



Child Safeguarding Statement

St Michael's Lawn Tennis Club (LTC) information

- Name: St Michael's LTC
- Sport: Tennis
- Location: Blackrock
- Activities: St Michael's LTC provides tennis activities and opportunities for children and young people through participation in parks, clubs, regional, provincial events and with our representative teams. The NGB is committed to safeguarding children and young people. All our affiliated stakeholders work under the guidance and policies of our Safeguarding Code. All our volunteers and staff working with children throughout the organisation, seek to create a safe environment for children and young people to participate in Tennis.

Principles to safeguard children from harm

St Michael's LTC is committed to safeguarding children and by working under the guidance of our Club Safeguarding Policies our staff, both volunteers and employed, working with our young people, throughout the organisation, seek to create a safe environment for young people to grow and develop within sport. The following set of principles should be adhered to:

- **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 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 should be valued and treated in an equitable and fair manner regardless of ability, age, gender, religion, social and ethnic background or political persuasion.

Risk Assessment

Risk identified	Procedure in place to manage risk identified
<i>Club and Coaching Practices</i>	
Lack of coaching qualification	Coach Education Policy Recruitment policy
Supervision Issues	Supervision policy Coach Education Policy
Unauthorised photography and recording activities	Photography and Use of Images Policy
Behavioural Issues	Code of Conduct Policy Complaints and Disciplinary Policy Safeguarding Level 1 (min)
No guidance for travelling and away trips	Travel/Away trip policy Child Safeguarding Training
<i>Complaints and Discipline</i>	
Lack of awareness of a complaint and disciplinary policy	Complaints and Disciplinary Policy Communications Procedure
Complaints not being dealt with seriously	Complaints and Disciplinary Policy
<i>Reporting Procedures</i>	
Lack of knowledge of organisational and statutory reporting procedures	Reporting Procedures/Policy Coach education Policy Code of Conduct/Behaviour
No Children's Officer appointed	Reporting Procedures/Policy
No designated Liaison Person	Reporting Procedures/Policy
Concerns of abuse or harm not being reported	Reporting Procedures/Policy Child Safeguarding Training –Level 1
<i>Facilities</i>	
Unauthorised access to designated children's play and practice areas and to changing rooms, showers, toilets etc	Supervision Policy Coach Education Policy
Photography, filming or recording in prohibited areas	Photography and Use of devices in private zones
Children sharing facilities with adults e.g. toilets and changing rooms	Safeguarding policy
<i>Recruitment</i>	
Recruitment of inappropriate people	Recruitment Policy
Lack of clarity on roles	Recruitment Policy
Unqualified or untrained people in role	Recruitment Policy
<i>Communications and social media</i>	
Lack of awareness of 'risk of harm' with members and visitors	Child safeguarding statement Training Policy
No communications of Child Safeguarding Statement or Code of Behaviour to members or visitors	Child safeguarding statement – display Code of behaviour - distribute
Unauthorised photograph and recording of activities	Code of conduct Policy Communications Policy
Photography and Use of Images Policy	
Inappropriate use of social media and communications by under 18s	
<i>General Risk of Harm</i>	
Harm not being recognised	Safeguarding policy Child Safeguarding training
Harm caused by Child to child, Coach to child, Volunteer to child, Member to child, Visitor to child	Safeguarding policy Child Safeguarding training

Procedures

Our Child Safeguarding Statement has been developed in line with the requirements under the Children's First Act 2015, (The Children's First National Guidance and Tusla's Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice). In addition to our Risk Assessment section above, there are further procedures that support our intention to safeguard children while they are availing of our activities.

St. Michael's Tennis Club has the following procedures 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 staff and volunteers to work with children in our activities
- Procedure 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

Implementation

We recognise that implementation is an ongoing process. We are 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 services. This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed every 2 years. A copy of this Child Safeguarding Statement has been furnished to all staff and is made available to parents/guardians, the Agency and members of the public on request and is displayed on our notice board.

St. Michael's Lawn Tennis Club, Church Road, Blackrock, Cork City

President: Ann Ryan _____ April 2023

Children's Officers: Paul O'Callaghan and Sophie Prod'homme

Designated Liaison Person: Sandie Madden

For any queries about this Safeguarding Statement, please contact the President or the children's officers.

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