



# **CHURCHDOWN VILLAGE BOWLS**

## **CHILDREN SAFEGUARDING POLICY**

### **1. Policy Statement**

Churchdown Village Bowls Club (CVBC) is committed to creating and maintaining a safe and inclusive environment for all members, particularly children at risk. All children are entitled to feel safe and protected from any form of abuse and neglect. Their voice is important in the process of keeping them safe and helping them to enjoy bowls.

### **2. Policy Aims**

To ensure the safety and protection of children and young people who attend Churchdown Village Bowls Club from harm this also includes the children of adults who use our club.

To provide all members as well as children and young people and their families, with the overarching principles that guide our approach to child protection.

To support club members and parents in understanding and addressing safeguarding concerns.

This policy has been drawn up on the basis of legislation, policy and guidance (that seeks to protect children in England (see Para 9).

### **3. Principles**

- a. Everyone who participates in bowls at Churchdown Village Bowls club is entitled to do so in a safe and enjoyable environment. All members are treated with respect and dignity, regardless of age, gender, race, religion, disability, or any other characteristic.
- b. The welfare of children at risk is paramount.
- c. Churchdown Village Bowls Club is committed to helping all members to accept their responsibility to safeguard children at risk, from harm and abuse.
- d. Churchdown Village Bowls Club will create a culture where everyone feels comfortable raising concerns or reporting incidents.
- e. Churchdown Village Bowls Club will maintain confidentiality while ensuring that all suspicions and allegations of abuse and poor practice will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately.
- f. All members of Churchdown Village Bowls Club who have any concerns with regard children at risk, have a responsibility to report those concerns to our club Safeguarding Officer.

### **4. Definitions**

- a. A Child at Risk according to S.130 (4) of the [Social Services and Well-being \(Wales\) Act 2014](#) defines a child at risk as a child who:

Is experiencing or is at risk of abuse, neglect or other kinds of harm; has needs for care and support (whether or not the authority is meeting any of those needs).

## 5. Roles and Responsibilities

### a. CVBC Committee

Ensure all members are aware of the Club's Safeguarding Policies for both Children and Adults and are given the opportunity to receive appropriate training on safeguarding issues and receive updates on relevant policies and procedures as required.

### b. Safeguarding Officer

Our Club Safeguarding Officer is Mr Richard Mason He has completed the mandatory Safeguarding training provided by Bowls England and has a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) Check. His contact details are below, on the CVBC website (including a photograph) and also on the Notice board within the clubhouse.

Mr Richard Mason

Email: [richardfm4@gmail.com](mailto:richardfm4@gmail.com)

Tel: 07981 101612

Our Safeguarding Officer is not required to make a judgement regarding an incident.

He will listen, take all disclosures seriously and record what is disclosed in your own words and ask you to check and sign, offering support and reassure you that you have done the right thing to seek help.

He will then report the concerns to the County Safeguarding Officer who may if required escalate it to the NGB Safeguarding Officer. Channelling all safeguarding concerns through NGB Safeguarding Officers should provide for a consistent approach across the sport of bowls and also allow for analysis of patterns and any training gaps.

However, in the case of an adult disclosing a situation affecting themselves to our Safeguarding Officer, they can ask for this not to go any further.

If you would prefer you can contact another committee member or either the Gloucestershire County Safeguarding Officer or the National Safeguarding Officer Bowls England direct, their contact details are:

County Safeguarding Officer – Ms Sandra Throup

Mobile: 07592 756871

Email: [sandrathroup@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:sandrathroup@hotmail.co.uk)

National Safeguarding Officer Bowls England – Ms Juliette Maggs-Bowen

Landline: 01929 500490

Email: [safeguarding@bowlsengland.com](mailto:safeguarding@bowlsengland.com)

If any member has concerns about a person working with children at risk, you should discuss them with our Safeguarding Officer. He will be able to seek advice from the County Safeguarding Officer or the National Safeguarding Officer Bowls England. However, you can also use the details below to report your concerns.

