



Safeguarding Adults 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”.

Policy Aims

The purpose of this policy is to outline the duty and responsibility of staff/volunteers working on behalf of the Rosedale Bowls Club in relation to Safeguarding Adults at risk.

All adults have the right to be safe from harm and must be able to live free from fear of abuse, neglect and exploitation.

Objectives

- Everyone who participates in bowls is entitled to do so in a safe and enjoyable environment.
- The Club is committed to helping everyone in bowls accept their responsibility to safeguard adults at risk, from harm and abuse.
- All suspicions and allegations of abuse and poor practice will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately.
- Staff and volunteers working with adults at risk in bowls have a responsibility to report concerns to their Club Safeguarding Officer.

Definition of an Adult at Risk

- An Adult at Risk is defined in The Care Act 2014 as: an individual aged 18 years and over who has needs for care and support (whether or not the local authority is meeting any of those needs) AND; is experiencing, or at risk of, abuse or neglect, AND; as a result of those care and support needs is unable to protect themselves from either the risk of, or the experience of abuse or neglect
- Safeguarding adults is defined in Care and Support Statutory Guidance as: protecting an adult's right to live in safety, free from abuse and neglect. It is about people and organisations working together to prevent and stop both the risks and experience of abuse or neglect, while at the same time making sure that the adult's wellbeing is promoted including, where appropriate, having regard to their views, wishes, feelings and beliefs in deciding on any action. This must recognise that adults sometimes have complex interpersonal relationships and may be ambivalent, unclear or unrealistic about their personal circumstances.

What is abuse?

It is important to be aware of what constitutes abuse. Abuse is a form of maltreatment. The Care Act 2014 updated 2022 identifies categories of abuse as applied in England.

Adults may be abused in a family or in an institutional or community setting by those known to them or by others.

Those in positions of trust such as relatives, community leaders, teachers or coaches can be perpetrators of abuse.

- Abuse is a violation of an individual's human and civil rights by another person or persons.
- Adult is anyone aged 18 or over.



- Adult safeguarding is protecting a person's right to live in safety, free from abuse and neglect.
- Capacity refers to the ability to make a decision at a particular time, for example when under considerable stress. The starting assumption must always be that a person has the capacity to make a decision unless it can be established that they lack capacity (MCA 2005).

Types of Abuse taken from the Care Act 2014

Physical abuse including: assault, hitting, slapping, pushing, misuse of medication, restraint, inappropriate physical sanctions.

Sexual abuse including: rape, indecent exposure, sexual harassment, inappropriate looking or touching, sexual teasing or innuendo, sexual photography, subjection to pornography or witnessing sexual acts, sexual assault, sexual acts to which the adult has not consented or was pressured into consenting.

Psychological abuse including: emotional abuse, threats of harm or abandonment, deprivation of contact, humiliation, blaming, controlling, intimidation, coercion, harassment, verbal abuse, cyber bullying, isolation, unreasonable and unjustified withdrawal of services or supportive networks. Financial or material abuse including: theft, fraud, internet scamming, coercion in relation to an adult's financial affairs or arrangements, including in connection with wills, property, inheritance or financial transactions, the misuse or misappropriation of property, possessions or benefits.

Domestic violence including: psychological, physical, sexual, financial, emotional abuse, so called 'honour' based abuse.

Modern slavery encompasses: slavery, human trafficking, forced labour and domestic servitude, traffickers and slave masters using whatever means they have at their disposal to coerce, deceive and force individuals into a life of abuse, servitude and inhumane treatment.

Discriminatory abuse including forms of: harassment, slurs or similar treatment: because of race, gender and gender identity, age, disability, sexual orientation, religion.

Neglect and acts of omission including: ignoring medical, emotional or physical care needs, failure to provide access to appropriate health, care and support or educational services, the withholding of the necessities of life, such as medication, adequate nutrition and heating.

Self-neglect: This covers a wide range of behaviour: neglecting to care for one's personal hygiene, health or surroundings and includes behaviour such as hoarding. In bowls this could be a player whose appearance becomes unkempt, does not wear suitable sports kit and deterioration in hygiene.

Organisational abuse: Including neglect and poor care practice within an institution or specific care setting such as a hospital or care home, for example, or in relation to care provided in one's own home. This may range from one off incidents to on-going ill-treatment. It can be through neglect or poor professional practice as a result of the structure, policies, processes and practices within an organisation.

Other relevant abuse:

Cyber Bullying - cyber bullying occurs when someone repeatedly makes fun of another person online or repeatedly picks on another person through emails or text messages, or uses online forums with the intention of harming, damaging, humiliating or isolating another person. It can be used to carry out many different types of bullying (such as racist bullying, homophobic bullying, or bullying related to special educational needs and disabilities) but instead of the perpetrator carrying out the bullying face-to-face, they use technology as a means to do it.



Forced Marriage - forced marriage is a term used to describe a marriage in which one or both of the parties are married without their consent or against their will. A forced marriage differs from an arranged marriage, in which both parties consent to the assistance of a third party in identifying a spouse. The Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 make it a criminal offence to force someone to marry. **Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)** - a form of 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.

