

A man with short brown hair, wearing a red and white striped bowling jersey, is shown in profile, looking down at a blue bowling ball he is holding. The background is blurred, showing other people in bowling attire. A semi-transparent red overlay covers the upper half of the image, containing the title text.

# BOWLS JERSEY

## REPRESENTATIVE PATHWAY

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A GUIDE FOR ALL BOWLERS

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*Henselite*  
CLUB CLOTHING

## Introduction

### A Foreword from Author, and President, Greg Davis

The Bowls Jersey Representative Pathway (“BJRP”) is a progressive framework encompassing every element of local, national and international level of our great sport and is as much of a strategy for Bowls in Jersey as it is a pathway. The BJRP programme is designed to be a pathway for bowlers of all abilities to be able to follow to plot their progression to the elite programme and therefore **earn** the honour of representing Jersey at the highest levels. The focus of this framework is the enjoyment of the sport and the pursuit of bettering individuals skills on the green, and complementing all bowlers with a coaching scheme that is locally backed, encouraged and fit for purpose.

BJRP gives **Bowls Jersey members** a journey, whatever their motivation or level of play may be; and this may mean dramatically changing the way Bowls Jersey bowlers do things. The key benefits of BJRP are:

- everyone will see where they fit and what their role is
- coaches will have a guide in the design of practice planning, annual plans and programmes
- every bowler will understand what they need to do to attain the level they wish to be at
- Bowls Jersey Management Committee will make decisions that benefit long-term development

Bowls Jersey and its adopted BJRP framework recognises that clubs are central to the long-term development of bowlers. Support of Club and Island Bowls Infrastructure is therefore integral to the representative pathway

The competitive nature of sport means that not all bowlers who aspire to be at the elite level will make it. However, BJRP is not just an elite model; rather it provides a solid foundation for all bowlers at all ages and levels, allowing long-term participation, enjoyment and achievement and gives every aspiring bowler a structured way of achieving their ambitions.

**Let's put our best to the test and motivate and inspire the rest.**



## What is the Bowls Jersey Representative Pathway?



The Bowls Jersey Representative Pathway (BJRP) is a framework being developed and adopted by Bowls Jersey to maximize athlete potential and participant involvement. The BJRP framework aims to define “the gates” through which members must pass in order to progress through the different Island representation levels and is a points based system based on commitment and skill.

Most importantly, the pathway is age agnostic and therefore considers early and late entry sport participants. It is bowler centred, coach and association driven and similar schemes have been adopted by many of the leading bowls nations throughout the world.

It is hoped that in return for the Bowlers effort, the Association can through this pathway:

- Help Bowlers reach their full potential and not need to do it alone
- Increase lifelong participation in bowls and other physical activities
- Improve members health and well-being

This framework will set out recommended training sequences and skills developments for the participant from the ‘Social Bowler’ to the ‘Elite Bowler’ and back to the ‘Active for Life Bowler’. It addresses the physical, mental, emotional and technical needs of the athlete as they pass through each stage of development.

