



FERNDOWN BOWLS CLUB

Ferndown Bowls Club Safeguarding Policy: Protection of Children and Vulnerable Adults

1. Policy Statement

Ferndown Bowls Club is committed to ensuring that all members, volunteers, coaches, and visitors can enjoy lawn bowls in a safe, welcoming, and inclusive environment. We believe that everyone, regardless of age, ability, gender, race, religion, sexual orientation, or background, has the right to participate in our sport free from abuse, harm, or neglect.

We recognize our responsibility to:

- Safeguard the welfare of **children** (under 18) and **vulnerable adults** (as defined below).
- Promote best practices to ensure a safe sporting environment.
- Take all reasonable steps to protect members from harm.
- Respond promptly and appropriately to safeguarding concerns.

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

2. Legal and Policy Framework

This policy is based on:

- The **Children Act 1989 & 2004** (for children)
 - The **Care Act 2014** (for vulnerable adults)
 - **Working Together to Safeguard Children (2018)**
 - **Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults Guidelines** (Department of Health)
 - **Bowls England / Bowls Scotland Safeguarding Guidelines**
 - Relevant local authority safeguarding procedures.
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3. Child Protection

- A **child** is anyone under the age of 18.
- Children's voices and wishes are respected.
- Abuse types include physical, emotional, sexual, neglect, and online exploitation.

Procedures

- Codes of Conduct for players, coaches, parents, and officials set behavioural expectations.
- Safe Recruitment includes DBS checks, references, and safeguarding training.
- Supervision Ratios: 1:8 for ages 9–12, 1:10 for ages 13–18; two adults present where possible.
- Consent: Required for participation, transport, medical care, and photography.



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- Communication: Transparent, group-based, and usually via parents/carers.
 - Reporting: Concerns go to the Club Safeguarding Officer (CSO); serious cases referred to statutory agencies.
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4. Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults

Key Principles

- A **vulnerable adult** is anyone who is aged 18 or over and is in need of care or support due to illness, disability, or mental health conditions
- An “adult at risk” has care/support needs and may be unable to protect themselves. They may be at risk of abuse neglect, or exploitation.
- Abuse types include physical, emotional, sexual, financial, discriminatory, neglect, and self-neglect.
- Adults are supported to make informed decisions; mental capacity is assessed when needed.

Procedures

- Safe Recruitment mirrors child protection standards, with DBS checks for relevant roles.
 - Codes of Conduct emphasise dignity, boundaries, and respect.
 - Disclosures are handled calmly and confidentially, with consent sought where possible.
 - Reporting: CSO assesses and escalates concerns to police or social care if necessary..
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4. Responsibilities

4.1 Club Committee

- Ensure safeguarding is a standing agenda item at meetings.
- Adopt and implement this policy.
- Appoint a **Club Safeguarding Officer (CSO)**.
- Ensure all members are aware of this policy.

4.2 Club Safeguarding Officer (CSO)

- Act as the first point of contact for safeguarding concerns related to both children and vulnerable adults.
- Liaise with the County or National Safeguarding Officer.
- Ensure DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) checks are completed for relevant roles.
- Promote awareness of safeguarding throughout the club.

4.3 Coaches and Volunteers

- Complete safeguarding training appropriate to both children and vulnerable adults.
- Maintain appropriate professional boundaries with all members.
- Report concerns promptly to the CSO.



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4.4 Members and Visitors

- Treat others with respect.
 - Report any safeguarding concerns to the CSO or a committee member.
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5. Reporting a Concern

If a **child** or **vulnerable adult** is in **immediate danger**, call **999**.

Otherwise:

1. Report your concern to the **Club Safeguarding Officer (CSO)**.
2. Record all details accurately and confidentially.

The club will:

- Respond swiftly.
- Ensure confidentiality is respected.
- Refer cases appropriately to statutory agencies.

Club Safeguarding Officer:

Name: Anne Sharp

Phone: 07895 244402

6. Safer Recruitment

The club will:

- Use clear role descriptions.
 - Obtain references for volunteers and coaches.
 - Require **DBS checks** for those working with children or vulnerable adults.
 - Provide safeguarding induction and training for all involved with vulnerable individuals.
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7. Code of Conduct

All members, coaches, and volunteers must:

- Respect the rights and dignity of all participants, particularly vulnerable adults and children.
 - Never engage in inappropriate or abusive behaviour.
 - Maintain appropriate physical and emotional boundaries with vulnerable adults and children.
 - Report any concerns immediately.
 - Uphold the good reputation of the club and the sport.
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8. Photography and Social Media

The club will:

- Obtain consent before taking or publishing photos/videos of participants.



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- Avoid using names with photos or identifying information.
 - Monitor the club's online and social media presence for safeguarding issues, particularly related to vulnerable adults and children.
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9. Vulnerable Adults-Specific Policies

In addition to the general safeguarding practices:

- The club will ensure that vulnerable adults are never left alone with a single adult for long periods.
 - Care and support will be tailored to individual needs, and any specific support requirements (e.g. physical assistance or mental health support) will be discussed in advance to ensure safe participation.
 - The club will have a designated person responsible for supporting vulnerable adults during club activities if required.
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10. Review and Monitoring

This policy will be:

- Reviewed if legislation or guidance changes.
 - Displayed at the club and on the club's website.
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11. Contacts and Resources

- **Local Authority Safeguarding Children Board**
- **Adult Safeguarding Team**
- **Bowls England Safeguarding Lead**
- **NSPCC Helpline:** 0808 800 5000
- **Childline:** 0800 1111
- **Action on Elder Abuse:** 0808 808 8141
- **The National Adult Safeguarding Helpline (England):** 0800 169 6565

12. ADOPTION AND REVIEW

SAFEGUARDING POLICY		
Version	Description of changes	Date
1.0	Original document	17/03/2021
1.0	Review expanded document	30/10/2025