# Safeguarding Policy

**Reporting a Safeguarding Concern procedure**

### Useful Contacts

****Club Welfare officer** – Phil Latham**

**07966 937786 thepower62@hotmail.co.uk**

****British Tennis Services team**: 020 8487 7000**

**Email:** [**safeandinclusive@lta.org.uk**](mailto:safeandinclusive@lta.org.uk)

****NSPCC:** 0808 800 5000**

****Emergency Services**: 999**

****Note: You should inform the parent/carer of the concerned, unless you believe it would put the child/adult at risk, yourself or others at risk****

Concerns arise about the behaviour of a member of staff, coach or volunteer towards a child/children or vulnerable adult. Make a note of anything you/the witness has seen/said, with dates and times

*If you are unable to contact the Welfare Officer or the LTA Safeguarding Team, please contact your Local Authority Children’s Services Team or NSPCC and follow their advice*

Appeal process

Outcome of disciplinary process (e.g. no case to answer, advice or warning/sanction)

Level 2/3 Serious Concern (i.e. suspected abuse)

LTA inform SPC, conduct investigation, inform Police

LTA await outcome of Children’s Social Care or Police investigation (e.g. criminal prosecution, assessment of risk). Full disciplinary investigation undertaken and SPC hearing held. Outcome i.e. removal of coach accreditation, further training, approved for accreditation.

Level 1 (Low level i.e. poor practice)

LTA investigate or tennis Club investigate with support from the LTA

LTA consults with SPC re interim suspension and notifying other organisations. Consultation with Police/LADO and strategy discussion to agree investigative process. Internal Investigation may be delayed pending police enquiries.

Concern dealt with by Club(internal discipline/appeals process). If LTA disciplinary investigation undertaken a hearing is held by LRC/SPC\*

The LTA Safeguarding Team in conjunction with SPC makes decision as to Level of concern.

Club Welfare Officer contacts the Safeguarding Team for advice and guidance and provides the completed Reporting a Concern Form

If your Club Welfare Officer is unavailable please report to the LTA Safeguarding Team for advice and complete Reporting a Concern Form

Medical:

Call an Ambulance

YES

NO

Is there an immediate risk to a young person or vulnerable adult?

Is the Club Welfare Officer available?

Crime/Immediate risk:

Call Police/ Social Services

YES

NO

**\*SPC – Safeguarding and Protection Committee**

**\*LRC – Licensing and Registration Committee**

**Safeguarding Policy**

1. **Policy statement**

The Weald Lawn Tennis & Squash Racquets Club is committed to prioritising the well-being of all children and adults at risk, promoting safeguarding in our Club at all times, including all programmes and events we run. This Policy strives to minimise risk, deliver a positive tennis experience for everyone and respond appropriately to all safeguarding concerns/disclosures.

1. Use of terminology

**Child:** a person under the age of eighteen years.

Note that some legislation in Scotland defines a child as a person under sixteen years old. However, where there is any safeguarding concern, anyone under the age of 18 is regarded as a child unless advised otherwise by the LTA Safeguarding Team .

**Adult at risk of abuse or neglect:** a person aged eighteen years or over who is, or may be, in need of community care services by reason of disability, age or illness; and is, or may be, unable to take care of, or unable to protect him or herself against abuse or neglect.

**Safeguarding children:** protecting children from abuse and neglect, preventing the impairment of children’s health or development, ensuring that they grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care, and taking action to enable all children to have the best life chances.

**Safeguarding adults at risk:** protecting adults from abuse and/or neglect. Enabling adults to maintain control over their lives and make informed choices without coercion. Empowering adults at risk, consulting them before taking action, unless someone lacks the capacity to make a decision, or their mental health poses a risk to their own or someone else’s safety, in which case, always acting in his or her best interests.

(See appendix A for full glossary of terms).

1. **Scope**

This Policy is applicable to all staff, volunteers, Committee Members, Coaches, Club Members and non-members using the Club’s facilities, eg coaching courses or participating in LTA tournaments. It is in line with national legislation and applicable across the UK.

Advice, guidance and support is available from the LTA Safeguarding Team.

1. **Responsibility for the implementation of the Safeguarding Policy and Reporting Procedure**

**SAFEGUARDING IS EVERYONE’S RESPONSIBILITY: NOT RESPONDING TO A SAFEGUARDING CONCERN IS NOT AN OPTION.**

* Our Club’s General Committee has overall accountability for this Policy and its implementation
* Our Club Welfare Officer is responsible for updating this Policy in line with legislative and club developments
* All individuals involved in/present at the Club are required to adhere to the Safeguarding Policy
* The LTA Safeguarding Team and Tennis Scotland, Tennis Wales and Tennis Foundation Safeguarding Leads can offer support to help clubs proactively safeguard.