## Why implement this approach?

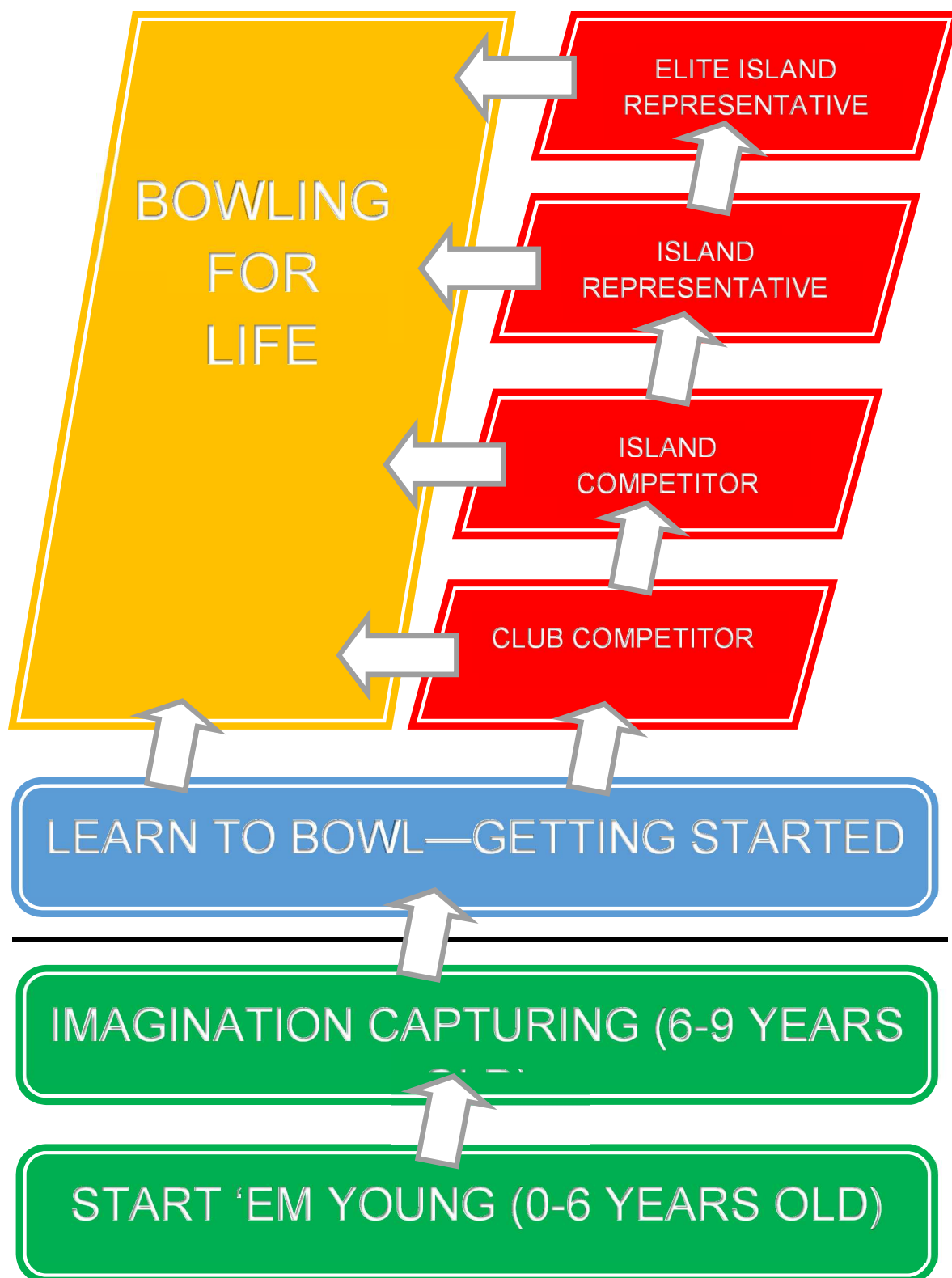
There are 8 key reasons for Bowls Jersey taking this approach:

1. To establish a clear bowler development pathway.
2. To identify gaps and barriers preventing bowlers progressing.
3. To create a streamlined and efficient system that Bowls Jersey, **not external bodies**, is in control of.
4. To provide a planning tool for coaches, selectors, players and Management Committees.
5. To provide awareness and action planning for players and clubs.
6. To improve communication within the sport.
7. To help our bowlers win!
8. To facilitate lifelong enjoyment in bowls for grassroots bowlers.

Bowls is a great sport and has huge potential for everyday participation as well as international performance. The BJRP constructed by Bowls Jersey gives an opportunity to closely examine our programmes to identify inconsistencies with the BJRP key factors and explicitly identify our shortcomings and their related consequences. Most of our shortcomings as a sport can be addressed by developing a comprehensive Bowls Jersey Representative Pathway model. The following shortcomings have plagued the growth and performance of bowls, not just in Jersey but we mustn't be the last to react.



