

Safeguarding in Bowls News.

April 2023

No.8

Bystander Intervention – ‘The 5 Ds’

People can often witness unacceptable behaviour or harassment in society but are too scared to intervene. This can be the case in a bowls game or bowls club. Consider the 5 Ds as an alternative to looking the other way / ‘turning a blind eye’.

- **Distract** – de-escalate a situation by distracting the perpetrator (drop an item near them to diffuse the situation or ask an unrelated question) then focus on the victim – removing them from the situation.
- **Delegate** – get support from someone nearby to help in an intervention – this might be a person in authority.
- **Document** – eg. by noting something down or using a mobile phone to film the concerning behaviour including clear landmarks and adding date and time. Give any video to the victim so they can decide whether to use it and don’t share on social media.
- **Delay** – After the incident checking in with the victim to show they are supported and have a witness if needed.
- **Direct** – Use a forceful voice to show you believe the actions or language to be unacceptable.

BYSTANDER INTERVENTION

When an active bystander safely and effectively stops a problematic situation



There is a short video clip here which explains more. [5 Ds of Bystander Intervention - Bing video](#)

Focus on – Hazing

Hazing is the term given to initiation into groups. It is commonly associated with sports clubs as well as other organisations. It is any activity expected of/forced upon someone in joining or participating in a group that **humiliates, degrades or upsets** them. It can include physical violence, sexual coercion, forced alcohol consumption, or dangerous "pranks" like forcing people to eat vile food mixtures or consume large amounts of water. **It is a form of abuse and therefore a safeguarding concern.**



It may sound unlikely that this would take place in a bowls club or bowls setting such as a representative squad. However, if it were identified, it should be reported to the relevant Lead Safeguarding Officer of the National Governing Body or directly to the BDA Lead Safeguarding Officer. Anyone witnessing these practices should reflect on the belief that there is no such thing as harmless hazing. They might try to utilize one of the 5 Ds of bystander intervention detailed in another section of this bulletin.

Awareness Days

[World Autism Acceptance Week](#): 27 Mar – 2 Apr

[Parkinson’s Awareness Week](#): 10 – 16 Apr

[Stroke Awareness Month](#): 1 – 31 May

[Deaf Awareness Week](#): 1 – 7 May

Free BDA Introduction to Safeguarding

[Education - Bowls Development Alliance](#)

Take a look at our free introductory course which is ideal for safeguarding officers and committee members or as an introduction for coaches.



Nothing About Me, Without Me

One basic piece of guidance for adult safeguarding concerns, which is different to safeguarding children, is that we should always assume an adult (18+) has the mental capacity to make their own decisions. This does not mean that you cannot help or inform your club and NGB Safeguarding Officer if you have a concern. However, you or they should always try to seek the consent of the adult before acting and can guide them to try to make decisions in their best interest. In the case of a child (U18) we have a legal duty to report concerns.



Coach Bowls



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