



## **HOUGHTON BOWLS CLUB**

### **Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy**

Houghton Bowls Club has considered its responsibilities to any young people participating in bowls at our premises and within our club very carefully, and has produced the following **Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy** and underpinning procedures in order to set out the standards we wish to uphold in providing activities for children and safeguarding the welfare of children in our care.

#### **1. Policy Statement**

Houghton Bowls Club acknowledges its duty of care to safeguard the welfare of all young people (defined as those under 18) involved in bowls within the club. All young people have a right to protection, and have their particular needs taken into account.

Houghton Bowls Club will therefore endeavour to ensure the safety and protection of all young people involved with the club through the Child Protection guidelines adopted by the Management Committee of the club. It is the responsibility of all adults within the club to assist the Management Committee in this endeavour.

#### **2. Policy Aims**

- To provide young people with appropriate safety and protection whilst in the care of the club and also help them to enjoy their experience of the sport of bowls.
- To reassure parents that their children will receive the best practicable care possible whilst participating in activities within the club.
- To provide support to club members and volunteers to make informed and confident responses to specific child protection issues and to fulfil their role effectively.

### **3. Principles**

- The welfare of young people is paramount.
- All young people, whatever their age, culture, disability, gender, language, ethnic origin and religious beliefs have the right to protection from abuse.
- All suspicions and allegations of abuse and poor practice will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately.
- All members have a responsibility to report concerns to their Club Welfare Officer.
- Adults – club members, volunteers, coaches, referees and members will be supported to understand their role and responsibility with regard to the duty of care and protection of young people.
- Individuals will receive support through education and training to be aware of and understand best practice and how to manage any welfare or child protection issues that may come to light.
- Houghton Bowls Club will work in partnership with young people and parents to review and implement child protection and safeguarding procedures.
- Houghton Bowls Club's policy and procedures are based on the above principles and UK and international legislation and government guidance and take the following into consideration:
  - The Children Act 1989 and 2004.
  - Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015.
  - The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.
  - Any subsequent legislation relating to child protection would implicitly be incorporated into this document.

#### **4. Responsibilities and Communication**

- The Houghton Bowls Club Child Protection Policy will be available to all members, parents, staff, volunteers and participants.
- The Policy will be reviewed every three years by the Management Committee, and amended as appropriate. Guidance from Bowls National Governing Bodies may be sought as part of the review process.
- The Management Committee has responsibility for ensuring that the policy and procedures are implemented, including any appropriate disciplinary action as appropriate.
- The Club Welfare Officer has responsibility for responding to any allegations, concerns or child protection incidents, and informing the appropriate club officers where relevant.
- Parents have a responsibility to work together with the club in implementing procedures and providing their children with the necessary information to keep themselves safe.

#### **5. Monitoring and review**

- This policy will be reviewed one year after being introduced and then every three years or in response to significant new legislation.