## Gloucestershire Safeguarding Children Procedures

Gloucestershire Children and Families Front Door which is open from 9am to 5pm:

Telephone: 01452 426565

E-mail: [childrenshelpdesk@gloucestershire.gov.uk](mailto:childrenshelpdesk@gloucestershire.gov.uk)

Outside of office hours, you should contact the Emergency Duty Team (EDT) Telephone: 01452 614194 or, **if you have concerns about the immediate safety of the child or you believe a serious criminal offence has been committed please contact the Police at any time on 101.**

**Gloucestershire Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO)** As a member of the public, you cannot make referrals direct to the LADO, instead you should raise your concerns directly with the Safeguarding officer who will be able to escalate the matter if necessary. (The role of the LADO is to be involved in the management and oversight of allegations against people who work with children.)

Gloucestershire LADO contact information:

Name: Nigel Hatten

Phone: 01452 426994

Email: [LADO@gloucestershire.gov.uk](mailto:LADO@gloucestershire.gov.uk)

- [Gloucestershire Safeguarding Partnership](#) (a good space to find an overview of different services)
- Alternatively, you can call ChildLine for advice on 0800 1111 or e-mail them by visiting [www.childline.org.uk](http://www.childline.org.uk).
- [Mash](#) (Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub)

c. Coach

Presently we have one coach (Mrs Barbara Baker) within our club who has completed all the required safeguarding training and also holds a current DBS check.

### 6. Safer Recruitment for staff or volunteers

Safer recruitment is a set of practices to help make sure staff and volunteers are suitable to work with children. It's a vital part of creating a safe and positive environment and making a commitment to keep children safe from harm. Safer recruitment is a continuing process of improvement for Churchdown Village Bowls Club ensuring that staff and volunteers recruited are safe to work with children and involves several practices including the application process, interview, criminal records checks (if appropriate), references and induction process.

A DBS check is only appropriate in bowls where an individual is recruited to work with children 'frequently or with intensity' (more than 3 days in a 30-day period or overnight) and will be unsupervised. This is known as regulated activity. Criminal records checks should be requested by the NGB through the Disclosure and Barring Service.

We encourage all members to visit the Bowls England website and complete the Free Safeguarding Introduction Training which is a short, interactive introduction to safeguarding which is ideal for any bowls club member who wants to know more about safeguarding:

<https://uk.surveymonkey.com/r/BDAIntroductionToSafeguarding>

There is also an online (4 hour) course which is mandatory for a Safeguarding Officer and costs £40.00. Any member can complete the course if they would like to:

<https://www.coachbowls.org/safeguarding-officer-training/>

## 7. **Supporting Safeguarding**

Our club is committed to providing an environment where our members can share their concerns knowing it will be in strict confidence. If you have any questions regarding the policy please talk to our Safeguarding Officer who will be happy to help.

If you are worried, we encourage you to talk to our Safeguarding officer who will help by answering your questions to help you understand the policy and what it means for you.

Concerns that are raised will be addressed quickly in complete confidence. Our Safeguarding officer will encourage you to make your own decision and give informed consent before escalating the concern to the County Safeguarding Officer/NGB Safeguarding Officer. During the process you will be updated on the progress and informed of the outcome as soon as possible.

## 8. **Safeguarding Children in Bowls**

Safeguarding children is everyone's responsibility. To fulfil our commitment to safeguard and promote the welfare of children who bowl at Churchdown Village Bowls Club we comply with the NGB Bowls England policies and procedures as follows:

