

Annex 'G' Child & Vulnerable Adult Protection Policy

Last reviewed June 2024

Next review due by June 2027

The Kent County Short Mat Bowling Association has considered its responsibilities to the young and vulnerable people participating in bowls at our premises and within our clubs very carefully, and has produced the following policy and underpinning procedures in order to set out the standards we wish to uphold in providing activities and safeguarding the welfare of those participants.

KCSMBA affiliates to the National Governing Body and the Association recognises the policies of their Governing Body, as set in out in the “Safeguarding Bowls Guidelines”.

G1 Policy Statement

- KCSMBA acknowledges its duty of care to safeguard the welfare of all young (defined as those under 18) and vulnerable people involved in bowls within the Association. All young and vulnerable people have a right to protection, and will have their particular needs taken into account.
- KCSMBA will therefore endeavour to ensure the safety and protection of all young and vulnerable people involved with the Association through the guidelines adopted by the Management Committee of the Association. It is the responsibility of all adults within the Association to assist the Management Committee in this endeavour.

G2 Policy Aims

- To provide young and vulnerable people with appropriate safety and protection whilst in the care of the Association and also help them to enjoy their experience of the sport of Short Mat Bowls.
- To reassure parents and families that their children and relatives will receive the best practicable care possible whilst participating in activities within the Association.
- To provide support to association members and volunteers to make informed and confident responses to specific child and vulnerable adult protection issues and to fulfil their role effectively.

G3 Principles

- The welfare of young people is paramount.
- All young and vulnerable people, whatever their age, culture, disability, gender, language, ethnic origin and religious beliefs have the right to protection from abuse.
- All suspicions and allegations of abuse and poor practice will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately.
- All staff and volunteers working in bowls have a responsibility to report concerns to their Association Safeguarding Officer.

- Adults – association 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 and vulnerable people by the Association and the National Governing Body.
- Individuals will receive support through education and training, coordinated by the association/national governing body to be aware of and understand best practice and how to manage any welfare or protection issues that may come to light.
- KCSMBA will work in partnership with young/vulnerable people and parents/relatives to review and implement protection and safeguarding procedures.
- KCSMBA's policy and procedures are based on the above principles and UK and international legislation and government guidance.

G4 Responsibilities and Communication

- The KCSMBA Protection Policy will be available to all members, parents, staff, volunteers and participants.
- The Policy will be reviewed every three years by the Management Committee and amended as appropriate. Guidance from Bowls National Governing Bodies 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 the national governing body as appropriate.
- The Association Safeguarding Officer has responsibility for responding to any allegations, concerns or child protection incidents, passing information to the appropriate NGB Safeguarding Officer and informing the appropriate association committee where relevant.
- Parents have a responsibility to work together with the association in implementing procedures and providing their children with the necessary information to keep themselves safe.

G5 DBS Checks

- The following positions have been identified as in a position of responsibility and will hold a valid DBS check at all times
 - All Committee Members
 - All County Team Managers
 - All County Team Captains
 - All County Umpires
 - County Safeguarding Officer
- In addition to the above list, any person appointed to carry out a specific task, which may require them to be in a position of responsibility over children or vulnerable adults, shall be required to hold a valid DBS Check.
- Proof of all checks shall be provided to, and held by the County Secretary.
- Failure of an adequate DBS Check shall require the Committee to dismiss the individual from any role which requires it.
- Refusal to comply with a reasonable request to provide DBS status will result in measures up to and including suspension/dismissal from the role which requires it.

G6 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.
- The policy will be monitored in partnership with the National Governing Body and Bowling Development Alliance procedures.