



Policy Relating to Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults

Introduction

1. Eltham Bowling Club (the Club) affiliates to the National Governing Body and the Club recognises the policies of their Governing Body, as set in out in the "Safeguarding Bowls Guidelines".
2. All adults have the right to be safe from harm and must be able to live free from fear of **abuse, neglect and exploitation.**

Objectives

3. Everyone who participates in bowls is entitled to do so in a safe and enjoyable environment.
4. The Club is committed to helping everyone in bowls accept their responsibility to safeguard all adults, especially adults 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.
5. Staff and volunteers working with adults at risk in bowls have a responsibility to report concerns to their Club Safeguarding Officer.

Adult at Risk

6. An Adult at Risk is a person aged 18 or over who is in need of care and support regardless of whether they are receiving it, and because of those needs are unable to protect themselves against abuse or neglect. In recent years, there has been a marked shift away from using the term 'vulnerable' to describe adults potentially at risk from harm or abuse. Adult safeguarding is protecting a person's right to live in safety, free from abuse and neglect.

Abuse

7. An Abuse is a violation of an individual's human and civil rights by another person or persons. The following are examples of types of abuse (not an exhaustive list).
8. **Self-neglect** covers a wide range of behaviour such as neglecting to care for one's personal hygiene, health or surroundings. In Bowls this could be a player whose appearance

becomes unkempt, does not wear suitable sports kit and has a deterioration in personal hygiene.

9. **Domestic Abuse** including psychological, physical, sexual, financial and emotional abuse. It also includes so called 'honour' based violence. Sport may notice a power imbalance between a participant and a family member. For example, a participant may be looking quiet and withdrawn when their family member comes to collect them from sessions, in contrast to club members, whom they greet with a smile.

10. **Discrimination** is abuse which centres on a difference or perceived difference particularly with respect to race, gender or disability or any of the protected characteristics of the Equality Act. This could be the harassing of a club member because they are, or are perceived to be, "different".

11. **Sexual Abuse** including rape, indecent exposure, sexual harassment, inappropriate looking or touching, sexual teasing or innuendo, sexual photography, subjection to pornography or witnessing sexual acts, indecent exposure and sexual assault or sexual acts to which the adult has not consented or was pressured into consenting.

12. **Financial or Material Abuse** including theft, fraud, internet scamming, coercion in relation to an adult's financial affairs or arrangements, including in connection with wills, property, inheritance or financial transactions, or the misuse or misappropriation of property, possessions or benefits. Includes someone taking equipment from a player with dementia.

13. **Neglect** including ignoring medical, physical or mental care needs, for example failure to provide access to water on a warm day.

14. **Emotional or Psychological Abuse** includes threats of harm or abandonment, deprivation of contact, humiliation, blaming, controlling, intimidation, coercion, harassment, verbal abuse or isolation. For example, persistently blaming them for poor performance.

Responsibilities and Communication

15. The Eltham Bowling Club Safeguarding Policy is available to all members, parents, staff, volunteers and participants. It is important that adults at risk are protected from abuse.

16. All complaints, allegations or suspicions will be taken seriously, with the Club Safeguarding Officer passing information to the appropriate National Governing Body (NGB) Safeguarding Officer and informing the appropriate club staff where relevant.

17. The Club has a responsibility for ensuring that the policy and procedures are implemented, including referring any appropriate disciplinary action to the national governing body as appropriate.

The role of key individual agencies

18. All local authorities have a Safeguarding Adults Board, which oversees multi-agency work aimed at protecting and safeguarding vulnerable adults. It is normal practice for the board to comprise of people from partner organisations who have the ability to influence decision making and allocation of resources within their organisation.

19. The Police play a vital role in Safeguarding Adults with cases involving alleged criminal acts. Where a crime is identified, the police will be the lead agency and they will direct investigations in line with legal and other procedural protocols.

Monitoring And Review

20. This policy will be reviewed regularly or in response to significant new legislation by the Executive Committee, and amended as appropriate. Guidance from Bowls National Governing Bodies will be sought as part of the review process.

21. Revision dates will be recorded at the end of this document.

Executive Committee Eltham Bowling Club

Revision History

Date	Version	Description of change
12/12/2025	V0.1	Policy draft
08/01/2026	V0.2	Para 20 amend Management to Executive
13/02/2026	V1.0	Approved by Committee