



CHILD SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT

Policy Date:

April 2025

Next Review Date:

April 2027

Section 1 – Omagh Lawn Tennis Club information

Omagh Lawn Tennis Club provides tennis activities and opportunities for children and young people through participation in club and regional events and at times with our representative teams. Omagh Lawn Tennis Club is committed to safeguarding children and young people. All our members work under our Safeguarding Policy. All our volunteers and coaches working with children seek to create a safe environment for children and young people to participate in tennis.

Section 2 - Principles to safeguard children from harm

Omagh Lawn Tennis Club is committed to safeguarding children and seeks 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.

Section 3 - Risk Assessment

This Omagh Lawn Tennis Club 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 required to alleviate these risks. The list of risks identified and procedures to manage these risks are contained in the following categories:

Potential risk of harm to children	Likelihood of harm happening: Low, Medium or High (L, M, H)	Required Policy, Guidance and Procedure Documents (NIP - not in place)	Responsibility: OLTC - Omagh Lawn Tennis Club TI – Tennis Ireland NGB – National Governing Body for Tennis in ROI/NI DLP – Designated Liaison Person CCO – Club Children’s Officer	Further action required/ comments
CLUB & COACHING PRACTICES				
Lack of coaching qualification	L	- Coach Education Policy - Recruitment Policy - NIP	TI OLTC	
Supervision issues	L	- Supervision Policy - Coach Education Policy	OLTC TI	<i>Ongoing review</i>
Unauthorised photography & recording activities	H	Photography and Use of Images Policy - NIP	OLTC	<i>Ongoing review</i>
Behavioural Issues	L	- Code of Conduct - Safeguarding Level 1 (min) - Complaints & Disciplinary policy	OLTC OLTC OLTC	<i>Ongoing review</i>
Lack of gender balance amongst coaches	L	- Coach Education Policy - Supervision Policy	TI OLTC	<i>Ongoing review</i>
No guidance for travelling and away trips	L	Child Safeguarding Training	OLTC	<i>OLTC do not support away trips for children</i>
Lack of adherence with misc procedures in Safeguarding policy (i.e. mobile, photography, transport)	L	- Child Safeguarding Policy - Complaints & Disciplinary Policy	OLTC OLTC	<i>Ongoing review</i>
COMPLAINTS & DISCIPLINE				
Lack of awareness of a Complaints & Disciplinary policy	H	- Complaints & Disciplinary Policy - Communications Procedure - NIP	OLTC OLTC	
Difficulty in raising an issue by child & or parent. Reason: Covered above	L	- Complaints & Disciplinary Policy - Communications Procedure - NIP	OLTC OLTC	
Complaints not being dealt with seriously	L	Complaints & Disciplinary Policy	OLTC	

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REPORTING PROCEDURES				
Lack of knowledge of organisational and statutory reporting procedures	L	- Reporting Procedures - Coach Education Policy - Codes of Conduct	NGB TI DLP	<i>Make procedures available. Include in Safeguarding Training (L1) and include in Coach Education Training</i>
No DLP Appointed	L	Reporting Procedures	NGB OLTC	<i>Publicise identity of OLTC DLP</i>
Concerns of abuse or harm not reported	L	- Reporting Procedures - Child Safeguarding Training – Level 1	NGB COACH DLP OLTC	<i>Publicise names of CCOs & DLP Publicise internal and external reporting procedures.</i>
Not clear who you should talk to or report to	L	Post the names of CCOs & DLP	CCOs DLP OLTC	<i>Communicate in Club Include in Safeguarding Training (L1)</i>
FACILITIES				
Unauthorised access to designated children’s play & practice areas and to changing rooms, showers, toilets, etc.	M	- Supervision Policy - Coach Education Policy	OLTC TI	<i>Clarify responsibilities before session starts</i>
Unauthorised exit from children’s areas	L	- Supervision Policy - Coach Education Policy	OLTC TI	<i>Clarify responsibilities before session starts</i>
Photography, filming or recording in prohibited areas	L	- Photography & Use of Images Policy - Facilities Terms & Conditions	OLTC OLTC	<i>Enforce policy in private changing and wet areas</i>

