

Bowls Safeguarding Adults Policy

A Quick Reference Guide

References in italics to the full policy.

Policy Aim

The **Bowls Development Alliance (BDA)** and National Governing Bodies (**NGBs**) are committed to ensuring all adults can participate in bowls safely, free from abuse, harm, or neglect.

Policy Statement, Legislation & Government Guidance, Definitions, pages 3-6

Who is an Adult at Risk?

Someone aged 18+ who:

- Has care and support needs
- Is experiencing or at risk of abuse/neglect
- Cannot protect themselves due to those needs

, Adults at risk, page 5

Key Principles (Care Act 2014)

- **Empowerment** – Support people to make their own decisions
- **Prevention** – Act before harm occurs
- **Proportionality** – Respond appropriately to risk
- **Protection** – Support those at risk
- **Partnership** – Work with other agencies
- **Accountability** – Be transparent and responsible

Principles of adult safeguarding, pages 6-7

Types of Abuse

- **Physical** – hitting, misuse of medication
- **Sexual** – assault, inappropriate touching
- **Emotional/Psychological** – threats, coercion, bullying
- **Financial** – theft, fraud, exploitation
- **Domestic Abuse** – controlling or coercive behaviour
- **Discriminatory** – abuse based on identity
- **Neglect/Self-Neglect** – failure to meet basic needs

- **Organisational** – poor practice in care settings
- **Modern Slavery** – exploitation, trafficking

Abuse and neglect, pages 8-10

Signs of Abuse

- Unexplained injuries
- Sudden behavioural changes or withdrawal
- Poor hygiene or appearance
- Fear of specific individuals
- Missing money or belongings
- Not attending sessions / disengagement
- Disclosure (person tells you directly)

Abuse and neglect, pages 10-11

Your Responsibilities

Everyone in bowls must:

- Stay alert to concerns
- Take all concerns seriously
- Report concerns promptly
- Never investigate yourself

Making safeguarding personal, Mental capacity and safeguarding, Safeguarding responsibilities in bowls, pages 11-14

If Someone Discloses Abuse

DO:

- Stay calm and listen
- Take it seriously
- Record in their own words
- Ask open questions
- Reassure them

DON'T:

- * Promise secrecy
- * Ask leading Questions
- * Make assumptions
- * Investigate

What to do and how to react, page 20

Reporting Concerns

1. Report to your **Club Safeguarding Officer**
2. If unavailable/implicated → contact **County or NGB Lead Safeguarding Officer**
3. Emergency → **Police (999)**
4. Non-emergency → **Police (101)**

You can report without full details.

Dealing with concerns, disclosures or allegations, pages 19-22

Key Rule

👉 ***It is your responsibility to report concerns, NOT to decide if abuse has occurred.***

Mental Capacity

- Adults have the right to make their own decisions
- Lack of capacity → decisions must be made in their **best interests**
- Always involve the person where possible

Mental capacity and safeguarding, page 12

Good Practice in Bowls

- Follow codes of conduct
- Ensure safe recruitment and training
- Promote an open, listening culture

Safe recruitment in bowls, pages 17 Good coaching practice pages 16-17, Safe and fair membership, page 18

Confidentiality & Information Sharing

- Share only with those who need to know
- You can share without consent if:
 - Someone is at immediate risk
 - A crime may have occurred
 - Others are at risk

Dealing with concerns, disclosures or allegations, reporting a concern, responding to a concern, pages 19-20

Support & Advice

- Speak to your Safeguarding Officer
- Ann Craft Trust helpline: 0115 951 5400
- Emergency services if immediate danger

Information sharing, good practice guides, Linked policies, Support lines, pages 23-26

Remember

If you have concern or receive a disclosure - Doing nothing is not an option

- ✓ Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility
- ✓ Report concerns – don't ignore them
- ✓ Act quickly to keep people safe