

Child Safeguarding Statement

Section 1

The Club

Leixlip Tennis Club, Collinstown, Leixlip, Co. Kildare provides tennis activities and opportunities for children and young people, through participation in organised tennis activities, such as coaching, social tennis, tennis camps and competitions. The Club is committed to safeguarding children and young people. All our volunteers who engage with children work under the guidance and policies of our Safeguarding Code and seek to create a safe environment for children and young people to participate in Tennis.

Vision, Mission Statement, and Aims of Leixlip Tennis Club

Our vision is for a vibrant, healthy, and progressive club that thrives on providing enjoyable tennis playing opportunities. Our mission is to promote and encourage the playing and enjoyment of tennis for all ages, abilities, and backgrounds for the people of Leixlip and the visiting public. Our values are:

- To be welcoming to all ages, abilities, and backgrounds.
- To provide an atmosphere of positive encouragement to all those wanting to play tennis.
- To have a progressive and contemporary approach to promoting the sport and the Club.
- To demonstrate financial propriety.
- To be safety conscious & accountably protective towards children and youth.
- To promote continuous improvement of the Club and its facilities.

Our aims are:

- To contribute to the health and vitality of Leixlip by raising the profile of tennis and making the sport more readily accessible to the local community.
- To provide a welcoming, safe, responsible & relaxing atmosphere for Club members and visitors.
- To encourage more people, particularly young people, to play tennis and contribute to the running and vitality of the Club.
- To facilitate opportunities for people to develop their tennis playing abilities and to progress in the sport.
- To maintain and enhance the quality of tennis playing facilities, and keep under review future short and long-term development opportunities.



Section 2

Principles to Safeguard Children from Harm

Leixlip Tennis Club is committed to safeguarding children and by working within the guidance of the National Governing Body, Tennis Ireland Safeguarding Policies, our volunteers and those engaged who work with young people in our club, seek to create a safe environment for young people to grow and develop within our sport.

The following set of principles apply:

- **Importance of childhood** - The importance of childhood should be understood and valued by everyone involved in tennis.
- **Needs of the child** - All children's sport experiences should be guided by what is best for children. This means that adults should have a basic understanding of the emotional, physical and personal needs of young people.
- **Integrity in relationships** - Adults interacting with children in tennis are in a position of trust and influence. They should always ensure that children are treated with integrity and respect, and the self-esteem of young people is enhanced.
- **Fair Play** - All children's sport should be conducted in an atmosphere of fair play. The principles of fair play should always be emphasised, and organisers should give clear guidelines regarding acceptable standards of behaviour.
- **Quality atmosphere & ethos** - Children's sport should be conducted in a safe, positive and encouraging atmosphere.
- **Competition** – Competition/organized play is an essential element of tennis and should be encouraged in an age and level appropriate manner. A child centred ethos will help to ensure that competition and specialisation are kept in their appropriate place
- **Equality** - All children and adults should be valued and treated in an equitable and fair manner regardless of ability, age, gender, religion, social and ethnic background or political persuasion.

Procedures for Safeguarding Children from Harm

The following procedures are in place as part of our Safeguarding Policies:

- Procedures for the management of allegations of abuse or misconduct by staff or volunteers against a child availing of our activities.
- Procedures for the safe recruitment of volunteers to work with children in our activities.
- Procedures for access to child safeguarding training and information, including the identification of the occurrence of harm.





- Procedure for reporting of child protection or welfare concerns to Statutory Authorities.
- Procedure for maintaining a list of the persons (if any) in the relevant service who are mandated persons.
- Procedure for appointing a relevant person.

The Relevant Person for Leixlip Tennis Club is the Club DLP or Club Chairperson

Please note that all procedures listed are available on request.

Important Note

This Child Safeguarding Statement has been developed in line with requirements under the Children First Act 2015, (the Children First: National Guidance, and Tusla's Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice.

Statutory Contacts in the Republic of Ireland: TUSLA-Child & Family Agency

If you have any concerns about a child it should be reported to the Child & Family Agency
<http://www.tusla.ie/services/child-protection-welfare/contact-a-social-worker/>

Any query or concern in relation to children out of hours should be reported immediately to An Garda Síochana

Club Statement

Our Club is committed to the implementation of this Child Safeguarding Statement and the procedures that support our intention to keep children safe from harm while availing of our activities.

This statement is available to parents/guardians, the Child and Family Agency and members of the public on request.

This statement will be displayed in a prominent place by Leixlip Tennis Club

For queries on this Child Safeguarding Statement, please contact:

Brian Donohoe
Children's Officer/ Designated Liaison Person
086 8129020





Child Safeguarding Statement*

This Child Safeguarding Statement has been approved by the Leixlip Tennis Club Executive Committee.

This Child Safeguarding Statement will reviewed and/or updated as appropriate on or before 31 July each year.

**Date Approved by
Committee**

Chairperson

**Chairperson
Signature**

Date

Children's Officer

**Children's Officer
Signature**

Date:

**Hard copy signed and retained at Leixlip Tennis Club*

