

Buntingford Tennis Club

SAFEGUARDING POLICY

Policy statement Buntingford Tennis 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.

Use of terminology Child: a person under the age of eighteen years. However, where there is any safeguarding concern, anyone under the age of 18 is regarded as a child unless advised otherwise. 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.

This Policy is applicable to all volunteers, committee members, coaches and club members. It is in line with national legislation and applicable across the UK.

Responsibility for the implementation of the Safeguarding Policy, Code of Conduct and Reporting Procedure **SAFEGUARDING IS EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY: NOT RESPONDING TO A SAFEGUARDING CONCERN IS NOT AN OPTION.**

Our club's committee has overall accountability for this Policy and its implementation x All individuals involved in/present at the club are required to adhere to the Policy and Code of Conduct

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 Committee Members, 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); o Local Authority Children's Services 0300 123 4043 o Local Authority Adult Services 0300 123 4042

Breaches of the Safeguarding Policy, Code of Conduct and 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 x Termination of current and future roles within the club and roles in other clubs, 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

Codes of Conduct: All members of the club, players and volunteers agree to:

Prioritise the well-being of all children and adults at risk at all times

Treat all children and adults at risk fairly and with respect

Be a positive role model. Act with integrity, even when no one is looking

Help to create a safe and inclusive environment both on and off court x Not allow any rough or dangerous behaviour, bullying or the use of bad or inappropriate language

Report all allegations of abuse or poor practice to the club Committee Members

Not use any sanctions that humiliate or harm a child or adult at risk

Value and celebrate diversity and make all reasonable efforts to meet individual needs

Keep clear boundaries between professional and personal life, including on social media x Have the relevant consent from parents/carers, children and adults before taking or using photos and videos

Refrain from making physical contact with children or adults unless it is necessary as part of an emergency or congratulatory (e.g. handshake / high five)

Refrain from smoking and consuming alcohol during club activities or coaching sessions

Ensure roles and responsibilities are clearly outlined and everyone has the required information and training

Avoid being alone with a child or adult at risk unless there are exceptional circumstances

Refrain from transporting children or adults at risk, unless this is required as part of a club activity (e.g. away match) and there is another adult in the vehicle

Not abuse, neglect, harm or discriminate against anyone; or act in a way that may be interpreted as such

Not have a relationship with anyone under 18 for whom they are coaching or responsible for.

Not to have a relationship with anyone over 18 whilst continuing to coach or be responsible for them

All players agree to:

Be friendly, supportive and welcoming to other children and adults

Play fairly and honestly

Respect club staff, volunteers and Officials and accept their decisions

Behave, respect and listen to your coach

Take care of your equipment and club property

Respect the rights, dignity and worth of all participants regardless of age, gender, ability, race, culture, religion or sexual identity

Not use bad, inappropriate or racist language, including on social media

Not bully, intimidate or harass anyone, including on social media

Not smoke, drink alcohol or drugs of any kind on club premises or whilst representing the club at competitions or events

Talk to the club Committee about any concerns or worries they have about themselves or others.

Positively reinforce your child and show an interest in their tennis

Use appropriate language at all times

Be realistic and supportive

Never ridicule or admonish a child for making a mistake or losing a match

Treat all children, adults, volunteers, coaches, officials and members of staff with respect

Behave responsibly at the venue; do not embarrass your child

Accept the official's decisions and do not go on court or interfere with matches

Encourage to play by the rules, and teach them that they can only do their best

Adhere to your venue's safeguarding policy, diversity and inclusion policy, rules and regulations

This Policy is recommended for approval by:

Club Committee Chair: Brian Gibson. Club Secretary: Gilly Bowden. Club Treasurer: Jan Woods: Date: 03/03/2019

In an emergency, call the police (999), otherwise talk to the Club Committee Safeguarding Team as soon as possible. Do not let doubt/personal bias prevent you from reporting the allegation. Record details of the disclosure and allegation. 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 Buntingford Committee within 48 hours of the incident. If you do not have access to this document, write down the details using what you have available then sign and date it.

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