

# St Mary's Tennis Club Safeguarding Policy

The aim of this policy is to ensure that children and young people have an enjoyable tennis experience and are safe from harm. It is referenced by the **LTA Safeguarding Policy (2013) and the updated British Tennis Safeguarding Policy 2015**

This policy is fully supported by the *St Mary's Tennis Club* management committee, which is responsible for its implementation and review.

*St Mary's Tennis Club* will therefore:

- a) aim to create an enjoyable environment for all children and young people who wish to take part in tennis or other sport and social activities
- b) believe that children and young people have the right to be safe, secure and free from threat
- c) believe that children and young people have the right to be treated with respect, and to have their concerns listened to and acted upon
- d) ensure that the needs of junior members are provided for through specific programmes, designated facilities, and safe practice
- e) enforce its rule that children are not allowed on the premises without an adult being present
- f) have procedures in place to address poor practice, and to help any child or young person who appears to be at risk, or who appears to be the victim of abuse
- g) offer help and support when a child or young person tells us that they are affected by these issues
- h) take steps to ensure that any volunteers or professionals working with children are suitable to do so, through the use of references and background checks
- i) ensure that all relevant people have been vetted and approved through the LTA's Disclosure and Barring Service.
- j) ensure that all of those working with children are made aware of the LTA code of conduct for people working with children and young people in tennis (1), and are required to follow it

## **(1) Code of conduct for working with children and young people**

**This code of conduct relates to best practice for all adults who work with children and young people. It is designed to promote the professional standards expected in tennis.**

**Everyone working with children and young people in tennis agrees to:**

- a. Remain professional at all times;
- b. Use appropriate language at all times and challenges anyone who swears or uses unacceptable language in front of or toward children and young people;
- c. Encourage children and young people to participate in tennis using 'Fair Play' values and encourage respect for one another;

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- d. Work and communicate openly and in an open environment, to avoid situations that could be misinterpreted in both tennis settings and with social media;
- e. Keep a separate personal and business profile / account for all social media;
- f. Be aware of the power and trust held as a person in a position of trust, treating this position and power with the highest of responsibility.
- g. Ensure provision of a safe and inclusive environment for all children, their age, gender, sexuality, gender reassignment, disability or ability, religion, or ethnicity;
- h. Maintain professional relationships with children at all times and know that any form of sexual relationship with someone under 18 is against the law and breach of their position of trust;
- i. Act as excellent role model at all times; which includes refraining from smoking or taking drugs or illicit substances when coaching or around tennis environments;
- j. Use positive reinforcement for discipline and report to the Safeguarding Team anyone who is seen to intimidate, threaten or act in a way that is physically or verbally abusive and agree to challenge a child or other person who acts in this way;
- k. Work in an open and accountable manner;
- l. Challenge the poor practice of others; and
- m. Seek the advice of colleagues and refer to polices if unsure at anytime about practice or behaviour observed.

St Mary's Tennis Club has an adult member who is specifically responsible for children, young people and child protection:

This person's name is: **Susan Casey**

They can be contacted on: 0208 847 0157 or 07818 436 844

LTA Child Protection

T: 0208 487 7008/7116

M (24 hour): 07971 141 024

E: [childprotection@lta.org.uk](mailto:childprotection@lta.org.uk)

[www.LTA.org.uk/childprotection](http://www.LTA.org.uk/childprotection)

