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**Sussex County Bowls - Code of Conduct for Coaches**

I agree to uphold the following rights, relationships and responsibilities:

**1. Rights**

* Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every person.
* Help create an environment where all children and adults at risk have an equal opportunity to participate.
* Help create and maintain an environment free of fear and harassment.
* Recognise the rights of all children and adults at risk to be treated as individuals.
* Recognise the rights of parents/carers and children/adults at risk to confer with other coaches and experts.
* Promote the concept of a balanced attitude, supporting the well-being of the child or vulnerable person both in and out of bowls.
* Do not discriminate on the grounds of their age, disability, race, religious beliefs, gender, sexual orientation, social background.
* Do not condone or allow to go unchallenged any form of discrimination or prejudice.
* Do not publicly criticise or engage in demeaning descriptions of others.
* Communicate with children or adults at risk in a manner that reflects respect and care.

**2. Relationships**

* Develop relationships with parents/carers and children/ adults at risk based on openness, honesty, mutual trust and respect.
* Remember that someone else might misinterpret your words or actions, no matter how well intentioned
* Recognise that caution is required, even in sensitive moments such as dealing with  
  bullying or when a child or young person is very upset.
* Do not engage in any behaviour that constitutes any form of abuse (physical, sexual, emotional abuse, neglect or bullying).
* Always try to work in an open environment (e.g. avoid private or unobserved situations).
* Adults should work with children in pairs and avoid being alone with a child on a one to one basis.
* Plan your activities so that they involve more than one other person over 18 years of age being present or at least in sight or hearing of others.
* Be aware of the physical limits of children/ adults at risk and ensure that training loads and intensities are appropriate.
* Ensure that physical contact is appropriate and necessary and is carried out within recommended guidelines.
* Do not engage in any form of sexually-related contact with children/ adults at risk. Sexual innuendo, flirting or inappropriate gestures and terms are also unacceptable.
* Promote the welfare and best interests of all children and adults at risk.
* Explain to parents/carers, as appropriate, the potential impact of the coaching programme on the child/ adult at risk.
* Do not have a sexual relationship with someone under the age of 18 who you are coaching.
* Be familiar with the organisation’s Policies and Procedures.
* Report any concerns you may have in relation to a child/ adult at risk or the behaviour of an adult, and follow reporting procedures.
* Consider the child’s/vulnerable adults’ opinions when making decisions about their participation in bowls.
* Inform parents/carers and children/ adults at risk of the etiquette and practical considerations when playing bowls.
* Inform parents/carers of any potential financial implications.
* Make available the telephone contact numbers which young people can ring if they are distressed:
* Childline 0800 1111
* NSPCC 0808 800 5000

**3. Responsibilities and Personal Standings:**

* Demonstrate proper personal behaviour and conduct at all times. Do not Spend time with children/young people unobserved including online.
* Do not Have private contact with children/young people through a personal social media or email account.
* Be fair and honest with all children and adults at risk.
* Develop an appropriate working relationship with children/ adults at risk based on mutual trust and respect.
* Always emphasise that the well-being and safety of the child/adult is more important than the development of performance.
* Do not smoke, or drink alcohol, while actively working with children or adults at risk. Never use recreational or performance-enhancing drugs.
* The use changing rooms and/or toilet facilities by children should be supervised by two members of "staff". Ideally, adults should not use the changing room and toilet facilities at the same time as the children. Often this cannot be avoided and in such cases, it is important to make sure that adults are not left alone with a child.
* “Staff” of both genders must be present at mixed events, and separate male and female facilities must be provided.
* Promote the positive aspects of bowls (e.g. fair play, honesty and etiquette).
* Attend appropriate training to enable me to keep up-to-date with my role and matters relating to the welfare of children and adults at risk
* Hold relevant qualifications.
* Ensure the necessary insurance cover is in place.

Signed:……………………………….. Name:…………………………… Date:…………