



Newry Tennis Club

Safeguarding Policy

This policy applies to all those involved in Newry Tennis Club (NTC) including, but not limited to, coaches, administrators, volunteers, members, parents and young people.

SAFEGUARDING POLICY STATEMENT

NTC is fully committed to safeguarding the well-being of its members. Every individual in the organisation should, at all times, show respect and understanding for their rights, safety and welfare, and conduct themselves in a way that reflects the principles of NTC and the guidelines contained in this policy.

(Please refer to our noticeboard for our Safeguarding Statement)

Safeguarding or Child Protection

The term child protection has been expanded to safeguarding as it reflects the wider responsibility for health and safety and prevention as well as just protection from abuse. The word safeguarding has been used with increasing frequency over the last few years in a wide range of settings and situations, going well beyond the world of children and child protection. It may be defined as “Doing everything possible to minimise the risk of harm to children and young people.” Safeguarding is about being proactive and putting measures in place in advance of any contact with children to ensure that children are going to be kept safe. This could include:

- Ensuring staff / volunteers are properly checked when they are recruited;
- Guidelines for people who come into contact with children as part of their role to ensure they know what they need to do to keep children safe; and
- Guidelines for planning an event or activity with children and putting measures in place to minimise the risk of safeguarding issues occurring.

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, Sport for Life.**

Newry Tennis Club seeks to create a safe environment for young people to grow and develop within sport.

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NTC supports the view that all children's sport should be conducted in an atmosphere of fair play. In this context the club undertakes to adopt the definition of fair play as set out in the European Sports Charter and Code of Ethics, Council of Europe (1993).

"Fair play is much more than playing within the rules. It incorporates the concepts of friendship, respect for others and always playing within the right spirit. Fair play is defined as a way of thinking, not just a way of behaving. It incorporates issues concerned with the elimination of cheating, gamesmanship, doping, violence (both physical and verbal), exploitation, unequal opportunities, excessive commercialism and corruption."

SAFEGUARDING GUIDELINES

The club has adopted the "Safeguarding Guidance for Children and Young People in Tennis", Tennis Ireland, as an integral part of its policy on children in the club.

In order to promote the best practice in children's sport, the club complies with the following guidelines:

- The Club is operated under its constitution. This document has been approved and adopted by the Club Committee and circulated to all members.
- The Club Committee is elected by the club members at each Annual General Meeting in accordance with the procedures set out in the Constitution.
- The roles of the committee members, all sports leaders/coach/es and parents/guardians have been clearly defined.
- The Club appoints a Safeguarding Officer at the AGM, who is a member of the Club Committee.
- In order to ensure best practice throughout the club, the Committee disseminates its code of conduct, including the disciplinary and complaints procedure in operation within the club to all its members. The Club's code of conduct is posted prominently on club premises.
- The Club encourages regular turnover of committee membership while ensuring continuity and experience.
- All club members are given notice of all General Meetings of the club in accordance with the procedures in that regard as set out in the Constitution.
- The minutes of all Club Committee meetings are recorded, adopted as correct and safely filed.

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 as set out in "Safeguarding Guidance for Children and Young People in Tennis", Tennis Ireland

- **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.

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- **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
Code of Conduct for Parents/Guardians 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.

CLUB SAFEGUARDING OFFICERS

Eleanor Flanagan (Committee Member)

Clare McStay

RELATED POLICIES & PROCEDURES

This Policy should be read in conjunction with the other Club Policies & Procedures, such as below:

- Code of Conduct (all members)
- Code of Conduct for Coaches/Volunteers
- Code of Conduct for Parents
- Code of Conduct for Children/Young People