

## Tennis Ireland Child Safeguarding Statement March 2024

### Section 1 – Tennis Ireland information

- Name:** Tennis Ireland
- Sport:** Tennis
- Location:** Dublin
- Activities:** Tennis Ireland provides tennis activities and opportunities for children, young people, and adults through participation in community, club, regional, provincial events, and with our representative teams. The NGB is committed to safeguarding all our members and our affiliated stakeholders work under the guidance and policies of our Safeguarding Code. Our volunteers and staff working with participants throughout the organisation, seek to create a safe environment for all to participate in Tennis.

### Section 2 - Principles to safeguard participants from harm.

**Tennis Ireland** is committed to safeguarding all participants, and by working under the guidance of our *NGB* Safeguarding Policies our team members, both volunteers and employed, working with participants throughout the organisation, seek to create a safe environment for participants 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 guidelines regarding acceptable standards of behaviour.
- Quality atmosphere & ethos** - Children's sport should be conducted in a safe, positive, and encouraging atmosphere.
- Competition** – Competition/organized play 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 and adults should be valued and treated in an equitable and fair manner regardless of ability, age, gender, religion, social and ethnic background, or political persuasion.

### Section 3 - Risk Assessment

This **Tennis Ireland** written Risk Assessment document indicates the areas of potential risk of harm, the likelihood of the risk occurring, and gives the required policy, guidance or process documents require to alleviate these risks. The list of risks identified and procedures to manage these risks are contained in the following categories:

<b>Risk Identified</b> <i>(Please note - Where a number is preceded by the letter A it refers to the relevant Appendix in the Manual or on our site)</i>	<b>Procedure in place to manage risk identified</b>
<p><b>Club and Coaching Practices</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— Lack of coaching qualification. <b>A4/A6/ A9/A10</b></li> <li>— Supervision issues. <b>A9</b></li> <li>— Unauthorised photography &amp; recording activities. <b>A9</b></li> <li>— Behavioural Issues. <b>A10</b></li> <li>— Lack of gender balance amongst coaches <b>2-1 - TCI Registered</b></li> <li>— No guidance for travelling &amp; away trips <b>A9, A10, A11</b></li> <li>— Lack of adherence with misc procedures in Safeguarding policy <b>Safeguarding policy – A8, A9</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— Coach education requirement/Recruitment policy.</li> <li>— Supervision guidance</li> <li>— Photography &amp; Use of Images guidance</li> <li>— Code of Conduct / Safeguarding 1 / Complaints &amp; Disciplinary guidance.</li> <li>— Coach education requirement/Recruitment guidance/Equal Advantage.</li> <li>— Travel/Away trip policy /Safeguarding Training.</li> <li>— Safeguarding Policy / Complaints &amp; disciplinary policy/Best Practice Guide</li> </ul>
<p><b>Complaints &amp; Discipline</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— Lack of awareness of a Complaints &amp; Disciplinary policy. <b>A8</b></li> <li>— Difficulty in raising an issue by child &amp; or parent <b>A8</b></li> <li>— Complaints not being dealt with seriously <b>A8</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— Complaints &amp; Disciplinary procedure/ guidance/ Communications procedure.</li> <li>— Complaints &amp; Disciplinary procedure/ guidance/ Communications procedure.</li> <li>— Complaints &amp; Disciplinary procedure/ guidance.</li> </ul>

<p><b>Communications</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— Lack of awareness of ‘risk of harm’ with members and visitors. <b>A2, A5</b></li> <li>— No communication of Child Safeguarding Statement of Code of Behaviour to members of visitors. <b>A2</b></li> <li>— Unauthorised photography &amp; recording of activities. <b>A9</b></li> <li>— Inappropriate use of social media &amp; communications by under 18’s <b>A9</b></li> <li>— Inappropriate use of social media &amp; communications with under 18’s. <b>A9</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— Child Safeguarding Statement / Training.</li> <li>— Child Safeguarding Statement (display) / Code of Behaviour (distribute).</li> <li>— Photography &amp; Use of Images guidance.</li> <li>— Best Practice / Code of conduct</li> <li>— Best Practice / Code of conduct</li> </ul>
<p><b>General Risk of Harm</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— Harm not being recognised. <b>Safeguarding Policy A5, A7</b></li> <li>— Harm caused by: Child to Child. Coach to Child. Volunteer to Child. Member to Child. Visitor to Child. <b>A5, A7</b></li> <li>— General behavioural issues. <b>A10</b></li> <li>— Issues of Bullying. <b>A9, A10</b></li> <li>— Vetting of staff/volunteers. <b>A4</b></li> <li>— Issues of Online Safety <b>A9</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— Safeguarding guidance/ Child Safeguarding Training.</li> <li>— Safeguarding guidance / Child Safeguarding Training.</li> <li>— Code of Conduct.</li> <li>— Anti-Bullying Guide.</li> <li>— Recruitment guidance/ Vetting policy.</li> <li>— Social media / Online Safety guidance.</li> </ul>

