

STRATHBLANE LAWN TENNIS CLUB

Welfare/Child Protection Policy

Strathblane Tennis Club aims to create an enjoyable environment for all juniors who wish to take part in tennis, other sport and social activities at the club. The policy applies equally to vulnerable adults.

We believe that children and young people have the right to be safe, secure and free from threat.

We believe that young people have the right to be treated with respect, and to have their concerns listened to and acted upon.

We will ensure that the club provides for the needs of junior members through specific programmes, designated facilities, and safe practice.

We have procedures in place to address poor practice, and to help any young person who appears to be at risk, or who appears to be the victim of abuse.

We will offer help and support when a child or young person tells us that they are affected by these issues.

We will take steps to ensure that any club volunteers or professionals working with children are suitable to do so, through the use of references and background checks. We will ensure that all relevant people have been vetted and approved through the applicable Disclosure process.

We will ensure that all of those working with children are made aware of the LTA Code of Conduct for People Working with Children in Tennis, and are required to follow it.

Club Welfare Officer (Child Protection Officer)

The club has an adult member who is specifically responsible for children, young people and child protection. This person is

John Gray, Tel.: 01360 771031, Mobile: 07860 945348, Email: john@kirkburndrive.net

Alternative Contact: Laura Nicholson, Tel Home: 01877 382803

Tennis Scotland Child Protection Officer

Mat Hulbert, Tel: 0131-444 4154, Mobile: 07949 500458

Email: Childprotection@tennisscotland.org

LTA Child Protection Department

Tel: 0208 487 7008/7116, Mobile (24 hour): 07971 141 024

Email: childprotection@lta.org.uk

Stirling Social Work Department

Tel 01786 471177.

Out-of-office hours, Forth Valley Emergency Social work Service on 01786 470500.

Police Scotland

Tel. 101 – Or of course 999

STRATHBLANE LAWN TENNIS CLUB

Code of conduct for people working with children (and vulnerable adults)

Children and young people are able to play tennis because of the thousands of adults, both paid and unpaid, who provide opportunities for them to do so. All of these adults have special responsibilities to the children they work with. This code of conduct provides clear guidance on the types of practice that will meet these responsibilities. Good conduct not only prevents incidents and allegations, but also helps to highlight any conduct (by other people) that is unsafe or unprofessional. "Child" includes anyone under the age of 18. The same guidance applies to vulnerable adults.

Those working with children in tennis should:

1. Be professional and maintain the highest standards of personal behaviour at all times.
2. Recognise the trust placed in adults by children, and recognise the power held over children by adults. Treat this trust and this power with the highest responsibility.
3. Try to work in an open and accountable manner at all times. Work in view of others wherever possible, be wary of working alone and unobserved, and be willing to accept questions or criticism regarding good practice.
4. Expect others to work in an open and accountable manner. Question and criticise the practice of others if necessary.
5. Maintain a professional relationship with children. Any form of sexual relationship or activity with a child is unacceptable and could lead to disciplinary or legal action.
6. Not be under the influence of drink, drugs or any illegal substance.
7. Use appropriate and respectful forms of discipline and communication. Physical aggression, intimidation, verbal abuse and persistent shouting are not acceptable. Any form of assault (e.g. Hitting, kicking, pinching, slapping) should be regarded as a serious incident.
8. Use appropriate language. Don't swear, and never make sexual or suggestive comments to a child. If a child makes such comments, be prepared to enforce these boundaries in your response.
9. Not appear to favour one child or show interest in one child more than another.
10. Not discriminate against a child because of their age, gender, disability, culture, language, racial origin, religious belief or sexual identity.
11. Use physical contact with players only where necessary. If contact is necessary, (e.g. For the purposes of coaching or first aid), then explain to the child what the contact is for, and change your approach if he or she appears uncomfortable.
12. Design and use training methods and training programmes that are appropriate to the individual child.
13. Be aware of situations that could be misunderstood or manipulated by other adults. For example, if a coach or official is alone with a child in a clubhouse, changing room or car, he or she may be vulnerable to allegations of misconduct.
14. Be vigilant and aware of how actions can be misinterpreted by children. Actions made with good intentions can seem intrusive or intimidating to some children. Sometimes children become attracted to the adults working with them. Adults should be aware of the impact of their actions, and should sensitively address any misunderstanding.

If a concern about a child's welfare comes to your attention:

15. Take seriously any suspicion or allegation of abuse, or any disclosure of concern made by a child (or adult).
16. If a concern comes to your attention, record information, including relevant details. Be sure to record opinions or feelings as such; do not record them as facts. Do not question or interview the people involved in the incident of concern.
17. Report any concerns within the area of Child Protection (physical, emotional or sexual abuse, neglect or bullying), in confidence and without delay, to your club, county or LTA Welfare Officer (Child Protection Officer (CPO)). If CPOs cannot be contacted and there appears to be an immediate risk, contact the police or your local social services.
18. Never discuss an allegation or suspicion with another person, (other than the police or social services), before receiving advice from the club, county or LTA Child Protection Officer.

Remember that it is the responsibility of all adults to safeguard children in sport. By recognising, following and discussing the principles behind this code, you are helping to make bad practice and abuse unwelcome in tennis.

Key Contacts

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For more information on issues like these, see the range of guidance resources produced by

Tennis Scotland Child Protection Department www.lta.org.uk/in-your-area/Scotland/Resources/Resource-Category/?SubFolderPath=Child+Protection

LTA Child Protection Department. www.LTA.org.uk/childprotection