



Safeguarding Children In Bowls Policy

Rosedale Bowls Club affiliates to the National Governing Body and the Club recognises the policies of their Governing Body, as set in out in the “Safeguarding Bowls Guidelines”.

Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy

Rosedale Bowls Club has considered its responsibilities to the young people participating in bowls at our premises and within our club very carefully and has produced the following Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy 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.

Children are the future of our sport. Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in our sport is central to this commitment. All children are entitled to feel safe and protected from any form of abuse and neglect. Their voice is important in the process of keeping them safe and helping them to enjoy bowls

The BDA, as the umbrella organisation for the development of the sport of bowls, works with all the NGBs of bowls to provide a framework of policies and procedures which help ensure a safe environment for children to enjoy playing bowls. Everyone in the bowls family has a part to play in safeguarding children who play our sport. For the purposes of this policy and related procedures, the bowls family comprises: the Bowls Development Alliance, the National Governing Bodies (Bowls England, British Crown Green Bowling Association, English Bowling Federation, English Indoor Bowling Association, English Short Mat Bowling Association), players, coaches, umpires/officials and supporters.

Children may be harmed in any environment and those having regular contact with children have a key role in supporting the statutory agencies to keep them safe. In each local authority area in England, the three safeguarding partners (local authorities, chief officers of police, and clinical commissioning groups) are responsible for making arrangements for working together with relevant agencies to safeguard and protect the welfare of children in the area.

Legislation and Government Guidance:

- The Children Acts 1989 and 2004 – provide the legislative framework for safeguarding children. A child is defined in this legislation as anyone who has not yet reached their 18th birthday
- Working Together to Safeguard Children (2018 (updated in 2023) – is the main Statutory guidance on inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. It makes specific reference to the responsibilities of sports clubs and organisations.
- Information sharing advice for practitioners providing safeguarding services to children, young people, parents and carers – is the key information sharing guidance for safeguarding cases amended to reflect the Data Protection Act 2023 and the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).
- Keeping Children Safe in Education (updated annually) – is the key statutory safeguarding guidance for all those working in education. It contains useful links to the growing number of safeguarding issues faced by children.
- The Prevent Duty – is specific guidance for those involved in education and childcare but it provides key information about the safeguarding concerns of radicalisation and exploitation of children by extremist organisations.
- The Sexual Offences Act 2003 - sets clear limits and boundaries about behaviour with children.



Policy Statement:

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

Rosedale Bowls Club will therefore endeavour to ensure the safety and protection of all young people involved with the club through the Child Protection guidelines adopted by the Management Committee of the club. It is the responsibility of all adults within the club to assist the Management Committee in this endeavour.

Policy Aims:

- To provide young people with appropriate safety and protection whilst in the care of the club and also help them to enjoy their experience of the sport of bowls.
- To reassure parents that their children will receive the best practicable care possible whilst participating in activities within the club.
- 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.

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 Club Safeguarding Officer.
- Adults – club members, volunteers, coaches, referees and members will be supported to understand their role and responsibility with regard to the duty of care and protection of young people by the club and the National Governing Body.
- Individuals will receive support through education and training, coordinated by the club/national governing body to be aware of and understand best practice and how to manage any welfare or child protection issues that may come to light.
- Rosedale Bowls Club will work in partnership with young people and parents to review and implement child protection and safeguarding procedures.
- Rosedale Bowls Club's 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 2023.
- The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- Any subsequent legislation relating to child protection would implicitly be incorporated into this document.



Responsibilities and Communication:

- The Rosedale Bowls Club Child Protection Policy will be available to all members, parents, staff, volunteers and participants.
- The Policy will be reviewed every three years by the Safeguarding Officer, and amended as appropriate. Guidance from Bowls National Governing Bodies will be sought as part of the review process.
- The 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 Club Safeguarding Officer has responsibility for responding to any allegations, concerns or child protection incidents, passing information to the appropriate NGB Safeguarding Officer and informing the appropriate club staff, authorities where relevant.
- Parents have a responsibility to work together with the club in implementing procedures and providing their children with the necessary information to keep themselves safe.

Safeguarding children is everyone's responsibility.

To fulfil their commitment to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, all organisations that provide services for, or work with, children must have:

- at least one identified lead safeguarding practitioner who can advise and support others when a safeguarding concern arises,
- a culture of listening to children and taking account of their wishes and feelings, both in individual decisions and the development of services,
- safe recruitment practices for individuals whom the sports club will permit to work regularly with children and adults at risk, including policies on when to obtain a criminal record (DBS) check,
- codes of conduct for all relevant participants which clearly support the paramountcy of safeguarding children,
- clear culture that enables issues about safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children to be addressed,
- clear policies in line with those from the Local Safeguarding Partnership (LSP) for dealing with allegations against people who work with children,
- clear information sharing arrangements which set out the processes for sharing Safeguarding Children in Bowls Policy - 2022 information, with relevant professionals and with the LSP,
- appropriate supervision and support for staff, including undertaking safeguarding training.

What is Abuse?:

It is important to be aware of what constitutes abuse. The following definitions are adapted from Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023.

Abuse is a form of maltreatment of a child. Somebody may abuse or neglect a child by inflicting harm, or by failing to act to prevent harm. Harm can include ill treatment that is not physical as well as the impact of witnessing ill treatment of others. This can be particularly relevant, for example, in relation to the impact on children of all forms of domestic abuse.

