

# SIX BELLS PARK COMMUNITY TENNIS - SAFEGUARDING POLICY

## INTRODUCTION

Six Bells Park Community Tennis understands that it has a duty of care as well as a legal and moral responsibility to safeguard the welfare of every child who we come into contact with. We are committed to working to provide a safe environment and an enjoyable experience for all our members. We acknowledge that all children have a right to protection and we must take into account the needs of those who may be particularly vulnerable.

A child is defined as a person under the age of 18 (The Children's Act 1989).

## KEY PRINCIPLES

- A child's welfare is and must always be the paramount consideration.
- Safeguarding and protecting is everyone's responsibility and the children's welfare is paramount at all times.
- All children (regardless of their age, ethnic origin, gender, race, religion, sexual orientation, ability or disability) have a right to be protected from abuse.
- Volunteering should be fun, safe and a positive experience for all children.
- All Suspicions and allegations of abuse or poor practice will be taken seriously and responded to promptly and appropriately.
- It is the responsibility of the Safeguarding experts to determine whether or not abuse has taken place but is everyone's responsibility to report any concerns.

## ROLE OF SIX BELLS PARK COMMUNITY TENNIS

Six Bells Park Community Tennis understands it has an important role to play in safeguarding the welfare of the children and young people by protecting them from all forms of abuse, including sexual or emotional harm and neglect or bullying. In this role we will provide children and young people with appropriate safety and protection whilst carrying out any activities with the club. We will ensure the safety and protection of all children and young people involved in the club by following the Wales Safeguarding procedures.

## RECRUITMENT

If there are concerns regarding the appropriateness of an individual who is currently involved or seeking to become involved with the club we would take advice from the local safeguarding board or Blaenau Gwent Social Services.

We will ensure that all people having contact with children are provided with support and guidance which shall allow members to make informed and confident responses to specific child protection issues as well as be aware of, the Wales Safeguarding procedures.

We shall make all members aware of the potential for the development of the relationship of trust between themselves and young and vulnerable people, and the consequences inherent in the accidental or intentional abuse of that relationship.

## WHISTLE-BLOWING

If we have concerns about a member we would report these concerns to the Local Safeguarding board.

## **ANTI-BULLYING**

Bullying of any kind is not accepted at in our club and we will work together to ensure all forms of bullying is addressed. If bullying does occur, volunteers and/or parents/guardians should be able to share their concerns and be assured that bullying will be dealt with seriously and swiftly.

## **SAFEGUARDING OFFICER**

We have a safeguarding officer for the group who has attended and delivers safeguarding training.

## **REPORTING YOUR CONCERNS**

Safeguarding children is everyone's responsibility. If you are worried about a child, you must report your concerns; this should be to the Welfare Officer. If the concern is of a more serious nature, such as possible abuse, where possible, inform the Welfare Officer, and proceed to contact Social Services or the Police immediately. The Welfare Officer is Lynne Pratten. [Sixbellstennis.welfareofficer@aol.com](mailto:Sixbellstennis.welfareofficer@aol.com)

The child's welfare is paramount, ensure they are safe and if medical treatment is required, take them to hospital or call an ambulance and advise the doctor this is a child protection concern.

If you are unable to contact our Welfare Officer or in a situation where the matter is clearly serious, contact either the Police or Social Services.

## **FURTHER INFORMATION**

If you think a child or young person is in immediate danger, then contact the Police on 999.

Wales Safeguarding procedures can be accessed here: <https://www.safeguarding.wales/>

Blaenau Gwent Social Services: 01495 311556

Blaenau Gwent, Tel: 01495 315700 - Email: [DutyTeam@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk](mailto:DutyTeam@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk)

After 5pm and on weekends and bank holidays please contact the Southeast Wales Emergency Duty Team on 0800 328 4432.

Gwent Safeguarding by visiting [www.gwentsafeguarding.org.uk/en](http://www.gwentsafeguarding.org.uk/en)

Gwent Safeguarding Board: 01443 86 4373/ 4546/4670

Please also let the LTA know of any concerns by using our secure form which can be found at [www.lta.org.uk/safeguarding](http://www.lta.org.uk/safeguarding)