Bowls Safeguarding Children's Policy

A Quick Reference Guide

References in italics to the full policy.

Policy Aim

The Bowls Development Alliance (BDA) and National Governing Bodies (**NGBs**) are committed to ensuring all children can participate in bowls safely, free from abuse, harm, or neglect.

Policy Statement page 1, Scope and Application page 2, Definitions page 3

Definition

A Child is anyone who hasn't yet reached their 18th Birthday. Some children may be at greater risk of harm or require additional safeguarding support, for example if they:

- have care and support needs that may make them more vulnerable to abuse or neglect;
- have a physical or mental health condition or developmental need that may increase their vulnerability;
- are experiencing, or are at risk of, abuse or neglect; or
- are living in circumstances where they may not be receiving safe, consistent and effective care.

Safeguarding Children – Key Principles *Pages 4–7*

- **The welfare of children and young people is paramount** – safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.
- **Professional boundaries** – adults in positions of trust must maintain clear, appropriate and professional boundaries. *See page 18*.
- **Prevention** – act early to reduce the risk of harm before it occurs.
- **Protection** – take appropriate action to protect children from abuse, neglect and other forms of harm, and support those at risk.
- **Proportionality** – respond to concerns in a way that is appropriate to the level of risk.
- **Accountability** – act transparently, responsibly and in accordance with safeguarding policies and procedures.

Types of Abuse and Harm *Page 7-12*

- **Physical abuse** – deliberately causing physical harm or injury, including hitting, shaking, kicking, or inappropriate physical punishment.
- **Sexual abuse** – involving or encouraging a child in sexual activity, whether or not they understand what is happening. This may include physical contact, non-contact activities, or exposure to sexual material.
- **Emotional/Psychological abuse** – persistent behaviour that harms a child's emotional wellbeing or development, such as threats, humiliation, controlling behaviour, intimidation or constant criticism. Changes in behaviour may be an indication of abuse.
- **Neglect** – the persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical or psychological needs, which may result in serious harm to their health or development.
- **Bullying and cyberbullying** – repeated behaviour intended to hurt, intimidate, humiliate or exclude a child, including through online platforms and social media.
- **Child trafficking, exploitation and grooming** – manipulating, controlling or taking advantage of a child for another person's benefit, including sexual or criminal exploitation. Grooming may take place online or in person.

Dealing with Concerns, Disclosures or Allegations *pages 13 -15*

Your Responsibilities

If you have any concerns about a child's welfare, you should inform the Club's or the organisation's Safeguarding Officer. It is your responsibility to report your concerns. You must ring 999 if a child is at risk of immediate danger or harm. Record all concerns and actions. Advice can be sought from Children's Social Care, the Police or the NGB Safeguarding Team,

• Stay alert to concerns

• Take all concerns seriously

• Report concerns promptly

If Someone Discloses Abuse

• Stay calm and keep an open mind.

• Listen carefully and take it seriously

• Record in their own words

• Do not make promises that cannot be kept.

• Ask open questions and reassure the child that they have done the right thing by telling you.

• It is your responsibility to report concerns, NOT to decide if abuse has occurred.

DO NOT

* Promise secrecy

* Ask leading Questions

* Make assumptions

* Investigate

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Appendix 1 Reporting and Managing Safeguarding Concerns *page 20*

• Report a Concern via My Voice **Report your concern here** or scan the QR code,

Appendix 2 Information Sharing, Golden Rules of Sharing Sensitive Information, *page 22*

• Share only with those who need to know,

• You can share without consent if: o Someone is at immediate risk

o A crime may have occurred

o Others are at risk

Appendix 3 Process Map-Reporting a Concern page 23

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Support & Advice

• Speak to your Club, County or NGB Safeguarding Officer

• Call the NSPCC Sport team on 01162 347278

• Contact Emergency services if there is immediate danger

If you have concern or receive a disclosure - **Doing nothing is not an option**

✓ Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility

✓ Report concerns – don't ignore them

✓ Act quickly to keep children safe