- Churchdown Village Bowls Club has a fully trained Safeguarding Officer, who can advise and support others when a safeguarding concern arises,
- Churchdown Village Bowls Club has a culture of listening to children and taking account of their wishes and feelings, both in individual decisions and the development of services,
- Churchdown Village Bowls Club follows safe recruitment practices for individuals whom the organisation will permit to work regularly with children and adults at risk, including policies on when to obtain a criminal record (DBS) check,
- Churchdown Village Bowls Club supports and implements the codes of conduct for all relevant participants which clearly support the paramountcy of safeguarding children,
- Churchdown Village Bowls Club has clear whistleblowing procedures which are suitably referenced in staff training and codes of conduct, and a culture that enables issues about safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children to be addressed,
- Churchdown Village Bowls Club has clear policies in line with those from the Local Safeguarding Partnership (LSP) for dealing with allegations against people who work with children,
- Churchdown Village Bowls Club has clear safeguarding information sharing arrangements which set out the processes for sharing Safeguarding Children in Bowls Policy with all members and the public.
- Churchdown Village Bowls Club ensures appropriate supervision and support for staff, including undertaking safeguarding training.

We will safeguard children at risk by ensuring that our activities are delivered in a way which keeps all children safe.

## 9. **Legislation and Government Guidance**

- The Children Acts 1989 and 2004<sup>2</sup> – provide the legislative framework for safeguarding children. A child is defined in this legislation as anyone who has not yet reached their 18th birthday.
- Working Together to Safeguard Children<sup>3</sup> (2018 (updated in 2020) – is the main Statutory guidance on inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. It makes specific reference to the responsibilities of sports clubs and organisations.
- Information sharing advice for practitioners providing safeguarding services to children, young people, parents and carers<sup>4</sup> – is the key information sharing guidance for safeguarding cases amended to reflect the Data Protection Act 2018 and the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).
- Keeping Children Safe in Education (updated annually) – is the key statutory safeguarding guidance for all those working in education. It contains useful links to the growing number of safeguarding issues faced by children.
- The Prevent Duty<sup>5</sup> – is specific guidance for those involved in education and childcare but it provides key information about the safeguarding concerns of radicalisation and exploitation of children by extremist organisations.
- The Sexual Offences Act 2003 - sets clear limits and boundaries about behaviour with children.

### **Definitions**

- In England, a child is defined in The Children Act 1989 as anyone who has not yet reached their 18th birthday. The age criteria is the same for Wales and Northern Ireland. In Scotland the definition of a child varies in different legal contexts, but statutory guidance which supports the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014, includes all children and young people up to the age of 18.
- Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is defined within statutory guidance Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 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.

## 10. **Monitoring and Review**

Churchdown Village Bowls Club is affiliated with Bowls England, and we are fortunate that we are sent regular Safeguarding bulletins which include updates/guidance on safeguarding. Our Safeguarding Officer will review our policy if the updates have an impact, but at least once a year. If any member has a question regarding our Safeguarding Policy, please contact our Safeguarding officer or any member of the committee who will endeavour to answer.

Churchdown Village Bowls Club will continue to ensure all our members are able to play in a safe, friendly environment and are committed to the principles of this safeguarding policy.

Agreed and signed by:  
Mr Fred Etheridge  
Club President

## **Safeguarding Resources for Churchdown Bowls Club**

### **Bowls England Resources:**

Bowls England provides specific safeguarding policies and resources, including a comprehensive Safeguarding Children Policy and Safeguarding Adults Policy. As an affiliated club we are committed to and will comply with these policies and associated procedures.

Here are the links to the information available to you all to read. Churchdown Village Bowls Club also has their own versions of some of the procedures which are held in the Policy Folder, in the Clubhouse. If you have any questions please contact our Safeguarding Officer.

1. Safeguarding Adults Policy

<https://www.bowlsengland.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/Safeguarding-Adults-Policy-V2-2022.pdf>

2. Safeguarding Children Policy

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

3. Safeguarding Officer Job Description

<https://bowlsdevelopmentalliance.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/1-Safeguarding-Officer-Role-Description.pdf>

4. Safeguarding Guidelines

<https://bowlsdevelopmentalliance.com/safeguarding-guidelines/>

5. Safeguarding for parents/carers

<https://bowlsdevelopmentalliance.com/safeguarding-for-parents-carers/>

6. Safeguarding Bulletins.

<https://bowlsdevelopmentalliance.com/safeguarding-bulletins/>