.

Q) We do not charge a membership fee for life members. Would they be covered under the insurance policy?

Yes. Life members would be covered provided their details are recorded in the full membership records of the club.

Questions about non-affiliated clubs, guests, visitors, volunteers & events

Q) Does the Civil Liability insurance cover Club Social Members and 'uninvited guests'?

Club Social Members are covered to the same extent as a playing member. Guests, whether invited or uninvited, don't get protection via the club liability policy, but if the club were to be sued as a result of a guest being injured, then the Civil Liability policy would respond to defend such an action.

As regards to non-members visiting to try out the activity:

Clubs must make those who are trying out the game of bowls temporary members of the club.

Q) Can an affiliated club play a non-affiliated club? If we do play non-affiliated clubs, are we breaking any rules by playing them?

The situation is as follows:

- Friendly matches: provided these are within the recognised activities of Bowls England, which we understand is the case at present, all affiliated clubs who have taken out the Acrisure cover are protected for insurance purposes.

The Civil Liability policy insured (Club A) versus non-insured/insured elsewhere (Club B). Insurers have no real issue here in that the Bowls England insured club would be covered. However, it must be realised that the policy protects insured clubs against being sued for loss, injury or damage they cause to other persons or property. eg:

- Club A responsible for injury/loss to Club B: the Bowls England policy would protect Club A for costs/awards as necessary.
- Club B causes injury to Club A: there would be no cover under the Civil Liability policy.

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS AFFILIATED/BOWLS ENGLAND INSURED CLUBS MUST CONSIDER:

Do you know what insurance cover the non-affiliated club (Club B) has? Are you unwittingly putting your members in a situation where they may sustain injury by individuals who are uninsured and therefore have no source of recompense in the event of an injury?

In reality, Club B may have arranged basic insurance elsewhere. However, it would be sensible to ask them for details/confirmation prior to playing. It's unlikely that such alternative cover would be as extensive as the Civil Liability policy and may even exclude player to player incidents. The best solution would be for Club B to affiliate to Bowls England and take out the scheme insurance. It is very inexpensive compared to standalone policies.

Please remember that the insurance policy provides liability cover and not an accident policy. Under no circumstances should you admit liability or agree to pay for any damage caused as this may prejudice the position of insurers and could result in the withdrawal of any indemnity.

Q) Are visitors to clubs covered by the Civil Liability policy?

Visitors are not covered by the Civil Liability Scheme unless they are made temporary members of the club for the duration of their stay at the club. Visitors are only deemed to be temporary members if:

Firstly, they sign the Club's Visitors Book and secondly, if there's a clause in the Club's Constitution stating that visitors are classed as temporary members by signing the Visitors Book.

In the event of a claim relating to a visitor, sight of the Club's Visitors' Book and sight of the Club's Constitution will probably be requested by the Insurance Company.

Q) Does our policy provide cover for guest members from other local clubs who help out when we are short of players?

Cover to include these occasional players/emergency stand-ins is included, provided that the club have a category for 'guest players' within their constitution and such persons are noted within the club records as to when they have played.

This should be used for emergencies only as we don't want this arrangement to be abused and cover 4 or 5 non-members in a side on a regular basis. Alternatively, such persons could become members of more than one club as this is not against the rules of Bowls England.

Q) Are non-affiliated clubs allowed to play in leagues?

If a league allows non-affiliated clubs to join them this would be against Bowls England recommendation for the reasons stated above.

Q) If I'm an insured club, but join with others to form/run a league, why do I need additional cover?

In line with every other liability insurance (not just sports) issued, your cover is rated/provided on the basis of your activities as declared - in this case a Bowls Club. The activities of a club (generally speaking) will be different in type and number to that of a league - e.g. a club will play fewer matches than occur in a league and will be one club playing others.

A league will arrange matches for all clubs to play each other at least once. It will have slightly different objectives and will be responsible for discipline. The risk is different. Your liability insurance covers you as a club, not a league.

Liability insurance isn't transferable between organisations and will cover you whilst you're acting for the club, but not as the league. However, liability insurance will cover interclub leagues.

One question asked is this - if a league had no liability insurance who would be sued if there was an incident? If a claim was made against the committee for a negligent league decision this could well be you as an individual - which would mean that your personal assets would be at risk.

