

Worcestershire Bowling Association

Safeguarding Policy

The County has considered its responsibilities to the young people participating in bowls at premises within our County very carefully, and has produced the following **Safeguarding** and underpinning procedures in order to set out the standards we wish to uphold in providing activities for children and safeguarding the welfare of children in our care.

The County affiliates to Bowls England and the Association recognises the policies of Bowls England, as set in out in the “Safeguarding Bowls Guidelines”.

1. Policy Statement

The County acknowledges its duty of care to Safeguard the welfare of all young people (defined as those under 18) involved in bowls within the County. All young people have a right to protection, and have their particular needs taken into account.

The County will therefore endeavour to ensure the safety and protection of all young people involved within the County through the Safeguarding guidelines adopted by the Management Committee of the Association. It is the responsibility of all adults within the Association to assist the Management Committee in this endeavour.

2. Policy Aims

- To provide young people with appropriate safety and protection whilst in the care of the Association and also help them to enjoy their experience of the sport of bowls.
- To reassure parent/carers that their children will receive the best practicable care possible whilst participating in activities within the Association.
- To provide support to club members and volunteers to make informed and confident responses to specific child protection issues and to fulfil their role effectively.

3. Principles

- The welfare of young people is paramount.
- All young people, whatever their age, culture, disability, gender, language, ethnic origin and religious beliefs have the right to protection from abuse.
- All suspicions and allegations of abuse and poor practice will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately.
- All staff and volunteers working in bowls have a responsibility to report concerns to their County Safeguarding Officers. Details on WBA website.
- Adults – Officers of the County, Members, Coaches, Umpires, and Volunteers will be supported to understand their role and responsibility with regard to the duty of care and protection of young people by the County and BE.

- Individuals will receive support through education and training, coordinated by the County/BE to be aware of and understand best practice and how to manage any welfare or Safeguarding issues that may come to light. Safeguarding Officers must hold a valid DBS.

The County will work in partnership with young people and parents to review and implement Safeguarding procedures.

- The County policy and procedures are based on the above principles and UK and International legislation and government guidance and take the following into consideration:
 - The Children Act 1989 and 2004.
 - Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018.
 - The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.
 - Any subsequent legislation relating to child protection would implicitly be incorporated into this document.

4. Responsibilities and Communication

- **Worcestershire Bowling Association Safeguarding** Policy will be available to all members, parents, staff, volunteers and participants.
- The Policy will be reviewed every three years by the County Management Committee and amended as appropriate. Guidance from BE will be sought as part of the review process.
- The County Management Committee has responsibility for ensuring that the policy and procedures are implemented, including referring any appropriate disciplinary action to the national governing body as appropriate.
- The County Safeguarding Officers have responsibility for responding to any allegations, concerns or child protection incidents, passing information to the appropriate Bowls England Safeguarding Officer and informing the appropriate County staff where relevant.
- Parents have a responsibility to work together with the county in implementing procedures and providing their children with the necessary information to keep themselves safe.

5. Monitoring and review

- This policy will be reviewed one year after being introduced and then every three years or in response to significant new legislation.
- The policy will be monitored in partnership with Bowls England and the Bowls Development Alliance procedures.