



## **Code of Practice for Parents and Guardians**

Leatherhead Tennis Club is fully committed to safeguarding and promoting the well-being of all its members. The club believes that it is important that members, coaches, administrators and parents/guardians associated with the club should, at all times, show respect and understanding for the safety and welfare of others. Therefore, members are encouraged to be open at all times and to share any concerns or complaints that they may have about any aspect of the club with any member of the committee.

As a member/parent/guardian of Leatherhead Lawn Tennis Club you are expected to abide by the following code of practice based on that of the LTA:

### *1. Ensure safety and security*

- Always ensure your child has adequate adult supervision at all times while on the club's premises. Other adult players are not there to supervise and may leave early. If your child is the last to leave the club, please ensure that the clubhouse door and the court/club gates have been locked.
- Children and younger juniors must not be left unsupervised in the clubhouse.
- Juniors aged 16/17 may be given the internal access code at your discretion – see the 'Access Policy for Juniors'.

### *2. Provide encouragement and support enjoyment of the game*

- Never force your child to take part in sport
- Support your child's involvement and help them to enjoy their sport
- Help your child recognise good performance, not just results
- Your first question following any match should be: "Did you enjoy it?" not "Did you win?"

### *3. Encourage fair play*

- Encourage your child to learn the rules of tennis and play within them
- Discourage unfair play and arguing with officials
- Set a good example by recognising fair play and applauding the good performances of all
- Publicly accept judgements made by officials. At no stage should you communicate with your child or interfere with the on-court helpers and referees during a match – just enjoy the game and let officials take care of the rules!

### *4. Be patient with progress*

- Steady progression is unusual in children; peaks and plateaus are common.
- Allow your child to play in the ball colour stage that is appropriate to them. This will ensure they enjoy playing the game, develop their skills and gain confidence. Purchase balls and rackets that match the stage your child is in.

### *5. Tournaments, competitions and matches*

- Parents / family may encourage but are not allowed to coach during matches
- Parents / family must respect opponents and their families and avoid bad language and aggressive and unsporting behaviour.