



## **SAFEGUARDING POLICY - 4**

Agreed by ManCom.....September 2009

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Note 1 – These FAQs were issued to all NYSMBA clubs in September 2009 together with Safeguarding Policies 1-3 and 5 respectively.  
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**Why do we need a “Safeguarding Policy”?** - We only need to look around us to find the reply. For many years, the general public preferred not to acknowledge the existence of child and vulnerable adult abuse but high profile media reporting of incidents in recent years has heightened awareness of the issues. Such incidents have brought to the attention of many the stark reality that abuse does take place in all walks of life, even in sport, with instances of coaches and other trusted adults being convicted.

Most bowlers acknowledge that the sport is undergoing change, with more children, disabled and vulnerable people taking part than before. Everyone has a duty of care for the welfare of children and other vulnerable people and we should view this as a legal and moral responsibility and one which our sport in general and our Association and its member Clubs must be prepared to meet.

By adopting and implementing a “Safeguarding Policy” we can provide reassurance to parents and show our acceptance of responsibility for child and vulnerable adult welfare. It also demonstrates that we have procedures in place which should help to deter the undesirable.

**We have got along without a formal Policy all these years. Why should we change our thinking now?**

**What has changed to suddenly make this so important?** - Several years ago the NGBs of all the different Bowls disciplines got together to form the “**Joint Panel for the Protection of Children and Vulnerable Adults**” – the JPPCVA. This panel looked at Child Protection/Safeguarding issues as it related to the sport of Bowls and this resulted in the publication of the document “Protecting Children and the Vulnerable”. The ESMBA published the full document on their website in 2003 and also sent all Clubs some guideline extracts as part of their Information Pack update for that year.

The NYSMBA Committee subsequently discussed this at their meeting in February 2004 and urged all members to familiarise themselves with the content and take action where it was felt necessary but no hard and fast rules were felt to be necessary at that time. It is not known which clubs, if any, implemented any of the recommendations.

A more recent communication from the ESMBA has reminded us of some of the key issues involved, some of the forms that should be used and actions that should be taken. The Management Committee has now re-considered the original document and strongly feels that we as an Association should now take some positive action to put certain safeguards in place.

**Doesn't anyone realise that this is more work for already over stretched club officials and Committees? Little clubs may be struggling and this is one more burden they don't need.** - The

demands made on voluntary club officials and committees are fully recognised and understood. Nevertheless, it is important that they do not see Safeguarding issues as a burden. Instead, it should be seen as an opportunity to demonstrate their awareness and of the club's commitment to keeping safe any individual taking part in its activities.

**We don't have any 'youngsters' so why do we need to bother?** - There is a growing trend to encourage child participation in all sports through youth development schemes and other initiatives and this could result in children and/or vulnerable adults joining your Club in the future. In any case your members may very well be taking part in events that involve young people/vulnerable adults from other Clubs. Although all NGB's strongly recommend the adoption of a Safeguarding Policy, it is voluntary and a matter for your Club committees to decide. However remember that the success of grant aid applications is dependant on being able to show a positive attitude to junior membership and safeguarding.  
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**This note is based on the document “Protecting Children and the Vulnerable”  
produced by the English Bowls Associations  
(See also notes on CPOs and CRB checks”)**