

BOWLS SCOTLAND – CODE OF CONDUCT FOR WORKING WITH CHILDREN

Bowls Scotland supports and requires ***all*** members to observe the following standards of practice, including verbal and non-verbal actions when involved in activities with children.

All concerns related to a breach of this Code of Conduct will be taken seriously and responded to in line with **Bowls Scotland's** Complaints Policy, Disciplinary Procedure and Procedure for Responding to Concerns about Child Abuse.

GOOD PRACTICE

- Make sport fun, enjoyable and promote fair play.
- Treat all children equally, with respect, dignity, and fairness.
- Involve parents/carers wherever possible.
- Build balanced relationships based on mutual trust.
- Include children in the decision-making process wherever possible.
- Always work in an open environment, wherever possible. Avoid private or unobserved situations.
- Put the welfare of each child first before winning or achieving performance goals.
- Be an excellent role model including not smoking or drinking alcohol in the company of children.
- Give enthusiastic and constructive feedback rather than negative criticism.
- Recognise the developmental needs and capacity of children.
- Avoid excessive training and competition, pushing children against their will and putting undue pressure on them.

PRACTICE TO BE AVOIDED

In the context of your role within **Bowls Scotland**, the following should be avoided:

- Having 'favourites' – this could lead to resentment and jealousy by other children and could be misinterpreted by others.
- Spending excessive amounts of time alone with children away from others.
- Entering children's bedrooms on trips away from home unless it is an emergency situation or in the interest of health and safety. If it is necessary to enter rooms, knock and say that you are coming in. The door should remain open, if appropriate.
- Where possible, avoid doing things of a personal nature for children that they can do for themselves.

UNACCEPTABLE PRACTICE

In the context of your role within **Bowls Scotland**, the following practices are unacceptable:

- Engaging in sexually provocative games, including horseplay.
- Engaging in rough or physical contact unless it is permitted within the rules of the game or competition.
- Forming intimate emotional, physical, or sexual relationships with children.
- Allowing or engaging in touching a child in a sexually suggestive manner.
- Allowing children to swear or use sexualised language unchallenged.
- Making sexually suggestive comments to a child, even in fun.
- Reducing a child to tears as a form of control.
- Allowing allegations made by a child to go unchallenged, unrecorded, or not acted upon.
- Inviting or allowing children to stay with you at your home.
- A Coach and/or other leader sharing a room alone with a child.

Declaration

I have read and agree to abide by this Code of Conduct.

I have also read and agree to abide by Bowls Scotland Child Wellbeing and Protection Policy, Procedures and Guidelines.

Name		Witnessed By	
Signature		Signature	
Date		Date	