



Dunboyne Tennis Club

Child Safeguarding Code of Conduct for Coaches, Sports Leaders & Officials

As a Tennis Coach, Sports Leader or Official at Dunboyne Tennis Club, you are required to comply with the Child Safeguarding Code of Conduct set out below. In this regard, you must sign the declaration confirming your agreement to comply with the Code.

Code of Conduct for Tennis Coaches, Sports Leaders and Officials

In promoting their safety and the safety of young people, Tennis Coaches, Sports Leaders and Officials are required to:

(i) Create a safe and enjoyable environment for children by:

- Planning and preparing appropriately and being positive during sessions.
- Making sure all levels of participation are enjoyable and fun.
- Prioritising skill development and personal satisfaction over highly structured competition.
- Organising age and playing level appropriate organised play and competition and setting realistic goals & challenges.
- Implementing Tennis Ireland's Long Term Player Development Pathway in line with a child's developmental needs at each stage of the pathway.
- Avoiding favouritism – each child will need attention according to their tennis need.
- Praising and encouraging effort as well as results.
- Showing respect for all involved, children and adults.

(ii) Recognise and ensure the welfare of children by:

- Keeping attendance records.
- Not exposing a child to criticism, hostility or sarcasm.
- Never swearing at, ridiculing, shouting unnecessarily or arguing with a child.
- Working in an open environment, ensuring there is adequate supervision.
- Implementing the Club's Child Safeguarding Policy on visits to other clubs.
- Involving and updating parents, especially if a problem has arisen.
- Reporting suspected or alleged abuse to the Club's Designated Liaison Person.

- Respecting a child's sensitivity.
- Never using physical punishment or force.
- Never using verbal or physical punishments or exclusion for mistakes.

In addition, it is imperative that Coaches, Sports Leaders and Officials:

- Do not allow or engage in bullying behaviour, rough physical games, sexually provocative game.
- Do not allow or engage in inappropriate physical contact of any kind or make sexually suggestive comments about or to a child.
- Co-operate with the recommendations from medical and ancillary practitioners in the management of a child's medical or related problems. You may request a certificate of medical fitness to ensure safe continued participation.
- Avoid carrying out any medical testing or giving advice of a personal or medical nature if not qualified to do so or undertake any form of therapy (hypnosis etc.) in the training of children. Any such activity, if qualified, must only be with parent/guardian consent and the understanding of the child.
- Keep any information in relation to a child/young person of a personal or medical nature strictly confidential unless the welfare of the child requires the passing on of this information on a need to know basis.
- Never exert undue influence over a participant in order to obtain personal benefit or reward.
- Acknowledge the incompatibility of the use of drugs, alcohol and tobacco with a healthy approach to sporting activity and discourage such use.
- Avoid the use of alcohol at all times whilst responsible for young people e.g. training sessions, events and on trips with young people.

Declaration:

I have read the Code of Conduct above and agree to abide by the guidelines as set out in the code.

Name of Coach/Sports Leader/Official
(Please print)

Signature of Coach/Sports Leader/Official

Date: _____