

Portarlington Lawn Tennis Club



Child Protection Policy

Portarlington Lawn Tennis Club will endeavor to implement all the recommendations within the 'Children First' guidelines and 'Our Duty to Care'. Our Child Protection Officer has completed a child protection course based on 'Our Duty to Care' and the 'Children First' guidelines.

We will ensure that all individual coaches, coordinators and relevant voluntary workers are Garda Vetted and are aware of their responsibility to protect and promote children's rights, by:

- Treating them with dignity, sensitivity and respect
- Making time to listen, talk to and get to know the children
- Making sure that children know the organisation's rules about behaviour.
- Encouraging children to have an input into how things are run
- Helping children to be safe, happy and having as much fun as possible
- Never favouring one child or children over others
- Enabling children to regard their bodies as their own property
- Encouraging them to express feelings, fears and experiences openly
- Giving written information about the organisation to children and their parents/carers
- Knowing about the principles and practices of child protection including their legal duties
- Never engaging in sexually provocative games or make suggestive comments, even in fun
- Respecting children's privacy in bathrooms or changing rooms
- Sensitively ensuring that children know about the child protection policy
- Always responding to complaints or allegations
- Helping children realise the difference between confidentiality and secrecy
- Being sensitive to the fact that some children are more vulnerable and have special needs
- Never using physical punishment with children

Code of behaviour between voluntary workers/coaches and children:

- Voluntary Workers/coaches should be sensitive to the risks involved in participating in tennis activities
- While physical contact is a valid way of comforting, reassuring and showing concern for children, it should only take place when it is acceptable to all persons concerned.
- Voluntary Workers/coaches should never physically punish or be in any way verbally abusive to a child, nor should they ever tell jokes of a sexual nature in the presence of children.

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- Voluntary Workers/coaches should be sensitive to the possibility of developing favouritism, or becoming over involved or spending a great deal of time with any one child.
- Children should be encouraged to report cases of bullying to either a designated person, or a voluntary worker/coach of their choice. Complaints must be brought to the attention of the Executive Committee through the Child protection Officer.
- Everyone involved in the Portarlinton Tennis Club should respect the personal space, safety and privacy of individuals.
- It is not recommended that volunteers/coaches give lifts in their cars to individual young people, especially for long journeys.

All volunteers and coaches who serve our club will be required to sign their agreement to this code. We the committee of Portarlinton Tennis Club will ensure that all future volunteers and/or coaches will also review and engage in our protection policy as part of their induction training.

Any person or child with a concern regarding a child protection issue may contact the Child Protection Officer at any time. A concerned person may also speak to any committee member of their choice.

Signature of Chairperson Jonathan McDonough

Print Name: JONATHAN McDONOUGH

Date: 20/11/2025