RHP (Chelmsford) Bowls Club Safeguarding Policy

RHP (Chelmsford) Bowls Club affiliates to the National Governing Body (NGB) Bowls England and the Club recognises the policies of Bowls England as set out in the Bowls England Overview https://www.bowlsengland.com/safeguarding/

Policy Aims

- The purpose of this policy is to outline the duty and responsibility of staff/volunteers working on behalf of the RHP Bowls Club in relation to Safeguarding all adults including Adults at Risk as defined in The Care Act 2014.
- All adults have the right to be safe from harm and must be able to live free from fear of abuse, neglect and exploitation.

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 adults at risk, from harm and abuse.
- All suspicions and allegations of abuse and poor practice will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately.
- Staff and volunteers working with adults at risk in bowls have a responsibility to report concerns to the Club Safeguarding Officer or Deputy Safeguarding Officer,

Types of Abuse taken from the Care Act 2014

- 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. In RHP Bowls Club this could be a player whose appearance becomes unkempt, does not wear suitable sports kit and deterioration in hygiene.
- Modern Slavery – encompasses slavery, human trafficking, forced labour and domestic servitude. Traffickers and slave masters use whatever means they have at their disposal to coerce, deceive and force individuals into a life of abuse, servitude and inhumane treatment. In bowls you may notice that a participant in a team has been missing from practice sessions and is not responding to reminders from team members or coaches.
- Domestic Abuse – including psychological, physical, sexual, financial and emotional abuse. It also includes so called 'honour' based violence. Sport may notice a power imbalance between a participant and a family member. For example, a participant with Downs's Syndrome may be looking quiet and withdrawn when their brother comes to collect them from sessions, in contrast to their personal assistant whom they greet with a smile.
- Discrimination – discrimination is abuse which centres on a difference or perceived difference particularly with respect to race, gender or disability or any of the protected characteristics of the Equality Act. This could be the harassing of a club member because they are or are perceived to be transgender.
- Organisational Abuse – including neglect and poor care 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 on-going ill treatment. It can be through neglect or poor professional practice as a result of the structure, policies, processes and practices within an organisation. In Bowls, this could be training without a necessary break.

- Physical Abuse – includes hitting, slapping, pushing, kicking, misuse of medication, restraint or inappropriate sanctions. This could be a coach intentionally striking an athlete.
- 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, indecent exposure and sexual assault or sexual acts to which the adult has not consented or was pressured into consenting. This could be a fellow athlete who sends unwanted sexually explicit text messages to an adult with learning disabilities they are training alongside.
- Financial or Material Abuse – including theft, fraud, internet scamming, coercion in relation to an adult's financial affairs or arrangements, including in connection with wills, property, inheritance or financial transactions, or the misuse or misappropriation of property, possessions or benefits. This could be someone taking equipment from an athlete with dementia.
- Neglect – including ignoring medical 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. This could be a coach not ensuring athletes have access to water.
- Emotional or Psychological Abuse – this includes threats of harm or abandonment, deprivation of contact, humiliation, blaming, controlling, intimidation, coercion, harassment, verbal abuse, isolation or withdrawal from services or supportive networks. This could be an athlete threatening another athlete with physical harm and persistently blaming them for poor performance.

Not included in the Care Act 2014 but also relevant:

- Cyber Bullying
- Forced Marriage
- Mate Crime
- Radicalisation

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Responsibilities and Communication

- The RHP(Chelmsford) Bowls Club Safeguarding Policy will be available to all members, staff, volunteers and participants. It is important that all adults including adults at risk are protected from abuse. All complaints, allegations or suspicions must be taken seriously with the Club Safeguarding Officer passing information to the appropriate NGB Safeguarding Officer and informing the appropriate club staff where relevant.
- The Club has responsibility for ensuring that the policy and procedures are implemented including referring any appropriate disciplinary action to the national governing body as appropriate.

The Role of Key Individual Agencies

- Adult Social Services - The Department of Health's recent 'No secrets' guidance document requires that authorities develop a local framework within which all responsible agencies work together to ensure a coherent policy for the protection of

vulnerable adults at risk of abuse.

- Local Authority - All local authorities have a Safeguarding Adults Board, which oversees multi-agency work aimed at protecting and safeguarding vulnerable adults. It is normal practice for the board to comprise of people from partner organisations who have the ability to influence decision making and resource allocation within their organisation.
- The Police - 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.

Legal Framework

- The Care Act 2014
- The Protection of Freedoms Act 2012
- Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims (Amendment) Act 2012
- The Equality Act 2010
- The Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006
- Mental Capacity Act 2005
- Sexual Offences Act 2003
- The Human Rights Act 1998
- The Data Protection Act 2018

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 by the Management Committee and amended as appropriate. Guidance from Bowls England will be sought as part of the review process.
- The Policy will be monitored in partnership with the Bowls England and the Bowls Development Alliance procedures.
- Safeguarding will be part of the agenda for club Committee meetings and the AGM agenda