



LEINSTER BOWLING CLUB

GUIDELINES FOR SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN AND VULNERABLE PERSONS BY MEMBERS OF LEINSTER BOWLING CLUB (LBC)

(APPROVED BY BOWLING SECTION COMMITTEE AT ITS MEETING ON 10 SEPTEMBER 2019)

Current arrangements

LBC has a Child Protection Officer whose role is to undertake work or activities relating to children or vulnerable persons who may visit the Bowling area from time to time.

All LBC Coaches and Committee members are Garda Vetted.

LBC does not have a youth section and as such has no members under the age of 18 years. From time-to-time members are invited to introduce children to the game of bowls either through visits to schools or to school children on the Club grounds. These invitations are accepted on the understanding that members of LBC are acting under the auspices of the inviting bodies' Safeguarding Code of Practice.

Guidelines for interaction with children and vulnerable persons

These guidelines have been drawn up to raise awareness and inform members of LBC who may be involved in coaching/playing bowls with children or vulnerable persons and the membership generally.

Members should:

- Be positive during sessions, praise and encourage effort as well as results
- Plan and prepare appropriately
- Put the welfare of individuals first, strike a balance between welfare and winning / results
- Encourage fair play, treat participants equally
- Recognise developmental needs
- Be qualified and up-to-date with knowledge and skill of sport for individuals
- Involve parents where possible and inform parents when problems arise
- Keep record of attendance at training
- Keep a brief record of injury and action taken
- Keep a brief record of problem/action/outcomes, if behavioural problems arise
- All sports leaders should be aware of the Criminal Justice (Withholding information on Offences against Children and Vulnerable Persons) Act, 2012

Members should not:

- Spend excessive amounts of time with children/vulnerable persons away from others
- Be in situations where they are alone with a child/vulnerable persons: the recommended practice is that there should be **at least** 2 adults and one child/vulnerable person **or** two children/vulnerable persons and one adult present at all times



- Take children/vulnerable persons to their home
- Take children/vulnerable persons on journeys alone in their car

A Member should only use physical contact if its aim is to:

- Develop sports skills or techniques
- Treat an injury
- Prevent an injury or accident occurring

Members must:

- Not do anything that the child/vulnerable person can do for themselves
- Explain the reason for the physical contact
- Ask the individual's permission (unless it is an emergency situation)

Members must not:

- Use any form of punishment or physical force on a child/vulnerable person. Physical activity (laps or push-ups) will not be given as a sanction
- Exert undue influence over a participant in order to obtain personal benefit or reward
- Engage in rough physical games, sexually provocative games or allow or engage in inappropriate touching of any kind, and /or make sexually suggestive comments about, or to a child/vulnerable person
- Take measurements or engage in certain types of fitness testing without the presence of other adults
- Undertake any form of therapy (hypnosis etc.) in the training of children/vulnerable persons.

Members must ensure:

- Texts and emails for children (U18)/vulnerable persons must be made via their parents/guardians
- No individual texting or emails with children/vulnerable persons without their parents/guardians receiving the same message
- Use of the club recommended platforms only - group texts/WhatsApp/Teamer
- All contact with children/vulnerable persons to be in relation to coaching and bowling related activity only
- Adjust privacy settings so that content is only visible to accepted "friends"
- Do not accept requests from children/vulnerable persons to be their "friend"
- Consent of a parent/guardian required before posting any pages online – this includes photographs.

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