



Newry Tennis Club (NTC) Child Safeguarding Statement (CSS)

Section 1 - Club details

Name: Newry Tennis Club (NTC)

Address: Warrenpoint Road, Newry BT34 2PF

Sport: Tennis

Size/Membership: 155 Adults (94 men and 61 women), 58 children and young people.

Business/activities: Provides leisure tennis activities – includes tennis coaching for adults and children, leagues, tennis for leisure, inter-club competitions. Club open days and social events.

Section 2 - Principles to safeguard children from harm.

Newry Tennis Club is committed to safeguarding children and will follow the guidelines and principles set out by Tennis Ireland and enshrined in the policy document “**Safeguarding Guidance for Children and Young People in Tennis**”, Tennis Ireland.

Newry Tennis Club seeks to create a safe environment for young people to grow and develop within sport. Newry Tennis Club seeks to uphold the following principles:

- **Importance of childhood** – The importance of childhood should be understood and valued by everyone involved in tennis
- **Needs of the child** – All children’s sport experiences should be guided by what is best for children. This means that adults should have a basic understanding of the emotional, physical and personal needs of young people.
- **Integrity in relationships** - Adults interacting with children in tennis are in a position of trust and influence. They should always ensure that children are treated with integrity and respect, and the self-esteem of young people is enhanced.
- **Fair Play** - All children’s sports should be conducted in an atmosphere of fair play. The principles of fair play should always be emphasised, and organizers should give clear guidelines regarding acceptable standards of behaviour.
- **Quality atmosphere & ethos** - Children’s sport should be conducted in a safe, positive and encouraging atmosphere.

- **Competition** - Competition is an essential element of tennis and should be encouraged in an age and level appropriate manner. A child-centered ethos will help to ensure that competition and specialisation are kept in their appropriate place.
- **Equality** - All children should be valued and treated in an equitable and fair manner regardless of ability, age, gender, religion, social and ethnic background or political persuasion.

Each of the above principles is a key part of safeguarding children and will be closely adhered to by Newry Tennis Club.

Section 3 - Risk Assessment

Newry Tennis Club takes cognizance of the following areas of potential risk of harm and the likelihood of the risk occurring. The Club has completed risk assessments on these areas and can provide and will follow the required policy, guidance or process documents required to alleviate these risks.

- Club and Coaching Practices.
 - to include coaching qualifications, supervision issues, Photography and Use of Images policy, behavioural issues which include Codes of Conduct, Safeguarding and Complaints procedures.
- Complaints & Discipline.
 - to include Complaints Policy & Disciplinary Procedure, Codes of Conduct.
- Reporting Procedures.
 - to include Codes of Conduct, Safeguarding Policy.
- Use of Facilities.
 - to include Photography and Use of Images policy, Missing Child policy, Safeguarding Policy
- Communications and Social Media
 - to include Safeguarding Statement on display, Photographs and Use of Images Policy, Codes of Conduct
- General Risk of Harm.
 - to include Safeguarding Policy, Child Safeguarding Training, Codes of Conduct

Section 4 – Procedures

NTC will follow the relevant procedures as laid out in the aforementioned safeguarding policy document, **“Safeguarding Guidance for Children and Young People in Tennis”, Tennis Ireland, Sport for Life.**

All these procedures will be made available on request. All club members and committee members have been made aware of these procedures and by signing up to the club they indicate their agreement to abide by these procedures as indicated on the Club application form.

December 2024

A hard copy of these procedures is available in the club house and available also on the Club Facebook and website page.

The Club Chair, Russell Shields Patterson, Club Safeguarding Officers, Eleanor Flanagan and Clare McStay, can be contacted for more information on these procedures.

Russell Shields Patterson: Mob 07934632833

Eleanor Flanagan: Mob 07752816264

Clare McStay: Mob 07762899242

Section 5 – Implementation

It is Newry Tennis Club's priority to keep children safe from harm while availing of the club's activities. We recognise that implementation is an ongoing process. The Club is committed to the implementation of this Child Safeguarding Statement and the procedures that support our intention to keep children safe from harm whilst availing of our activities.

The Child Safeguarding Statement has been implemented by being made available to:

- All committee members
- All coaches and volunteers
- All members of the club
- All parents/guardians,
- Any members of the public or relevant agencies on request

The CSS is displayed in a prominent place on our noticeboard in the club house where members can easily access it. A copy of it is on the NTC Facebook page. It is highlighted on our membership application forms and by the act of signing up to become a member or renewing membership, it is deemed that all members accept the CSS.

This Children Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed regularly in line with Tennis Ireland guidelines.

The Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed on an annual basis

Any queries on the CSS should be directed to the chairperson and Children's Officers whose details are outlined above.

Signed:

Signed:

Russell Shields Patterson
NTC Chairperson

Eleanor Flanagan
NTC Designated Safeguarding Officer

Date:

Date: