

Cork Parks Tennis – Safeguarding Policy

APPENDIX 10 b) Code of Conduct for Children and Young People

Children have much to gain from tennis in terms of their personal development and enjoyment. The promotion of good practice in tennis will depend on the co-operation of all involved, including child members of the organisation. Children must be encouraged to realise that they also have a responsibility to treat other children and Sports Leaders with fairness and respect. When participating in our tennis programmes you should:

- Be happy, have fun and enjoy taking part and being involved in your sport.
- Be treated fairly by everyone, including Sports Leaders and fellow participants.
- Feel safe and secure when you are taking part in your sport.
- Be listened to and allowed to reply.
- Be treated with dignity, sensitivity, and respect.
- Be allowed to say 'no' to something which makes you feel uncomfortable.
- Be in a position to train and compete at a level that is suitable for your age, development, and ability.
- Be aware that any information concerning you is confidential, but in cases where there is a risk to your safety, we may need to pass on this information.
- Be aware who to go to if you feel unsafe.
- Be aware that you can talk to one of the organisations Children's Officers if you feel you have been unjustly treated.

In turn you should:

- Treat all sports leaders/coaches with respect.
- Respect other players and your opponents.
- Never bully or use bullying tactics against another person.
- Never hurt other people, and this includes not taking/damaging their property, not spreading rumours or telling lies about other young people or adults.
- Never use bullying tactics to isolate another player.
- Keep to rules and guidelines set by Tennis Ireland, the Province and your Club and make sure you understand the rules.
- Listen to and respect decisions made by others.
- Behave in a manner that is respectful towards your organisation and its Coaches/Leaders

- Never use violence or bad language; do not shout or argue with leaders, teammates, or opposing participants – talk to someone if you are upset or angry or if someone has caused you to feel that way.
- Talk with your Coach or one of the Organisation’s Children’s Officers if you have any difficulties or do not understand something; you should never keep secrets about any person who may have caused you harm or has made you feel upset.
- Never use mobile phones or technology while participating in the programmes.

Apart from the general code of conduct, Cork Parks Tennis has a code of conduct specific to this organisation. The undertaking to abide by and support the Organisation’s Child Protection Policy given by the parent/legal guardian of the participating child is deemed to be agreement on the part of the participating child to abide by this Code of Conduct. Cork Parks Tennis aims to create a safe and positive atmosphere during our programmes whereby participants derive maximum enjoyment and benefit from their time with us. Therefore, we expect all participants to be well behaved, to co-operate fully with their coaches, and to respect the rights of fellow participants.

Specific instances of unacceptable behaviour:

- Use of expletives or offensive language towards coaches or other participants
- Refusal to obey a reasonable request from a coach
- Aggressive or threatening behaviour
- Bullying or intimidation
- Actions that are considered dangerous e.g. hitting a tennis ball indiscriminately thereby putting others at risk
- Inappropriate use of the tennis racket
- Any behaviour which threatens the health and safety of others

Sanctions: To maintain a positive and enjoyable atmosphere during the programme, any of the following may be applied when the situation merits it.

- Verbal correction
- Internal exclusion from activity
- Communication with parent/guardian
- Referral to Committee
- Suspension
- Termination of Registration

I have read the Cork Parks Tennis Code of Conduct above and agree to abide by the guidelines as set out in the code.

Signature of Player _____ Date ____

Signature of Parent/ Guardian* _____ Date ____

*Please note that the person signing the parent/guardian section must ensure they have parental responsibility for the child.