

Brixham St Mary's Park Bowling Club

Summary of Charity Governance Code

Purpose

The Charity Governance Code sets out principles and recommended practice for good governance to help charities achieve their purposes effectively, with transparency and accountability.

It's not a legal requirement — but regulators, funders, and auditors expect clubs to follow it as "good practice".

Seven Principles of Good Governance

1 Organisational Purpose

Ensure the charity's aims (promoting participation in lawn bowls and community wellbeing) are clear, relevant, and deliver public benefit.

Review purpose regularly and make sure all activities further it.

Be clear on the difference between charitable purpose and club activities (e.g., social events support the sport, not replace it)

2 Leadership

The Trustees provide strategic direction, not just day-to-day management.

They model the club's values: fairness, inclusion, respect, teamwork.

Ensure responsibilities are clearly defined (Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, Safeguarding, Fundraising Lead).

Succession Planning — bring in new committee members gradually.

3 Integrity

Trustees must act in the club's best interests, avoid conflicts of interest, and be open about any potential conflicts.

Uphold the club's reputation in the community.

Manage finances responsibly and never benefit personally from charity

4 Decision - Making , Risk and Control

Make decisions collectively and transparently.

Keep written minutes for all meetings.

Identify and manage key risks — e.g. safeguarding, financial control, data protection, and facility safety.

Use documented annual reviews to check controls are still effective

5 Board Effectiveness

Trustees bring a range of skills and perspectives (sport, finance, safeguarding, marketing, facilities).

Provide induction for new trustees and training where needed.

Review board performance annually and act on feedback.

Keep Trustee terms of service manageable (currently 5 years with renewal option)

6 Equality , Diversity and Inclusion

Embed EDI across the club: welcome all ages, genders, and abilities.

Monitor and remove barriers to participation (cost, access, culture).

Partner with local disability and community health groups.

7 Openness and Accountability

Communicate openly with members, funders, and the community.

Publish annual reports, AGM minutes, and policies (finance, safeguarding, fundraising).

Act on feedback from players, volunteers, and visitors.

Encourage members to hold the committee accountable.

How to Use This Code

Review governance annually at the AGM or Committee Strategy Day.

Keep evidence: agendas, minutes, financial records, safeguarding checks, risk register.

Use the Code to strengthen funding bids — it shows professionalism and compliance.

[Charity Governance Code – www.charitygovernancecode.org](http://www.charitygovernancecode.org)