



SAFEGUARDING POLICY - 3

Agreed by ManCom.....September 2009

Note 1 – These notes were issued to all NYSMBA clubs in September 2009 together with Safeguarding Policies 1-2 and 4-5 respectively.

SAFEGUARDING OFFICERS (SO) - Each year the Association will elect someone to the post of **Junior Coordinator** who will fulfil the responsibilities as the counties **SO**. In addition, all Clubs within the NYSMBA are strongly recommended to appoint a designated person from their own membership to be their Club **SO** to handle any child and vulnerable adult protection issues.

The Club SO should act as the first point of contact for anyone in the Club who has any concerns

- about a child or vulnerable adult
- about poor practice relating to children or vulnerable adults
- about possible abuse of children or vulnerable adults

Further, they are the nominated person

- to whom any child or vulnerable person can turn to if needed
- who should ensure that any allegations or suspicions of abuse are reported without delay to the relevant authority

The SO therefore needs to be perceived as being approachable and as having a child-focussed and/or vulnerable adult-focussed approach. Prior to appointment these persons should undertake a Criminal Record Bureau (CRB) check at Enhanced Level.

Clubs with insufficient members who are unable to appoint their own SO may seek the assistance of a neighbouring Club SO or the Associations own SO to act on their behalf.

The role of the SO is critical in ensuring that the Safeguarding Policy works in practice. SOs do not need to be child or vulnerable adult “experts” (that is the role of the Police and Social Services), but they should familiarise themselves with the contents of the document “**Protecting Children and the Vulnerable**” issued by English Bowls.

Notes - A child is anyone under the age of 18 years. A vulnerable adult is anyone over the age of 18 who is not able to take care of themselves or protect themselves against harm or exploitation.

“**Protecting Children and the Vulnerable**” is published by the English Bowls Associations Joint Panel and may be viewed online at www.bowlschildprotect.co.uk or on the ESMBA website at www.esmba.co.uk. Significant excerpts from this are published in the ESMBA Information Pack which is published on the ESMBA website.

CRB CHECKS - The Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) is able to carry out checks related to an applicant’s suitability to work with children or vulnerable adults.

Anybody may have the potential to abuse children/vulnerable adults in some way and it is essential that Clubs take all reasonable steps to ensure that unsuitable people are not allowed to work with them. It is therefore important that checks are made as to the suitability of those volunteering to become involved with children/vulnerable adults and they should be asked to complete a disclosure to Enhanced Level.

Access to the CRB checking service is available via the ESMBA Safeguarding Officer from whom Disclosure Application Forms should be obtained. The cost is subsidised by the ESMBA and should be paid for out of Club funds.

**This note is based on the document “Protecting Children and the Vulnerable”
produced by the English Bowls Associations
(See over for Frequently Asked Questions)**