



Safeguarding and DBS briefing Document – June 2021

Safeguarding Briefing Document

Safeguarding is a vital process that needs to be in place to protect all adults and children in the sport from harm, abuse and neglect. Bowls is working hard to ensure that every environment that offers participation in the sport follows the highest standards of safeguarding for everyone, from the youngest bowlers to the older, the committee members, coaches, reception staff, Green Keepers, cleaners, volunteers and more. Everyone has their part to play in keeping people safe in our clubs whether it be others or themselves.

The main aim of the sport is to provide safe, enjoyable activities to everyone. It is to improve recruitment to clubs and to retain current members, particularly in the light of the pandemic. In normal times, approximately **25% of adults can be seen as vulnerable at any one point in time** for a variety of different reasons. This has risen in the past year. For example, **25% of adults in the UK are now at risk of malnutrition**. It is now more important than ever that **all coaches have a strong understanding of safeguarding**.

In August 2020 Coach Bowls completed a survey of all members. The introduction of mandatory DBS checks for coaches was one of the topics raised consistently by respondents. This was repeated in discussions with some counties, along with consultation with the County Coaching Coordinators and tutor workforce. BCGBA and ESMBA coaches already have this mandatory condition to coach. Currently, bowls is one of the minority of sports that does not require mandatory checks for all coaches. It is important that we come in line with national expectations, demonstrate our professionalism as a leading sport and activity and ensure that new and existing bowlers know that the sport is doing all it can to be safe.

On 4th September 2020, the new criteria for membership was shared with all current members. This gave all coaches until 1st April 2021 to gain a Safeguarding certificate and a DBS check. However, due to the volume of coaches still requesting courses and DBS checks, and with current Safeguarding courses being consistently filled, with many running over subscribed, the following amendments to deadlines have been agreed:

1. All coaches must have attended a Safeguarding course by **1st April 2023** (additional Coach Bowls courses are being scheduled every month to respond to demand. Coaches may also attend other recognised courses such as UK Coaching, Active Sports Partnerships, other sports)

NB: New coaches will have a further 12 months from certification to attend a Safeguarding course.
2. **DBS checks will be introduced in a staggered approach** (full briefing document attached):
 - I. Level 2 and above coaches have until **1st April 2022** to gain an enhanced DBS check via their NGB / Coach Bowls
 - II. Level 1 coaches have until **1st October 2022** to gain an enhanced DBS check via their NGB / Coach Bowls
 - III. All new coaches will have **6 weeks after certification** (to allow for processing time) to apply for their DBS check via their NGB/Coach Bowls
 - IV. ALL coaches are recommended to **apply for the DBS Update Service** within 28 days of receiving their DBS certification. (<http://www.gov.uk/dbs-update-service>)

Safeguarding Queries: Any queries regarding safeguarding issues in a club should initially be referred to the relevant National Governing Body.



Safeguarding and DBS briefing Document – June 2021

Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) – Guidance for Bowls Coaches:

Bowls England (**BE**), British Crown Green Bowling Association (**BCGBA**), English Indoor Bowling Association Ltd (**EIBA Ltd**) and English Short Mat Bowling Association (**ESMBA**) provide a criminal record checking service to all affiliated members. This guidance note is issued to confirm the process to be followed by **coaches** who require a DBS check from the above date.

1. Why do I need a DBS Check?

Coaches in clubs have access to working with children and vulnerable adults on a regular basis. Coaches are often the first point of contact for new members. By obtaining a fresh Bowls Disclosure the club and its members have a renewed assurance that all relevant issues have been examined.

Coach BOWLS recommends that **all coaches** apply for the **enhanced** check via Coach BOWLS (for Bowls England or EIBA coaches) or their NGB (BGCBA or ESMBA coaches).

- **Enhanced:** Shows filtered convictions, cautions, warnings, and reprimands that are held on the police national computer, plus some additional discretionary information.

2a. Application Request: Online Disclosure (Bowls England and EIBA coaches only)



Any Coach BOWLS member from a Bowls England or EIBA affiliated club should contact **Coach BOWLS** with your Full Name, role within your club and e-mail address as per details below:

Contact	Contact Telephone	E mail
Adam Durnin	07458 301497	adam@coachbowls.org

You will be sent an activation e-mail to register for the online service. Once you have set up with a password you can sign in and complete the Online Disclosure.

Before you begin

If you have any of the following documents which are listed below, it is mandatory that you supply this information when prompted.

