

Safeguarding in Bowls News.

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Updated LGBTQ+ Safeguarding Guidance



The Child protection in Sport Unit of the NSPCC has updated its safeguarding guidance regarding LGBTQ+ young people. LGBTQ+ children and young people face the same risks as all children and young people, but they are at greater risk of some types of abuse. The same is true for adults. Being LGBTQ+ isn't a safeguarding risk, it's how others may behave towards someone who categorises themselves as LGBTQ+ that may cause risk. It's essential that bowls clubs create a supportive and welcoming culture for everyone, safe from harm and a place where they can thrive. They could promote the childline website – www.childline.org.uk and phone number, 08001111, as a source of support and advice and the [LGBT Foundation](http://www.lgbt.foundation) 0345 3 30 30 30 for adults. Clubs should treat everyone with respect, fully implementing equal opportunities, and reinforcing an ethos of acceptance. They should also challenge gender stereotypes. Consider promoting LGBTQ+ related events and campaigns.

Awareness Days

[The International Day of People with Disabilities](#)

is 3rd December. A good opportunity to showcase how inclusive bowls can be.

[Brew Monday](#)

The third Monday in January is sometimes referred to as 'Blue Monday' but the Samaritans want to dispel this myth by encouraging organisations to host a Brew Monday event on 16 January. So why not get some of their resources from [here](#) to help you reach out and connect with friends and family at your club. You could fund raise for the Samaritans and perhaps your club at the same time.



Focus on ... Lower-Level Concerns

Ensuring that all staff and volunteers who work with children or adults at risk are suitable to do so is one of the most important aspects of a bowls club's safeguarding duties. The early identification and appropriate management of safeguarding concerns about adults is an essential part of this.

Lower-level concerns can be the first step on a slippery slope to abuse. These concerns can include: use of inappropriate language or touching, preferential treatment, providing lifts or other favours to a child or adult at risk.

Creating a culture in which all concerns about adults are shared responsibly and with the right person, and recorded and dealt with appropriately, is critical. Club Safeguarding Officers are key to this. Club Codes of Conduct should help adults working in the organisation, particularly coaches, selectors and team managers, to be clear about professional boundaries and act within these boundaries, and in accordance with the ethos and values of the club and our sport.

Self-referral by coaches etc. who identify they may have done something which contravenes the code of conduct, can be helpful in creating a safer culture in the club. [Farrer & Co](#) have done some important work on this area.

Safer Culture – Safer Sport



The Ann Craft Trust has produced a self-evaluation for clubs to use to assess how well they promote a safe culture. The three strands of a safer culture in sport are how well a club **Listens, Learns and Leads**. This can be applied to safeguarding and other issues. The self-evaluation questions and scoring are available here [Culture-in-Clubs-Self-Evaluation.pdf \(anncrafttrust.org\)](#)