## The Pathway Graphically Represented





## Start 'em Young & Imagination Capturing

To make it perfectly clear, Bowls Jersey intends to introduce no specific programmes to cater for bowlers under 10 years old. This is partly to do with the lack of events that Bowls Jersey have the option to send this bracket to, but also because of the distinct lack of this age group on the Island.

Bowls Jersey would actively encourage bowlers in this age bracket to commence the Senior pathway alongside all other Bowlers and place no restriction on this age bracket in doing so.

It is hoped that in years to come that a specific programme can be introduced to cater specifically for the age bracket and as Bowls Jersey is fully inclusive (there is no membership fee for any Junior Under 18 to encourage them into the game and Bowls Jersey pay all inter-island travel for them) it certainly is not a reflection on Bowls Jersey not wanting members of this age group to be involved.

Bowls Jersey would like to ultimately work with the Education Department as well other National Governing Bodies around the world who have implemented programmes that have attracted this age group to the game.



## Gate 1 – The Club Competitor

The Club Competitor is the first step on the pathway.

The Club Competitor step is aimed at introducing bowlers to “friendly” competition, but also in recognition that it is important for more senior bowlers who wish to represent Bowls Jersey are also role models to other club members and contribute positively to the club economy. The only way club bowlers can improve is if they are challenged by better opposition so all bowlers on the pathway must meet their obligations and support their Club Competitions in order to nurture and develop other players, most likely indirectly!

**Guidelines for this stage:**

**0 –1 Years Playing : Novice Competition**

**2 - 3 Years Playing: At least two Club Competitions, with at least one being a team game format and at least one being a same-sex singles competition.**

**3 + Years Playing: At least three Club competitions, at least one being a same sex singles competition and at least one being a team game format. Involvement in the inter-club leagues is also expected.**

The Singles format will expose newer bowlers to all the different shots of the game and a chance to have a go at them and build their skills. More importantly it also introduces them to tactical thinking. Unfortunately, you learn more when you lose and it is always almost down to a mix of tactics and poor execution of shots. These competitions provide the “friendliest” start to start learning and gathering these skills.

In order to have been deemed to be able to progress from Gate 1 to Gate 2, Bowlers must have achieved a minimum of 6 points from the below criteria.

For every club singles format competition entered—1 point.

For every club team format competition entered—1 point.

For every Club Competition appearance in a final—2 points.

For regular (6+ occasions) representation in the Morel/Le Marquand League—2 points

For regular (6+ occasions) representation in the De Gruchy/Collings League—3 points

The above list allows bowlers who cannot play or do not get selected to play league to still progress the stage by entering more club competitions to get more green time to compensate, but also states Bowls Jersey commitment to the continuation to inter-club league events.

## Gate 2 – The Island Competitor

The Island Competitor is the second step on the pathway.

The Island Competitor step is aimed at taking the Club Competitor and introducing them to new elements. Bowls Jersey National Competitions will be played against people from any club, opening up new competitive experiences, and also on a variety of different greens and different surfaces further developing the Bowlers skillset.

It is expected that a representative of Bowls Jersey will be proud to represent their Island on whatever stage they would be selected, and therefore the support of Bowls Jersey Competitions during the outdoor season is seen as vital as being part of a role model for the Association.

**Guidelines for this stage:**

**0 –2 Years Playing : Island Open Novice Competition**

**2 - 4 Years Playing: At least two Bowls Jersey Competitions, with one of which being the National Singles Competition.**

**3 + Years Playing: Entering and Competing in the Bowls Jersey National Singles, Pairs, Triples, Fours.**

Bowlers in this gateway would be entitled to be selected to represent Jersey in the annual inter-insular Le Quesne as part of Bowls Jersey's commitment to developing outstanding players and giving additional competition experience playing with new people as well as against new people.

