

Mallow Tennis Club

Child Safeguarding Safety Statement, September 2024

Ballyellis, Mallow, Co. Cork, P51 FX53

Size: 250 (including staff and members)

Mallow Tennis Club provides tennis activities and opportunities for children and young people through participation in parks, clubs, regional, provincial events and with our representative teams. The NGB, Tennis Ireland, is committed to safeguarding children and young people. Mallow Tennis Club adheres to the rules and regulations set out by Tennis Ireland and is committed to safeguarding children and young people. All our affiliated staff work under the guidance and policies of Tennis Ireland's Safeguarding Code. All our volunteers and staff working with children throughout the organisation, seek to create a safe environment for children and young people to participate in Tennis.

Principles to safeguard children from harm

Mallow Tennis Club is committed to safeguarding children and by working under the guidance of our NGB Safeguarding Policies our staff, both volunteers and employed, working with our young people, throughout the organisation, seek 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** - Mallow Tennis Club supports the view that all children's sport should be conducted in an atmosphere of fair play. In this context the club undertakes to incorporate 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. Mallow Tennis Club undertakes to emphasise the principles of fair play and organisers shall give clear guidelines regarding acceptable standards of behaviour.
- **Quality atmosphere and 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.

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- **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.

Risk Assessment

This Mallow Tennis Club written Risk Assessment was undertaken in September 2024. The 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:

Risk Identified	Procedure in place to manage risk identified
Club and Coaching Practices • Lack of coaching qualification. • Supervision issues. • Unauthorised photography & recording activities. • Behavioural Issues. • Lack of gender balance amongst coaches • No guidance for travelling & away trips • Lack of adherence with misc procedures in Safeguarding policy	• Coach education policy/Recruitment policy. • Supervision policy/Coach education policy • Photography & Use of Images policy • Code of Conduct / Safeguarding 1 / Complaints & Disciplinary policy. • Coach education policy / Supervision policy. • Travel/Away trip policy / Child Safeguarding Training. • Safeguarding Policy / Complaints & disciplinary policy
Complaints & Discipline • Lack of awareness of a Complaints & Disciplinary policy. • Difficulty in raising an issue by child & or parent * Complaints not being dealt with seriously	• Complaints & Disciplinary procedure/policy / Communications procedure. • Complaints & Disciplinary procedure/policy / Communications procedure. • Complaints & Disciplinary

	procedure/policy.
Reporting Procedures • Lack of knowledge of organisational & statutory reporting procedures • No DLP appointed. • Concerns of abuse or harm not reported. • Not clear who YP should talk to or report to.	• Reporting procedures/policy / Coach Education policy / Code of Conduct/Behaviour. • Reporting procedures/policy. • Reporting procedures/policy / Child Safeguarding Training – Level 1 • Post the names of CCO, DLP and Mandated person.
Use of Facilities • Unauthorised access to designated children's play & practice areas & to changing rooms, showers, toilets etc..... • Unauthorised exit from children's areas. • Photography, filming or recording in prohibited areas. • Missing or found child on site. • Children sharing facilities with adults e.g. dressing room, showers etc • Children being struck by a golf ball (The golf course is in the vicinity of the courts) * Children falling on the steps en route to the courts	• Supervision policy / Coach Education. • Supervision policy / Coach Education. • Photography policy and use of devices in private zones. • Missing or found child policy. • Safeguarding policy. • Supervision policy • Coach education

Risk Identified	Procedure in place to manage risk identified
Recruitment • Recruitment of inappropriate people. • Lack of clarity on roles. • Unqualified or untrained people in roles.	• Recruitment policy. • Recruitment policy. • Recruitment policy.

Communications • Lack of awareness of 'risk of harm' with members and visitors. • No communication of Child Safeguarding Statement of Code of Behaviour to members of visitors. • Unauthorised photography & recording of activities. • Inappropriate use of social media & communications by under 18's • Inappropriate use of social media & communications with under 18's.	• Child Safeguarding Statement / Training Policy. • Child Safeguarding Statement (display) / Code of Behaviour (distribute). • Photography & Use of Images policy • Communications policy / Code of conduct • Communications policy / Code of conduct
General Risk of Harm • Harm not being recognised. • Harm caused by: • Child to Child. • Coach to Child. • Volunteer to Child. • Member to Child. • Visitor to Child. • General behavioural issues. • Issues of Bullying. • Vetting of staff /volunteers. • Issues of Online Safety	• Safeguarding policy / Child Safeguarding Training. • Safeguarding policy / Child Safeguarding Training. • Code of Conduct. • Anti-Bullying policy. • Recruitment policy / Vetting policy. • Social Media / Online Safety policy.

Procedures

Our Child Safeguarding Statement has been developed in line with requirements under the Children First Act 2015, (the First National Guidance, and Tusla's Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice and 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.

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Mallow Tennis Club has the following procedures in place as part of our Safeguarding Policies:

- Procedures for the management of allegations of abuse or misconduct by staff or 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 in the relevant service who are mandated persons.
- Procedure for appointing a relevant person.
- Procedures for managing trips away and hosting children.

Please note that all procedures listed are available on request.

The Relevant Person for Mallow Tennis Club is the DLP or Chairperson.

DLP - Carmel O'Callaghan

Chairperson - Tadhg Crotty

Implementation

We recognise that implementation is an ongoing process. Our club is committed to 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 staff has been furnished with a copy 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 in Mallow Tennis Club.

This Child Safeguarding Statement was discussed and signed at the Tennis Club Committee meeting on the 03/10/24. **It will be reviewed in October 2026.**

On behalf of Mallow Tennis Club:

Name: **TADHG CROTTY**

Signed: 

Date: **03/10/24**

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For queries on this Child Safeguarding Statement, please contact Club Children's Officer & Designated Liaison Person, Carmel O'Callaghan on 0863920170.

Name: Carmel O'Callaghan

Signed: 

Date: 03/10/24

All Coaches and Sports Leaders will be required to read and sign the appropriate Code of Conduct contained in the Appendices to this policy. The original signed document will be held by the club.

Details specific to our club are available from the Junior Coordinator/Vice Captain, Melanie O'Driscoll by contacting the club office on 022 21145.

The following Appendices form part of the Child Safeguarding Statement of Mallow Tennis Club.

These Appendices are based on the templates on the Tennis Ireland website, under 'Safeguarding Children and Young People in Tennis Manual' at the following address:
www.tennisireland.ie/Safeguardingguidanceforchildren

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 Legislation

Appendix 2 Risk Assessment & Child Safeguarding Statement

Appendix 3 Safeguarding Audit Framework

Appendix 4 Safe Recruitment

Appendix 5 Safeguarding Training

Appendix 6 Roles, Responsibilities & Relationships in sport

Appendix 7 Reporting & Protection

Appendix 8 Disciplinary, Complaints & Appeals of Code Breaches

Appendix 9 Safeguarding Guidance

Appendix 10 Codes of Conduct

Appendix 11 Additional Forms

Appendix 12 Missing Child Policy