

SURREY COUNTY SMBA POLICY FOR THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN AND VULNERABLE ADULTS

In 2006 a revised policy for the Protection of Children and Vulnerable Adults was developed by a Joint Panel representing the national governing bodies of all bowling disciplines in England. The detailed document is available for reference in both written and CD format from the SCSMBA Child Protection Officer, via the Secretary, and also very conveniently at www.esmba.org. This note is a summary of the original document which, in all cases, must be referred to as the property authority.

1. The Government has placed a legal duty of care on all organisations that come in contact, either regularly or occasionally, with children or vulnerable adults. This means that everyone must, firstly, be aware of this legal requirement and abide by its regulations and, secondly, actively promote the policy within their individual clubs through the use of posters and discussions.
2. To follow the policies contained in the original document should not deter any club from opening their membership or activities to children or vulnerable people. **Each club must decide what is appropriate having regard to local circumstances.** Each is recommended to adopt in its constitution, and publish, their policy for the guidance of all. It is recommended that a statement of a club's Child and Vulnerable Adult Protection Policy be displayed on its Notice Board (see attached example).
3. Bullying, together with racial, religious and sexual discrimination are the most obvious forms of abuse. There are others which, in their earlier stages, are less obvious but which can come to the fore, such as neglect and emotional abuse. It has been found that children are usually abused by adults – people they know and trust. Boy and girls are at risk of having their physical and mental health damaged by any of the forms of abuse mentioned above.
4. So, who is classified as a child? Under the Children's Act 1989 any individual under the age of 18 years is defined as a child (or young person). Who is classified as a vulnerable adult? A vulnerable adult is defined as a person aged 18 years or over who is, or may be, in need of community care services because they have health or other disabilities related to age or illness. In other words, they are people who are unable to take care of or protect themselves against significant harm or exploitation.
5. It is essential that all reasonable steps are taken to ensure that unsuitable people are not allowed to come into contact with children or vulnerable adults. Therefore, checks have to be made of the suitability of those volunteering to become involved with children or vulnerable adults. For coaches and others who are often in direct contact with unaccompanied children, **clubs must provide individuals' names and address** to the SCSMBA Child Protection Officer (CPO), for submission to government authorities for checking. Individuals having occasional contact with children that are not accompanied by their parents or legal guardians, and **who are identified to us by their club**, will be asked by the SCSMBA CPO to fill-in a **Voluntary Disclosure Form**. The SCSMBA CPO will maintain a confidential record of all the Disclosure Forms, and liaise with the clubs.

XYZ SHORT MAT BOWLING CLUB

**NOTICE OF CHILD AND VULNERABLE ADULT
PROTECTION POLICY**

XYZ Bowling Club fully accepts its legal and moral obligation to exercise its duty of care and to protect all children and vulnerable adults participating in its activities, and to safeguard their welfare.

We are committed to do this by acknowledging that:

- a) The welfare of the individual is paramount.
- b) Each individual, irrespective of gender, age, religion, race or disability, has the right to protection from abuse.
- c) Each individual has a right to be safe and to be treated with respect and dignity.

We shall use our best endeavours to ensure that:

- a) All allegations of abuse are taken seriously and the response to them will be swift and appropriate.
- b) The effectiveness of our policy is reviewed annually.
- c) A responsible person shall be appointed annually as Child Protection officer to whom members can address any concerns.

Our Child Protection Officer is:

(Name and telephone number)

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