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Missing or found child on site	L	Missing Child Policy	OLTC	<i>Inform Gateway Team/ PSNI</i>
Children sharing facilities with adults e.g. dressing room, showers, etc.	L	- Child Safeguarding Policy - Facilities Terms & Conditions	OLTC OLTC	
RECRUITMENT				
Recruitment of inappropriate people	L	Volunteer Recruitment & Retention Policy	NGB OLTC CCO	
Lack of clarity on roles	L	Volunteer Recruitment & Retention Policy	OLTC	
Unqualified or untrained people in role	L	Volunteer Recruitment & Retention Policy	OLTC	
COMMUNICATIONS AND SOCIAL MEDIA				
Lack of awareness of ‘risk of harm’ with members and visitors	L	- Child Safeguarding Statement - Safeguarding Training	NGB OLTC DLP CCO	<i>Communicate Child Safeguarding Statement</i>
No communication of Child Safeguarding Statement or Code of Behaviour to members or visitors	L	- Child Safeguarding Statement – display - Codes of Conduct - Facilities Terms & Conditions	DLP CCO OLTC	<i>Communicate Child Safeguarding Statement</i>
Unauthorised photography & recording of activities	L	Photography and Use of Images policy	OLTC	
Inappropriate use of social media and communications by under 18’s	L	- Communications Procedure - NIP - Codes of Conduct	OLTC OLTC	<i>Draft being produced</i>
Inappropriate use of social media and communications with under 18’s	L	- Communications Procedure - NIP - Codes of conduct	OLTC OLTC	<i>Draft being produced</i>

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GENERAL RISK OF HARM				
Harm not being recognised	L	- Child Safeguarding Policy - Child Safeguarding Training	OLTC OLTC	<i>Ongoing review</i>
Harm caused by: child to child, coach to child, volunteer to child, member to child or visitor to child.	L	- Child Safeguarding Policy - Child Safeguarding Training	OLTC OLTC	<i>Ongoing review</i>
General behavioural issues	L	- Codes of Conduct - Facilities Terms & Conditions - Complaints & Disciplinary Policy	OLTC OLTC OLTC	

Explanation of terms used:

- **Potential risk of harm to children** – these are identified risks of harm to children whilst accessing activities in the Club/Province/NGB.
- **Likelihood of harm happening** – the likelihood of the risk occurring in the club/province/NGB measured by you as Low, Medium or High.
- **Required Policy, Guidance and Procedure document** – indication of the policy required to alleviate the risk.
- **Responsibility** – provider should indicate where the responsibility for alleviating the risk lies.
- **Further action** - indicates further action that might be necessary to alleviate any risk ongoing.

This Risk Assessment document has been discussed and completed by OLTC’s safeguarding subcommittee on Thursday 16th November 2023.

Section 4 – Procedures

Our Child Safeguarding Statement has been developed in line with requirements under Gateway Northern Ireland. In addition to our Risk Assessment document described above, there are further procedures that support our intention to safeguard children while they are availing of our activities.

Omagh Lawn Tennis Club is developing the following procedures as part of our Safeguarding Policies:

- Procedures for the management of allegations of abuse or misconduct by volunteers against a child availing of our activities.
- Procedures for the safe recruitment of staff and volunteers to work with children in our activities.
- Procedures 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.
- Procedure for maintaining a list of the persons (if any) in the relevant service who are mandated persons.
- Procedure for appointing a relevant person.

The Relevant Person for Omagh Lawn Tennis Club is the Club Designated Liaison Person.

Section 5 – Implementation

We recognise that implementation is an ongoing process. Omagh Lawn Tennis Club 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:

- That all members, coaches and volunteers have been made aware of this statement.
- This statement is available to parents/guardians and members of the public on request.
- This statement will be displayed in a prominent place by Omagh Lawn Tennis Club.

This Child Safeguarding Statement was adopted on 2nd April 2025 and will be reviewed in April 2027.