Q) Hiring club premises to third parties, are we covered?

The hiring for events that are no more hazardous than the playing of bowls such as birthdays, wakes, christenings etc. is classed as a usual activity of a club. If negligent injuries are sustained by person(s) attending these events, the policy will respond.

Q) Will our policy cover injuries that are as a result of a negligent act committed by an attendee of a private event?

No, it covers your club's negligence. If you require 'hirers liability' please contact Acrisure for further details.

Q) We are hiring outside caterers and a DJ for a social event, are they covered?

Cover is in place if the club are deemed negligent. However, all entities that provide a service need their own insurance to cover their own business activities.

Q) Our club is organising an event at our local village hall. Any profits from the activities during the evening will be passed to the funds of the bowls club. We often hold social and fundraising activities and wondered if these events are covered by our insurance?

Social and fundraising events are covered, where recognised/authorised by Bowls England, where the activities are no more hazardous than Bowls.

Q) We have a club member and/or volunteer and they are responsible for catering, green keeping and chemical spraying. Are these individuals required to hold any type of certificates outlining their responsibilities and would they be covered by our insurance?

Green keeping and chemical spraying should form part of the club's Risk Assessment. Additional information and assistance on procedures is available on this particular subject from the Health & Safety Executive website at www.hse.gov.uk/coshh/basics/assessment.html

Those involved in catering are required to hold a basic Food Hygiene Certificate. Further details will be available from your local council or the Health & Safety Executive.

Q) I have volunteers who run our junior section. Why do I need to ask for a criminal records check?

Essentially, both the Government and Bowls England wish to ensure that persons working with children and adults are as "safe" as possible. Bowls England recognise that they and clubs have a duty of care towards children and vulnerable adults.

The NSPCC don't differentiate between employees and volunteers. Their concern is those individuals who have opportunity. If you don't confirm that your club conforms with this request, insurers will be unable to include 'abuse' in your cover, and your club committee will remain vulnerable should a claim be made under this section.

Child protection and a responsible attitude to it is a mandatory and legal requirement of all National Governing bodies. Please refer to www.bowlsengland.com/safeguarding for further information on criminal records checks, including guidance on eligibility.

Q) How do I get advice and clearance on Criminal records checks, safeguarding of children and adults at risk?

To request a criminal records check, go to www.bowlsengland.com/safeguarding

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Questions about Risk Assessments

Q) Do we need to conduct Risk Assessments?

There's no formal health and safety structure within the policy wording. However, there is a 'Reasonable Precautions' condition, which states that the club shall take all reasonable care to prevent accidents and any injury, loss, destruction or damage and shall take all reasonable steps to observe and comply with statutory or local authority laws, obligations and requirements.

It's good practice for a club to undertake risk assessments, as the purpose is to identify hazards and assess the risk which could cause harm. Suitable measures to eliminate, control or reduce the risks can then be implemented.

Q) What should we consider when conducting a Risk Assessment?

- Identifying the risks (things that could go wrong) and identify the hazards (things that could cause harm)
- Deciding who might be harmed and how
- Evaluating each risk i.e., low, medium, or high risk and deciding on precautions
- Making a written record of your findings and implementing them and communicating the plan to all involved
- Updating/reviewing when necessary

Q) Is there any additional information available to us in respect of Risk Assessments?

The scheme insurer Allianz has designed an on-line facility, which provides a vast amount of information regarding health and safety issues. For further details, please contact the Sports Team on **0330 008 5876** or email sports@acrisure.com

Questions about claims

Q) What does 'Claims Made' mean?

The policy responds to claims made and reported to the insurer during the current period of insurance. There is a Retroactive date and claims arising from work undertaken or incidents that ought to have been known about prior to this date will not be paid.

If a claims made policy is allowed to lapse and you later take out a new one, the date will reset to the start of the new policy. It's vital that you don't allow cover to cease, even for a short time, otherwise you'll have no cover for past work.

Q) We do not charge a membership fee for life members. Would they be covered under the insurance policy?

To make a claim, please contact the Sports Team on **0330 008 5876** or email sports@acrisure.com Please also notify of any incident (whether results in a claim or not) as this is classified as a material circumstance that insurers need to be made aware of.

