

Brixham St Mary's Park Bowling Club

Safeguarding Policy Summary

This Summary is aligned to and should be read in tandem with Bowls England Safeguarding Guidance. These can be accessed via <https://www.bowlsengland.com/safeguarding-policies/>

1. Policy Statement

Brixham St Mary's Park Bowling Club is committed to ensuring the safety and welfare of all, including children, young people, people with disability and vulnerable adults visiting, playing or supporting the club.

2. Scope

This policy applies to all members, volunteers, coaches, officials, and visitors participating in or supporting club activities.

3. Principles

Safeguarding is Everyone's Responsibility

Safeguarding is the responsibility of every member, volunteer, coach, official, and visitor. All individuals are expected to be vigilant and proactive in promoting a safe environment.

Welfare is Paramount

The welfare and best interests of children, young people, and vulnerable adults must always come first, above all other considerations.

Respect and Dignity

Every person should be treated with respect and dignity, regardless of age, ability, gender, race, religion, or background.

Safe Environment

The club is committed to providing a safe, supportive, and inclusive environment, free from abuse, bullying, discrimination, or harassment.

Confidentiality

All safeguarding concerns and personal information will be handled sensitively and shared only on a need-to-know basis, in line with data protection laws.

Prompt Action

All concerns or allegations will be taken seriously and responded to promptly, following established procedures.

Empowerment

Children, young people, and vulnerable adults will be encouraged to speak up about any concerns and will be listened to and supported.

Continuous Improvement

The club will regularly review and update safeguarding practices in line with guidance from Bowls England and relevant authorities.

4. Roles and Responsibilities

Trustees and the Management Committee

Oversee the implementation and regular review of the safeguarding policy and ensure that safeguarding is embedded in all club activities and decision-making.

Lead Safeguarding Officer

Serves as the primary contact for all safeguarding concerns. Coordinates responses to incidents, maintains confidential records, and ensures all members are informed about safeguarding procedures.

Coaches

Expected to follow safe practices at all times, complete safeguarding training, and promptly report any concerns or incidents to the Lead Safeguarding Officer, Club Captain, or Club Chair.

Members

While safeguarding training is not currently mandatory for all members, the club encourages members to familiarise themselves with safeguarding principles and guidance provided by Bowls England. All members are expected to follow safe practices at all times and to be vigilant in promoting a safe and welcoming environment for children, young people, and vulnerable adults.

5. Safe Recruitment

All adults in regulated activity (such as coaching or volunteering with children or vulnerable adults) must complete DBS checks, provide references, and receive safeguarding training.

6. Codes of Conduct

All members must:

- Treat others with respect on and off the green
- Avoid inappropriate contact or behaviour including unwanted physical or verbal attention.
- Use social media responsibly- do not share offensive or inappropriate content related to the club or its members
- Never engage in bullying, harassment or discrimination of any kind.

7. Reporting and Responding to Concerns

All safeguarding concerns must be reported immediately to the Lead Safeguarding Officer, Club Captain or Club Chair.

Contact details

Lead Safeguarding Officer:

Name: Karen Grace

Email: karensgrace73@gmail.com

Phone: 07932384783

Club Chair: Barry Cole

Club President: Tug Wilson

Confidential records are maintained and shared only on a need-to-know basis

8. Training and Awareness

Safeguarding training is required for all volunteers and updated regularly according to Bowls England guidance.

9. Policy Review

This policy is reviewed annually or after any safeguarding incident or update from Bowls England.