



SAFEGUARDING VULNERABLE ADULTS POLICY

Policy Approval Date: June 2026

Next Review Date: May 2028

POLICY STATEMENT

This policy applies to all those involved in Omagh Lawn Tennis Club Limited (“OLTC”) including, but not limited to, coaches, administrators, officials, volunteers, drivers, members, parents and young people and users of the facilities.

OLTC is fully committed to safeguarding the well-being of its members. Every individual in the club should at all times show respect and understanding for their rights, safety and welfare, and conduct themselves in a way that reflects the principles of the club and the guidelines contained in the Sport Northern Ireland Safeguarding Adults Policy & Procedures:

Sport Northern Ireland (Sport NI) is committed to creating and maintaining a safe and positive environment and accepts our responsibility to safeguard the welfare of all adults involved in sport in accordance with the Adult Safeguarding Operational Procedures (September 2016). Please note the change of term (previously used within an adult safeguarding policy) from “vulnerable adults” to the term “adults at risk”

OLTC supports the view that all sport should be conducted in an atmosphere of fair play and be equitable and inclusive for all. In this context the club undertakes to adopt the definition of fair play as set out in the European Sports Charter and Code of Ethics, Council of Europe (1993).

“Fair play is much more than playing within the rules. It incorporates the concepts of friendship, respect for others and always playing within the right spirit. Fair play is defined as a way of thinking, not just a way of behaving. It incorporates issues concerned with the elimination of cheating, gamesmanship, doping, violence (both physical and verbal), exploitation, unequal opportunities, excessive commercialism and corruption.”

POLICY PRINCIPLES & GUIDELINES

OLTC is fully committed to the principles contained in the Sport Northern Ireland Safeguarding Adults Policy & Procedures, which is based on the following five underpinning principles:

1. A Rights-Based Approach: To promote and respect an adult’s right to be safe and secure; to freedom from harm and coercion; to equity of treatment; to the protection of the law; to privacy; to confidentiality; and freedom from discrimination.
2. An Empowering Approach: To empower adults to make informed choices about their lives, to maximise their opportunities to participate in wider society, to keep themselves safe and free from harm and enabled to manage their own decisions in respect of exposure to risk.
3. Person-Centred Approach: To promote and facilitate participation of adults in decisions affecting their lives taking appropriate account of their views, wishes and feelings and, where appropriate, the views of others who have an interest in his or her safety and well-being.
4. A Consent-Driven Approach: To make a presumption that the adult has the ability to give or withhold consent; to make informed choices; to help inform choice through the provision of information, and the identification of options and alternatives; to have particular regard to the needs of individuals who require support with communication,

advocacy or who lack the capacity to consent; and intervening in the life of an adult against his or her wishes only in particular circumstances, for very specific purposes and always in accordance with the law.

5. A Collaborative Approach: To acknowledge that adult safeguarding will be most effective when it has the full support of the wider public and of safeguarding partners across the statutory, voluntary, community, independent and faith sectors working together and is delivered in a way where roles, responsibilities and lines of accountability are clearly defined and understood. Working in partnership and a person-centred approach will work hand-in-hand.

All adults, regardless of different religious belief, political opinion, racial group, age, marital status, sexual orientation, men and women generally, persons with a disability or persons without, and persons with dependants and persons without have the right to be protected from abuse and poor practice and to participate in an enjoyable and safe environment. OLTC will seek to ensure that as an organisation, we are inclusive and make reasonable adjustments for any ability, disability or impairment; we will also commit to continuous development, monitoring and review.

The rights, dignity, and worth of all adults will always be respected. We recognise that ability and disability can change over time, such that some adults may be additionally vulnerable to abuse, i.e., those who have a dependency on others or have different communication needs.

We recognise that an adult with a disability may or may not identify themselves or be identified as an adult 'at risk' or vulnerable.

We all have a shared responsibility to ensure the safety and well-being of all adults and will act appropriately, and report concerns whether these concerns arise within OLTC, for example inappropriate behaviour of a member/coach/volunteer, athlete, or in the wider community.

All allegations will be taken seriously and responded to quickly in line with Sport NI Safeguarding Adults Policy and Procedures. OLTC recognises the role and responsibilities of the statutory agencies in safeguarding adults and is committed to complying with the procedures of the Local Health and Social Care Trust.

CONFIDENTIALITY STATEMENT

OLTC recognises that the legal principle that the welfare of the vulnerable adult is paramount means that consideration of confidentiality should not be allowed to override the right of vulnerable adult to be protected from harm. Everyone in our organisation, must be aware that they can never promise to keep secrets. However, information of a confidential nature will only be communicated on a strictly 'need to know' basis.

REVIEW

This policy will be reviewed at least every two years.