



Bowls Hampshire

Safeguarding Child Protection Policy

Bowls Hampshire has considered its responsibilities to young people participating in bowls in the County very carefully, and has produced this **Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy** setting out the standards we wish to uphold in providing activities for children and safeguarding them accordingly.

Bowls Hampshire is affiliated to Bowls England, its National Governing Body and the County recognises the policies of its Governing Body, as set in out in its "Safeguarding Bowls Guidelines".

1. Policy Statement

Bowls Hampshire 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 to have their particular needs taken into account.

Bowls Hampshire will endeavour to ensure the safety and protection of all young people involved with the County through the Safeguarding and Child Protection Procedures adopted by the County Executive.

2. Policy Aims

- To provide young people with appropriate safety and protection whilst in the care of the County and also help them to enjoy their experience of the sport.
- To reassure parents that their children will receive the best practicable care possible whilst participating in County activities.
- To provide support to Clubs, 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 our 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 members have a responsibility to report concerns to one of the County Welfare Officers.
- Clubs, members, coaches and umpires will be supported to understand their role and responsibility with regard to the duty of care and protection of young people.
- Individuals will, as necessary, receive support through education and training to be aware of and understand best practice and how to manage any welfare or child protection issues that may come to light.

- Bowls Hampshire will work in partnership with young people and parents to review and implement child protection and safeguarding procedures.
- Bowls Hampshire's policy and procedures are based on the above principles and UK and international legislation and government guidance, including:
 - The Children Act 1989 and 2004.
 - Working Together to Safeguard Children 2013.
 - 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, Communication, Monitoring and Review

- This Bowls Hampshire Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy will be available to all members and parents.
- The Policy will be reviewed by the Executive every three years one year after being introduced and amended as appropriate. Guidance from Bowls England will be sought as part of the review.
- The Executive 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 Welfare Officers have responsibility for responding to any allegations, concerns or child protection incidents, arising as a result of individuals participating in county events, passing information to the Bowls England Safeguarding Officer who will inform County Officers where appropriate.
- Parents have a responsibility to work with the County in implementing procedures and providing their children with the necessary information to keep themselves safe.
- The policy will be monitored in partnership with Bowls England and Bowls Development Alliance procedures.