

Appendix 1 Equality and Diversity Policy

1. Objectives

- 1.1 Kent Short Mat Bowls Association is fully committed to the principles of equality of opportunity and takes its responsibility very seriously in ensuring that no one involved in short mat bowls whether a member of staff, a volunteer, participant or member receives less favourable treatment on the grounds of age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.
- 1.2 Additionally the organisation recognises that we live in a diverse society and will take all necessary steps to ensure that anyone participating in our sport in whatever capacity will be treated fairly and offered the same opportunities regardless of their socio-economic backgrounds.
- 1.3 Kent Short Mat Bowls Association will encourage its affiliated clubs, leagues, county associations, regions, organisations in good standing and any other partner organisations to adopt and demonstrate their commitment to the principles and practice of equality as set out in this Equality and Diversity Policy.

2. Definitions

- 2.1 Equality – is about making sure people are treated fairly and given fair chances, it is not about treating everybody the same way.
- 2.2 Diversity – is about recognising, valuing and managing difference and acknowledging that individuals have different needs which can be met in different ways.

3. Legal Requirements

- 3.1 Kent Short Mat Bowls Association fully recognises its legal obligations, and will abide by the requirements of the Equality Act 2010 and any later amendments to the Act or subsequent equality related legislation that may be relevant.

4. Statement of Intent The Kent Short Mat Bowling Association;

- 4.1 Wishes to act as an example for all its members and affiliated clubs for equality and diversity and will work to influence and promote good practice throughout short mat bowls in Kent.
- 4.2 Will ensure that the responsibility and accountability for equality is placed at the most senior levels of the association with the Chairman having overall responsibility and accountability for the effective implementation of this policy, and the committee monitoring the effectiveness through the regular meetings. Kent Short Mat Bowls Association commit also to appointing a member of the committee to lead on Equality and Diversity.
- 4.3 Will include equality and diversity into all aspects of its work with reasonable steps being taken to ensure that all committee members, volunteers, clubs and members etc are committed to this policy.
- 4.4 Will ensure that no applicant or member receives less favourable treatment on the grounds of any protected characteristic (see H1.1).

- 4.5 Will work to ensure that there will be open access to all those who wish to participate in sport and that they are treated fairly.
- 4.6 Is committed to ensure that all individuals are able to conduct their short mat bowls related activities free from bullying and harassment and has implemented a policy for dealing with such matters (see H5).
- 4.7 Is committed to sports equality which is about:
- Fairness in sport, equality of access, recognising differences and taking steps to meet them
 - Changing the culture and structure of sport to ensure it becomes equally accessible to all members of society
 - Making sure all individuals can realise their talent and fulfil their potential
 - An individual's responsibility to challenge discriminatory practice and promote inclusion

5. Discrimination, Harassment, Bullying and Victimisation

- 5.1 Direct Discrimination – occurs when someone is treated less favourably than another person because of a protected characteristic (H1.1).
- 5.2 Indirect Discrimination – occurs when there is a condition, rule or practice which applies to everyone but particularly disadvantages people who share a protected characteristic (H1.1).
- 5.3 Harassment – engaging in unwanted conduct relating to a relevant protected characteristic (H1.1) or unwanted conduct of a sexual nature where the conduct has the purpose or effect of violating the recipient's dignity or creating an intimidating, hostile, degrading, humiliating or offensive environment for the recipient, or any other individual affected by such conduct. It also includes the right for individuals to raise an issue that they find offensive even if it is not directed at them.
- 5.4 Bullying – the misuse of power or position to criticise persistently or to humiliate and undermine an individual's confidence.
- 5.5 Victimisation – when someone is treated badly because they have made or supported a complaint/grievance about discrimination or harassment under the Equality Act 2010, or are suspected of either making or supporting such a complaint/grievance. An individual is not protected from victimisation if they acted maliciously, or made or supported an untrue complaint/grievance.
- 5.6 Kent Short Mat Bowls Association regards discrimination, harassment, bullying or victimisation, as described above, as serious misconduct. All complaints will be taken seriously and appropriate measures including disciplinary action may be brought against any member who unlawfully discriminates against, harasses, bullies or victimises any other person.

6. Implementation, Responsibilities and Communication KCSMBA will:

- 6.1 Make a copy of this policy available to view and download on its website which makes it clear that all individuals have responsibilities to respect, act in accordance with, support and promote the spirit and intentions of this policy.
- 6.2 Ensure that this policy is an integral part of the induction and on-going training for all committee members.

- 6.3 Recognise that it has a duty to make reasonable adjustments for disabled people. It will consider all requests for adjustments and where possible will accommodate reasonable requests and work with disabled members to implement any adjustments that will enable them to participate more fully in short mat related activities.
- 6.4 Ensure that any appointments are appointed fairly and equally and are directed to this policy on the website and will be required to demonstrate their commitment to the principles and practices of this policy.
- 6.5 Strive to achieve the appropriate equality standards as guided by Sport England, UK Sport and the ESMBA.
- 6.6 Ensure all committee members are required to set an appropriate standard of behaviour, lead by example and ensure that those they manage adhere to this policy and promote the Association's aims and objectives with regard to equality and diversity.
- 6.7 Encourage individuals involved in our sport not to discriminate against or harass any other individual in the course of their duties or role.
- 6.8 Make individuals aware that they can be held personally liable as well as Kent Short Mat Bowls Association, or instead of, for any act of unlawful discrimination. Individuals who commit serious acts of harassment may be guilty of a criminal offence as well as gross misconduct. There is no limit on compensation for unlawful discrimination.

7. Actions

- 7.1 KCSMBA may take positive action in the form of proportionate measures to encourage or train people from under-represented groups to apply for roles, overcome a perceived disadvantage or meet specific needs based on a protected characteristic (H1.1).
- 7.2 KCSMBA will produce, maintain and monitor an Equality Action Plan to ensure the objectives of this Equality and Diversity Policy are consistently delivered throughout all areas of the association.

8. Monitoring and Evaluation

- 8.1 This Policy will remain in force until it is amended, replaced or withdrawn and will be reviewed on an annual basis by the Safeguarding Officer.

9. Grievances

- 9.1 To safeguard individual rights under this Equality and Diversity Policy any member who believes that they have suffered inequitable treatment within the scope of this Equality and Diversity Policy may raise the matter through the appropriate procedure (i.e. the club complaints procedure).
- 9.2 An individual raising a grievance will not be penalised for doing so even if it is untrue provided it is made in good faith.
- 9.3 As with all grievance and disciplinary procedures, the final point of appeal relating to this policy is the Kent Short Mat Bowls Association Committee.

