



ASHCOMBE PARK BOWLING CLUB

Safeguarding Adults at Risk Policy

Ashcombe Park Bowling Club is affiliated to Bowls England, the National Governing Body, and the Club recognises their policies.

1. Policy Aims

The purpose of this policy is to outline the duty and responsibility of staff/volunteers working on behalf of the Ashcombe Park Bowling 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.

2. Objectives

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

3. Definition of an Adult at Risk?

3.1 Adult at Risk is a person aged eighteen or over who needs care and support regardless of whether they are receiving them, and because of those needs are unable to protect themselves against abuse or neglect. In recent years, there has been a marked shift away from using the term 'vulnerable' to describe adults potentially at risk from harm or abuse.

3.2 Abuse is a violation of an individual's human and civil rights by another person or persons. See section 5 for further explanations.

3.3 Adult is anyone aged 18 or over.

3.4 Adult safeguarding is protecting a person's right to live in safety, free from abuse and neglect.

3.5 Capacity refers to the ability to make a decision at a particular time, for example.

4. Types of Abuse taken from the Care Act 2014

4.1 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.

4.2 Modern Slavery – encompasses slavery, human trafficking, forced labour and domestic servitude. Traffickers and slave masters use whatever means they have at their disposal to coerce, deceive, and force individuals into a life of abuse, servitude, and inhumane treatment. In (insert name of your sport) you may notice that a participant in a team has been missing from practice sessions and is not responding to reminders from team members or coaches.

4.3 Domestic Abuse – including psychological, physical, sexual, financial, and emotional abuse. It also includes so called 'honour' based violence. Sport may notice a power imbalance between a participant and a family member. For example, a participant with Downs syndrome may be looking quiet and withdrawn when their brother comes to collect them from sessions, in contrast to their personal assistant whom they greet with a smile.

4.4 Discriminatory – discrimination is abuse which centres on a difference or perceived difference particularly with respect to race, gender, or disability or any of the protected characteristics of the Equality Act. This could be the harassing of a club member because they are or are perceived to be transgender

4.5 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 because of the structure, policies, processes, and practices within an organisation. In Bowls, this could be training without a necessary break.

4.6 Physical Abuse – includes hitting, slapping, pushing, kicking, misuse of medication, restraint, or inappropriate sanctions. This could be a coach intentionally striking an athlete.

4.7 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, indecent exposure and sexual assault or sexual acts to which the adult has not consented or was pressured into consenting. This could be a fellow athlete who sends unwanted sexually explicit text messages to an adult with learning disabilities they are training alongside.

4.8 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, or the misuse or misappropriation of property, possessions, or benefits. This could be someone taking equipment from an athlete with dementia.

4.9 Neglect – including ignoring medical or physical care needs, failure to provide access to appropriate health social care or educational services, the withholding of the necessities of life, such as medication, adequate nutrition, and heating. This could be a coach not ensuring athletes have access to water.

4.10 Emotional or Psychological Abuse – this includes threats of harm or abandonment, deprivation of contact, humiliation, blaming, controlling, intimidation, coercion, harassment, verbal abuse, isolation or withdrawal from services or supportive networks. This could be an athlete threatening another athlete with physical harm and persistently blaming them for poor performance.

Not included in the Care Act 2014 but also relevant:

4.11 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 to do it.

4.12 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.

4.13 Mate Crime - 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.'

4.14 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.

5. Responsibilities and Communication

5.1 The Ashcombe Park Bowling 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.

5.2 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.

6. The Role of Key Individual Agencies

6.1 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.

6.2 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 can influence decision making and resource allocation within their organisation.

6.3 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.

7. Legal Framework

1. 7.1 The Care Act 2014 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 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.

7.2 The Protection of Freedoms Act 2012

7.3 Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims (Amendment) Act 2012

7.4 The Equality Act 2010

7.5 The Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006

7.6 Mental Capacity Act 2005

7.7 Sexual Offences Act 2003

7.8 The Human Rights Act 1998

7.9 The Data Protection Act 2018

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 AEC and amended as appropriate. Guidance from Bowls National Governing Body, Bowls England, will be sought as part of the review process.