



# Bowmen of Darenteford

## Safeguarding Children, Young People and Adults

<b>Responsible for review of policy</b> Archery GB, Club Welfare Officer, Club Deputy Welfare Officer	<b>Responsible for review of procedures</b> Club Welfare Officer, Club Welfare Deputy Officer, Club Committee
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## Foreword

As an Archery GB affiliated club, Bowmen of Darenteford must adopt the Archery GB Policies and Guidelines for Safeguarding Children, Young People and Adults.

The following policy outlines our commitment to safeguarding, the club's safeguarding procedures and the expectations of club's coaches, club officers and volunteers. This policy focuses on the safeguarding of children, young people and vulnerable adults; however, safeguarding is not exclusive to these members. This policy ensures the club's compliance with Archery GB policies and clarifies the expectations of the club and its members.

By upholding this policy in compliance with the Archery GB and NSPCC policies, Bowmen of Darenteford adhere to the Government's Working Together to Safeguard Children, July 2018 (formerly known as Every Child Matters) – a guide to all agencies working together to protect and promote the wellbeing of children and young people.

Archery GB's Policies for Safeguarding Children, Young People and Adults can be found at [www.archerygb.org/about-us-structure-safeguard/safeguard/safeguarding-policy-guidance/](http://www.archerygb.org/about-us-structure-safeguard/safeguard/safeguarding-policy-guidance/) along with associated guidelines.

## Policy

### Introduction

Following the Archery GB child protection policy (2018), Bowmen of Darenteford must meet the legal expectations to protect and promote the wellbeing of children, young people and vulnerable adults.

The Children Act 2004 and the Care Act 2014 both emphasise the duties of a range of organisations to ensure the services provided account for safeguarding and the promotion of the wellbeing of children, young people and vulnerable adults. This policy outlines the responsibilities of all Bowmen of Darenteford members for protecting such members of the club, how they should respond to concerns and how to refer matters to external organisations if necessary.

A summary of the Government guide of "Working Together to Safeguard Children" (2018) can be found via the NSPCC Child Protection in Sport Unit (CPSU) Resource Library at <https://thecpsu.org.uk/resource-library/best-practice/working-together-to-safeguard-children/>

This policy applies to the entire Bowmen of Darenteford membership (full, associate and non-shooting). For further guidance, please see the club's Code of Good Practice which is available at [www.darenteford.org/policies/](http://www.darenteford.org/policies/).

### Policy Statement & Aims

Bowmen of Darenteford believes that the welfare of children, young people and adults is of paramount importance. The Club is committed to creating an environment where children, young people and adults can participate in archery free from abuse and harassment.

In this document, a child or young person refers to all persons under the age of 18 whilst a vulnerable adult refers to a person over 18 years old, who may need community care services due to their sensory impairment, disability, learning difficulties, illness or advanced age.

This policy recognises that those working with children, young people and vulnerable adults have a moral and legal responsibility to promote and safeguard their welfare. As such, Bowmen of Darenteford has adopted the Archery GB policies for safeguarding children, young people and vulnerable adults.

This policy aims to ensure that regardless of age, sex, religion, beliefs, ethnic background, disability, sexuality, social situation or economic background, all children, young people and vulnerable adults:

- ✓ Have the right to protection from neglect or abuse
- ✓ Have a positive and enjoyable experience of archery in a safe and supportive environment.

## Procedures

### Promoting Good Practice

Abuse of any kind can produce strong emotions in those facing such a situation. It is essential to understand these feelings, but not to allow them to interfere with your judgement about the appropriate action to take.

Abuse can occur in many situations, including at home, in school and in a sporting environment. Unfortunately, there are some who actively seek employment or voluntary work with children, young people and vulnerable adults in order to harm them. Coaches, Club Officers and Volunteers who have regular contact with children, young people and vulnerable adults can be important links in identifying cases where protection is needed. You should report **all** suspicious cases of poor practice by following the Club's guidelines (further explained in this document and also available on the Club's website).

### Good Practice Guidelines

All members of Bowmen of Darenteford are encouraged to behave appropriately and be a good role model to promote the welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults and to reduce the risk of allegations being made. The following are common-sense examples for creating a positive culture and environment.

Bowmen of Darenteford advocates:

- ✓ Always work in an open environment (i.e. avoid private or unobserved situations).
- ✓ Keeping archery a fun and enjoyable sport!
- ✓ Treat **all** children, young people and vulnerable adults equally, with respect and dignity.
- ✓ The wellbeing of others should always be paramount to winning or achieving goals.
- ✓ Balanced relationships should be built based on trust, giving children and young people the chance to be heard in the decision-making process.
- ✓ Those working with children and young people maintaining safe and appropriate boundaries.
- ✓ Coaches, Club Officers and Volunteers must keep up to date with technical skills, qualifications, sports insurance (where necessary) and all current Archery GB rules and regulations.

