

Safeguarding Children Guidelines

Clifton Hill Tennis Club

Updated June 2022 – Approved by the Committee

Tennis Australia has developed two key policies relevant to Child Safety.

1) **Member Protection Policy** protects the health, safety and well-being of those who participate in the activities of tennis.

The overarching policy outlines that all affiliated clubs will not tolerate any form of abuse, neglect, harassment, unlawful discrimination, vilification, victimisation, indecency or violence against any adult or child by personnel.

As a club affiliated with Tennis Australia, CHTC is bound by and must comply with the details of this policy. It applies to committee members, members and tennis players. Any other person, eg. Casual social players, attendees to open court programs, parents or spectators, are bound by the policy if they agree to be in writing (e.g. via any participation registration form).

CHTC must:

- Adopt the practices and codes of behaviour as set out by TA
- Implement Screening measures for people working with children
- Report any abuse or neglect they become aware of wherever it occurred
- Deal with offending behaviours.

The policy can be found at:

https://www.tennis.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/1.-Member-Protection-Policy-CLEAN-FINAL-6-Oct-2021_.pdf

2) **Safeguarding Children Code of Conduct** focuses on specific obligations under the Member Protection Policy.

The code outlines a zero-tolerance approach to child abuse, including reporting the abuse to external authorities responsible for child protection where necessary. This is regardless of whether the abuse is perpetrated by personnel in the organisation or by others in the wider community, including members of a child's family, their extended network or strangers.

The code sets out standards in relation to misconduct, positive guidance, adherence to professional boundaries, use of language, supervision, use of electronic communications, giving gifts, photographs or videos, physical contact, change rooms, transport, and alcohol and drug use

Safeguarding Children Code of Conduct is available at:

<https://www.tennis.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/2.-Safeguarding-Children-Code-of-Conduct-CLEAN-FINAL-6-Oct-2021.pdf>

Summary of the Safeguarding Children Code of Conduct

1. **Under no circumstances is any form of ‘sexual behaviour’ to occur between, with or in the presence of children.** This is regardless of consent and even if the person involved is above the legal age of consent. ‘Sexual behaviour’ is interpreted widely and includes (but is not limited to) contact behaviour, such as sexual intercourse, fondling and kissing, and non-contact behaviour, such as flirting, sexual innuendo or inappropriate text messaging.
2. **Positive guidance.** Use strategies that are fair, respectful and appropriate to the developmental stage of the children involved. Children should be provided with clear directions and given an opportunity to redirect their mis-behaviour in a positive manner.
3. **Adhere to professional boundaries.** Do not engage in activities with children or provide support to a child/family if unrelated to tennis services, programs or events, nor seek contact with children outside these events.
4. **Identification.** Committee members should wear ID Cards while attending the facility. This helps a child to accurately identify a person of authority who they can get assistance from in times of need.
5. **Appropriate language and tone of voice.** Provide clear direction, boost their confidence, encourage or affirm them. Avoid negative or discriminatory language.
6. **Supervision of children.** Ensure that participants in tennis services or programs positively engage, behave appropriately towards one another, and are in a safe environment and protected from external threats. Avoid one-on-one situations with children under their supervision where they are not in view of other personnel.
7. **Use of electronic communication.** If emails or texts are sent to a child, their parent/guardian should be copied in. Make sure to restrict such communication to issues directly associated with delivering tennis services. No communication via social networking sites, game sites or Internet chat rooms.
8. **Giving gifts.** Is prohibited unless the value of the gift does not exceed \$25, the child’s parent/guardian is aware of the gift and has consented to it being given.
9. **Photographs and video recordings.** Only where a child is participating in tennis services and if permission has been granted prior and specific approval, it is directly related to participation in tennis services and the child is appropriately dressed/posed. Images are not to be exhibited on a website or social media platform without parental approval. Any caption or accompanying text should not identify a child if this is deemed potentially detrimental.

10. **Physical contact with children.** Must be appropriate in the context of delivering tennis services or programs. In particular, care must be taken to avoid contact that could be interpreted as having a sexual connotation or is intended to cause pain or distress to the child. An exception is medical personnel as and when required. If a child is the initiator of inappropriate physical or sexual contact, please contact the MPIO.
11. **Alcohol or drug use, possession or supply.** Personnel must not be under the influence while on duty.
12. **Transporting children.** Only in circumstances related to the delivery of tennis services, and with prior written authorisation from the child's parent/guardian. This also extends to parents who offer to be team manager and provide transportation services. If you are in this situation, please ask for a consent form from the club to make certain that other parents have agreed to returning their child arrangements after a match. See Transport Consent Form below.

What to Do if there is a complaint or breach

1) Listen

Do not investigate or question

Make a note of the key information you are told

There is strong evidence to suggest that the reactions of adults to a disclosure of abuse makes a major difference to the short and long-term effects of abuse on children. The following is some guidance regarding disclosure:

Do

- Believe the child
- Be calm, supportive and reassuring
- Reassure the child that the abuse is not their fault
- Concentrate on the child's feelings rather than on questions and answers
- Explain what you are going to do now that you have been told. If a child is in immediate danger, contact 000.

Don't

- Make promises you can't keep
- Promise secrecy
- Push the child to give details of the abuse

2) Report / Seek advice

Contact CHTC President, Tennis Victoria MPIO or the Whistle Blower service as soon as possible

If a person considers that either the policy or guidelines have been breached, then they may seek advice from or report to:

CHTC President, Pietro Papantuono – pietro_papantuono@hotmail.com

Or

CHTC Vice President, Liz Minter – elizabethminter@hotmail.com

Or

Junior Secretary, Wayne Armstrong - wayne.armstrong19@gmail.com

Or

Tennis Victoria Member Protection Information Officer - Tim McGrath

02 8420 8414 or tmcgrath@tennis.com.au

Or

Tennis Australia Whistle Blower Service– Stopleftine
<http://stopline.com.au/whistleblowing-program> or via hotline 1800 11 72 33.

Transport Consent Form

Electronic Copy can be found using the following Link

<https://forms.gle/iSJF8Y7igBGAsxt6>

Child's name

..... NO, I do not give permission

..... YES, I do give permission

My child may be given a lift to or from junior tennis matches by the following authorized parents or program providers. The following person(s) are authorized to transport my child

.....,

who is:

..... Fellow Parent

..... Authorized Coach

..... Junior Secretary or CHTC Committee Member

I will be asked to complete additional permission forms for additional trips

Parents Name:

Parents Signature

Date