**Where there is a safeguarding concern/disclosure:**

* The individual who is told about, hears, or is made aware of the concern/disclosure is responsible for following the Reporting a Safeguarding Concern Procedure. Unless someone is in immediate danger, they should inform their Club Welfare Officer, LTA Safeguarding Team or National Safeguarding Lead.
* The Club Welfare Officer is responsible for reporting safeguarding concerns to the LTA Safe Safeguarding Team.
* The LTA Safeguarding Team is responsible for assessing all safeguarding concern/disclosures that are reported to them and working with the Club Welfare Officer and national Safeguarding Leads to follow up as appropriate on a case-by-case basis, prioritising the well-being of the child/ adult at risk at all times. Dependent on the concern/disclosure, a referral may be made to:
* The police in an emergency (999);
* Local Authority Children’s Services [mash@westsussex.gcsx.gov.uk](mailto:mash@westsussex.gcsx.gov.uk), 01403 229900, (Emergency number 03302 226664
* Local Authority Adult Services [socialcare@westsussex.gov.uk, 01243 642121 (Emergency 01243 642425)
* Local Authority Designated Officer (West Sussex) for concerns/disclosures about a member of staff, consultant, coach, official or volunteer LADO@westsussex.gov.uk, 0330 222 6450
* Disclosure and Barring Service (or Disclosure Scotland; Adult Social Work Team or Health and Social Service Department (Channel Islands) for concerns/disclosures about a member of staff, consultant, coach, official or volunteer [customerservices@dbs.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:customerservices@dbs.gsi.gov.uk), 0300 0200190

1. **Breaches of the Safeguarding Policy and Safeguarding Concern Reporting Procedure**

Breaches of this Policy and/or failure to comply with the outlined responsibilities may result in the following:

* Disciplinary action leading to possible exclusion from the Club, dismissal and legal action
* Termination of current and future roles within the Club and roles in other Clubs, the LTA, Tennis Wales, Tennis Scotland and the Tennis Foundation.

Actions taken by players, parents or carers, staff, consultants, volunteers, officials, coaches inside or outside of the Club that are seen to contradict this Policy may be considered a violation of this Policy.

Where an appeal is lodged in response to a safeguarding decision made by the Club, the individual should adhere to the Club’s appeal procedure.

This Policy is reviewed every two years (or earlier if there is a change in national legislation).

This Policy is recommended for approval by:

Club Committee Chair Chris Gray Date: 18 May 2021

Club Welfare Officer Phil Latham Date: 18 May 2021

**Appendix A: Glossary of Terms**

**Safeguarding:** protecting **children and vulnerable adults** from abuse and neglect, preventing the impairment of children’s health or development, ensuring that children are growing up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care, and taking action to enable all children to have the best life chances; enabling **adults at risk** to achieve the outcomes that matter to them in their life; protecting their right to live in safety, free from abuse and neglect. Empowering and supporting them to make choices, stay safe and raise any concerns. Beginning with the assumption that an individual is best-placed to make decisions about their own wellbeing, taking proportional action on their behalf only if someone lacks the capacity to make a decision, they are exposed to a life-threatening risk, someone else may be at risk of harm, or a criminal offence has been committed or is likely to be committed.

**Abuse and neglect**

**Physical abuse:** A form of abuse which may involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning, suffocating or otherwise causing physical harm to a child or adult at risk. Physical harm may also be caused when a parent or carer fabricates the symptoms of, or deliberately induces illness

**Sexual abuse:** Involves forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in abuse sexual activities, not necessarily involving a high level of violence, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. The activities may involve physical contact, including assault by penetration (for example, rape or oral sex) or non-penetrative acts such as masturbation, kissing, rubbing and touching outside of clothing. They may also include non-contact activities, such as involving children in looking at, or in the production of, sexual images, watching sexual activities, encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways, or grooming a child in preparation for abuse (including via the internet). Sexual abuse is not solely perpetrated by adult males. Women can also commit acts of sexual abuse, as can other children

**Emotional abuse:** The persistent emotional maltreatment of a child or adult at risk such as to cause severe and persistent adverse effects on their emotional development. It may involve conveying to a child/ adult at risk that they are worthless or unloved, inadequate, or valued only insofar as they meet the needs of another person; not giving them opportunities to express their views; deliberately silencing them or ‘making fun’ of what they say or how they communicate. It may feature age or developmentally inappropriate expectations being imposed, including interactions that are beyond a child or adult at risk’s developmental capability, as well as overprotection and limitation of exploration and learning, or preventing them participating in normal social interaction. It may involve seeing or hearing the ill-treatment of another. It may involve serious bullying (including cyber bullying), causing a child or adult at risk to feel frightened or in danger, or the exploitation or corruption of children. Some level of emotional abuse is involved in all types of maltreatment of a child, though it may occur alone.

**Neglect:** The persistent failure to meet a child/ adult at risk’s basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of their health or development. It may involve a parent or carer failing to:

1. provide adequate food, clothing and shelter (including exclusion from home or abandonment);
2. protect a child/ adult at risk from physical and emotional harm or danger;
3. ensure adequate supervision (including the use of inadequate care-givers); or
4. ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment.

