



NORTON BOWLING CLUB



Child Protection Policy

(1st Review – March 2021)

Norton Bowling Club has considered its responsibilities to young people participating in bowls at our premises and within our club very carefully and has produced the following **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.

This policy is part of the overall safeguarding commitment of Norton Bowling Club. The reporting and recording procedures of any safeguarding issues, applies to both this policy and to our Safeguarding Adults at Risk Policy.

Norton Bowling Club affiliates to the National Governing Body (NGB) and the Club recognises the policies of their Governing Body, as set in out in the “Safeguarding Bowls Guidelines”.

Policy Statement

Norton Bowling 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.

Norton Bowling 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 Club. It is the responsibility of all adults within the club to assist the Club 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 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.
- Adults – club members and coaches 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.
- Appropriate 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.
- Norton Bowling Club will work in partnership with young people and parents to review and implement child protection and safeguarding procedures.
- Norton Bowling 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 2018.
 - The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.
 - Any subsequent legislation relating to child protection would implicitly be incorporated into this document.

Definition of Abuse (Children)

It is important to be aware of what constitutes abuse. The following definitions are adapted from Working Together to Safeguard Children (2018)

- 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 children that they are worthless, unloved or inadequate. 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 occur when the child is subjected to unrealistic pressure or is bullied in order to perform to high expectations.

3. **Sexual Abuse** - involves forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual physical contact. It may also include non-contact activities such as involving children 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 via the internet).
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 or shelter).
5. **Bullying** - deliberately hurtful behaviour, usually repeated over a period of time, where it is difficult for those bullied to defend themselves. Bullying can take many forms but there are three main types:
 - **Physical** e.g. hitting, kicking, theft
 - **Verbal** e.g. racist or homophobic remarks, threats, name calling
 - **Emotional** e.g. isolating an individual from the activities and social acceptance of their peer group

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.
- the child describes what appears to be an abusive act involving him/her.
- someone else (a child or adult) expresses concern about the welfare of another child.
- unexplained changes in behaviour (e.g. becoming very quiet, withdrawn or displaying sudden outbursts of temper).
- 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 socializing 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 behaviour can be caused by changes at home, for example, bereavement and parents are encouraged to inform the Club, Coach or Club Safeguarding/Welfare Officer of any such circumstances.

It is important to be aware that some children are additionally vulnerable to abuse including disabled children, those from different cultures and high performing young people.

Responding to concerns about a child

Abuse can and does occur in a variety of situations, which may include sport or other social activities. Most children are abused by someone known to them. This may be within or outside of the bowls context. Concerns may arise from a child or adult expressing concerns or by something observed that raise issues.

It is important that those involved in bowls are vigilant about concerns, and that all allegations are taken seriously and appropriate action taken.

There is a responsibility to inform appropriate agencies of possible abuse so that they can then make enquiries and take any action necessary to protect the child. This applies both to suspicions of abuse occurring within the context of bowling activities and to allegations that abuse is taking place elsewhere.

Examples of concerns that might arise are:

- a parent who pushes too hard.
- a coach who adopts a win-at-all costs philosophy.
- an older player who intimidates (inappropriately).
- an official who places unfair pressure on a person.
- changes in a child's behaviour linked to concerns about home.

If there is cause for concern you need to;

- stay calm.
- keep an open mind.
- listen very carefully to what is being said and take the child seriously.
- as soon as possible record in writing what was said using the child's own words.
- explain who needs to know.
- keep questions to a minimum to ensure a clear and accurate understanding of what has been said.
- reassure the child that they have done the right thing telling you.
- report the issue in line with procedures.

All concerns about a child must be taken seriously, investigated appropriately and treated confidentially.

It is not the responsibility of the Bowling Club Safeguarding/Welfare Officer or anyone working in bowls to decide if a child has been abused. It is however their responsibility to act upon any concern and refer to the County Safeguarding Officer and/or NGB Safeguarding Officer (as appropriate).

The NSPCC Helpline (0800 800 5000) can be contacted to talk through any concerns that arise. This can be done anonymously.

If action needs to be taken urgently, contact the Police by dialling 101. If concerns are identified out of hours the Police and CSC (Children's Social Care) provide an out of hours' service.

When concerns are reported to the statutory authorities they will investigate to establish whether a child is at risk of "significant harm". If a criminal offence is suspected the CSC will always work in partnership with the police. Their primary duty is to safeguard and ensure the welfare of the child and to work within LSCB (Local Safeguarding Children's Board) procedures.

If concerns relate to an individual within bowls, the following will apply:

- The relevant disciplinary procedures will be implemented following the advice of the statutory authorities if they are involved.
- The individual may be asked to stop working with the child (children) immediately whilst a full investigation is carried out. This is to protect all parties involved.
- Alongside the disciplinary procedures, and informed by any statutory enquiries, the National Governing Body Case Management Group will assess whether it is appropriate for the person to return to work with children and how this will be managed.
- The National Governing Body Case Management Group will assess on a case by case basis any support needed for the person about whom the allegations have been made.
- An independent person may be appointed to give this support.

There are appropriate procedures to manage reported concerns or allegations which have been complied in accordance with Government guidelines and legislation.

To retain bowls integrity it is important that all organisations apply the same procedures.

Responsibilities and Communication

- The Norton Bowling Club Child Protection Policy will be available to all members, parents and participants.
- The Policy will be reviewed every three years by the Club Committee and amended as appropriate. Guidance from Bowls National Governing Bodies will be sought as part of the review process.

- The Club 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.
- All members of the club have a responsibility to report concerns to the Club Safeguarding/Welfare Officer.
- The Club Safeguarding/Welfare 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 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.
- There are requirements for all Coaches and the Safeguarding/Welfare Officer to complete a self-disclosure form or have **relevant** criminal record checks (as required) and to attend Safeguarding training.
- A list of Safeguarding contacts including details of the club's Safeguarding/Welfare Officer, the police and Local Authority Safeguarding Board are displayed at the Club's premises.

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.

Signed by:

and

Chairman

Safeguarding and Welfare Officer

Martin Wright

Julie Broadbent

Dated:

Dated: