



To: EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
PROVINCIAL PRESIDENTS
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ASSOCIATE MEMBER PRESIDENTS
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MEDIA

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SAFEGUARDING REQUIREMENTS FOR COACHES

Safeguarding in sport has become a major focus, as there is often a strong relationship between players and coaches. The problem is that this may lead to an inappropriate relationship, hence the need for safeguarding.

South Africa is one of the signatories to the Kazan Action Plan (2017), and in 2019, SASCOC developed their Safeguarding policy. This was followed by SASCOC asking all federations to draw up their own Safeguarding policies, which Bowls South Africa has done. In turn, districts need a safeguarding policy, and then also at the club level. This provides not only protection for the athlete but also legal protection.

The thought of Safeguarding has always been understood only from the perspective of working with juniors, but it also involves working with any vulnerable people. In Bowls, we work with juniors, the disabled, the visually impaired and the elderly, all of whom fall into the vulnerable people category. Therefore, as coaches, we need to ensure that we are all properly protected. All new coaches need to complete the Safeguarding Awareness certificate before they can be accredited as a level 1 coach. However, most of our coaches, who have previously qualified, have not completed this course. To comply with the Bowls South Africa safeguarding policy, all coaches must hold a current Safeguarding Awareness certificate. We are therefore asking that you **complete** the Safeguarding Awareness Certificate by the **31st of July 2026**.

How do you go about this? You can log in to the website <https://www.theguardian.co.za/training/> and book the course. It is all done online and doesn't take much time to complete (2 – 3 hours). You also need to complete the exam online, which you can take once you have done the course. Once you have completed the course, you must upload your certificate to the Bowls South Africa database. The certificate comes in PDF format, and so can be uploaded as is.

All coaches are also required to complete the attached Coaches' Code of Conduct. Please initial both pages, sign it and give it to your District Standing Committee convenor in your district to sign it as well. If your district does not have an DSCC, then the President of your District may sign it. Both pages then need to be scanned in PDF format as a single document. Only the PDF format will be accepted by the database, so please don't try to



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upload it in e.g., .jpg or another format. Your DSCC can assist you with this. We need every coach to upload their signed Coaches' Code of Conduct by the **31st of July 2026**. If you have any questions, please contact your DSCC convenor.

Regards,

Jenny Griffiths

Convenor – National Standing Committee for Coaches

BOBBY DONNELLY
CHIEF OPERATIONS OFFICER



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