



NEW THREE YEAR PLAN

The LTA Safeguarding Team is developing its next safeguarding plan for 2024 - 2026 inclusive. Our current strategy can be found [here](#).

We would like to invite you to give your thoughts on the new safeguarding plan, in terms of the areas we are considering and any areas you think we should consider including.

[COMPLETE SURVEY](#)

IZZEY'S STORY

Have you completed “[Izzey's Story](#)”, our new safeguarding course yet?

It is an interactive and immersive simulation-based grooming course developed in conjunction with the University of Kent's Centre for Child Protection.

The course is free, and Welfare Officers who complete it and provide their details at the end will have **12 months** added to their safeguarding validity.

[BOOK COURSE](#)

SAFEGUARDING AWARENESS WEEK

In the week beginning the **2 October 2023** and in support of the NSPCC CPSU Keeping Your Child Safe in Sport Week 2023, the LTA will be running a **Safeguarding in Tennis Awareness Week**. Having received feedback around last year's safeguarding conference this year we will be making it easier than ever before to attend a session of interest.

We will be hosting a number of workshops throughout the week with topics informed by your valued feedback in areas you would like more information on. The sessions will provide practical tips and examples to support you in your role including: Workshops,

meeting the Young Person's Welfare Ambassadors, Welfare Officer Forum and Venue Support Visit Walkaround.

FIND OUT MORE

COMPETITIONS BEHAVIOUR OF PARENTS AND WHAT/WHEN TO REPORT:

Competitions can be a fun and exciting way for children to develop their tennis, social skills, and sense of teamwork. However, when parents and carers exhibit bad behaviour at competitions, it can harm everyone involved. Common bad behaviours include shouting at the coach or referee, arguing with other parents, putting opponents off, shouting at other children or putting excessive pressure on their child to perform.

This kind of behaviour can create a stressful and uncomfortable environment for all and can negatively affect the confidence and self-esteem of children. Also, when parents place too much pressure on their children, it can create a fear of failure and a sense of inadequacy which can discourage children from wanting to take part in competitions or tennis overall.


Additionally, bad behaviour can effect other parents who are trying to support their own children, who can be intimidated by other parents who are causing conflict and discourage them from attending competitions. This type of behaviour from parents can also be time-consuming for organisers who feel pressured to cater to demands instead of focusing on other players and the competition as a whole.


All LTA licenced referees know their safeguarding responsibilities and have committed to the LTA Officials Code of Conduct. The Referee has a duty of care to all competitors and will act in line with LTA policy to report any safeguarding concerns.

What to do:

 Before the event, set up a code of conduct for everyone involved in the competition.

More information can be found in the guidance of the [LTA safeguarding events, activities, and competitions](#).

 Communicate the code of conduct before the event. This can be done during sign-up to ensure that all participants know behaviour expectations and consequences when not adhered to.

 Display a safeguarding information poster at the event so all participants know how to raise concerns. This should include information on safeguarding responsibilities, codes of

conduct, whom to report a concern to, supervision and photography and video consent.

- 🗣️ Brief staff and volunteers before the event start. Ensure they know their roles and responsibilities and what to do if an incident arises.
- 🗣️ Bad behaviour should be addressed at once. This may involve speaking with a parent or taking proper action, such as asking the parent to leave the event or escalating to the LTA safeguarding or misconduct team or local authorities if appropriate.
- 🗣️ Ensure coaches and staff demonstrate positive behaviour and lead by example.
- 🗣️ The welfare officer poster should be displayed at the venue.
- 🗣️ If a concern is raised regarding a child or adult at risk, or anyone's behaviour towards a child or adult at risk during the competition, ensure people know to speak to the tournament referee, or venue welfare officer of the LTA directly by reporting a concern.

How to report a concern:

- 🗣️ All concerns should be reported via the [Report a Concern](#) page.
- 🗣️ The LTA Safeguarding Team will assess the level of concern on referral.
- 🗣️ Once a report is made an assessment will be completed as to who is best placed to investigate the case, whether that be the safeguarding or misconduct teams.
- 🗣️ In certain cases, the LTA will contact statutory agencies (criminal offences, emergency services, LADO, Police etc) Others informed such as CSO and club WO.
- 🗣️ Case investigated by LTA under the [2023 Discipline code](#). Various outcomes to include agreed safeguarding outcome > charge letter > Safeguarding Tribunal (depending upon level) or local handling/resolution with county/club etc.
- 🗣️ Follow flowchart for further guidance or contact the LTA Safeguarding Team for advice.

