

LOCKLEYS BOWLING CLUB – PROTECTION OF VULNERABLE PERSONS



Derivation

This policy has been adapted from Bowls SA's 'Member Protection Policy', available at <http://www.bowlssa.com.au/wp-content/uploads/sites/6/2019/02/Bowls-SA-Member-Protection-Policy-Updated-August-2018.pdf>

The policy supports and complements Bowls SA's policy document, with particular focus on the protection of 'vulnerable persons'.

Definition

A 'vulnerable person' is defined as someone under the age of 16 years or any person deemed by the Lockleys Bowling Club's Board of Management to warrant a level of protection above and beyond that accorded to other members of the Club.

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that a 'vulnerable person', whether they are a member of the Lockleys Bowling Club or a member of another club or a member of the public attending an event or being at the premises of the Club, experiences no behaviour or actions which threaten or are an actual assault on their personal safety or well-being.

The policy also aims to ensure that members of the Lockleys Bowling Club are protected from being put in a position where unfounded allegations may arise as to their behaviour or actions towards a vulnerable person.

The policy recognises that while the Lockleys Bowling Club is primarily a community-based sporting club, it also provides a social environment for the enjoyment of its members, which includes their access to alcohol.

Accordingly, and recognising that it is undesirable for either minors or other vulnerable persons to spend time in a social environment where alcohol is being consumed, the policy aims to minimise the amount of time that vulnerable persons are at the Club for other than sporting activities, unless they are under the direct supervision of a parent, guardian or close relative.

Guidelines/rules

In addition to the accepted norms of social behaviour and the values and ethos of the Lockleys Bowling Club, all members must ensure that vulnerable persons, whether a member of the Lockleys Bowling Club or a visitor from another club or a member of the public, are treated at all times with the utmost courtesy, respect and consideration.

At no time is a vulnerable member, whether a member of our Club or otherwise, allowed to be at the Club or in a room at the Club with only one other member. Should a member find themselves in this position, they should take immediate steps to redress the situation.

Vulnerable persons who are members of the Lockleys Bowling Club are permitted to be at the Club without direct parental/guardian supervision to participate in:

- pennant competitions

- Club-organised competitions, practice sessions and working groups
- Club-endorsed competitions (such as the Taylor Cup Challenge), and
- Club-organised social functions held during the day.

Such members are only permitted to attend individual practice or to be at the Club at any other time if accompanied by a parent, guardian or close relative.

Vulnerable persons who are members of the Lockleys Bowling Club and about to participate in a pennant competition or Club-organised/endorsed competition must not be at the Club earlier than 45 minutes before the start of the competition and must leave within 45 minutes of the completion of their particular competition, unless they are accompanied by a parent, guardian or close relative. For away games where travel is involved, vulnerable persons should arrive no earlier than 10 minutes prior to the advertised departure time.

Similarly, such members must not be at the Club earlier than 10 minutes before a Club-organised practice session, working group or social function and must leave within 10 minutes of its completion, unless accompanied by a parent, guardian or close relative.

For pennant games or Club-endorsed competitions involving 'away' games, a vulnerable person who is a member of the Lockleys Bowling Club should be conveyed to and from the venue by a parent, guardian or close relative, who ideally should remain at the venue for the duration of the event.

Should this not be practicable, the individual's parent or guardian should liaise with the Club to arrange for the individual to travel to and from 'away' games with other team members, noting that a minimum of two other Club members must be in the vehicle. They also should not re-enter the premises on their return to the Club, unless accompanied by a parent, guardian or close relative.

For 'away' activities occurring during the evening, vulnerable persons who are members of the Lockleys Bowling Club must not be left at the Club on their return from playing elsewhere or allowed to make their own way home or given a lift home by one member.

Vulnerable persons who are members of the Lockleys Bowling Club are only permitted to attend social functions held at the Club in the evening if they are accompanied by a parent, guardian or close relative for the duration of the function (which obviously includes their travel to and from the Club).

Ratification

This policy was ratified by the Board of Management of the Lockleys Bowling Club at its meeting on 14 July 2020.