**Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults**

With regard to child protection, the English Short Mat Bowling Association (ESMBA) is included under the umbrella of the Bowls Joint Panel for the Protection of Children and Vulnerable Adults. The ESMBA adhere to the principals and procedures adopted by the Bowls Governing Bodies Joint Panel for the Protection of Children and Vulnerable Adults.

As such, we recognise and acknowledge our joint and several responsibilities to establish policies which promote and encourage affiliated counties and clubs to adopt the highest possible standards of care towards children and other vulnerable people participating in the Game of Bowls.

We believe that everyone has a duty of care towards the children and other vulnerable people, with whom they have contact, and to safeguard and protect them from abuse. This is both a moral and legal obligation. Everybody, whether administrator, official, coach, or bowler, involved in working with children, young people and the vulnerable adults has a responsibility to be informed about, and be able to recognise the different forms of abuse. They also need to know what precautions or steps should be taken for its prevention and what action to take if an incident occurs.

In doing so it offers help and advice to Affiliated Clubs and County Associations, who are introducing procedures for child protection in their own locality; it will also seek feedback on their experiences.

Those ESMBA and County Officials having any supervision duties of Junior Bowlers, running of Competitions for Under 18s and Junior County Teams where the majority of the players are under 18 must go through the C.R.B. Disclosure procedure. Details of the Disclosure scheme can be obtained from the ESMBA CPO.

Any Allegations in respect of Child Protection should be referred to the County Child Protection Officer or the County Secretary who will refer to the National Child Protection Officer. Comprehensive guidance and advice in respect of the protection of children and vulnerable adults can be found at [www.bowlschildprotect.co.uk](http://www.bowlschildprotect.co.uk/)  This includes a useful simple guide for those new to the process at both county and club level.

Any club requiring a copy of the simple guide should contact the ESMBA Secretary/CPO.

ESMBA Child Protection Officer

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