

Croston and District Boules League

SAFEGUARDING ADULTS – Advisory document only

INTRODUCTION

The Croston and District Boules League is committed to ensuring that Boules is a sport which is inclusive and welcoming of diversity. We wish to ensure that everyone has a genuine and equal opportunity to participate in Boules at all levels and in all roles. ***“Our ethos is that all players have fun, can participate in an enjoyable sociable evening and most of all enjoy playing the game”***. The League is run for our Members and we put the success of our Boules League down to the spirit, enjoyment and enthusiasm of all of our players.

We aim to create an environment in which all individuals can make the best use of their skills, they are treated with respect, in safety and free from discrimination or harassment, and in which all decisions are based on merit.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The purpose of this policy is to outline the duty and responsibility of Members of Croston and District Boules League in relation to Safeguarding all Adults at risk. Everyone has a duty to help protect vulnerable adults.

All adults have the right to be safe from harm and must be able to live free from fear of abuse, neglect and exploitation. Some people because of age disability, illness or lifestyle may not be able to protect themselves against abuse.

Everyone who participates in the sport of Boules is entitled to do so in a safe and enjoyable environment.

The League is committed to helping everyone in our sport of Boules accept their responsibility to safeguard adults from harm and abuse.

All suspicions and allegations of abuse and poor practice will be taken very seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately.

Players participating with adults in Boules have a responsibility to report any concerns to their Team Captain or a Member of the Committee.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

DEFINITION OF AN ADULT AT RISK

Adult at Risk is a person aged 18 or over who is in need of care and support regardless of whether they are receiving them, and because of those needs are unable to protect themselves against abuse or neglect. In recent years, there has been a marked shift away from using the term ‘vulnerable’ to describe adults potentially at risk from harm or abuse.

Abuse is a violation of an individual’s human and civil rights by another person or persons.

Adult is anyone aged 18 or over.

Adult Safeguarding is protecting a person's right to live in safety, free from abuse and neglect.

Capacity refers to the ability to make a decision at a particular time, for example when under considerable stress. The starting assumption must always be that a person has the capacity to make a decision unless it can be established that they lack capacity.

FOR INFORMATION – TYPES OF ABUSE TAKEN FROM THE CARE ACT 2014

Self-neglect – This covers a wide range of behaviour: neglecting to care for one's personal hygiene, health or surroundings and includes behaviour such as hoarding. In Boules this could be a player whose appearance becomes unkempt, does not wear suitable sports kit and deterioration in hygiene.

Modern Slavery – Encompasses slavery, human trafficking, forced labour and domestic servitude. Traffickers and slave masters use whatever means they have at their disposal to coerce, deceive and force individuals into a life of abuse, servitude and inhumane treatment. In Boules you may notice that a participant in a team has been missing from practice sessions and is not responding to reminders from Team Members or coaches.

Domestic Abuse – including psychological, physical, sexual, financial and emotional abuse. It also includes so called 'honour' based violence. Sport may notice a power imbalance between a participant and a family member. For example, a participant with Downs syndrome may be looking quiet and withdrawn when their brother comes to collect them from sessions, in contrast to their personal assistant whom they greet with a smile.

Discriminatory – Discrimination is abusing which centres on a difference or perceived difference particularly with respect to race, gender or disability or any of the protected characteristics of the Equality Act. This could be the harassing of an individual because they are or are perceived to be transgender.

Organisational Abuse – Including neglect and poor care practice within an institution or specific care setting such as a hospital or care home, for example, or in relation to care provided in one's own home. This may range from one off incidents to on-going ill-treatment. It can be through neglect or poor professional practice as a result of the structure, policies, processes and practices within an organisation. In Boules, this could be playing or practicing without a necessary break.

Physical Abuse – includes hitting, slapping, pushing, kicking, misuse of medication, restraint or inappropriate sanctions. This could be a coach intentionally striking an athlete.

Sexual Abuse – including rape, indecent exposure, sexual harassment, inappropriate looking or touching, sexual teasing or innuendo, sexual photography, subjection to pornography or witnessing sexual acts, indecent exposure and sexual assault or sexual acts to which the adult has not consented or was pressured into consenting. This could be a fellow

athlete who sends unwanted sexually explicit text messages to an adult with learning disabilities they are training alongside.

Financial or Material Abuse – Including theft, fraud, internet scamming, coercion in relation to an adult’s financial affairs or arrangements, including in connection with wills, property, inheritance or financial transactions, or the misuse or misappropriation of property, possessions or benefits. This could be someone taking equipment from an athlete with dementia.