The Risk Assessment was undertaken on 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2024

#### Section 4 – Procedures

Our Child Safeguarding Statement has been developed in line with requirements under the Children First Act 2015, (The Children First: National Guidance, and Tusla’s Child Safeguarding: A

<p><b>Reporting Procedures</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— Lack of knowledge of organisational &amp; statutory reporting procedures <b>A7, A10</b></li> <li>— No DLP appointed. <b>A6, A7, A5</b></li> <li>— Concerns of abuse or harm not reported. <b>A5, A7</b></li> <li>— Not clear who Young Person should talk to or report to. <b>A6</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— Reporting procedures/ guidance / Coach Education requirement / Code of Conduct/Behaviour.</li> <li>— Reporting procedures/ guidance.</li> <li>— Reporting procedures/ guidance/ Child Safeguarding Training – Level 1</li> <li>— Post the names of CCO, DLP, Relevant and Mandated person.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Use of Facilities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— Unauthorised access to designated children’s play &amp; practice areas &amp; to changing rooms, showers, toilets etc. <b>A9</b></li> <li>— Unauthorised exit from children’s areas. <b>A9</b></li> <li>— Photography, filming or recording in prohibited areas. <b>A9</b></li> <li>— Missing or found child on site. <b>A12</b></li> <li>— Children sharing facilities with adults e.g., dressing room, showers etc <b>A9</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— Supervision policy / Coach Education/ Best Practice.</li> <li>— Supervision guidance/ Coach Education.</li> <li>— Photography guidance and use of devices in private zones.</li> <li>— Missing or found child guidance.</li> <li>— Supervision/Safeguarding guidance.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Recruitment</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— Recruitment of inappropriate people. <b>A4</b></li> <li>— Lack of clarity on roles. <b>A6</b></li> <li>— Unqualified or untrained people in role. <b>A5, A6</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— Recruitment guidance.</li> <li>— Recruitment guidance/Roles document</li> <li>— Recruitment guidance.</li> </ul>

Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice) and Gateway Northern Ireland). In addition to our Risk Assessment document described above, there are further procedures that support our intention to safeguard children while availing of our activities.

**Tennis Ireland** 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 organised activities.
- Procedures for access to child safeguarding training and information, including the identification of the occurrence of harm.
- Procedure for reporting child protection or welfare concerns to Statutory Authorities.
- Procedure for maintaining a list of the persons (if any) in the relevant service who are mandated persons.
- Procedure for appointing a relevant person.
- Procedures for managing trips away and hosting children.

*Please note that all procedures listed are available on request.*

**The Relevant Person for Tennis Ireland is – Roger Geraghty**

### **Section 5 – Implementation**

We recognise that implementation is an ongoing process. Our Governing Body is 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 activities.

Please note the following:

- All Team Members have been furnished with a copy of this statement.
- This statement is available to parents/guardians, the Agency, and members of the public on request.
- This statement will be displayed in a prominent place by the **Tennis Ireland**

This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed on 4<sup>th</sup> of April 2026

Signed Letty Lucas On behalf of Tennis Ireland; Date: 04/04/24

Name: Letty Lucas, President, Tennis Ireland. Phone no: 01-8844010.

*For queries on this Child Safeguarding Statement, please contact –*

**Roger Geraghty – Ph: +353 (86)2316478.**

**National Safeguarding Officer, Tennis Ireland.**

**(Relevant Person)**

