



Dunboyne Tennis Club

Old Kilbride Road, Clonee, Co. Meath.

Child Safeguarding Role of Designated Liaison Person

Designated Liaison Person (DLP)

The appointment of a Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is a statutory requirement, not only of clubs, but also of Tennis Ireland, as our national governing body, and its stakeholders. The DLP may or may not also fulfil the role of Club Children's Officer.

Essentially, the DLP is a resource for volunteers/coaches and is responsible for ensuring that the Club's reporting procedures in respect of any child safeguarding/protection concerns arising are strictly followed. The DLP will in certain circumstances report suspected cases of child abuse to the Duty Social Worker in the Child and Family Agency/Túsla or to An Garda Síochana.

Given the importance of this role, the DLP is required to undertake training provided under the Safeguarding 1 (Basic Awareness Workshop in Child Welfare and Protection) and Safeguarding 3 (Designated Liaison Person Workshop) programmes. Knowledge of the Safeguarding Code and relevant child protection legislation (Children First Act 2015 (ROI)/National Vetting Bureau Act 2012-2016) are fundamental requirements for this role.

In addition, the position of DLP requires the person to be trustworthy, discreet, impartial and sensitive as they will be required to handle and manage confidential material.

Role and Responsibilities - Designated Liaison Person

The Club's Designated Liaison Person is required to:

- Receive reports from club members (Senior or Junior) regarding suspected or known child abuse.
- Assess such reports and to seek advice from the HSE/Tusla with regard to the particular circumstances.
- Make formal reports to the HSE and/or to the Garda Síochána regarding suspected or known child abuse.
- Inform the Chairperson of the club that such a report has been made or advice sought (without disclosing any of the details of the incident).
- Inform the family of an alleged victim of his/her intention to make such a report. (unless doing so would endanger the child or undermine an investigation)
- Assist the Chairperson and other Club Officers in relation to any internal procedures where an allegation concerns a Coach, Volunteer, Club Employee or Sports Leader.

Desirable Qualities and Skills.

The Designated Liaison Person is required to have:

- Good communication and listening skills, be approachable and non-judgmental.
- Knowledge of child welfare and protection codes and guidelines (which will be acquired through appropriate training).



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If in doubt, members should always contact the Designated Liaison Person to discuss any child safeguarding matter of concern. The Designated Liaison Person who will then deal with the matter as they see fit.

It is important to realise that it is not the responsibility of anyone working within Dunboyne Tennis Club, in a paid or voluntary capacity, to take responsibility or decide whether or not child abuse is taking place. Such a role is fulfilled by the Statutory Authorities. However, there is a responsibility to protect children by assisting the appropriate agencies so that they can then make enquiries and take any necessary action to protect the young person.

Details of the club's current Designated Liaison Person are displayed on the Notice Board and can be obtained from any member of the Club Committee.