In order to have been deemed to be able to progress from Gate 2 to Gate 3, Bowlers must have achieved a minimum of 6 points from the below criteria, which can only be obtained from entering the National U25 Singles, National Singles, National Pairs, National Triples, National Fours or National Senior Fours Competitions.

For every Bowls Jersey competition (listed above) entered—1 point

For every Bowls Jersey Semi-Finals appearance —2 points

For every Bowls Jersey Finals appearance—3 points

Entry into 2 of Weekend KO Singles, Mixed Pairs or Famous Grouse Pairs—1 point

The aim of this gateway is to encourage the entry into a bigger range of Bowls Competitions. It is designed to ensure that bowlers wishing to move further up the pathway are playing bowls regularly throughout the Outdoor season maintaining commitment to the game, and also being rewarded for success in the National Competitions.



## Gate 3 – The Island Representative

The Island Representative is the third step on the pathway.

By the time the Bowlers have reached this stage on the pathway, they will have been bowling for several years and displayed commendable performances in the Bowls Jersey National Competitions. It is therefore appropriate, that they be considered for selection of events representing Bowls Jersey at a higher level.

These events are likely to be mostly off-island and include International Test Matches (such as those in Cyprus & Israel), British Isles Ladies International Series, Tiger Bowls and European Championships.

To be as broad as possible without naming specific examples—a bowler in this level can be selected to play for Jersey in any event other than the Atlantic Championships, World Bowls or Commonwealth Games.

The intention of this step is to introduce the bowler to a higher level of Bowls than available on island in competitions that match as closely as possible the intensity, standard and duration of the Atlantic Championships, World Bowls or Commonwealth Games. It is an opportunity for Bowls Jersey Selectors to develop players for progression to the Elite Squad and give new experiences to others. The events in this bracket also serve as important warm up events to the Elite Competitions and therefore a mix of Elite Squad and top level Island Representative could realistically compete side by side in these level of events.

### Guidelines for this stage:

It is expected that Bowlers will have been playing for a minimum of 3 years before reaching this stage, however there is nothing to preclude Bowlers who have played less time from reaching this stage.

Bowls Jersey accept that it is impossible to name every competition that it may be invited to participate in, and therefore where a competition is not specifically named or referenced it will be allocated a Tier. The Competitions that Bowls Jersey know will require representative teams will be published of every season with the Competitions relevant Tier rating alongside in order to provide clarity to Bowlers seeking to plan their seasons and entries.

Competitions will be graded at the discretion of the Bowls Jersey Management Committee and their framework for tiering will be based on the following criteria described below:

Open Entry off Island competitions or Test Match involving Countries where all countries are beneath Jersey in the World Bowls rankings	Tier 1
British Isles Competitions, Test Matches against Countries that include Countries above Jersey in the World Rankings usually short in duration.	Tier 2
A multi-disciplined, longer duration event with opposition that includes Countries ranked above Jersey in the World Rankings such as the European Championships or the Welsh 8 Nation Test Match in 2018	Tier 3



For Selection to play in a Tier 2 or Tier 3 Event	1 Point
For every off-island Open Tournament or un-specified Tier 1 event entered at the Bowlers choice (Southampton, Bournemouth etc.)	1 point
For every Final reached of an Open off-island Tournament or Tier 1 event	2 points
For every win (team or individual) in an International Test Match or Tier 2 event	1 points
For a Gold Medal in an International Test Series or Tier 2 event	2 points
For every win in the British Isles Series or Championships	1 point
For a Top 5 finish in the same sex, mixed or overall event in the European Championships or equivalent Tier 3 event	3 points
For every recorded win against a Country ranked higher than Jersey in a Tier 3 event	2 points
For winning a medal of any colour in a Tier 3 Competition	4 points

## Gate 4 – The Elite Island Representative



Only Gate 4 Bowlers can be selected to represent Bowls Jersey (and therefore the privilege of representing Jersey) in the Atlantic Championships, World Bowls and the Commonwealth Games.