PHOTOGRAPHY AND FILMING AT COMPETITIONS

As summer approaches, it's important to remember the safeguarding of individuals during competitions and tournaments, particularly in photography and filming. The LTA Photography and Filming Policy can be found [here](#).

Here are some things to consider when organising an event:

- 🗣️ For LTA sanctioned events, information on safeguarding and media and photography policy will be automatically added to the event information on the LTA competitions page.
- 🗣️ For smaller local events, ensure you have sought permission for filming and photography.
- 🗣️ The events secretary or tournaments referee should keep a record of those who do not give consent and be able to easily identify them with wristbands, stickers or checking consent immediately before any photography or filming takes place.
- 🗣️ Unofficial photography should not be allowed without prior permission from the tournament referee, the players, or parents/carers of those under 18.
- 🗣️ Challenge anyone seen taking photographs or filming without consent and ask them to delete any images or videos not of their children.
- 🗣️ Think carefully before using images showing children on your website, social media, or other publications.
- 🗣️ Do not supply the full names of children along with the images unless you have the player's and parent's consent.
- 🗣️ Ensure that images and videos are stored securely. Electronic images should be stored in a protected folder with restricted access, while hard copies should be kept in a locked drawer or cupboard.
- 🗣️ Ensure that you comply with the Data Protection Act if you are storing and retaining images or videos.

SAFEGUARDING SUPPORT VISITS

A venue safeguarding health check or full safeguarding review provides only a snapshot of the safeguarding protocols observed during a visit by the RSO.

To assist in your continuing achievement of the LTA Safeguarding Standards, the LTA advise that a venue uses the Safeguarding Standards Self-Assessment document and appraise the Safeguarding Standards Guidance document as an ongoing reference document.

These documents, plus other relevant safeguarding information, are available [here](#).




DEALING WITH CHILD VS CHILD ALLEGATIONS

The safeguarding team often receive referrals relating to child-on-child concerns and online abuse. Remembering that the LTA's code of conduct covers all participants, including those under eighteen is useful.

Whilst we would not expect children to have fully read and understood the LTA codes of conduct, they need to understand the codes of conduct specific to their own venue and the expectations for behaviour.

This can be achieved at your venue by clearly displaying the codes of conduct, distributing them to parents and players, modelling good behaviour, and promptly addressing any poor behaviour.

Examples of poor behaviours include:





-  **Verbal** – offensive name-calling, insults or malicious gossiping.
-  **Non-verbal** – offensive hand signals, messaging, social media posts.
-  **Indirect** – spreading malicious rumours, intimidation, exclusion, manipulating or undermining.

Cyberbullying can have just as much of an impact as face-face bullying and can include 'trolling' – sending malicious messages through social media, chat rooms or online games and creating and sharing images or videos.

Parents/carers should encourage their children to block anyone bullying them online or through messages and report the bully to the platform they have used.

If a venue receives a bullying complaint between children, it should refer to the Anti-bullying policy and take guidance from there.

It is important to:

-  Listen to the child to ensure you clearly understand their concerns.
-  Provide the child with helpline numbers such as NSPCC, Childline and Kidscape (details in the template policy).
-  Investigate any reports on concerns and deal with them swiftly.
-  Support the victim and the alleged aggressor and encourage better relationships and behaviour.

- 🗨️ Ensure that the outcome of the investigation is proportionate and fair.
- 🗨️ Report the concern via the Report a Concern page.

In the cases of indecent images of children, Report Remove is a service for young people under 18 in the UK to confidentially report sexual images and videos of themselves and remove them from the internet. More information can be found [here](#).

- 🗨️ LTA code of conduct can be found [here](#).
- 🗨️ LTA disciplinary code can be found [here](#).
- 🗨️ Template Anti-bullying policy can be found [here](#).





SHOUT OUTS

Wimborne Minster Tennis club – Thank you for your willingness to accommodate the safeguarding team as a filming location for the October safeguarding conference and showcase good safeguarding practices.

Magdalene Park Tennis Club – The WO, Committee and Coaching team should be recognised for the evident safeguarding protocols that were seen to be in place at the time of the visit. Positive comments received from adults and children. Well done all!

The Tennis Café, Eastbourne – A great venue for all to learn and improve their tennis! At the time of the visit, there was evidence of positive safeguarding awareness, including supervision levels, parental endorsement of the venue and plenty of smiles on the faces of children.

Preston Candover Tennis Club – Well done for adopting and embedding the new safeguarding policies at your venue in the days ahead of your safeguarding support visit.

   		
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