

## **TRAMORE TENNIS CLUB SAFEGUARDING POLICY**

This policy applies to all those involved in Tramore Tennis Club including, but not limited to, coaches, administrators, volunteers, members, parents and young people.

### **SAFEGUARDING POLICY STATEMENT**

Tramore Tennis Club is fully committed to safeguarding the well-being of its members. Every individual in the organisation should at all time show respect and understanding for their rights, safety and welfare, and conduct themselves in a way that reflects the principles of Tramore Tennis Club and the guidelines contained in this policy.

**(Please refer to our website/noticeboard for our Safeguarding Statement)**

### **Safeguarding or Child Protection**

The term child protection has been expanded to safeguarding as it reflects the wider responsibility for health and safety and prevention as well as just protection from abuse. The word safeguarding has been used with increasing frequency over the last few years in a wide range of settings and situations, going well beyond the world of children and child protection. It may be defined as “Doing everything possible to minimise the risk of harm to children and young people.”

Safeguarding is about being proactive and putting measures in place in advance of any contact with children to ensure that children are going to be kept safe and this is what Tramore Tennis Club’s wish to have in place.

This could include:

- Ensuring staff / volunteers are properly checked when they are recruited;
- Guidelines for people who come into contact with children as part of their role to ensure they know what they need to do to keep children safe; and
- Guidelines for planning an event or activity with children and putting measures in place to minimise the risk of safeguarding issues occurring.

### **Code of Conduct**

Tramore Tennis Club supports the view that all children’s sport should be conducted in an atmosphere of fair play. In this context the NGB 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.”

In order to promote the best practice in children’s sport, Tramore Tennis Club has adopted and implements the guidelines as set out in Safeguarding Guidance for Children & Young People in Sport and as required by law, has conducted a risk assessment of their facility and children’s programmes and the potential for harm to come to young participants whilst they are in their care.

As a follow up to the risk assessment exercise, the Committee has written a Safeguarding Statement signed off by our chairperson and in conjunction with our Children's Officers and Designated Liaison Person, put in place the policies and procedures required to bring all risks down to low levels.

Our Safeguarding Statement is posted prominently on the Organisation's Website and in their premises. We require all adults associated with children's activities to have signed our relevant code of conduct.

### **Safe Recruitment**

Tramore Tennis Club has adopted and consistently applies a safe and clearly defined method of recruiting and selecting Volunteers, Officials, Coaches and any other Employees or Contractors who have contact with children. Details of this can be found in Appendix 4 in the Tennis Ireland Safeguarding Guidance for Children & Young People in Tennis Manual.

The roles of the committee members, all Sports Leaders and parents/ guardians have been clearly defined.

### **Reporting Procedures**

Tramore Tennis Club has three designated child protection officers; their names and details are on the club website and noticeboard.

Tennis Ireland's child protection officers are:

**National Children's Officer: Roger Geraghty – Email: [roger.geraghty@tennisireland.ie](mailto:roger.geraghty@tennisireland.ie)  
Mob: 086 2316478**

**Designated Liaison Officer - Richard Fahey - Email: [richard.fahey@tennisireland.ie](mailto:richard.fahey@tennisireland.ie)  
Mob: 087-2352198**

**Tennis Ireland Vetting Liaison Officer: Lisa Murphy - Email: [lisa.murphy@tennisireland.ie](mailto:lisa.murphy@tennisireland.ie)  
Phone: 01-8844010**

The Designated Liaison Person will liaise with the Statutory Authorities in relation to the reporting of allegations or suspicions of child abuse. Any such reports are made in accordance with the procedures outlined in the Tennis Ireland procedures.

Procedures have been put in place for dealing with a concern or complaint made to the Statutory Authorities against a Volunteer or Sports Leader.

A Sports Leader who is the subject of an allegation which has been reported to the Statutory Authorities, shall stand aside while the matter is being examined. He/she will be invited to resume full duties following consultation and advice from statutory services and an internal Tennis Ireland assessment to ensure there is no risk to our members.

### **Monitoring**

Effective procedures for responding to and recording accidents/ incidents have been put in place.

Tramore Tennis Club monitors both the use of the facilities and participation in their organised activities to ensure that any unusual activity (high rate of drop-out, transfers, etc.) is identified, checked out and reported by the Designated Liaison Person to the Board of Directors.

All club members are given notice of all General Meetings of the NGB in accordance with the procedures in that regard as set out in the Memorandum of Articles.

The minutes of all Committee meetings are recorded, adopted as correct and safely filed.

Tramore Tennis Club is committed to ensuring that adequate adult supervision of all activities involving children is provided.

## **Training**

Tramore Tennis Club is committed to ensuring that Sports Leaders are competent to provide safe and rewarding experiences for those in their care and that Sport Leaders are provided with the appropriate training for their activity. They are required to attend safeguarding workshops as part of their coach education and licensing and ensure their knowledge is updated.

Appropriate training and education opportunities will also be made available to officials, non-coaching staff and parents/guardians as appropriate.

## **EQUALITY STATEMENT**

All children should be valued and treated in an equitable and fair manner regardless of ability, age, sex, religion, social and ethnic background or political persuasion. Children, irrespective of ability or disability should be involved in sports activities in an integrated and inclusive way, whenever possible, thus allowing them to participate to their full potential alongside other children

## **CONFIDENTIALITY STATEMENT**

Tramore Tennis Club recognises that the legal principle that the welfare of the child is paramount means that consideration of confidentiality should not be allowed to override the right of children to be protected from harm.

Everyone in our organisation, including children, must be aware that they can never promise to keep secrets. Information, however, of a confidential nature will only be communicated on a 'need to know' basis.

## **APPENDICES**

Tramore Tennis Club is committed to continual monitoring and development of this Safeguarding Policy in the light of changing circumstances.

All Coaches, Volunteers and Sports Leaders will be required to read and sign the appropriate Code of Conduct contained in the Appendices of the Safeguarding Guidance for Children & Young People in Tennis Manual.

The original signed document will be held by Tramore Tennis Club.

**Garvan Toomey**

**President, Tramore Tennis Club**