Mate Crime – Also referred to as “cuckooing” a ‘mate crime’ as defined by the Safety Net Project is ‘when vulnerable people are befriended by members of the community who go on to exploit and take advantage of them. It may not be an illegal act but still has a negative effect on the individual.’

Radicalisation - the aim of radicalisation is to attract people to their reasoning, inspire new recruits and embed their extreme views and persuade vulnerable individuals of the legitimacy of their cause. This may be direct through a relationship, or through social media.

Abuse can take place within a sporting context and the person causing harm might be any other person. For example: a member of staff, a coach, a volunteer, a participant or a fan.

Some examples of abuse within sport include

- harassment of a participant because of their (perceived) disability or other protected characteristics,
- not meeting the needs of the participant e.g. training without a necessary break,
- a coach intentionally striking an athlete,
- one elite participant controlling another athlete with threats of withdrawal from their partnership,
- an official, coach or other participant who sends unwanted sexually explicit text messages,
- a participant threatens another participant with physical harm and persistently blames them for poor performance.

Abuse or neglect outside sport could be carried out by:

- a spouse, partner or family member,
- neighbours or residents,
- friends, acquaintances or strangers,
- people who deliberately exploit adults they perceive as vulnerable,
- paid staff, professionals or volunteers providing care and support.

Often the perpetrator is known to the adult and may be in a position of trust and/or power.

Signs of Abuse There are a number of signs that may indicate that an adult is being abused:

- unexplained bruises, cuts or injuries – or lack of medical attention when an injury is present,
- person has belongings or money going missing,
- person is not attending / no longer enjoying their sessions and is not responding to reminders from team members or coaches,



- someone losing or gaining weight / an unkempt appearance or a deterioration in personal hygiene,
- a change in the behaviour or confidence of a person, for example, a participant may be looking quiet and withdrawn when a relative comes to collect them from sessions in contrast to their personal assistant whom they greet with a smile,
- a fear of a particular group of people or individual,
- a parent/carer always speaks for the person and doesn't allow them to make their own choices,
- they may tell you / another person they are being abused – i.e. a disclosure.

Responsibilities and Communication

- The Rosedale Bowls Club Safeguarding Policy will be available to all members, parents, staff, volunteers and participants. It is important that adults at risk are protected from abuse. All complaints, allegations or suspicions must be taken seriously with the Club Safeguarding Officer passing information to the appropriate NGB Safeguarding Officer and informing the appropriate club staff where relevant.
- The Club has responsibility for ensuring that the policy and procedures are implemented, including referring any appropriate disciplinary action to the national governing body as appropriate.

Safeguarding Responsibilities in Bowls

Safeguarding adults at risk is everyone's responsibility. To fulfil their commitment to safeguarding, all organisations/clubs must have:

- at least one identified lead safeguarding practitioner who can advise and support others when a safeguarding concern arises,
- a culture of listening and believing where abusive situations are being disclosed,
- safe recruitment practices for individuals whom the organisation will permit to work regularly with 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,
- a culture that enables issues about safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all members to be addressed,
- clear policies in line with those from the Local Safeguarding Partnership (LSP) for dealing with allegations against people who work with adults at risk,
- clear information sharing arrangements which set out the processes for sharing information, with relevant professionals,
- appropriate supervision and support for staff, including undertaking safeguarding training.

The Role of Key Individual Agencies

- Adult Social Services - The Department of Health's recent 'No secrets' guidance document requires that authorities develop a local framework within which all responsible agencies work together to ensure a coherent policy for the protection of vulnerable adults at risk of abuse.
- All local authorities have a Safeguarding Adults Board, which oversees multi-agency work aimed at protecting and safeguarding vulnerable adults. It is normal practice for the board to comprise of people from partner organisations who have the ability to influence decision making and resource allocation within their organisation.



- The Police - The Police play a vital role in Safeguarding Adults with cases involving alleged criminal acts. It becomes the responsibility of the police to investigate allegations of crime by preserving and gathering evidence. Where a crime is identified, the police will be the lead agency and they will direct investigations in line with legal and other procedural protocols.

Legal Framework

- The Care Act 2014 <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2014/23/introduction/enacted> sets out a clear legal framework for how local authorities and other parts of the system should protect adults at risk of abuse or neglect. Each Local Authority must have a Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB), in much the same way of Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCB). They must lead a multi-agency system that seeks to prevent abuse and neglect and stop it quickly when it happens which includes the NHS, police and Social Care. The Safeguarding Adults Boards (SAB) must meet regularly, develop shared safeguarding plans and publish an annual review of progress. They will carry out Safeguarding Adults Reviews in some circumstances relating to safeguarding failures. The Act also introduces a responsibility for Local Authorities to make enquiries and take any necessary action if an adult with care and support needs could be at risk, even if that adult isn't receiving local authority care and support.
- The Protection of Freedoms Act 2012
- Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims (Amendment) Act 2012
- The Equality Act 2010
- The Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006
- Mental Capacity Act 2005
- Sexual Offences Act 2003
- The Human Rights Act 1998
- The Data Protection Act 1994 and 1998

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 by the Management Committee, and amended as appropriate. Guidance from Bowls National Governing Bodies will be sought as part of the review process.
- The policy will be monitored in partnership with the Bowls National Governing Bodies and Bowls Development Alliance procedures.