

Rushden Town Bowls Club Safeguarding and Protection Policy

Rushden Town Bowls Club (RTBC) is committed to ensuring that everyone who participates in bowls can do so in a safe, positive and enjoyable environment. All members are entitled to feel safe and protected from any form of abuse or neglect.

RTBC affiliates to the National Governing Body and therefore recognises and accepts the policies of the National Governing Body as set out in the 'Safeguarding Adults in Bowls' Policy 2022. Furthermore, Northamptonshire Bowling Association, Northamptonshire Indoor Bowling Association and Northamptonshire Women's Indoor Bowling Association have now incorporated their details in one overall executive document, which is compliant with the affiliation requirements of the English Indoor Bowls Association and is represented by one Countywide Safeguarding Officer: Nicola Wilson-Browne email: bowlsnorthamptonshire@gmail.com.

Policy Statement

RTBC believes that everyone has the right to live free from abuse or neglect regardless of age, ability or disability, sex, race, religion, ethnic origin, sexual orientation, marital or gender status. We are committed to creating and maintaining a safe and positive environment and an open, listening culture where people feel able to share concerns without fear of retribution.

RTBC acknowledges that **Safeguarding is everybody's responsibility** and is committed to prevent abuse and neglect through safeguarding the welfare of all those involved in our Club. RTBC recognises that physical and mental health, well-being, ability, disability and need for care and support can affect a person's resilience. We recognise that all these factors can vary at different points in people's lives. Therefore, RTBC will endeavour to ensure the safety and protection of all members involved in the Club through the Safeguarding and Protection guidelines adopted by the Management Committee of RTBC. It is the responsibility of all adults within the Club to assist the Management Committee in this endeavour.

Should any member of the Club have concerns that are life threatening or at risk of serious harm, they should immediately contact the Police.

Policy Aims

- a) To provide all members with appropriate safety and protection whilst in the care of the club and help them to enjoy their experience of the sport of bowls.
- b) To reassure all adults, parents and children that they will receive the best practical care possible whilst participating in activities within the Club.
- c) To provide support to Club members and volunteers to make an informed and confident response to specific safeguarding and protection issues and fulfil their role effectively.

Principles

- The welfare of all members is paramount.

- All members have the right to live free from abuse or neglect regardless of age, ability or disability, sex, race, religion, ethnic origin, sexual orientation, marital or gender status.
- 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 Club Safeguarding Officer.
- All adults, Club members, volunteers, coaches, referees will be supported to understand their role and responsibility with regard to the duty of care and protection of all members of the Club.
- Individuals will receive support through training and education, coordinated by the Club and/or 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.

Safeguarding Responsibilities in Bowls

Safeguarding adults at risk, young people and children, is everyone's responsibility. To fulfil RTBC's commitment to safeguarding we will:

- Ensure that the RTBC Safeguarding and Protection Policy is available to all members, parents, staff, volunteers, participants and visitors.
- Appoint a senior level member of the Management Team to take a leadership responsibility for the organisation's safeguarding arrangements. At RTBC this is The Management Team will review this policy every three years and will have due regard to any updates published by the National Governing Body and Bowls Disability Alliance. The Management Team also has responsibility for ensuring that the Policy and its procedures are implemented, including referring any appropriate disciplinary action to the National Governing Body as appropriate.
- Appoint a Designated Safeguarding Officer (DSO) who can advise and support others when a safeguarding concern arises. At RTBC this is - **Terry Chapman (mobile:07496066857)**. RTBC have also appointed deputy officers (DDSO) to support the DSO in his absence: **Julia Kitson (mobile: 07948474952)**, **Sue Hinkley (mobile:07979917944)**, **James Reed (mobile: 07305431977)**. The DSO or DDSOs have responsibility for responding to any allegations, concerns or protection incidents, passing pertinent information to the appropriate County Safeguarding Officer and informing the Senior Club member where relevant.
- Have a safe and fair membership policy.
- Develop a culture of listening and believing where abusive situations are being disclosed
- Have Safe Recruitment practices for whom the organisation will permit to work
- Have a Code of Conduct Policy for all participants which clearly supports the paramountcy of safeguarding.
- Have a clear Whistleblowing procedure that promotes a culture of enabling safeguarding issues to be addressed, along with promoting the welfare of all members.
- Have clear information sharing arrangements which set out the processes for sharing information with relevant professionals and the National Governing Body.

Good Coaching Practice

Coaches have a very important part to play in protecting new members from potential harm and are often the first to recognise and raise concerns. It is very important that Coaches read the Safeguarding Adults in Bowls Policy and any related procedures and are aware of the process to follow, to deal with any concerns. The ratio of coaches to participants is 1:8. Coaches should never be left alone with an individual or group and it is recommended that at least one adult present is the same gender as the bowler or group of bowlers

Monitoring and Review

This Policy will be reviewed every 3 years or in response to significant new legislation.
This Policy will be monitored in partnership with the National Governing Body and the Bowling Development Alliance Procedures.

Signed *R White*

Print Name *RITA WHITE*

Date *24th February 2025*