

Safeguarding in Bowls News

August 2022

No. 4

The Whyte Report

The Whyte Review was jointly commissioned by Sport England and UK Sport following a series of serious allegations about the treatment of gymnasts at all levels of the sport. The review was asked to address whether:



- gymnasts' wellbeing and welfare is (and has been) at the centre of the culture of British Gymnastics, its registered clubs and member coaches and if not, why not;
- safeguarding concerns and complaints have been dealt with appropriately in the sport of gymnastics and if not, why not; and,
- gymnasts, or their parents, carers or guardians, have felt unable to raise complaints with appropriate authorities and if so, why.

If we change 'gymnasts' to 'bowlers' and 'gymnastics' to 'bowls', we should ask ourselves the same questions.

The Report into these allegations was published on 16th June 2022 and contained 4 sets of recommendations for the sport under these headings:

1. Safeguarding and Welfare
2. Complaints Handling
3. Standards and Education
4. Governance and Oversight

All sports organisations including the BDA and bowls National Governing Bodies will need to absorb and reflect on these recommendations.

The full report is available here:

[The Whyte Review](#)

Please note: The Review concerns some sensitive and upsetting information.

Social Media Guidance

A new one-page guidance document is available from the BDA on safe use of social media within bowls by clubs and their members.



Focus on ... Domestic Abuse

It is important that people can recognise domestic abuse and seek support – perhaps via friends in their bowls clubs. They should be supported to speak with the club safeguarding officer, their NGB Lead Safeguarding Officer or the BDA Lead Safeguarding Officer. There is also a national helpline: Tel. 0808 2000 0247

[Refuge's National Domestic Abuse Helpline](#)

Domestic abuse is when a partner, ex-partner or someone you live with:

- cuts you off from family and friends and intentionally isolates you?
- bullies, threatens, or controls you?
- takes control of your finances?
- monitors or limits your use of technology?
- Physically, emotionally and/or sexually abuses you?

Domestic abuse happens to men as well as women and can have negative impacts on children in the household.



Awareness Days

September 10th is **World Suicide Prevention Day**. The theme this year is 'Creating Hope Through Action'.



The day is supported by many charities including the Samaritans - [World Suicide Prevention Day | Campaigns | Samaritans](#)

On the day people are asked to share the things that they do which helps them feel hopeful when they're going through a difficult time. This might be something linked to their bowls community – we are a sport well known for being friendly and supportive and our recent research supports the positive impact bowls can have on mental health and well-being.

SAMARITANS