- ✓ When working with children, young people and vulnerable adults, involve parents and carers wherever possible.
- ✓ A parent or legal guardian must always accompany their children and young people to and from the Club and remain present.
- ✓ The responsibility for the care, good behaviour and safe conduct of the child / young person remains with the parent or guardian.
- ✓ Make sure that if Juniors are taken to tournaments (i.e. without their parent and by another club member), written consent is given to the adult acting as guardian from the parent with a copy being given to the Club's Welfare Officer.
- ✓ If the Club takes part in a residential event / tournament, adults should not enter children's or young people's room, nor should they invite children or young people into their rooms. This is inappropriate.
- ✓ Members strive to be a good example to children and young people at all times.
- ✓ Coaches should recognise the developmental needs and abilities of individuals and therefore be cautious when developing a coaching strategy for children, young people and vulnerable adults.
- ✓ In all cases of electronic or written communication with children or young people, parents / guardians should always be copied in.
- ✓ Adult club members should not 'friend' or 'follow' children or young people from personal accounts on social media or instant messaging.
- ✓ Adult club members should not communicate with young people via personal accounts or private messages.
- ✓ All children, young people and vulnerable adults must be listened to and have their views considered according to their maturity, age and understanding.

Members of Bowmen of Darenteford are asked to avoid taking on responsibility for tasks they are not appropriately trained for, particularly if they are of a personal nature for children, young people and vulnerable adults. All tasks involving children and young people should only be carried out with the full understanding and permission of the parents and children concerned.

Unless it is an emergency, Bowmen of Darenteford members should avoid spending time alone with children, young people and vulnerable adults. This is to protect you and the child/young person/vulnerable adult. If a situation such as this cannot be avoided, then permission needs to be gained from the individual's parent / guardian.

The following is **never** allowed:

- ✗ Taking part in rough, physical or sexually provocative games.
- ✗ Sharing a room with a child or young person (unless they are your child).
- ✗ Allowing or taking part in any form of inappropriate touching (if you see this, stop it and report it immediately).

- ✘ Make sexually suggestive comments to a child or young person, even if it is “just for fun”.
- ✘ Have a sexual relationship with someone under the age of 18 within the club if you are a member of the Club’s committee or a coach.
- ✘ Reduce another person to tears.
- ✘ Fail to act on and record any allegations made by a child, young person or vulnerable adult to you.
- ✘ Invite or allow children or young people to visit or stay with you away from the Club unsupervised.

### **Responding To & Reporting Concerns**

It is not the responsibility of any member at Bowmen of Darenteford to decide whether abuse has taken place. **It is the responsibility of child protection experts (i.e. Social Services or the Police) to determine whether abuse has taken place, however, it IS everyone’s responsibility to report any concerns.**

Bowmen of Darenteford fully supports all those who report their genuine concerns. Although the Club Welfare & Deputy Welfare Officers will keep a record of any concerns reported, please also make sure you keep a personal record of your concern and how you reported it.

Any matters that give rise to concern of children or young people’s welfare (e.g. poor practice or abuse) will be taken seriously and responded to in an appropriate and timely manner by the Club Welfare & Deputy Welfare Officers.

### ***Incidents that MUST be Reported & Recorded***

If any of the following take place, you should report this immediately to one of the Club Welfare & Deputy Welfare Officers and record the incident using the appropriate incident report form. You should also ensure the parents/guardians/carers are informed if:

- ✓ You accidentally hurt a child/young person/vulnerable adult.
- ✓ They appear to be distressed in any way.
- ✓ They have misunderstood or misinterpreted something you have done.

**If a child, young person or vulnerable adult is in immediate danger or is seriously hurt, you should contact the emergency services immediately on 999.** Following this, report the concern to one of the Club Welfare & Deputy Welfare Officers. Contact details for both the Welfare & Deputy Welfare Officers can be found on the Club’s notice board in the container, in the “Bowmen of Darenteford Code of Good Practice” document and on the final page of this document.

### ***Reporting & Dealing with concerns about poor practice***

If the concern is clearly about poor practice within the club, please report this to one of our Welfare & Deputy Welfare Officers who will deal with it in line with Archery GB policy guidance.

