

SQUAD6

bowls ain't just for nanas



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... Is the by-line for Squad6, the newest brand from Bowls NZ aimed at encouraging more secondary school students to trial bowls. Squad6 is currently being introduced across the country, following successful trials in Napier, through Bowls Taradale.

The Youth Bowls Advisory Group

(Sharon Sims, Howard Sandler - Auckland, George Rogers - BOP, Wilma Ennor - Hawkes Bay, Janice Ropitini - Taranaki, Nathanael Lucas - Wellington, Rebecca Maurice - Canterbury and Gordon Crombie - Southland) identified the need for a new recruitment event and developed the SQUAD6 concept based on a very successful event run in Auckland by Howard.

So what is Squad6? It is a structured 4-6 week, 1-1.5hour inter-school lawn bowls competition played after or during school. Squad6 sides consist of 3 pairs, any gender combination of secondary school aged students, playing speed pairs.

Squad6 is an opportunity for secondary school aged students to be introduced to the game of bowls in a fun and relaxed environment and will complement our National Secondary Schools Championships which has developed into a very competitive event for the top players.

Lawn bowls is a truly inclusive sport that anyone can play and interest among students is increasing, with 77% increase in bowls event participation since 2000.

We've trialed the Squad6 concept at Bowls Taradale and the students loved it!

- "I would recommend that my friends try it" - 100%
- "I have learned a new sport" - 75%
- "I enjoyed playing the game" - 88%
- "I would like the opportunity to learn and play more" - 75%

- The objectives of Squad6 are to:
- Increase participation numbers and foster youth development in bowls
 - Further strengthen school and community relationships with our bowling clubs
 - Increase interest in bowls and challenge the stereotype

By using the excellent facilities and resources of our bowling clubs, the Squad6 programme can be tailored to suit the needs of the local community.

Get involved!

Bowls NZ Community Development Officers (CDO) will work with their local clubs, secondary schools, Regional Sports Trusts (RST) & Centre youth Coordinators to deliver SQUAD6 throughout the country.

Funding

To play, a fee of \$10 per/player (payable to Bowls NZ) will be invested back into the brand and promotional costs. Together (Bowls NZ/Clubs) we intend to apply for Kiwisport funding assistance for SQUAD6 clubs to help with the operating costs of providing SQUAD6 e.g. greens maintenance, bowls, mats & jacks usage, direct expenses for volunteers & coaches (such as transport costs), costs for use of the clubhouse facilities (cleaning, electricity, water, kitchen use etc)

The Next Steps

If you would like your club to be part of Squad6, the next step is to confirm your club's interest in the programme by contacting your local CDO.