Children may be abused in a family or in an institutional or community setting by those known to them, or, more rarely, by others. Abuse can take place wholly online, or technology may be used to facilitate offline abuse. Children may be abused by an adult or adults, or another child or children. Those in positions of trust such as relatives, community leaders, teachers or coaches can be perpetrators of abuse.



Traditionally four main types of abuse were identified:

1. **Physical Abuse** - may involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning, suffocating or otherwise causing physical harm to a child. This definition also applies where a parent or carer fabricates the symptoms of or deliberately induces illness in a child.
2. **Emotional Abuse** - the persistent emotional maltreatment of a child such as to cause severe and persistent adverse effects on the child's emotional development. It may involve conveying to a child that they are worthless or unloved, inadequate, or valued only insofar as they meet the needs of another person. It may include not giving the child opportunities to express their views, deliberately silencing them or 'making fun' of what they say or how they communicate. It may feature age or developmentally inappropriate expectations being imposed on children. It may involve seeing or hearing the ill-treatment of another. It may involve serious bullying (including cyber bullying), causing children frequently to feel frightened or in danger, or the exploitation or corruption of children. Some level of emotional abuse is involved in all types of maltreatment of a child, though it may occur alone.
3. **Sexual Abuse** - involves forcing or enticing a child to take part in sexual physical contact including assault by penetration (e.g. rape or oral sex) or non-penetrative acts (e.g. masturbation, kissing and touching outside of clothing). It may also include non-contact activities such as involving children in looking at or in production of sexual images, watching sexual activities, encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways or grooming a child in preparation for abuse (including online). Sexual abuse is not solely perpetrated by adult males. Women can also commit acts of sexual abuse, as can other children.
4. **Neglect** - the persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's health or development (such as food, clothing, medical care/treatment or shelter (including exclusion from home or abandonment). Neglect may occur during pregnancy as a result of maternal substance

Emerging abusive issues identified in Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 include:

Domestic/Relationship Abuse – controlling or coercive behaviour within the family home or in a child's relationship. Children may be adversely affected by witnessing/hearing an abusive relationship in their household. •

Sexual Exploitation - child sexual exploitation (CSE) is a form of child sexual abuse. It occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18 into sexual activity (a) in exchange for something the victim needs or wants, and/or (b) for the financial advantage or increased status of the perpetrator or facilitator. The victim may have been sexually exploited even if the sexual activity appears consensual. Child sexual exploitation does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of technology.

Criminal Exploitation – often referred to as County Lines, a term used to describe gangs and organised criminal networks involved in exporting illegal drugs into one or more areas within the UK, using dedicated mobile phone lines or other form of 'deal line'. They are likely to exploit children and vulnerable adults to move and store the drugs and money, and they will often use coercion, intimidation, violence (including sexual violence) and weapons. **Radicalisation** - extremist groups make use of the internet to radicalise and recruit and to promote extremist materials. Extremism goes beyond terrorism and includes people who target the vulnerable – including the young – by seeking to sow division between communities on the basis of race, faith or denomination; justify discrimination towards women and girls; persuade others that minorities are inferior; or argue against the primacy of democracy and the rule of law in our society.



Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) - a form of child abuse and violence against women. FGM comprises all procedures involving partial or total removal of the external female genitalia for non-medical reasons. This is illegal in England and Wales under the FGM Act 2003.

Forced Marriage - a forced marriage is a marriage in which one or both spouses do not (or, in the case of some adults with learning or physical disabilities, cannot) consent to the marriage and duress is involved. Duress can include physical, psychological, financial, sexual and emotional pressure. It is different to an arranged marriage where the families of both spouses take a leading role in arranging the marriage but the choice whether or not to accept the arrangement remains with the prospective spouses. Forced marriage is illegal in the UK.

Honour based abuse - a broad umbrella term used to describe a combination of practices used principally to control and punish the behaviour of a member of a family or social group, in order to protect perceived cultural and religious beliefs in the name of 'honour'.

Hazing - any activity expected of someone in joining or participating in a group that humiliates, degrades, abuses, or endangers them regardless of a person's willingness to participate.

Signs of Abuse

There are a number of signs that may indicate that children are being abused:

- unexplained or suspicious injuries, such as bruising, cuts or burns, particularly if situated on a part of the body not normally prone to such injuries,
- an injury for which the explanation seems inconsistent,
- unexplained changes in behaviour (e.g. becoming very quiet, withdrawn or displaying sudden outbursts of temper),
- age-inappropriate sexual awareness,
- engaging in sexually explicit behaviour,
- distrust of adults, particularly those with whom a close relationship would normally be expected,
- difficulty in making friends,
- being prevented from socialising with other children,
- displaying variations in eating patterns including overeating or loss of appetite,
- loss of weight for no apparent reason,
- the child becoming increasingly dirty or unkempt.

This list is not exhaustive and the presence of one or more of the indicators is not proof that abuse is actually taking place. Some changes in behavior can be caused by changes at home, for example, bereavement or hormonal changes. Parents/carers should be encouraged to inform the Club Safeguarding Officer of any changes in home circumstances

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 the National Governing Body and Bowling Development Alliance procedures.