

Under 18's Participating in Senior Environments

Purpose

BowlsWales recognises that when a young player under 18 years of age joins an adult club, all the risks should be considered, and appropriate safeguards put in place.

BowlsWales recognises our 'duty of care' to ensure that we put in place safeguards to protect those young people who are under 18 and who, in law, are still considered to be a child.

Best Practice Guidelines

Whereupon a child joins an adult club, it is recommended that the following guidance is adhered to:

- The club must have a nominated [Club Safeguarding Officer](#) who introduces themselves to the player and their parents/guardians upon joining the club and provides their contact details should any [concerns](#) or queries arise.
- The Club Safeguarding Officer must have undertaken appropriate [safeguarding training](#).
- The club must have a [Safeguarding Policy](#) in place and this should be shared with the player and their parents/guardians upon joining the club.
- The club should ensure that photography and videography [consent](#) is requested from the player and their parents/guardians prior to taking any images or footage of the player.
- The club should appoint a senior player to act as a mentor for the player, giving them a further point of contact within the club.
- The club should explain that the player does not have to tolerate any unacceptable 'banter' or behaviour and that their own boundaries need to be set and know what 'line' should not be crossed personally.
- The club should outline what is expected of the player in respect of their [Code of Conduct](#).
- The club should outline what is expected of the players' parents/guardians in respect of their [Code of Conduct](#).
- The club should ensure that the player understands that if they have any concerns, they can speak with the Club Safeguarding Officer, a member of the committee, or their player mentor.
- The club should ensure that those within the club already, understand their responsibilities in relation to:
 - o [Transporting Children & Young People](#)
 - o [Supervising Children & Young People](#)
 - o [Travelling & Staying Away from Home](#)
 - o [Communication](#)
 - o [Code of Conduct](#)
- Those involved in coaching must have a DBS check at the [appropriate level](#) and should have completed appropriate [safeguarding training](#).