

Combe Martin Bowling Club

Safeguarding Children Policy

29 March 2024

Safeguarding Children Policy

Combe Martin Bowling Club has considered its responsibilities to the children participating in bowls at our premises and within our club very carefully. We have produced the following Safeguarding Children Policy and underpinning procedures, in order to set out the standards we wish to uphold in providing activities for children.

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 Children can be found here: <https://www.bowlsengland.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/Safeguarding-Children-Policy-V10-Feb-2022.pdf>

1. Policy Statement

Combe Martin Bowling Club acknowledges its duty of care to safeguard the welfare of all children (defined as those under 18) involved in bowls within the club. All children have a right to protection, and have their particular needs taken into account.

Combe Martin Bowling Club will therefore endeavour to ensure the safety and welfare of all children involved with the club, through the Safeguarding Children Policy adopted by the Management Committee of the club. It is the responsibility of all adults within the club to assist the Management Committee in this endeavour.

2. Policy Aims

- To provide children 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 practical care possible whilst participating in activities within the club.
- To provide support to club members and volunteers to make informed and confident responses to specific child safeguarding issues and fulfil their roles effectively.

3. Principles

- The safety and welfare of children is paramount.
- Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.
- All children, regardless of age, culture, disability, gender reassignment, language, race (including ethnic origin), nationality, religion or belief, sex (gender), and sexual orientation, enjoy the sport free from abuse and poor practice.
- All suspicions and allegations of abuse and poor practice will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately.
- The views of children will be listened to, valued and respected.
- Adults - club members, volunteers, coaches and referees will be supported to understand their role and responsibility with regard to the duty of care and safeguarding of children by the club and the National Governing Body.
- Combe Martin Bowling Club will adopt safe practice in the recruitment, training and supervision of staff, coaches and volunteers.
- 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 safeguarding issues that may come to light.
- Combe Martin 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 Acts 1989 and 2004.
 - Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 (Updated in 2020).
 - The Sexual Offences Act 2003.
 - Any subsequent legislation relating to child protection would implicitly be incorporated into this document.

4. Responsibilities and Communication

- The Combe Martin Bowling Club Safeguarding Children Policy will be available to all members, parents, staff, volunteers and participants.
- The Management 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 club members, staff, coaches, referees and volunteers working in bowls have a responsibility to report concerns to their Safeguarding Officer.
- The club Safeguarding Officer has responsibility for responding to any allegations, concerns or child safeguarding incidents. Passing information to the appropriate National Governing Body designated 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.

5. Monitoring and Review

- This policy will be reviewed every three years by the Management Committee or in response to significant new legislation.
- The policy will be monitored in partnership with the National Governing Body and Bowling Development Alliance procedures.