Neglect – Including ignoring medical or physical care needs, failure to provide access to appropriate health social care or educational services, the withholding of the necessities of life, such as medication, adequate nutrition and heating. This could be a coach not ensuring athletes have access to water.

Emotional or Psychological Abuse – This includes threats of harm or abandonment, deprivation of contact, humiliation, blaming, controlling, intimidation, coercion, harassment, verbal abuse, isolation or withdrawal from services or supportive networks. This could be an athlete threatening another athlete with physical harm and persistently blaming them for poor performance.

FOR INFORMATION – INCLUDED IN THE CARE ACT 2014 BUT ALSO RELEVANT

Cyber Bullying - Cyber bullying occurs when someone repeatedly makes fun of another person online or repeatedly picks on another person through emails or text messages, or uses online forums with the intention of harming, damaging, humiliating or isolating another person. It can be used to carry out many different types of bullying (such as racist bullying, homophobic bullying, or bullying related to special educational needs and disabilities) but instead of the perpetrator carrying out the bullying face-to-face, they use technology as a means to do it.

Forced Marriage - Forced marriage is a term used to describe a marriage in which one or both of the parties are married without their consent or against their will. A forced marriage differs from an arranged marriage, in which both parties’ consent to the assistance of a third party in identifying a spouse. The Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 make it a criminal offence to force someone to marry.

Mate Crime - A ‘mate crime’ as defined by the Safety Net Project is ‘when vulnerable people are befriended by members of the community who go on to exploit and take advantage of them. It may not be an illegal act but still has a negative effect on the individual.’

Radicalisation - The aim of radicalisation is to attract people to their reasoning, inspire new recruits and embed their extreme views and persuade vulnerable individuals of the legitimacy of their cause. This may be direct through a relationship, or through social media.

RESPONSIBILITIES AND COMMUNICATION

The Croston and District Boules League Safeguarding Policy will be available to all Members, players, parents, volunteers and participants. It is important that adults at risk are protected from abuse. All complaints, allegations or suspicions must be taken seriously and reported to a Boules League Committee Member, following review the committee will be responsible for passing information to the appropriate person or agency ASAP.

The Boules League has responsibility for ensuring that the policy and procedures are implemented, including taking any disciplinary and reporting action as appropriate.

THE ROLE OF KEY INDIVIDUAL AGENCIES

Adult Social Services - The Department of Health's recent 'No secrets' guidance document requires that authorities develop a local framework within which all responsible agencies work together to ensure a coherent policy for the protection of vulnerable adults at risk of abuse.

All local authorities have a Safeguarding Adults Board, which oversees multi-agency work aimed at protecting and safeguarding vulnerable adults. It is normal practice for the board to comprise of people from partner organisations who have the ability to influence decision making and resource allocation within their organisation.

The Police - The Police play a vital role in Safeguarding Adults with cases involving alleged criminal acts. It becomes the responsibility of the police to investigate allegations of crime by preserving and gathering evidence. Where a crime is identified, the police will be the lead agency and they will direct investigations in line with legal and other procedural protocols.

SUMMARY

The safeguarding of young people under the age of 18 has not been included in this policy. The Committee requires that anyone participating in the Boules League or any League sanctioned competitions under the age of 18 is accompanied by a parent or family member.

The Boules League Committee are totally committed to the Ethos of our League as stated above and recognise the value and importance of this Safeguarding Policy to everyone associated with the Croston and District Boules League and the importance of our stated Values and Principles, safety of all participants without discrimination in everything we do.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

LEGAL FRAMEWORK

The Care Act 2014 <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2014/23/introduction/enacted> sets out a clear legal framework for how local authorities and other parts of the system should protect adults at risk of abuse or neglect. Each Local Authority must have a Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB), in much the same way of Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCB). They must lead a multi-agency system that seeks to prevent abuse and neglect and stop it quickly when it happens which includes the NHS, police and Social Care. The Safeguarding Adults Boards (SAB) must meet regularly, develop shared safeguarding plans and publish an annual review of progress. They will carry out Safeguarding Adults Reviews in some circumstances relating to safeguarding failures. The Act also introduces a responsibility for Local Authorities to make enquiries and take any necessary action if an adult with care and support needs could be at risk, even if that adult isn't receiving local authority care and support.

The Protection of Freedoms Act 2012

Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims (Amendment) Act 2012

The Equality Act 2010

The Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006

Mental Capacity Act 2005

Sexual Offences Act 2003

The Human Rights Act 1998

The Data Protection Act 2018