

## **POLICY 4 - CHILD PROTECTION**

**Link:** Committee, Starclub

**Note:**

*The Child Protection Policy has been drawn from the Bowls SA policy, so that for members of the Glenelg Bowling Club will understand the policies that apply to them and any guests. For full details, see the [Bowls SA](#) website.*

### **Child Protection**

The Glenelg Bowling Club acknowledges that our members and volunteers provide a valuable contribution to positive experiences of our sport when children sometimes attend bowling and social functions at the Club.

This club, as a member club of Bowls SA, is bound by the [Bowls Australia Child Safeguarding Policy \(SA Addendum\) October 2021](#).

Our club aims to continue this and to take measures to protect the safety and welfare of children participating at our club by:

- Prohibiting any form of abuse against children;
- Ensuring people have completed a satisfactory Working with Children Check where this is required by the relevant state/territory law;
- Carefully selecting and screening people who work, coach or have regular unsupervised contact with children;
- Promoting and enforcing our codes of behaviour, particularly for roles associated with any juniors;
- Responding to all reports and complaints of abuse promptly, seriously and confidentially; and
- Adopting practices that reduce risks and provide the greatest opportunity for a child safe environment.

Anyone who reasonably suspects that a child has been or is being abused by someone within our sport, is to report it immediately to the President of the club, police or relevant government agency and the CEO of Bowls SA.

A list of Mandated Notifiers appears in GBC Policy ?.

### **Abuse**

It should be noted that abuse is a form of harassment and includes physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse, neglect, and abuse of power. Examples of abusive behaviour include bullying, humiliation, verbal abuse and insults.

### **Child Abuse**

Child abuse involves any conduct which puts children at risk of harm (usually by adults, sometimes by other children) and often by those they know and trust. It can take many forms, including verbal and physical actions and by people failing to provide them with basic care.

Child abuse may include:

- Physical abuse by hurting a child or a child's development (e.g., hitting, shaking or other physical harm; giving a child alcohol or drugs; or training that exceeds the child's development or maturity);
- Sexual abuse by adults or other children where a child is encouraged or forced to watch or engage in sexual activity or where a child is subject to any other inappropriate conduct of a sexual nature (e.g., sexual intercourse;
- masturbation, oral sex, pornography including child pornography or inappropriate touching or conversations);
- Emotional abuse by ill-treating a child (e.g., humiliation, taunting, sarcasm, yelling, negative criticism, name calling, ignoring or placing unrealistic expectations on a child);
- Neglect (e.g., failing to give food, water, shelter or clothing or to protect a child from danger or foreseeable risk of harm or injury).

A person will not be victimised for reporting possible child abuse and the privacy of all persons concerned will be respected. The Bowls SA procedures for handling allegations of child abuse are outlined in the Bowls SA document.

### **Taking Images of Children**

Images of children can be used inappropriately or illegally. Any person wishing to take pictures of a child or children at the club, must first wherever possible, obtain permission from a child's parent/guardian before taking an image of a child that is not their own and ensure that the parent knows the way the image will be used.

We also require the privacy of others to be respected and so disallow the use of camera phones, videos and cameras inside changing areas, showers and toilets.

If the Glenelg Bowling Club uses an image of a child, it will avoid naming or identifying the child or it will, wherever possible, avoid using both the first name and surname and will not display personal information such as residential address, email address or telephone numbers without gaining consent from the parent/guardian.

The club will only use appropriate images of a child, relevant to our sport and ensure that the child is suitably clothed in a manner that promotes the sport, displays its successes, etc.

The club reserves the right to remove any photographs or material posted on its social media platforms that do not reflect the above policy.