

Woodthorpe Tennis Club

Anti Bullying Policy

Approved by Club Committee: April 2024

Next review date: April 2026

Purpose and Scope

Woodthorpe Tennis Club strives to ensure that all children (anyone under 18 years) and vulnerable adults are safeguarded from abuse and have an enjoyable tennis experience at the club. As a club we are committed to providing a safe and friendly environment for everyone to enjoy. We do not tolerate bullying and we will challenge any bullying that may occur.

This policy describes what bullying is, what to do if you believe a club member, child or adult is being bullied, and how the club will respond.

Bullying can affect anyone, adults and children, and can be very serious if left unchecked..

This policy applies to all club members, coaches and adults associated with the club, such as parents of junior members.

What is bullying?

Bullying causes real distress. It can affect a person's physical health and emotional well-being, and in extreme cases can cause serious harm.

Anyone can be a victim of bullying but it is particularly important to protect children and adults at risk. Bullying is often targeted at people who are vulnerable for any reason, including age, disability, race, gender, religion, sexual orientation.

Everyone in the club has a role to play in preventing bullying of any type, including online.

Some examples of bullying

Bullying can be a range of different behaviours that are repeated and intended to cause the other person harm, with physical harm or emotional harm. Bullying can be verbal, physical or online. The club's Online Safety and Communication Policy has more detail.

These are some of the behaviours that, if they are repeated and intended to cause harm or distress could be described as bullying:

Name calling

Shouting in an aggressive way

Causing physical harm by e.g. pinching or pushing

Sexual harassment or name calling

Deliberately embarrassing or criticising someone in front of others or online

How we will help to prevent bullying

As a club we will:

Recognise that bullying is closely linked to safeguarding, and we have a duty of care to address it

Recognise and value diversity at the club

Make club members aware of this anti bullying policy

Take action to respond to any complaints of possible bullying. In taking action we will make sure the needs of everyone affected are considered.

Promote the club code of conduct for children and the club code of conduct for adults. Both of these reflect help make the club positive, friendly and welcoming to all.

Responsibility of members, coaches, players and parents

Encourage individuals to speak out about bullying behaviours and contact the Welfare Officer if they think bullying is taking place or may be taking place.

All adult members should read the club code of conduct and abide by it.

All junior members should read the junior code of conduct and abide by it. Parents should explain the junior code of conduct to their child if necessary.

The Welfare Officer will make sure that any concerns about bullying are listened to and taken seriously. Any actions resulting from a bullying concern will be discussed with all those involved, wherever possible we will aim to resolve the situation to enable everyone involved to continue to enjoy playing at the club. In some cases, bullying may be serious enough to be a safeguarding issue - if this is the case the Welfare Officer will follow the safeguarding policy and explain the process to everyone involved.

If, because of a bullying concern, an adult's behaviour is considered to be in breach of the club code of conduct, the club disciplinary process will be actioned as necessary.

Related Policies and Procedures

This policy sits alongside other club policies and procedures as follows:

Codes of conduct - adult and junior

Safeguarding policies - adult and children

Diversity and inclusion policy

Online safety and communication policy

Photography and filming policy

Use of changing rooms policy

Whistleblowing policy

Useful contacts and information

NSPCC helpline 0808800500

Childline 0800 1111 www.childline.org.uk

Kidscape www.kidscape.org.uk

Anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk

National Bullying Helpline 0300 323 0169