

DUNMORE EAST TENNIS CLUB CHILD PROTECTION POLICY STATEMENT

Dunmore East Tennis Club is fully committed to always safeguarding the well-being of all its members.

Every individual in the club should, always, show respect and understanding for their rights, safety, and welfare, and conduct themselves in a way that reflects the principles of the club and the guidelines contained in the Code of Ethics and Good Practice for Children's Sport. **"Children have the right to be protected from all forms of violence; they must be kept safe from harm, and they must be given proper care by those looking after them" (Article 19 UN Convention on the Rights of the Child).**

All children's sport should be conducted in an atmosphere of fair play. The European Code of Sports Ethics defines fair play as:

".... much more than playing within the rules. It incorporates the concepts of friendship, respect for others and always playing within the right spirit. Fair play is defined as a way of thinking, not just a way of behaving. It incorporates issues concerned with the elimination of cheating, gamesmanship, doping, violence (both physical and verbal), exploitation, unequal opportunities, excessive commercialism and corruption" (European Sports Charter and Code of Ethics, Council of Europe, 1993).

The Childcare Act 1991 (ROI) and The Children's (NI) Order (1995) are based on a clear and consistent set of principles designed with the common aim of promoting the welfare of children.

Children have the right to be safe. All coaches should ensure that the fundamental principles, outlined in the Childcare Act 1991, takes precedence over all other considerations.

We will implement the Code of Ethics and Good Practice for Children's Sport on the children within our Club.

We will ensure that the Club Committee is elected or endorsed by registered club members at each AGM.

We will appoint/reappoint at least one Children's Officer of each gender at each AGM. In relation to the reporting of allegations or suspicions of child abuse to said Children's Officer, that Officer will bring it to the attention of the Club's Chairperson. The Club's Chairperson will bring the concerns or complaints to the Committee, which will then make the appropriate arrangements to go to the proper Authorities.

The Club understands that the first point of contact for a child, parent/guardian or coach should be the Children's Officer, although any individual has the right to contact the HSE/Social Services or the Police if they have a concern about a child's safety.

The Children's Officers within the Dunmore East Tennis Club can be reached by emailing membership@detc.ie.

All children should be valued and treated in an equitable and fair manner regardless of ability, age, sex, religion, social and ethnic background or political persuasion. Children, irrespective of ability or disability should be involved in sports activities in an integrated and inclusive way, whenever possible, thus allowing them to participate to their full potential alongside other children (Code of Ethics and Good Practice for Children's Sport 2000).

We at Dunmore East Tennis Club recognise that the legal principle that the welfare of the child is paramount means that consideration of confidentiality should not be allowed to override the right of children to be protected from harm. Everyone in the Club, including children, must be aware that they can never promise to keep secrets. However, information of a confidential nature will only be communicated on a 'need to know' basis.