

Minehead Lawn Tennis Club Safeguarding Policy

Minehead Lawn Tennis Club acknowledges the duty of care to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and adults at risk. For the purposes of safeguarding the following definitions apply:-

Child: a person under the age of eighteen years.

Adult at risk of abuse or neglect: a person aged eighteen years or over who is, or may be, in need of community care services by reason of disability, age or illness; and is, or may be, unable to take care of, or unable to protect him or herself against abuse or neglect.

The club is committed to ensuring safeguarding practice reflects statutory responsibilities, government guidance and complies with best practice and LTA requirements.

The club's safeguarding policy recognises that the welfare and interests of children and adults at risk are paramount in all circumstances. It aims to ensure that regardless of age, ability or disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation, socio-economic background, all children:

- have a positive and enjoyable experience of tennis at Minehead Lawn Tennis Club in a safe and inclusive environment.
- are protected from abuse whilst participating in tennis.

Minehead Lawn Tennis Club acknowledges that some children, including disabled children and young people or those from ethnic minority communities, can be particularly vulnerable to abuse and we accept the responsibility to take reasonable and appropriate steps to ensure their welfare.

As part of our safeguarding policy Minehead Lawn Tennis Club will:

- promote and prioritise the safety and well-being of children and adults at risk.
- ensure everyone understands their roles and responsibilities in respect of safeguarding and is provided with appropriate learning opportunities to recognise, identify and respond to signs of abuse, neglect and other safeguarding concerns relating to children and adults at risk.
- encourage and maintain a culture where people feel able to raise a genuine safeguarding concern and are confident that it will be taken seriously.
- ensure appropriate action is taken in the event of incidents/concerns of abuse and support provided to the individual/s who raise or disclose the concern.
- ensure that confidential, detailed and accurate records of all safeguarding concerns are maintained and securely stored.
- prevent the employment/deployment of unsuitable individuals.
- ensure robust safeguarding arrangements and procedures are in operation.

The Club's Welfare Officer, Rick Boxer, can be contacted on *07859046365* or *01643 707027*.

The club's policy and procedures will be widely promoted and are mandatory for everyone involved in Minehead Lawn Tennis Club. Failure to comply with the policy and procedures will be addressed and may result in dismissal and exclusion from the club.

Responsibility for the implementation of the Safeguarding Policy, Code of Conduct and Reporting Procedure

SAFEGUARDING IS EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY: NOT RESPONDING TO A SAFEGUARDING CONCERN IS NOT AN OPTION.

- Our club's committee has overall accountability for this Policy and its implementation.
- Our club Welfare Officer is responsible for updating this Policy in line with legislative and club developments.
- All individuals involved in/present at the club are required to adhere to the Policy and Code of Conduct

- The LTA Safeguarding Team and Tennis Scotland, Tennis Wales and Tennis Foundation Safeguarding Leads can offer support to help clubs proactively safeguard.

Where there is a safeguarding concern/disclosure:

- The individual who is told about, hears, or is made aware of the concern/disclosure is responsible for immediately reporting a safeguarding concern. Unless someone is in immediate danger, they should inform their club Welfare Officer, LTA Safeguarding Team or National Safeguarding Lead. In the case of immediate danger the appropriate emergency service must be contacted.
- The club Welfare Officer and Safeguarding Leads are responsible for reporting safeguarding concerns to the LTA Safe Safeguarding Team.
- The LTA Safeguarding Team is responsible for assessing all safeguarding concern/disclosures that are reported to them and working with the club Welfare Officer and national Safeguarding Leads to follow up as appropriate on a case-by-case basis, prioritising the well-being of the child or adult at risk at all times. Dependent on the concern/disclosure, a referral may be made to:
 - The police. (999);
 - Local Authority Children's Services 0300 123 2224
 - Local Authority Adult Services 0300 123 2224
 - Designated Officer (England only) for concerns/disclosures about a member of staff, consultant, coach, official or volunteer *Claire Winter* – 01823 357823
 - Disclosure and Barring Service (or Disclosure Scotland; Adult Social Work Team or Health and Social Service Department (Channel Islands) for concerns/disclosures about a member of staff, consultant, coach, official or volunteer 03000 200 190

Whistleblowing

Anyone who does not feel comfortable or has difficulty raising a concern with the Club Welfare Officer should immediately contact the LTA Safeguarding Team directly on 020 8487 7000, the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) or the NSPCC on 0808 800 5000.

Monitoring

The club's safeguarding policy will be reviewed every two years, or sooner in the following circumstances:

- changes in legislation and/or government guidance
- as required by the Local Safeguarding Children Board or LTA
- as a result of any other significant change or event.

10/03/21