

Safeguarding Advice for Parents & Carers of Child Bowlers (U18)

Safeguarding is the steps that people take to protect children and vulnerable adults from harm.

Everyone has the right to have fun and be safe and free from harm when participating in sport and physical activity. It is your right as a parent or carer to be able to check how well a bowls club is run, for the sake of your child's safety and your peace of mind.

Bowls clubs have responsibilities to ensure that their coaches and other staff are safe to work with children. Clubs should be able to provide you with confirmation that staff and volunteers are suitable and have undergone the right checks. All organisations providing sports for children should welcome your questions about how they will keep your child safe.

Things you should ask to see:

- The club Safeguarding Policy
- The name and contact details of their Safeguarding Officer (may be called a Welfare Officer)
- The Code of Conduct for members – does this include sections for parents/carers and U18 bowlers?
- Consent forms for Parents/Carers regarding filming / photography, travel, medical issues
- Emergency contact form for you to complete
- Expectations regarding your supervision of U18s
- Drop-off and collection arrangements (if not needed for supervision)

The Child Protection in Sport Unit has a Parents' Hub which contains useful information to support parents and carers to keep their children safe in sport.

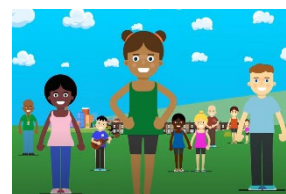


Child Protection in Sport Unit

[Parents' hub for keeping children safe in sport | CPSU \(thecpsu.org.uk\)](https://www.thecpsu.org.uk)

Their short, animated film – Ellie's Story – is well worth watching.

[Speaking out in sport | CPSU video \(thecpsu.org.uk\)](https://www.thecpsu.org.uk)



Sport England provides detailed advice on what to look for in a sports club.

[Advice for parents and carers | Sport England](https://www.sportengland.org/advice-for-parents-and-carers)



What should you do if you have concerns?

The animated film clip *Ellie's Story* identifies things in your child's behaviour that may be a sign of poor practice or abuse. If you notice anything like this or have concerns about the way others interact with your child at their Bowls club or when playing bowls elsewhere, you should speak to the Safeguarding / Welfare Officer at the club. If they are not easily available or the concern you have involves them, you should contact another member of the club committee.

Alternatively, you can contact the lead safeguarding officer at the National Governing Body (NGB) linked to the Bowls Club. Their contact details will be on the NGB website and are also on the Safeguarding section of the BDA website. You can also contact the Lead Safeguarding Officer of the BDA.

Parents' and Carers Behaviour

It's also important to consider what impact your behaviour will have on how your child experiences sport. Whether you become an inspiration or take the fun out of the game depends on what you do on the side-lines.

- Remember that young people participate in sport for their enjoyment, not yours.
- Encourage young people to participate, never force them.
- Focus on, and praise the effort and performance displayed, rather than the winning or losing.
- Encourage young people to play according to the rules and to settle disagreements without resorting to argumentative behaviour.
- Never ridicule a young person for making a mistake or losing a competition.
- Remember that young people learn best by example. Always show appreciation for good performances displayed by all participants.
- Support all efforts to remove verbal and physical abuse from all sporting activities.
- Respect coaches' and officials' decisions and teach young people to do likewise.
- Always show appreciation for the coaches, officials and administrators. Without them there would be no activity for your child to participate in.
- Respect the rights and dignity of every young person regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion.
- Behave responsibly. Discriminatory, offensive and violent behaviour towards any individual is unacceptable and will be acted upon.
- Always ensure you are punctual when dropping off and collecting your children, do not put the coach/club in a difficult position by arriving late.