If the concern is about either of the Welfare & Deputy Welfare Officer's poor practice, or if you feel a matter has been handled inadequately and there are still concerns, please report your concerns to our Chairman. The Chairman will then follow the Archery GB guidance policy, reporting it to the relevant Archery GB officer. A copy of Archery GB's policy documents can be found on their website (<https://www.archerygb.org/about-us-structure-safeguard/safeguard/safeguarding-policy-guidance/>)

### ***Reporting & Dealing with concerns about suspected abuse***

Any concern or suspicion that a child, young person or vulnerable adult has been abused should be reported to either of our Welfare & Deputy Welfare Officers immediately. They will take any steps needed to make sure the individual (or any other who may be at risk) is safe.

The wellbeing of the child, young person or vulnerable adult is paramount. It is not up to you or any member at the club to decide whether abuse has taken place. As stated previously, it is the responsibility of child protection experts (i.e. Social Services or the Police) to determine whether abuse has taken place, however, it is everyone's responsibility to report any concerns appropriately.

The Club Welfare & Deputy Welfare Officers will follow the Archery GB guidelines for reporting Concerns About Suspected Abuse. A copy of this policy can be found on Archery GB's website (<https://www.archerygb.org/about-us-structure-safeguard/safeguard/safeguarding-policy-guidance/>).

### ***Disclosure of Potential Previous Abuse***

When abuse happens, it may take some time for the person who has been abused to recognise they have been affected. As such, disclosure of events that may have been abuse may be made some time after the event (e.g. by an adult who was abused as a child or young person).

If this type of disclosure is made, the procedures outlined above should be followed. This is because other children, young people or vulnerable adults (either within or outside archery) may be at risk from the potential perpetrator.

In line with Archery GB regulations, a member of Bowmen of Darenteford (full or associate) will have their membership terminated if information is received by Archery GB or from the relevant government agency indicating the member is guilty of abuse. This will also apply if Archery GB is informed that the relevant member is disqualified from working with children, young people and vulnerable adults.

### **Confidentiality & Storing Information**

In the case of concerns, confidentiality will be upheld in line with the Archery GB guidelines, the Data Protection Act 2018 and the Human Rights Act 1998. The Club will make every effort to ensure that information is only handled by those who need it.



## Coaches, Club Officers & Volunteers

Bowmen of Darenteford strives for its Coaches, Club Officers and Volunteers who work with children, young people and vulnerable adults to be well motivated towards fostering a fun and safe environment for archery.

To ensure the Club remains safe, the following is expected of those who are active within Bowmen of Darenteford:

- ✓ Coaches must complete an Archery GB recognised Children's Safeguarding in Sport course every three years.
- ✓ All active Coaches at Bowmen of Darenteford must obtain a valid Enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check. This is a requirement by Archery GB, Southern Counties Archery Society (SCAS) and Kent Archery Association.
- ✓ The Club Welfare & Deputy Welfare Officers will hold a valid Enhanced DBS check.
- ✓ The Club Welfare & Deputy Welfare Officers must complete a Children's Safeguarding in Sport course, to be renewed every three years.
- ✓ All Club Officers and Volunteers will be aware of the Club's safeguarding policies and will endeavour to uphold these. The other members of the committee will complete a safeguarding course run by the Welfare Officers every three years.

For more information on the Disclosure and Barring Service (formerly known as the Criminal Records Bureau), see <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/disclosure-and-barring-service>.

## Anti-Bullying

**Bowmen of Darenteford does not tolerate the bullying of ANY member by another member.** Bullying can include, but is not limited to:

- Physical:** e.g. pushing, hitting, slapping or kicking (in some cases, this may constitute an assault).
- Verbal:** e.g. racist remarks, threats, homophobic remarks, spreading rumours, teasing, name-calling, ridicule or humiliation.
- Emotional:** e.g. unfriendliness, excluding behaviour, tormenting (both emotionally and physically), sending hurtful messages, ridiculing, humiliating or threatening gestures.
- Harassment:** e.g. using abusive or insulting behaviour with the intent to cause distress or alarm.
- Sexual:** e.g. unwanted physical contact or sexually abusive comments or inappropriate jokes.
- Cyber:** e.g. misuse of online chat forums, abusive or threatening communication via text messaging, instant messaging, social media or calls.



Sports organisations play an integral role for creating a positive environment that challenges bullying. This can be done by giving children and young people the power to understand the effect of bullying and the best way to deal with it.

More information on bullying can be found here: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/what-is-child-abuse/types-of-abuse/bullying-and-cyberbullying/>

## **Whistleblowing**

It is essential that all members of the club have the confidence to come forward to speak or act if they are unhappy with anything.

