

Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy

Dorset County Short Mat Bowls Association (hereinafter called DSMBA) has considered its responsibilities to the young people participating in bowls at our premises and within our county/Associations very carefully, and has produced the following **Safeguarding and Child Protection 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.

DSMBA affiliates to the National Governing Body (ESMBA) and recognises the policies of their Governing Body, as set in out in the “Safeguarding Bowls Guidelines”.

1. Policy Statement

DSMBA acknowledges its duty of care to safeguard the welfare of all young people (defined as those under 18) involved in bowls within the Association. All young people have a right to protection, and have their particular needs taken into account.

DSMBA will therefore endeavour to ensure the safety and protection of all young people involved with the Association through the Child Protection 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.

2. Policy Aims

- To provide young 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 bowls.
- To reassure parents that their children 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 protection issues and to fulfil their role effectively.

3. Principles

- The welfare of young people is paramount.
- All young 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 Welfare Officer.
- Adults – Association members, volunteers, coaches, referees 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 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 child protection issues that may come to light.
- DSMBA will work in partnership with young people and parents to review and implement child protection and safeguarding procedures.
- DSMBA'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 Act 1989 and 2004.
 - Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015.
 - The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.
 - Any subsequent legislation relating to child protection would implicitly be incorporated into this document.

4. Responsibilities and Communication

- The DSMBA Child 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 Welfare Officer has responsibility for responding to any allegations, concerns or child protection incidents, passing information to the appropriate National Governing Body Designated Safeguarding Officer and informing the appropriate Association staff 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.

5. 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.