



# WOODFORD & DISTRICT BOWLS CLUB Inc.

## Child and Youth Risk Management Strategy

### 1. Statement of Commitment

Woodford & District Bowls Club is committed to providing a safe and supportive environment where children and young people can develop physical skills and enhance their social and emotional wellbeing.

In our programs, children and young people are given agency to challenge themselves and support each other to improve themselves in a safe environment.

At Woodford & District Bowls Club we are committed to managing risks to ensure the safety of children and young people.

### 2. Code of Conduct

Woodford & District Bowls Club's committee members, officials and players will: interact with children and young people in a fair, considerate and honest manner; act with integrity; and will ensure their behaviour is always professional. All conduct and behaviour will be in accordance with the:

- Bowls Australia Player Code of Conduct
- Bowls Australia Safeguarding Children and Young People Policy

### 3. Recruitment, Selection, Training and Management of Woodford & District Bowls Club Inc.

Induction and training are part of our commitment:

- We will provide all new staff, volunteers, and participants with information about our commitment to children and young people safety.
- We will ensure our staff and volunteers have up-to-date information relevant to child safety legislation.

### 4. Handling Disclosures or Suspicion of Harm

Staff and volunteers must:

- Immediately report abuse or neglect and any concerns with practices or the behaviour of staff and volunteers to the Chairperson of Woodford & District Bowls Club Management Committee.
- Meet legislated mandatory reporting requirements.
- Follow the specified process identified in Appendix 1.

## **5. Managing Breaches**

A breach is any action or inaction by any Woodford & District Bowls Club staff member or volunteer that fails to comply with any part of this strategy.

Woodford & District Bowls Club is committed to ensuring potential breaches are appropriately reported and dealt with in a fair, unbiased and professional manner.

## **6. Compliance with the Blue Card system**

To ensure compliance with the Blue Card system, Woodford & District Bowls Club will:

- Maintain a current Blue Card register.
- Ensure all committee members, officials and volunteers involved with junior programs hold a current and validated Blue Card.

## **7. High Risk Activities and Special Events**

Woodford & District Bowls Club offers outdoor recreational programs designed to encourage children and young people to improve their lawn bowls skills. Woodford & District Bowls Club ensures all practices comply with Queensland Workplace, Health and Safety standards.

## **8. Communication and Support Strategies**

The following methods are employed to communicate this strategy and provide support to all relevant Woodford & District Bowls Club stakeholders:

- An electronic copy of this strategy can be accessed via the Woodford & District Bowls Club website and hard copies provided upon request.
- An electronic copy of Bowls Australia Players Code of Conduct and Bowls Australia Safeguarding Children and Young People Policy can be accessed via the Woodford & District Bowls Club website.
- Woodford Bowls & District Lawn Bowls stakeholders requiring further support interpreting or applying this strategy are to contact the Chairperson of the Management Committee.

## Appendix 1: Responding to Risk of Abuse and Harm to Children and Young People

### You MUST act.

As a person involved in Bowls you play a crucial role in protecting children and young people. You MUST follow the four actions set out below when responding to any child abuse allegations.

### Action 1 – Responding

If a child or young person is at risk of immediate harm, you must ensure their safety by:

- Calling 000 for medical and/or police assistance;
  - Administering first aid, if required;
  - Separating at-risk children or young persons and others involved; if safe to do so.
- If there is no immediate harm, go to Action 2.

### Action 2 – Reporting

If you suspect, on reasonable grounds that a child or young person was, is, or is at risk of being abused or harmed, you must report it to the police and Chairperson of the Management Committee.

### Action 3 - Contact

The Chairperson of the Management Committee will liaise with police and contact the relevant child protection agency:

- **Caboolture Child Safety Service Centre**  
21-25 Hasking Street  
Caboolture Qld 4510  
(07) 5433 6700
- **Child Safety After Hours Service Centre**  
1800 177 135 (outside of usual business hours)

The Chairperson MUST follow all advice given by the police and Child Safety officers.

### Action 4 – Support

- Support should be provided to any child or young person who has experienced abuse.
- Support should include maintaining a calm open manner when listening to any allegations and disclosures, while avoiding seeking detailed information or leading questions.
- Information regarding allegations of abuse needs to be well documented and shared with police and all necessary stakeholders.
- Further support for the child or young person, relevant adults and others involved may be required, including a referral to healthcare professionals.