



LEINSTER BOWLING CLUB

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

(APPROVED BY BOWLING SECTION COMMITTEE ON 23 FEBRUARY 2021)

Leinster Bowling Club operates under the auspices of Leinster Cricket Club and is bound by its policies in relation to child protection <http://lccsports.net/child-safeguarding-policy>. In accordance with the LCC policy, Leinster Bowling Club (LBC) has developed its own Statement and Guidelines for Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Persons to reflect its specific requirements and practices and is binding on all members.

Context

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.

This Safety Statement and Guidelines have been developed so as to support members who may engage in bowling activities with children and/or vulnerable persons visiting the Club on an occasional basis.

LBC is committed to the enjoyment of bowling by people of all ages, gender, abilities etc. We will respect the dignity and rights of all people and are committed to safeguarding children and vulnerable persons by working under the guidance of safeguarding policies. All volunteers will seek to create a safe, fun environment for young people to grow and develop within the sport.

LBC will endeavour to maintain the key values of respect, inclusivity, integrity, excellence and fun in particular recognising that the importance of childhood should be understood and valued by everyone involved in sport.

Principles

Needs of the child/vulnerable person

All bowling experiences should be guided by what is best for children/vulnerable persons. This means that members should have a basic understanding of the emotional, physical and personal needs of young/vulnerable people.

Integrity in relationships

Members interacting with young people/vulnerable persons in bowling are in a position of trust and influence. They should always ensure that young/vulnerable people are treated with integrity and respect, and the self-esteem of young/vulnerable people is enhanced.



Fair Play

All bowling involving children/vulnerable persons should be conducted in an atmosphere of fair play. The principles of fair play should always be emphasized, and organizers should give clear guidelines regarding acceptable standards of behaviour.

Quality atmosphere & ethos

Bowling for young/vulnerable persons should be conducted in a safe, positive and encouraging atmosphere.

Competition

Competition is an essential element of sport and should be encouraged in an appropriate manner for children and vulnerable persons.

Equality

All children and vulnerable persons should be valued and treated in an equitable and fair manner regardless of ability, age, gender, religion, social and ethnic background or political persuasion.

The Sport Council's Code of Ethics should be used in particular with regard to the principles to safeguard children / vulnerable persons from harm. <https://www.sportireland.ie/ethics>

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.

Garda Vetting

The following members of LBC are Garda Vetted:

- Child Protection Officer
- Coaches
- Umpires
- Club Captains
- Under 18 Bowling Assistants
- Secretary who fulfils role of PR Officer

Risk Assessment

The Risk Assessment attached as Appendix 2 was undertaken on (DATE).

Implementation

We recognize that implementation of this policy is an ongoing process. We are fully committed to the implementation of this Safeguarding Statement and Guidelines to support our intention to keep children/vulnerable persons safe from harm while availing of our activities. This Safeguarding Statement and Guidelines will be reviewed every two years.



Guidelines

Guidelines for the implementation of the above policies and avoidance of identified risks are outlined in Appendix 1 below and can be found on the LBC website at <https://leinsterbowlingclub.ie>

Contacts

LBC Child Protection Officer is Anne O’Herlihy: email: annekeogh05@gmail.com; Telephone: 0876411539

The National Children’s Officer and Designated Liaison Person for the Bowling League of Ireland is Suzanne Macken – natchildbli@gmail.com / Ph: 087 7760538

Reporting

Any suspected breaches of these guidelines should be reported without delay to the Club’s Child Protection Officer or the Club Secretary who will thereafter follow Tusla reporting requirements.

For details on reporting child protection issues to Tusla check their web page on <https://www.tusla.ie/children-first/contact-a-social-worker3>

Robbie Meany
President
Leinster Bowling Club



Appendix 1: 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.



Appendix 2: Risk Assessment

In preparing this statement we have completed a risk assessment of the potential harm to children and vulnerable persons when they are participating in our sport of bowling or attending any functions / events regarding such. The below is a list of risks identified and the procedures / policies that we have in place to address.

Risk Identified	Procedure in place to mitigate the risk identified
Club & Coaching Practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Requirement for all coaches to be Garda vetted and receive appropriate training¹
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ No Written Procedures for U 18's Travelling 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Safeguarding Guidelines ✓ Safeguarding Training¹
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Unauthorised photography & Recording Activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Safeguarding Guidelines ✓ Social Media Policy (in preparation by Development sub-committee) ✓ Club signage
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ No Training / Vetting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Vetting Procedure ✓ Organised training by BLI
Complaints & Discipline	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Lack of Awareness of Complaints & Disciplinary Policy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Communications by email and notices in Pavilion. ✓ Written communication with members who do not use email ✓ LBC and LCC Rules
Reporting Procedures	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ No Child Protection Officer / DLP appointed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Safeguarding Guidelines
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Concerns of harm not reported 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Safeguarding Guidelines ✓ Safeguarding Training¹ (Coaches, Umpires, U 18 Bowling Assistants, Child Protection Officers)
Use of Facilities	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Photography, filming or recording in prohibited area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Social Media Policy (in preparation) ✓ Safeguarding Guidelines ✓ Club signage
Communications	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ No Communication of Policy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Communications of policies by email and notices in Pavilion. ✓ Written communication with members who do not use email ✓ Safeguarding Statement and Code of

¹ Mitigation of risks by training are dependent on the provision of appropriate training by BLI



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Inappropriate use of social media 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct on LBC website ✓ Social Media Policy (in preparation by Development sub-committee)
General Risk of Harm	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Harm not being recognised ✓ Harm caused by : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child/Vulnerable Person to Child / Vulnerable Person • Coach to Child/Vulnerable Person • Umpire to Child/Vulnerable Person • U 18 Bowling Assistant to Child • Member to Child/Vulnerable Person • Visitor to Child/Vulnerable Person ✓ General behavioural issues ✓ Issues of Bullying ✓ Vetting of staff / volunteers ✓ Issues of Online Safety 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Safeguarding Guidelines ✓ Safeguarding Training¹ ✓ Safeguarding Guidelines ✓ Safeguarding Training¹ ✓ Code of Conduct ✓ Code of Conduct ✓ Garda Vetting ✓ Social Media Policy (in preparation by Development sib-committee)