Verwood Bowling Club Safeguarding Children in Bowls Policy

Why do Bowls England expect Affiliated Clubs to have Safeguarding Officers?

All major sports governing bodies mandate that Affiliated Clubs have designated Safeguarding Officers. This is standard practice and a clear expectation from the sports governmental body (Sport England). The absence of Safeguarding Officers is likely to create a gap that may be exploited by individuals seeking to harm our sport's members.

What is Safeguarding?

"Safeguarding in sport is the process of protecting children and adults from harm by providing a safe space in which to play sport and be active." ***(Sport England)***

"The Bowls Development Alliance (BDA) and the National Governing Bodies (NGBs, eg Bowls England) of bowls are committed to ensuring that everyone who participates in bowls can do so in a safe, positive and enjoyable environment. All participants are entitled to feel safe and protected from any form of abuse and neglect." ***(Bowls Development Alliance/Bowls England)***

"Everyone in bowls has a part to play in safeguarding young people and adults" ***(Bowls Development Alliance)***

Verwood Bowling Club is affiliated* to Bowls England, who work in partnership with The Bowls Development Alliance, and as such we adopt their current Safeguarding Children in Bowls Policy, which will be our reference document at all times.
A full copy of the current version (dated 2022) is held within the Club.

*All affiliated Clubs must ensure they have Safeguarding Policies in place, and also nominate and advertise to members the existence of a Club Safeguarding Officer

Policy Statement

Verwood Bowling Club is also fully aligned with the Bowls Development Alliance and Bowls England in believing that all children who participate in bowls can do so in a safe, positive and enjoyable environment.
Actions taken by **Verwood Bowling Club** will be consistent with the principles of safeguarding children, ensuring that any action taken is prompt and proportionate in protecting their voice. A voice which is important in the process of keeping them safe and helping them to enjoy bowls.

Dated : 20 May 2025

S.Green
Verwood Bowling Club Safeguarding Officer