



Dunboyne Tennis Club

Old Kilbride Road, Clonee, Co. Meath. Tel: 085 1537466

Child Safeguarding Policy

This policy applies to all those involved in Dunboyne Tennis Club including, but not limited to, coaches, administrators, officials, volunteer drivers, members, parents and young people.

Child Safeguarding Policy Statement

Dunboyne Lawn Tennis Club is fully committed to safeguarding the well-being of its members. Every individual in the club 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 the club and the guidelines contained in the *Code of Ethics and Good Practice for Children's Sport*.

Article 19 of the *UN Convention on the Rights of the Child* is pertinent here stating that "*Children have the right to be protected from all forms of violence; they must be kept safe from harm, and they must be given proper care by those looking after them*"

Dunboyne Tennis Club agrees that all children's sport should be conducted in an atmosphere of fair play and, in this regard, the club is committed to adopting the definition of fair play as set out in the *European Sports Charter and Code of Ethics, Council of Europe (1993)* which states that:

"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."

The Child Safeguarding standards set by Dunboyne Tennis Club will be achieved through ensuring that the Club:

- Adopts and implements the Code of Ethics and Good Practice for Children's Sport as an integral part of its policy on children in the Club.
- Has its constitution approved and adopted by club members at an AGM or EGM.
- Permits all members over 16 years of age to vote, where possible, in the running of their junior section. One parent/guardian should have one vote for all their children under 16 years of age, where relevant.
- Ensures that the Club Committee is elected or endorsed by registered club members at each AGM.
- Adopts and consistently applies a safe and clearly defined method of recruiting and selecting Sports Leaders.



Dunboyne Tennis Club

Old Kilbride Road, Clonee, Co. Meath. Tel: 085 1537466

Child Safeguarding Policy

- Clearly defines the role of the committee members, all Sports Leaders, parents or guardians.
- Appoints/Reappoints one male and one female children's officer at the AGM as outlined in the *Code of Ethics and Good Practice for Children's Sport*. One of the Children's officers will attend Committee meetings.
- Appoints one of the Children's Officers to act as Designated Liaison Person to liaise with the Statutory Authorities in relation to the reporting of allegations or suspicions of child abuse. Any such reports will be made according to the procedures outlined in the *Code of Ethics and Good Practice for Children's Sport*.
- Ensures best practice throughout the club by disseminating its codes of conduct, including the disciplinary, complaints and appeals procedures in operation within the club to all its members. The club's code of conduct should also be posted in all facilities used by the club
- Has in place procedures for dealing with a concern or complaint made to the Statutory Authorities against a Committee Member or Sports Leader.
- Regulations should stipulate that a Sports Leader who is the subject of an allegation which has been reported to the Statutory Authorities, should stand aside while the matter is being examined. S/he should be invited to resume full duties immediately if s/he is vindicated.
- Ensures that relevant Sports Leaders report to the Club Committee on a regular basis.
- Encourages regular turnover of committee membership while ensuring continuity and experience.
- Develops effective procedures for responding to and recording accidents/incidents.
- Ensures that any unusual activity (high rate of dropout, transfers, etc.) is checked out and reported by the Designated Liaison Person to the Committee.
- Ensures that all club members are given adequate notice of AGMs and other meetings
- Ensures that all minutes of all meetings (AGMs / EGMs / Committees) are recorded and safely filed.



Dunboyne Tennis Club

Old Kilbride Road, Clonee, Co. Meath. Tel: 085 1537466

Child Safeguarding Policy

Dunboyne Tennis Club is committed to ensuring that Sports Leaders are competent to provide safe and rewarding experiences for those in their care and that Sport Leaders are provided with the appropriate training for their activity. Appropriate training and education opportunities will also be made available to club officials, non-coaching staff and parents/guardians as appropriate.

Dunboyne Tennis Club is committed to ensuring that adequate adult supervision of all club activities involving children is provided.

Copies of the full policy and detailed guidelines on recruitment, reporting, recording of accidents or incidents, bullying, away trips and use of photography are available from the Designated Liaison Person or any club official.

Equality Statement

Equality of treatment is a central tenet of Dunboyne Tennis Club's Child Safeguarding Policy in recognising that:

“All children should be valued and treated in an equitable and fair manner regardless of ability, age, sex, religion, social and ethnic background or political persuasion. Children, irrespective of ability or disability should be involved in sports activities in an integrated and inclusive way, whenever possible, thus allowing them to participate to their full potential alongside other children”

(Code of Ethics and Good Practice for Children's Sport 2000)

Dunboyne Tennis Club is cognizant of the additional vulnerability of some children and the extra difficulties they may face when seeking help including:

- Dependency due to disability may make some children feel powerless.
- On occasions possible limited ability to communicate their feelings.
- A negative self-image which can make children vulnerable to manipulation by others.

To address this vulnerability coaches will seek guidance on working with children with a disability from external agencies, parents/guardians and the children themselves.

Confidentiality Statement

Dunboyne Tennis Club recognises that the legal principle that the welfare of the child is paramount means that consideration of confidentiality should not be allowed to override the right of children to be protected from harm. Everyone in our organisation, including children, must be aware that they can never promise to keep secrets.

However, information of a confidential nature will only be communicated on a 'need to know' basis.



Dunboyne Tennis Club

Old Kilbride Road, Clonee, Co. Meath. Tel: 085 1537466

Child Safeguarding Policy

Policy Monitoring and Development

Dunboyne Tennis Club is committed to the continual monitoring and development of its Child Safeguarding Policy in responding to changing circumstances and regulatory requirements.

Safeguarding Documents Schedule

Codes of Conduct

All Coaches and Sports Leaders will be required to read and sign the appropriate Code of Conduct contained in the Appendices to this policy set out below.

Appendices

The following documents underpinning Dunboyne Tennis Club's Child Safeguarding Policy are appended:

- Appendix 1 Child Safeguarding Statement
- Appendix 2 Club Designated Liaison Person - Role and Responsibilities
- Appendix 3 Club Children's Officer - Role and Responsibilities
- Appendix 4 Code of Conduct for Committee
- Appendix 5 Code of Conduct for Parents, Guardians & Carers
- Appendix 6 Code of Conduct for Children and Young People
- Appendix 7 Code of Conduct for Coaches, Sports Leaders & Officials
- Appendix 8 Code of Conduct for Adult Members
- Appendix 9 Anti-discrimination Policy
- Appendix 10 Recruitment Policy & Procedures
- Appendix 11 Coach Education & Access to Training Policy
- Appendix 12 Supervision Policy
- Appendix 13 Travel Policy
- Appendix 14 Photography & Image Usage Policy
- Appendix 15 Anti-Bullying Policy & Procedures
- Appendix 16 Complaints Policy & Procedures
- Appendix 17 Disciplinary, Complaints & Appeals Procedure - Codes of Conduct Breaches
- Appendix 18 Reporting and Protection Procedures - Handling Child Abuse Allegations
- Appendix 19 Communications Policy
- Appendix 20 Social Media Policy
- Appendix 21 Missing Child Policy

References

- *Tennis Ireland - Achieving Compliance in Child Safeguarding*
- *Children First Act (2015)*
- *Children First: National Guidelines for the Protection and Welfare of Children* (Department of Children & Youth Affairs (2017))
- *Code of Ethics & Good Practice for Children* (Irish Sports Council)
- *Safeguarding Guidance for Children & Young People in Sport* (Sport Ireland)
- *Safeguarding Guidance for Children & Young People in Tennis* (Tennis Ireland)