



4th June 2025

Sport England backs one governing body for flat green bowls

Bowls England and the English Indoor Bowling Association (EIBA) are pleased to announce they have been granted funding from Sport England to explore the potential of amalgamating as one organisation. Sport England's investment will enable dedicated project management resources and expertise to be allocated to this venture, as well as legal support to help create a new governance structure and corporation.

With an ageing population, inactivity and loneliness adding pressure on public services, and rising mental health challenges amongst children, flat-green bowls offers an imaginable and realistic sporting solution to tackle these societal issues and foster inclusive communities.

Bowls England and EIBA believe that merging will help unlock our potential, increasing our capability to grow participation and tackle inequalities in sport. It would provide one voice for flat green bowls, an improved and streamlined experience for existing bowlers, a more straightforward and effective service for clubs, and consistency on policies and compliance matters. Furthermore, we would be able to release efficiency savings by avoiding duplication, which can be reinvested back into our sport.

Whilst the opportunity is evident, Bowls England and EIBA are also aware of the complexity of this project and the importance of bringing all members and stakeholders with us on this journey. Ultimately, this change can only be made through approval at the respective general meetings. Bowls England and EIBA will run consultation sessions and roadshows at the Aviva National Finals and around the country in October and November 2025. This engagement and feedback will shape the final proposal for a new National Governing Body. Bowls

England Chair, David Tucker, stated, "Sport England's investment presents a once-in-a-generation opportunity for flat green bowls to take a step to the next level. Competition for people's time and money has never been fiercer, and it is imperative that the governance of bowls is as effective as possible in supporting its clubs to grow participation. We look forward to working with County Associations and affiliated clubs to manage this change in the best interest of everybody involved in our great sport."

EIBA Chair, Josh Pounds, added, "This is a great opportunity for us to reshape and safeguard the future of our sport. The investment from Sport England further reinforces our commitment to establishing a single, unified governing body. Our fiscal responsibility is to bowlers across the country to ensure the long-term sustainability of our sport. Uniting flat green bowls under one organisation in England will strengthen our position and allow us to combine the best aspects of both existing bodies, enabling us to move forward together, stronger and more unified." Bowls England and EIBA will provide a further update on the project milestones and consultation sessions over the coming weeks. If you have relevant experience and would like to tender to support the delivery of this amalgamation project, you can find information linked to the statement on the Bowls England and EIBA websites.