It may also include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to, a child’s or adult at risk’s basic emotional needs. Neglect may occur during pregnancy as a result of maternal substance abuse.

**Additional examples of abuse and neglect of adults at risk**

**Financial abuse**: having money or property stolen; being defrauded; being put under pressure in relation to money or other property; and having money or other property misused.

**Discriminatory abuse**: treating someone in a less favourable way and causing them harm, because of their age, gender, sexuality, gender identity, disability, socio-economic status, ethnic origin, religion and any other visible or non-visible difference.

**Domestic abuse**: includes physical, sexual, psychological or financial abuse by someone who is, or has been a partner or family member. Includes forced marriage, female genital mutilation and honour-based violence (an act of violence based on the belief that the person has brought shame on their family or culture). Domestic abuse does not necessarily involve physical contact or violence.

**Psychological abuse:** including emotional abuse, threats of harm or abandonment, deprivation of contact, humiliation, blaming, controlling, intimidation, coercion, harassment, verbal abuse, isolation or withdrawal from services or supportive networks.

**Organisational abuse**: where the needs of an individual are not met by an organisation due to a culture of poor practice or abusive behaviour within the organisation.

**Self-neglect:** behaviour which threatens an adult’s personal health or safety (but not that of others). Includes an adult’s decision to not provide themselves with adequate food, clothing, shelter, personal hygiene, or medication (when indicated), or take appropriate safety precautions

**Modern slavery**: encompasses slavery, human trafficking, criminal and sexual exploitation, forced labour and domestic servitude. Traffickers and slave masters use whatever means they have at their disposal to coerce, deceive and force individuals into a life of abuse, servitude and inhumane treatment.

1. A person who is being abused may experience more than one type of abuse
2. Harassment, and bullying are also abusive and can be harmful
3. Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) is now recognised as a form of physical, sexual and emotional abuse that is practised across the UK
4. Child Sexual Exploitation is recognised as a form of sexual abuse in which children are sexually exploited for money, power or status
5. Child trafficking is recognised as child abuse where children are often subject to multiple forms of exploitation. Children are recruited, moved or transported to, or within the UK, then exploited, forced to work or sold
6. People from all cultures are subject to abuse. It cannot be condoned for religious or cultural reasons
7. Abuse can have immediate and long-term impacts on someone’s well-being, including anxiety, depression, substance misuse, eating disorders and self-destructive Conducts, offending and anti-social Conduct
8. Those committing abuse are most often adults, both male and female. However, child-to-child abuse also takes place.

**Appendix B: What to do if a disclosure from a child or adult at risk is made to you:**

1. Reassure the child/adult that s/he is right to report the behaviour
2. Listen carefully and calmly to him/her
3. Keep questions to a minimum – and never ask leading questions
4. Do not promise secrecy. Inform him/her that you must report your conversation to the Club welfare officer (and the police in an emergency) because it is in his/her best interest
5. REPORT IT! If someone is in immediate danger call the police (999), otherwise talk to the LTA Safeguarding Team as soon as possible. Once reported, the Safe and Inclusive Tennis Team will work with you to ensure the safety and well-being of the child/ adult at risk
6. Do not permit personal doubt prevent you from reporting the concern/disclosure
7. Make an immediate objective written record of the conversation using the Reporting a Concern Form (add link). Make certain you distinguish between what the person has actually said and the inferences you may have made. Your report should be sent to the LTA Safeguarding Team within 48 hours of the incident, who will store it safely.

**Appendix C: Reporting a Safeguarding Concern outside the Club Environment**

What to do if you are worried that a child is being abused outside the tennis environment (e.g. at home, school or in the community) but the concern is identified through the child’s involvement in tennis

Member of staff, coach or volunteer made aware of concerns about child or vulnerable adult’s welfare or safety(e.g. suspicions of bullying at school, allegations of abuse within the family etc.)Make a note of anything the person/witness has said, and what you have seen with dates and times

### Useful Contacts

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07966 937786 thepower62@hotmail.co.uk

**British Tennis Services team**: 020 8487 7000

Email: [safeandinclusive@lta.org.uk](mailto:safeandinclusive@lta.org.uk)

**NSPCC**: 0808 800 5000

**Emergency Services**: 999

**Note: You should inform the parent/carer of the concerned, unless you believe it would put the child/adult at risk, yourself or others at risk**

LTA Safeguarding Team consider need for support or advice for original referrer, Club Welfare Officer or others involved.

NO

Is the Club Welfare Officer available?

Complete reporting a concern form and forward to the police/Social care and LTA Safeguarding Team within 24 hours

YES

NO

YES

Call an Ambulance and inform them you have a child/vulnerable adult protection concern

Does the person require immediate attention?

If your Club Welfare Officer is unavailable please contact police/social care without delay. The LTA Safeguarding Team can be contacted for advice during office hours.

Club Welfare Officer reports to local police/Social Care without delay. The LTA Safeguarding Team can be contacted for advice during office hours.