



GREAT LINFORD TENNIS CLUB

Child Protection Policy Statement

Great Linford Tennis Club (The Club) will endeavour at all times through its provision of events and activities to:

- promote the welfare, health and full development of children with respect to tennis education and enjoyment and promote fair play
- recognise that children have rights as individuals and treat them with dignity and respect
- plan events and activities so as to minimise opportunities for the children to suffer abuse as defined below
- ensure volunteers are police checked where it is deemed necessary
- a child is defined as anyone who is under the age of 16 years

Protecting children and volunteers

- The Club will have a member on the committee who will handle any issues of child protection as it relates to policy and procedures and as guided by the NSPCC Protection Committee
- Members of The Club Committee will sign up that they have read and agreed the details of the child protection policy statement
- Volunteers need only to be police checked if they are in contact with children, who do not have their parents/carer in attendance, for more than 5 hours per year.
- The Club will only employ coaches from the Milton Keynes list of known coaches. Volunteer coaches will not be used.
- Junior club night will be on a Friday 6pm to 8pm where juniors have priority over older members for use of the courts. This will be unsupervised to minimise the contact time between volunteers and the children. It will be run similar to public hire courts where nobody is in attendance. Parents will be responsible for their own children's safety.

Guidelines

To reduce the likely situations for abuse of children and to help protect the volunteers from false accusations of abuse, everyone should be aware of the following guidelines.

As a general rule it is not sensible to:

- Spend time alone with children away from others
- To take children alone on a car journey, however short
- Take children to their home
- Where occasions arise when it is unavoidable, they should occur with the full knowledge and consent of the child's parent/guardian

Volunteers should not:

- Leave a child alone with someone else other than a Club employee or their parent/carer
- Be alone with the child in a changing room
- Treat a child for an injury alone and away from others
- Allow children to use inappropriate language unchallenged
- Let allegations a child makes go unchallenged or unrecorded

What is Child Abuse?

Child abuse is a term used to describe ways in which children or young people are harmed, usually by adults or peers. It refers to the damage done to a child's or young person's physical, mental or emotional health. Abusive situations arise when adults or peers misuse their power over children or young people. There are 4 main forms of abuse:

- **Physical Abuse:** hurting or injuring a child, for example, by hitting, shaking, burning or biting them. In a sporting context it might also occur if a child is forced to train beyond his/her capabilities, or the intensity of training disregards a disabled persons impairment
- **Sexual Abuse:** occurs when a child knowingly or unknowingly takes part in something that meets the sexual needs of the other person or persons involved. In a sporting context it could involve inappropriate photography or videoing, for the sexual gratification of the viewer
- **Emotional Abuse:** occurs when a child is not given love, help and encouragement and is constantly derided or ridiculed or, perhaps even worse, ignored. Conversely it can also occur if a child is over-protected. In a sporting context this is present in the unrealistic expectations of parents and coaches over what a child can achieve, or the undermining of an athlete through ridicule
- **Neglect:** usually means failing to meet children's basic needs such as food, warmth, adequate clothing, medical attention etc. In a sporting context it may occur if a coach/manager fails to ensure children or young people are safe.