

Combe Martin Bowling Club

Safeguarding Adults in Bowls Policy

29 March 2024

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Combe Martin Bowling Club affiliates to the National Governing Body (Bowls England). The club adopts the safeguarding policies and guidelines as approved by Bowls England.

The Bowls England Approved Safeguarding Policy For Adults can be found here: <https://www.bowlsengland.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/Safeguarding-Adults-Policy-V2-2022.pdf>

1. Policy Aims

The purpose of this policy is to outline the duty and responsibility of all club members, coaches, staff, referees and volunteers working on behalf of the Combe Martin Bowling Club in relation to safeguarding adults.

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

- 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 all adults from harm and abuse.
- All suspicions and allegations of abuse and poor practice will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately.

3. Definitions

- 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 any action. This must recognise that adults sometimes have complex interpersonal relationships and may be ambivalent, unclear or unrealistic about their personal circumstances.

4. Types of Abuse

Several types of abuse affecting adults are identified in the **Care Act 2014**.

- Physical abuse - including assault, slapping, pushing, misuse of medication, restraint, or inappropriate 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, or unreasonable and unjustified withdrawal from services or supportive networks.
- Finance or Material abuse - including theft, fraud, internet scamming, coercion in relation to an adult's financial affairs or arrangements, including in connection with will, property or inheritance or financial transactions, or the misuse or misappropriation of property, possessions or benefits.
- Neglect and acts of omission - including ignoring medical, environmental 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.
- Discriminatory abuse - including forms of: harassment, slurs or similar treatment: because of race, gender identity, age, disability, sexual orientation, or religion.
- 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.
- Organisational abuse - including neglect and poor 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 ongoing ill-treatment. It can be through neglect or poor professional practice as a result of the structure, policies, processes and practices within an organisation.

5. Responsibilities and Communication

- The Combe Martin Bowling Club Safeguarding Adults in Bowls Policy will be available to all members, parents, staff, volunteers and participants. It is important that all adults are protected from abuse.
- Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.
- All club members, volunteers, coaches, referees and staff have a responsibility to report concerns to the club Safeguarding Officer.
- The club Safeguarding Officer has responsibility for responding to any allegations, concerns or incidents, passing information to the appropriate National Governing Body designated Safeguarding Officer and informing the appropriate club staff where relevant.
- The Management Committee has responsibility for ensuring that the policy and procedures are implemented. This includes referring any appropriate disciplinary action to the National Governing Body as appropriate.

6. The Role of Individual Agencies

- North Devon Council has a legal duty to safeguard children and vulnerable adults.
- 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

Safeguarding adults in all home nations is compliant with United Nations directives on the rights of disabled people and commitments to the rights of older people.

It is covered by:

- The Human Rights Act 1998
- The Data Protection Act 2018
- General Data Protection Regulations 2018

The practices and procedures within the policy are based on the relevant legislation and government guidance for England.

- The Care Act 2014
- Care and Support Statutory Guidance 2014 - (especially chapter 14)
- The Prevent Duty
- Mental Capacity Act 2005

8. Monitoring and Review

- This policy will be reviewed 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.