Western Province Bowls

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22 March 2024

WP Bowls Circular 2024-16

Safeguarding Training Offered

You may have heard the term Safeguarding, but not know what it means.

Safeguarding are the actions that are taken by your organisation, to mitigate the possibility that your staff, volunteers, service providers, etc. may use their influence to develop toxic relationships with each other or your "clients" (members, athletes, patrons, etc.). This may include, but is not limited to Sexual Harassment, Grooming, Bullying, Harassment, inappropriate online relationships, assault, sexual assault, etc.

Safeguarding Policies can be said to be the "Rules of Engagement" for safeguarding vulnerable persons. Any organisation whose staff or volunteers may engage with vulnerable persons, especially children, must define very clearly what their policies to safeguard the vulnerable are.

In 2019 SASCOC developed South Africa's first Sport Safeguarding Policy. This Policy requires all South Africa Sporting Federations to address three main points.

1. Ensure that all Sporting Federations develop and adopt a Safeguarding Policy.
2. Ensure that all Federations train and develop both Designated Safeguarding Officers to enforce policy requirements and ensure that all persons working or volunteering in sport complete a basic Safeguarding Awareness Certificate.
3. Compel that all Federations ensure that all persons, working or volunteering in their Federation are cleared against the Sexual Offences Register, the Child Protection Register and have a criminal Check done.

What this means is that, going forward, every sports club is going to be required by SASCOC to have at least one Safeguarding Officer.

WP Bowls is offering all clubs the opportunity to have at least one member complete this training online, via The Guardian. Members will complete two different online courses, *Sport Safeguarding Awareness Certificate* and *Sport Designated Safeguarding Officer*.

All clubs are urged to submit the names of interested parties to the WP Bowls Office on admin@wpbowls.co.za by 31 March 2024.

We will cover the cost of as many members we can, starting with one member per club, and then adding additional members until the available funds are depleted.

Regards,

Gerrit van Milligen
President

Western Province Bowls Association | NPO 080-192
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