

## Policy Statement – Safeguarding Children and Young People

It is a fundamental human right to be safe from harm and abuse, and the LTA and Tennis Foundation believe it is important to raise awareness of individuals who may be at risk in British tennis. Abuse of any child or young person towards or by any tennis people, or other person will not be tolerated.

This Policy relates to all people working within a tennis environment, including those who are both paid and unpaid, employees and volunteers. It replaces all previous versions of the Child Protection Policy and Anti-Bullying Policy.

The Lawn Tennis Association (LTA), the National Governing Body for British tennis, and the Tennis Foundation, Britain's leading tennis charity, are committed to providing opportunities for children and young people to take part in tennis, and to helping them to achieve their potential. To achieve this LTA and Tennis Foundation will:

- recognise and celebrate the individuality of every child that plays tennis;
- be aware that some children with disabilities or impairments may be additionally vulnerable to abuse, neglect and bullying;
- take a positive approach to safeguarding children and young people;
- will not tolerate the abuse of any child or young person by any tennis people or other person;
- provide support and advice to tennis venues, delivering tennis for children and young people; and
- expect that all members of the tennis community will recognise that it is their responsibility to protect and ensure the well-being of all children and young people associated to tennis.

Sport plays a vital role in the growth and development of children and young people, and provides opportunities for them to take part in exciting, challenging and healthy activities. There are many thousands of children and young people playing tennis on a regular basis. The aim of the LTA is to provide an inclusive sport through the adaptation of tennis for people of any age, impairment, disability or ability within a framework that supports the safety and well-being of all players.

The LTA and Tennis Foundation are committed to improving outcomes for children and young people by adhering to current legislation and guidance, along with other key sources of information:

- Protection of Freedoms Act 2012;
- Children Act 2004;
- Children Act 1989;
- Working Together to Safeguard Children (HM Government 2010);
- Every Child Matters: Change for Children programme;
- Department for Education;
- NSPCC Child Protection in Sport Unit (CPSU); and
- Information Sharing Guidance for Practitioners and Managers (HM Government 2008).

The LTA's policies also adhere to the Safeguarding Standards set by the Child Protection in Sport Unit (CPSU). The LTA seeks to maintain the Advanced Standards set by the CPSU, and continually to improve how our sport safeguards children and young people involved in tennis.

All Tennis Clubmark clubs are required to have a designated Welfare Officer who has attended training. They can access support from the LTA's Safeguarding team, ensuring they promote safety and well-being at their club, identify and address any poor practice or abusive behaviour and respond in a timely manner to any suspected abuse.

The LTA and Tennis Foundation believe that taking a positive approach to safeguarding children is important to providing a good tennis experience. This in turn can support the wider strategic objective of growing and sustaining British tennis. Our three-tier approach (link) consists of: Early Intervention / awareness raising, Prevention and Protection. Advice on what to do in different situations is available below: : [Well-Being and Protection Process \[Green – Amber – Red\]](#) and [Welfare Officer Flowchart](#).

The LTA's Safeguarding team provides support and advice to tennis venues and people working in tennis. The Tennis Foundation additionally supports coaches and venues delivering tennis for disabled young people, or identifying and developing talented disabled players.