Whistleblowing is when an individual raises a concern about a wrongdoing, dangerous or illegal activity within their organisation. This can involve sharing potentially vital information (e.g., health and safety risks, environmental factors, harm of children, young people and vulnerable adults, covering up poor practice, etc.). Any of these factors should be dealt with immediately. Bowmen of Darenteford encourages its members to “blow the whistle” on any malpractice within the club as early as possible.

More information and advice with regards to whistle-blowing can be found here: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/reporting-abuse/dedicated-helplines/whistleblowing-advice-line/>.

## **Photography & Filming**

Photographs and videos are great ways to celebrate achievements within archery and we want all our members to feel comfortable with the use of photography and videos at the club. We may wish to post photographs on the club website and social media but would always seek parental permission should a young person be in those photographs.

At Club events and tournaments, members and spectators will be made aware if photographs are being taken. Please speak to whoever is taking pictures at that event if you do not wish for yourself and/or the person you are responsible for to be included.

Photography and videos are often used as a coaching aid. Coaches will always ask the archer’s permission before proceeding to film/photograph an archer. If the archer is under 18, after obtaining the archer’s consent, the coach will ask the parent/guardian for permission. All photography and film captured during coaching sessions will be shared with the archer depicted. If copies are to be sent directly to the archer (who is under 18), they are to be sent via the parent/guardian.

## **Social Media & Online Safety**

The online world has advanced and changed the way people interact and communicate on a regular basis. At Bowmen of Darenteford, we too are using the internet and social media to promote both archery and the club. Although digital media and communication is extremely beneficial for those involved, it does not come without risks, especially to children, young people and vulnerable adults.

More information on how to keep safe online can be found here:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/> .

You can also find Archery GB's "OPP-17-01 Online Safety and Social Media Policy" at <https://www.archerygb.org/about-us-structure-safeguard/safeguard/safeguarding-policy-guidance/> .

## **Mental Health & Wellbeing**

The pandemic, restrictions and social distancing measures have placed a number of additional pressures on young people's mental health and wellbeing. On the lifting of the restrictions, many young people are still experiencing increased feelings of anxiety, low mood or loneliness and some will need additional support at this time.

If your child is struggling with their mental health, there is support and advice on Childline's online coronavirus advice or Young Minds' coronavirus and mental health pages.

<https://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/your-feelings/anxiety-stress-panic/worries-about-the-world/coronavirus/>

<https://www.youngminds.org.uk/young-person/coping-with-life/coronavirus-and-mental-health/>

## Further Information

Bowmen of Darenteford's Code of Good Practice – Safeguarding Children, Young People & Adults is available at [www.darenteford.org/policies/](http://www.darenteford.org/policies/) and a copy is on the Club notice board in the container.

**If you are concerned about a child, young person or vulnerable adult's safety or welfare, please speak with the Club Welfare or Deputy Welfare Officers as soon as possible.** They will follow the Archery GB Policy for Safeguarding Children, Young People and Adults which can be found at <https://www.archerygb.org/about-us-structure-safeguard/safeguard/safeguarding-policy-guidance/>.

**The Club Welfare Officer is:** Daniel Sims  
Email: [darenteford.welfare@gmail.com](mailto:darenteford.welfare@gmail.com)

**The Club Deputy Welfare Officer is:** Leanne Kite  
Email: [deputy.welfare.darenteford@gmail.com](mailto:deputy.welfare.darenteford@gmail.com)

If you think that a child, young person or vulnerable adult is being abused or neglected **outside** of the club environment, you should report your concerns **immediately** to Kent County Council at one of the following:

Kent County Council Report Abuse of a Child (Normal Office Hours):	03000 41 11 11
Kent County Council Report Abuse of an Adult (Normal Office Hours):	03000 41 61 61
Kent County Council Out of Hours / Weekends / Public Holidays:	03000 41 91 91
Email Kent County Council:	<a href="mailto:social.services@kent.gov.uk">social.services@kent.gov.uk</a>

If the young person lives within a different Local Authority, then the concern is to be reported to that Local Authority's Children's Social Care Department.

**If you are seriously concerned about a child, young person or vulnerable adult's immediate safety, always dial 999 and report your concerns to the Police.**

Please remember that **ALL adult** club members have a safeguarding responsibility and to report anything that they may witness to, the Club's Welfare Officers.

For further advice for adults concerned about children and young people, the NSPCC provides a free 24-hour service on **0808 800 5000**. For children and young people seeking advice, ChildLine provide a service on **0800 1111**.

**DO NOT DELAY IN REPORTING A CONCERN!**