



Dunboyne Tennis Club

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

Child Safeguarding Statement

Section 1 – Club information

- **Name:** Dunboyne Tennis Club
- **Sport:** Tennis
- **Location:** Old Kilbride Road, Clonee, County Meath
- **Activities:** Dunboyne Tennis Club provides tennis activities and opportunities for children and young people through participation in organised tennis activities such as coaching, social tennis, tennis camps and competitions. Dunboyne Tennis Club is committed to safeguarding children and young people. All our volunteers who engage with children work under the guidance and policies of our Safeguarding Policy and seek to create a safe environment for children and young people to participate in Tennis.

Section 2 - Principles to Safeguard Children from Harm

Dunboyne Tennis Club is committed to safeguarding children and, guided by the *Safeguarding Policies of Tennis Ireland, our National Governing Body*, our volunteers, working with young people in our club, seek to create a safe environment for young people to grow and develop within sport.

The following set of principles should be adhered to:

- **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.
- **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 sport should be conducted in an atmosphere of fair play. The principles of fair play should always be emphasised, and organisers 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/organized play is an essential element of tennis and should be encouraged in an age and level appropriate manner. A child centred ethos will help to ensure that competition/specialisation are kept in their appropriate place.
- **Equality** - All children and adults should be valued and treated in an equitable and fair manner regardless of ability, age, gender, sexual orientation, religion, social and ethnic background or political persuasion.



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Section 3 - Risk Assessment

As part of our commitment to child safeguarding, Dunboyne Tennis Club has carried out a Risk Assessment which indicates the areas of potential risk of harm, the likelihood of risk occurring and identifies the required policy, guidance or procedures required to alleviate these risks. The risks identified are contained in the categories set out in Figure 1.

Figure 1: Dunboyne Tennis Club - Risk Assessment

Risk	Managing Risks Club Policies and Procedures
Club and Coaching Practices <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lack of adequate coaching qualification.• Supervision issues.• Unauthorised photography & recording activities.• Behavioural issues• Lack of gender balance among coaches.• Need for guidance for travelling and away trips.• Lack of adherence with miscellaneous procedures in Safeguarding Policy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Coach Education & Training Policy• Recruitment Policy• Supervision Policy• Photography and Image Usage Policy• Codes of Conduct/Safeguarding Training• Disciplinary, Complaints Procedure• Coach Education Policy• Supervision Policy• Travel and Hosting Policy• Child Safeguarding Training• Safeguarding Policy• Disciplinary, Complaints Procedure
Complaints & Discipline <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lack of awareness of Complaints & Disciplinary Policy.• Difficulty in raising an issue by child and/or parent.• Complaints not being dealt with seriously.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Communications Policy• Disciplinary, Complaints Procedure• Disciplinary, Complaints Procedure



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Reporting Procedures

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lack of knowledge of organisational & statutory reporting procedures.• No Designated Liaison Person appointed.• Concerns of abuse or harm not reported.• Not clear whom a child should talk to or report to. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reporting and Protection Procedures• Codes of Conduct• Safeguarding Policy• Safeguarding Policy• Child Safeguarding Training - Level 1• Ensure contact details and photos of Club Children's Officers and Designated Liaison Person are published and displayed on Club notice board |
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Use of Facilities

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Unauthorised access to children's play and practice areas & to changing rooms, showers toilets etc.• Unauthorised exit from children's areas• Photography, filming or recording in prohibited areas• Missing or found child on site.• Children sharing facilities with adults e.g.dressing rooms, showers etc. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Supervision Policy• Coach Education & Training Policy• Supervision Policy• Coach Education Policy & Training Policy• Photography and Image Usage Policy• Missing Child Policy• Child Safeguarding Policy |
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Recruitment

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Recruitment of inappropriate people.• Lack of clarity on roles.• Unqualified or untrained people in role. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Recruitment Policy• Recruitment Policy• Recruitment Policy |
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Communications

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lack of awareness of 'risk of harm' with members and visitors.• No communication of Child Safeguarding Statement or Code of Conduct to members or visitors. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Child Safeguarding Statement• Child Safeguarding Training• Publish Child Safeguarding Statement and display on Club notice board |
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<i>Communications (contd)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Unauthorised photography & recording of activities.• Inappropriate use of social media and communications by under 18's.• Inappropriate use of social media and communications with under 18's.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Photography & Image Usage Policy• Communications Policy• Codes of Conduct• Social Media Policy
<i>General Risk of Harm</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Harm not being recognised.• Harm caused by:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Child to child;○ Coach to Child;○ Volunteer to Child;○ Member to Child; or,○ Visitor to Child.• General behavioural issues.• Issues of Bullying.• Issues of Online Safety.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Child Safeguarding Policy and Safeguarding Training• Child Safeguarding Policy and Safeguarding Training• Codes of Conduct• Anti-Bullying Policy• Social Media Policy

Section 4 – Procedures

The Dunboyne Tennis Club Child Safeguarding Statement has been developed in line with requirements under the Children First Act 2015, (Children First: National Guidance, and Tusla's Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice). The Risk Assessment document described above is supplemented by a number of procedures designed to support Dunboyne Tennis Club's intention to safeguard children while they are availing of our activities.

These safeguarding procedures include the following:

- Procedures for the management of allegations of abuse or misconduct by staff or volunteers against a child availing of our activities;
- Procedures for the safe recruitment of staff and volunteers to work with children in our activities;
- Procedures for access to child safeguarding training and information, including the identification of the occurrence of harm;
- Procedures for reporting of child protection or welfare concerns to Statutory Authorities.
- Procedures for appointing a relevant person; and,
- Procedures for managing trips away and hosting children.

Please note that the procedures listed are available on the Club website and on request from Club Secretary.



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Section 5 - Implementation

Dunboyne Tennis Club is committed to the implementation of this Child Safeguarding Statement and the associated procedures that support our intention to keep children safe from harm while availing of our activities. The statement will be subject of review at least every two years or, as required by changes in legislation, Tennis Ireland guidelines or as a result of significant change or event.

Please note that all volunteers and affiliated stakeholders will be furnished with a copy of this Child Safeguarding Statement. This statement will be displayed in a prominent place in Dunboyne Tennis Club Tennis.

This Child Safeguarding Statement is subject to review on or before 31 August 2025

Signed: Joe O'Leary Date: 20/11/2023 On behalf of Dunboyne Tennis Club.
Name: Joseph O'Leary Position: Chairperson

Signed: Annette McGrath Date: 14/1/2024 On behalf of Dunboyne Tennis Club.
Name: Annette McGrath Position: Designated Liaison Person

Please note that the original signed version of this document is held by the Club and may be accessed on request through the Club Secretary.