

Woodthorpe Tennis Club

Whistleblowing Policy

Approved by Club Committee: April 2024

Next review date: April 2026

Woodthorpe Tennis Club is fully committed to being open and responsive to all concerns that are raised relating to the safe and proper running of the club. This includes, but is not limited to safeguarding and also covers any serious concerns about other issues or behaviours at the club. This could, for example, include abuse of the club's finances or other resources for personal gain.

This policy can be used by any member of the club, or any adult closely associated with the club, for example a parent of a junior member or a coach.

A Whistleblowing Policy is important in order for the club to assure itself that safeguarding or any other serious concerns are acted on in a timely and correct way. For this reason, as well as whistleblowing being included in the club's overarching safeguarding policy, we have this stand-alone policy.

Whistleblowing could be important in the following possible circumstances:

- The club does not maintain a clear safeguarding policy that can be followed by anyone with a concern
- A member is concerned that a safeguarding issue has not been acted on, or dealt with fully or properly, in line with the club's policy
- A member is concerned that there may be repercussions from raising a safeguarding or other concern and so is reluctant to do it through normal channels
- A member has raised a serious concern about a non-safeguarding matter that s/he feels has not been fully or properly addressed

It is important to understand that sometimes, either through error, a lack of understanding or a reluctance to act for any other reason, a safeguarding or other concern could be disregarded or not fully investigated. This policy aims to minimise that risk. The club encourages anyone to use this policy if they have any concerns that a safeguarding or other serious issue has not been fully or properly addressed.

In most cases it will be appropriate for the whistleblower to raise the concern with the Welfare Officer in the first instance. The Welfare Officer will then report the reason for the concern to the committee and agree to the necessary action to be taken, which will then be communicated back to the whistleblower. The Welfare Officer will also inform the LTA regional safeguarding lead of the whistleblowing concern, even if this is not normally required. This is to ensure full transparency and give the whistleblower added reassurance that the matter will be acted on appropriately.

If the whistleblower does not feel able to raise the matter with the club Welfare Officer for any reason, then s/he should report it directly to the Chair of the committee. If the whistleblower also feels unable to raise the matter with the committee Chair, then s/he should refer it to the LTA safeguarding team who will ensure the necessary action is taken. The LTA safeguarding team can be contacted on safeguarding@lta.org.uk. There is a link to a reporting form for safeguarding concerns in the club safeguarding policy or online at <https://safeguardingconcern.lta.org.uk>.

Alternatively, if the whistleblower considers that neither the club nor the LTA are appropriate then s/he should report the matter to an organisation called Safecall. Safecall is an independent, confidential and, if required, anonymous reporting service provided by the LTA if there are serious concerns about any of the following:

- Safeguarding issues
- Criminal offences including fraud
- Failure to comply with legal obligations
- Possible miscarriage of justice
- Endangering someone's health or safety
- Damage to the environment
- Covering up of any wrongdoing or failure to act on any serious matter

If in doubt, contact Safecall

The contact number for Safecall is 0800 915 1571

Safecall can also be contacted online www.safecall.co.uk/report