

Hayes Bowls Club Safeguarding Policy

Ensuring the Welfare and Safety of All Members and Visitors.

1. Introduction

Hayes Bowls Club has considered its responsibilities to the young and vulnerable people participating in bowls at our premises and within our club and has produced the following safeguarding policy and underpinning procedures in order to set out the standards we wish to uphold in providing activities. It is committed to providing a safe and welcoming environment for all members, visitors, and external agencies. Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility, and this policy outlines our approach to protecting children, young people, and adults at risk from harm, abuse, and neglect. This policy aligns with national legislation and best practice guidance within the United Kingdom and Ireland.

2. Scope of the Policy

This policy applies to all members, volunteers, coaches, officials, and anyone representing Hayes Bowls Club in any capacity, both on and off the club premises and during any club-related activities.

3. Policy Statement

Hayes Bowls Club believes that everyone has the right to enjoy bowls in a secure and supportive setting. We are committed to:

- Safeguarding the welfare of children, young people, and adults at risk.
- Promoting best practice in safeguarding throughout the club.
- Responding appropriately to all safeguarding concerns.
- Ensuring all members are aware of their safeguarding responsibilities.

4. Definitions

- Child: Anyone under the age of 18.
- Adult at risk: A person aged 18 or over who is unable to protect themselves from harm or exploitation due to age, disability, illness, or other factors.
- Abuse: Physical, emotional, sexual, or financial mistreatment, as well as neglect.

5. Safeguarding Roles and Responsibilities

- Club Safeguarding Officer: The designated person responsible for overseeing safeguarding matters, providing advice, and acting as the main point of contact for concerns.
- All Members: Must be vigilant and report any concerns about the welfare of children or adults at risk to the Safeguarding Officer or, if unavailable, to the Chair or relevant Authorities.

6. Procedures

6.1 Reporting Concerns

- Any concerns about the safety or welfare of a club member should be reported immediately to the Club Safeguarding Officer.
- All reports will be handled sensitively and in confidence, following a clear procedure for escalation if necessary.

6.2 Responding to Allegations

- All allegations will be taken seriously and investigated thoroughly and fairly.
- The club will cooperate fully with statutory agencies as required.
- Support will be provided to those involved in any safeguarding incident.

7. Code of Conduct

All members, and volunteers must:

- Treat everyone with respect and dignity.
- Always maintain appropriate boundaries.
- Never engage in or condone abusive behaviour.
- Promote a culture of openness and accountability.

8. Confidentiality and Data Protection

All safeguarding matters will be managed with strict confidentiality, in compliance with data protection laws. Information will only be shared on a need-to-know basis to protect individuals at risk.

9. Review and Implementation

This policy will be reviewed annually or following any significant safeguarding incident or change in legislation. All members will be notified of any updates and provided with access to the latest version of the policy.

10. Contact Details

Club Safeguarding Lead: **Cheryl Price Phone: 07834633203**

Safeguarding Deputy Lead : **Siobhan Dobson Phone: 07368604666**

Email: **linked to website TBA**

11. Approval

This policy was adopted by Hayes Bowls Club on: 15th January 2026 and will be reviewed on: 2027