- National Insurance number
- Valid Driving Licence
- Valid passport
- Valid National ID Card



The application process

There are five steps to complete online. At the end of each step you have the option to save and complete at another time. The five steps are:

1. About You
2. Contact Details
3. Verification Documents
4. Summary
5. Confirmation



Safeguarding and DBS briefing Document – June 2021

ID Verification Service Form

When you have completed all the steps, print out the ID verification service form and take to a Crown Post Office for verification (no need to photocopy your documents). To find the nearest Crown Post Office please visit. <http://www.postoffice.co.uk/branch-finder>

The Crown Post Office will check your originals against the ID verification paperwork, take payment and then upload on their system.

The cost of the Online Disclosure system (which includes VAT) is:

Volunteers

- Enhanced disclosure £12.60
- Crown Post Office check and uploading £6

Paid Staff

- Enhanced disclosure £52.60
- Crown Post Office check and uploading £6



The applicant is responsible for all costs relevant to the verification process

More information

For further assistance please go to: <https://www.onlinedisclosures.co.uk/contact-support/online-support/> where you will find [Step-by-Step Instructions](#) together with 'Frequently Asked Questions' from Applicants. Online Disclosures is part of GB Group and is the largest criminal record checking provider in the UK.

2b. Application Request: Paper Based Disclosure (BCGBA and ESMBA coaches)

Any applicant requiring a paper-based application form should contact their NGB with their Full Name, Address, Club and position you hold within the Club to:

<p>British Crown Green Bowling Association Email: safeguarding@bcgba.org.uk</p> 	<p>English Short Mat Bowling Association Myrtle Cottage, Woolland, Dorset, DT11 0ES.</p> 
---	---

NB: Guidance on completing the application form can be provided to all applicants directly from the Governing Body.

Verification of identification documents:

All applicants must have their identity confirmed as part of the process. Applicants may choose to use the Post Office® Identity Document Checking Service or to send relevant documents directly to service used by the relevant NGB

The cost of the paper-based application form is:

Volunteers

- Enhanced Disclosure £12
- Crown Post Office check and uploading £12.75

Paid Staff

- £64 (incl. VAT) for non-volunteer
- Crown Post Office check and uploading £12.75

NB: Should you choose to send documents via your NGB, it is recommended that they be sent by Royal Mail Special Delivery and that a prepaid Special Delivery envelope is enclosed for the safe return of documents.

Definition of a volunteer can be found at www.gov.uk/dbs Payment is required for each application; and the information on this will be provided by each NGB.

3. Obtaining a DBS Check

Coach BOWLS recommends that all DBS checks are conducted via the applicants' NGB (Coach BOWLS will provide all links and information directly for Bowls England or EIBA coaches), which means clubs can be sure that the correct checks have been taken and that all relevant information regarding the applicant for the position applied for is received.

By using this process, Coach BOWLS, the NGBs and their affiliated Clubs and Counties can act appropriately if they receive any information regarding the applicant.

The Safeguarding Bowls Panel (comprised of representatives for all the codes in bowls) are aware that some clubs may be offered free DBS Disclosure services by other organisations. No NGB will be held responsible for any club or county that chooses to use the services of another third party provider or to rely on a disclosure not issued through the respective NGB process. However, where disclosures are processed by alternate providers, the **Coach MUST** apply for the DBS Update Service within 28 Days of receiving their Disclosure and input this number on to their membership account with Coach BOWLS.

➤ Applying for the DBS Update Service

Any coach can apply for this service, but it is mandatory for any coach who has their disclosure processed by a 'non-bowls' organisation. The service reduces the need to apply for multiple disclosures when you are working / volunteering with different organisations.

This service allows Coach BOWLS or the NGB's to carry out a quick online Status check to see if an individual's disclosure is up to date, saving you both time and money.

You will need your application reference number (called 'form ref'). DBS must receive the application within 28 days. If you already have your DBS certificate you need your certificate number and **MUST** register for the Update Service within 30 days of the certificate being issued. If you have not registered for this and have a current DBS check, unfortunately you will need a new check carried out.

You can register at <http://www.gov.uk/dbs-update-service>

9. Safeguarding Policies:

It is advised that **ALL** clubs have a safeguarding policy and procedures in place, available for all members to read. The Safeguarding Bowls Panel has provided a number of templates to help you complete this <https://bowlsdevelopmentalliance.com/safeguarding>

The full Safeguarding Policy for Bowls can be downloaded from this page.