

Aylsham Bowling Club

Safeguarding policy

Version 1 – Oct 2025

Aylsham Bowling Club is affiliated to Bowls England, it's National Governing Body and as such the Club recognises the policies of the Governing Body, as set in out in the "Safeguarding Bowls Guidelines".

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to outline the duty and responsibility of members working on behalf of the Club in relation to Safeguarding Adults and Children at risk. That said, members must remember that Safeguarding is everybody's responsibility.

Objectives

Anyone who comes into contact with our club has the right to be safe from harm and respected. All must be able to live free from fear of abuse, neglect and exploitation. All who participate in bowls are entitled to do so in a safe and enjoyable environment; this also applies to everyone working or volunteering with us.

The Club is committed to helping everyone in bowls accept their responsibility to safeguard adults and children at risk, from harm and abuse.

All suspicions and allegations of abuse and poor practice will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately. Any member who is working with adults and children at risk in bowls has a responsibility to report concerns to the Safeguarding Officer.

Aim of the policy

The aim of the Aylsham Bowling Club safeguarding policy is to inform all of:

1. Our approach to safeguarding.
2. How we do this.
3. The steps we take to prevent abuse taking place.
4. The actions that will be taken to deal with abuse if it occurs.

How we do this

Aylsham Bowling Club members recognise that the facilities and services we provide may be used by children and by adults at risk of harm.

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Definition

A child is defined by the Children Act 1989 as a person aged 17 and under with children protection applying to anyone up to the age of 18.

The Care Act 2014 defines an adult at risk is a person aged 18 and over who is at risk or may be vulnerable at certain times e.g. through their circumstances which may include needing care (whether or not by their local authority), may have learning difficulties which make them vulnerable to exploitation or other harm, being in receipt of healthcare, travelling due to age, illness or disability, unable to protect themselves or due to socioeconomic factors such as loneliness. Please bear in mind that this list is **not** exhaustive and may be liable to change in line with legislation or advice from our National Governing Body.

It is our duty to ensure that we know what to do if a child or adult at risk comes into our club, either as individuals or through youth club visits, e.g. scouts, guides etc, or, league games, tuition, roll ups, etc and shows signs of abuse or neglect. This involves:

1. The Safeguarding Officer acting as the first point of contact for concerns about members whilst ensuring the club is aware that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.
2. The Safeguarding Officer who, with the consent of the person at risk, may seek the advice from the County Safeguarding Officer, and/or the Bowls England National Governing Body, and/or an appropriate agency or statutory authority.
3. Promoting a safe environment within the club. This is achieved by protecting all from the risk of abuse, and identifying and dealing with specific instances of abuse if it occurs.
4. Regular refresher safeguarding training to be undertaken by the Safeguarding Officer.
5. Access to support from the County Safeguarding Officer.
6. If required, including safeguarding in risk assessments when planning activities and events, and designating a person who will be in attendance as a safeguarding lead for that event.

Note: The Club is aware that it is not the Safeguarding Officer's responsibility to undertake investigations, but he should seek to clarify information, keep records and report any concerns.

Every possible action is taken to prevent abuse and to deal with it as promptly and effectively as possible if it occurs.

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Definition of abuse

The Aylsham Bowling Club recognise that abuse takes many forms and are vigilant to this:

1. Emotional.
2. Discriminatory.
3. Physical abuse.
4. Financial or material abuse.
5. Inhuman or degrading treatment.
6. Psychological abuse.
7. Inappropriate or excessive restraint.
8. Neglect.
9. Psychological.
10. Sexual.

How we report

The Aylsham Bowling Club **will** report serious concerns relating to abuse to the County Safeguarding Officer who will then inform the appropriate agencies including the police, social services, local authority designated officers as applicable.

The club have a duty to ensure that members, or others who may be supporting club activities have been carefully selected, are adopting safe practices, have been appropriately trained and, where required, have had an enhanced background check.

The Aylsham Bowling Club **expects ALL members, volunteers and employees to:**

1. Refrain from any abusive action.
2. Report anything they witness which is or might be abusive.
3. Co-operate in any investigation into alleged abuse.
4. Be aware of who they may turn to for advice if they become aware or suspect that abuse is taking place. Failure to report incidents or suspicions of abuse may lead to disciplinary action and possibly legal action e.g. police prosecution.

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To clarify:

Abuse is not:

Poor Practice: Internally corrected behaviour that falls below standards/expectation of the Club.

Bullying by peers: However, this must be reported to the Safeguarding Officer or any other member of the Club Committee who will deal with it as laid down in the ABC Anti Bullying Policy and the Code of Conduct. Bullying may be internally corrected by following the Club disciplinary procedures or, if the committee decides it necessary and appropriate, by the National Governing Body Disciplinary policy.

Abuse is:

Bullying by a person in a position of trust or power – e.g. sexual, physical, emotional, neglect. Always Safeguarding reported.

More Information

For more information, or to raise a concern, please contact:

John Lock, Safeguarding Officer, Aylsham Bowling Club.