Gate 4 can only be reached by application at the beginning of the Outdoor season; they are expected to be submitted to the Bowls Jersey Honorary Secretary no later than 31st March ahead of the outdoor bowls season commencing for that year.

In order to be in contention, Bowlers must have achieved 6 points in Gate 1, 6 Points in Gate 2, 4 Points in Gate 3 for the preceding 2 seasons.

It is anticipated that the Elite Squad will consist of 10 Men and 10 Ladies, although this can be adjusted at the discretion of the Selection Committees.

At no point will can there be more than 15 Men or 15 Ladies on the Elite Squad.



Once accepted into the Elite Squad, the players involved are expected to:

- 1) **Attend Elite Squad Training Days**—the purpose of these is to bond with your fellow bowlers and do some routine skills, drills and assessments. There will be 2 or 3 of these per season.
- 2) Be ambassadors for their Clubs and Bowls Jersey. By submitting an application form, applicants are accepting that they are on an all year round code of conduct (found at the back of this document) and that any breach of that Code of Conduct will see them removed from the Elite Squad.
- 3) To have contributed positively to the local bowls environment consistently over a period of the last 2 years before acceptance into the Elite Squad.
- 4) **Continue to seek to improve their game, working constructively with coaches** and Bowls Jersey to suggest new exercises, ideas and events that will raise the standard of bowlers in Jersey.
- 5) Attend events with Sponsors where the need dictates.



*The forming of an Elite Squad who are held to the highest standards of play and behavior is long overdue. Bowls Jersey must be able to demonstrate to its members that players play in and for the Jersey shirt with pride, in order to push through people's aspirations in one day doing the same thing. Rewarding of poor attitude or lack of commitment destroys goodwill and does more damage to the game than good as it reduces people's willingness to put themselves out.*

Bowls Jersey know and accept that there is more to life than Bowls, and that certain circumstances may arise that may need a player to change their plans in order to reach their goals. It is deemed, that this pathway whilst suitably challenging, rewards commitment to the Clubs, the Association and rewards time and financial dedication in order to reach this Elite Team. It is very much Bowls Jersey's vision that players in the Elite Team have demonstrated a willingness to adapt and accept the more professional approach to selection this process brings.

**Bowls Jersey reserve the right to amend the pathway criteria on a yearly basis after an annual review to ensure it is working as planned.**

**The aim of this pathway is to ensure that never again need Bowls Jersey surrender its Selection Policy to a third party,** allow the Selectors a very distinct pool of people who will have earned their spot on the pathway, get more funding for demonstrating a more professional way of operating, setting coaching objectives upon the Association, and clear criteria to players for selection.

## Selectors Discretion

### INITIAL ELITE TEAM SELECTION

The Selectors may accept at their discretion those players who may not have quite met the criteria for the Elite Team in the two years prior to the BJRP's establishment as there may be players who have shown the potential and commitment to be accepted into the initial Elite Squad and would have planned differently had these criteria been published earlier. This covers the season 2020 **only**.

### ONGOING DISCRETIONARY POWERS

There will be players that have due to exceptional circumstances not met the exacting criteria of the pathway to be accepted into the Elite Squad. The Selectors are permitted within this framework to consider future potential, previous reasons for not obtaining the required points (exams, university, returning to bowls, moving to Jersey) in accepting a player into the Elite Squad assuming they have shown, or will show during the season of acceptance, dedication to Gates 2 and 3 in attempting to a-mass the points required and are deemed to have a realistic prospect of success.

In the event that there are less members in the Elite Squad than the Tournament Event permits, the Selectors are allowed to consider for selection any players that have achieved the Gate 3 status and have International Experience.

The Commonwealth Games Association of Jersey are unlikely to validate any player who has not met the criteria of the Elite Squad unless provided with exceptional reason.

## Final Note

Being a member of the Elite Squad does not guarantee selection at any elite event – it does however **guarantee you**