Other common questions

Q) What is the maximum age limit for a member?

There are no age restrictions to cover.

Q) Does the policy include cover for any property, playing surfaces, equipment, cups, and trophies etc. that the club are responsible for?

The Bowls England insurance scheme purely covers liabilities and does not have the facility to include property asset protection. If you would like a quotation for property damage, Acrisure UK Broking Ltd has a Bowls Club insurance package that can provide this. Please contact the Sports Team on **0330 008 5876** or email sports@acrisure.com

Q) If I am an insured club, why do I need cover for an Open Tournament?

This cover now comes as standard.

Q) As a club coach or umpire, am I covered?

Only if you are coaching/umpiring at your own club. Separate cover is available through the various coaches' and umpires' associations for your coaching/umpiring activities outside of your member club.

Q) What do we need to consider if a member or prospective member suffers with a medical condition or disability?

You need to take into account the regulations and guidelines as provided in the Equality Act 2010. It's the responsibility of the club to ensure that it complies with the Act and if in any doubt, you should seek independent legal advice.

The club will need to take into consideration the individual and their respective medical condition/disability and any additional measures that may be required. This should form part of the club risk assessment.

It may be necessary to request that the individual obtains a letter from their doctor or consultant to confirm that they are medically able to participate in the activity.

Q) We play competitive short mat, is this covered?

No. Competitive short mat and petanque isn't recognised by Bowls England and therefore wouldn't be covered by the insurance policy. Cover can be obtained through the ESMBA or Petanque England.

Playing short mat and petanque socially out of season at your clubhouse would be covered, provided it's included in your club's constitution/regulations/rules that it is part of your out of season activities.

Q) We have no junior members but only elderly members. Do we need to have a Welfare Officer with criminal records check clearance?

Please remember that your club has a legal and moral responsibility towards all members, including those who may visit the club with parents/grandparents and/or visiting teams.

Q) We have two constitutions (one for our women's section and another for our men's) with a Management or Executive Committee forming an umbrella. What are our insurance requirements?

As separate constitutions, the women's and men's would both need their own separate Civil Liability insurance. However, as members from the women's and men's clubs form the umbrella committee, then a separate liability policy for this umbrella committee isn't required.

Q) Will it make any difference to our club if we have two insurance policies but with two separate companies?

This isn't recommended as the cover under the policies is unlikely to be the same. Having two policies doesn't mean that you'll be covered by both i.e. double the benefits.

In the event of a loss, the most appropriate policy will respond. If both policies apply, the costs would be shared between the insurers.

Q) What do we do if the use of our facilities is governed by an agreement under which the council reserves the right to approve not only the scope of insurance cover but also the choice of company providing this type of cover?

It's most likely that the council are referring only to property owners' liability, rather than the "full" Civil Liability which includes the 'playing risk' as well as cover for the committee/Professional Liability/Libel and Slander.

We would recommend that the insurance cover insisted upon by the council is reviewed by Acrisure to ensure it meets your needs as a sporting organisation and not just the use of the facilities.

Q) How do we know if our Association/County/Club is considered as unified for the purpose of Insurance?

If your Association/Club/County/Group has one constitution and one management/executive committee, this is considered as being unified.

Q) Our Club has access to a heart defibrillator. Are we covered?

Yes. However, whilst they are considered to be easy to use, it would be expected that a number of members are provided with adequate training, with records of such training being held by the club.

In the event of an emergency, a trained person should be alerted in the first instance as quickly as possible. If not available (and as a last resort measure to save a life) the device can be used by a non-trained person.

Further guidelines on the use of defibrillators can be found at The Resuscitation Council UK's website.

Q) Signing a lease on behalf of the club

This is a legal matter rather than an insurance issue. Therefore, the club should seek professional legal advice when considering the signing of a lease. To reiterate, the Civil Liability insurance protects against third party injury and/or property damage when the club is deemed negligent.

If the club signs an agreement that requests the club to indemnify against any or all incidents, you are agreeing to cover the costs of any claim, which isn't necessarily covered under your policy and therefore, will be the responsibility of the club to defend and pay any costs or expenses involved.