

**BIDDENDEN BOWLS CLUB**  
**SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN IN BOWLS POLICY**  
**February 2026**



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

Biddenden Bowls Club affiliates to Bowls England and the Club recognises the policies of Bowls England [BE] and the Bowls Development Alliance [BDA], as set out in:

**Bowls Development Alliance: Safeguarding Children in Bowls Policy – 2022**  
[bowlsdevelopmentalliance.com/safeguarding/resources](https://bowlsdevelopmentalliance.com/safeguarding/resources).

## **POLICY STATEMENT**

Biddenden Bowls 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.

Biddenden Bowls Club will therefore endeavour to ensure the safety and protection of all young people involved with the club through child safeguarding guidelines adopted by the Management of the club. It is the responsibility of all adults within the club to assist the Management committee in this endeavour.

**Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018** defined as ‘protecting children from maltreatment; preventing impairment of children’s health or development; ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care; and taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes.’

## **POLICY AIMS**

- To provide young people appropriate safety and protection whilst in the care of the club and also help them enjoy their experience of the sport of Lawn 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 and volunteers to make informed and confident responses to specific child safeguarding issues and to fulfil their role effectively.

## **PRINCIPLES**

- The welfare of young people is paramount.
- Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.
- All young people, whatever their age, culture, disability, gender, language, ethnic origin, sexual orientation and religious beliefs have the right to enjoy their 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.
- All staff and volunteers working in bowls have a responsibility to report concerns to the Club Safeguarding Officer.
- Adults – club members, volunteers, coaches, umpires and members 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.
- 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.
- Biddenden Bowls Club will work in partnership with young people and parents to review and implement child protection and safeguarding procedures.
- Biddenden Bowls Club's policy and procedures are based on the above principles, 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 (updated 2020)
- The UN Convention of the Rights of the Child.
- Any subsequent legislation relating to child protect would implicitly be incorporated into this document.

## **RESPONSIBILITIES AND COMMUNICATION**

The Biddenden Bowls Club Child safeguarding policy will be available to all members, parents, staff, volunteers and participants.

- The Policy will be reviewed every two years by the Management Committee and amended as appropriate. Guidance from the BDA and BE will be sought as part of the review process.
- The Management Committee has responsibility for ensuring that the policy and procedures are implemented, including referring any appropriate disciplinary action to Bowls England as appropriate.
- The club Safeguarding Officer has responsibility for responding to any allegations, concerns or child protection incidents, passing information to the BE 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.

## **MONITORING AND REVIEW**

- This policy will be reviewed every two years or in response to significant new legislation.
- The policy will be monitored in partnership with Bowls England and Bowls Development Alliance procedures.

## Safeguarding Children in Bowls Policy – 2026

### Appendix 1.

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

Abuse is a form of maltreatment of a child. Somebody may abuse or neglect a child by inflicting harm, or by failing to act to prevent harm. Harm can include ill treatment that is not physical as well as the impact of witnessing ill treatment of others. This can be particularly relevant, for example, in relation to the impact on children of all forms of domestic abuse.

Children may be abused in a family or in an institutional or community setting by those known to them, or, more rarely, by others. Abuse can take place wholly online, or technology may be used to facilitate offline abuse. Children may be abused by an adult or adults, or another child or children. Those in positions of trust such as relatives, community leaders, teachers or coaches can be perpetrators of abuse.

Traditionally four main types of abuse were identified:

- 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 a child that they are worthless or unloved, inadequate, or valued only in so far as they meet the needs of another person. 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 feature age or developmentally inappropriate expectations being imposed on children. It may involve seeing or hearing the ill-treatment of another. It may involve serious bullying (including cyber bullying) causing children frequently to feel frightened or in danger, or the exploitation or corruption of children. Some level of emotional abuse is involved in all types of maltreatment of a child, though it may occur alone.
- 3. Sexual Abuse** – involves forcing or enticing a child to take part in sexual physical contact including assault by penetration (e.g. rape or oral sex)

or non-penetrative acts (e.g. masturbation, kissing and touching outside of clothing). It may also include non-contact activities such as involving children in 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 online). Sexual abuse is not solely perpetrated by adult males. Women can also commit acts of sexual abuse, as can other children.

- 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, medical care/treatment or shelter (including exclusion from home or abandonment). Neglect may occur during pregnancy as result of maternal substance abuse.

**Signs of Abuse** – 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,
- unexplained changes in behaviour (e.g. becoming very quiet, withdrawn or displaying sudden outburst of temper),
- age-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.