Safe and Inclusive Tennis

Understanding the Grooming Process
Introductions

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Instructions

Safe use of social media

Close
Instructions

Click on the CHAT icon

Then close the Q&A box
Problems during the webinar

1. Close the browser

2. Find the email with your joining instructions

3. Click on the link to join the webinar and you will re-join the session
What this webinar will cover

What is grooming

How grooming forms part of the sexual abuse process

Indicators of grooming

How tennis venues can deter grooming
What do you think grooming is?

Use the chat box to feedback your thoughts.

Grooming is an exploitative process which acts as preparation for sexual abuse or sexual exploitation.

Grooming develops an emotional connection with a child and helps to:

- Gain the child’s trust
- Creates opportunities to abuse
- Reduces the risk of detection
- Increases vulnerability of child
- Increases the child’s compliance
True or false

Use the chat box to say if you think the following statements are true or false, and the reasons why.

“Only children are subject to grooming”

“No, anyone can be a target. All ages and demographics can be vulnerable to grooming.”

“There must be face to face contact for grooming to happen”

“No, grooming can happen online as well.”
Online grooming

Social media offers potential abusers:

- Access to a lot of children
- Anonymity
- Ability to develop relationships more quickly
- Relatively safe opportunities to develop trust

It can involve:

- Inappropriate online behaviour
- Indecent media
- Arranging to meet children off-line
Grooming as an offence

Sexual Offences Act 2003

- Criminal offence to befriend a child in person or online and meet or intend to meet with the intention of abusing them
- Maximum sentence is 10 years imprisonment
- Legal restrictions can be put in place to prohibit adult from engaging in inappropriate behaviours with children on-line
How grooming forms part of the sexual abuse process

Grooming is a cycle of...

Thoughts

Feelings

Behaviour
Four stages to sexual abuse – David Finkelhor

1. Motivation (*thoughts and feelings*)

   - Strong urges or desires
   - Thinking about or wanting to do something sexual
   - Reinforced by fantasies and masturbation
Four stages to sexual abuse – David Finkelhor

2. Giving self permission (*thoughts and feelings*)

- Giving in to the urge/desire
- Fantasising
- Making excuses
- Justifying and rationalising
- Overcoming conscience
- Overcoming guilt and fear of detection
Four stages to sexual abuse – David Finkelhor

3. Creating the opportunity (behaviours)

• How to go about engaging in the behaviour
• Grooming the victim, adults and organisation
• Gaining access to a victim
• Creating an environment where abuse can take place
4. Overcoming victim’s resistance (*behaviours*)

- Getting the victim to be compliant (grooming)
  - Threatening
  - Bribing
  - Treats
  - Force
  - Tricking
Grooming scenario

Watch the video and use the chat box to feedback indicators of ways you think the coach groomed:

- The player
- The carer
- The club
Indicators of grooming

The player:
• Social vulnerability/low self esteem
• Desire to excel at something
• Special friend/‘Father’ figure
• Isolating activities/messages
• Gifts/secrets
• Social media
• One to one coaching/contact
• Lifts to/from sessions

The carer:
• Developed relationship with carer
• Assumed a wider role than just coaching – almost a parental role
• Befriending
• Secured carer’s permission/support for gift-giving and practical support
• Carer values contribution coach makes to player’s esteem etc

The club:
• More powerful position
• Indispensable to the running of the club
• Embedded in their personal and club history
• Use of formal name
• Veiled threats re impact of false allegations
• Dependence on coach for club’s future
• Reflecting family’s acceptance
• Prickly response to challenge
What type of environments can encourage grooming?

Use the chat box to feedback what type of environments you think could encourage grooming.

- Complacency – ‘it would never happen here’
- Low awareness of or commitment to safeguarding
- Absence or ignorance of clear codes of conduct
- Hierarchical power restricts challenge
- Power, influence and control vested in one person
- Culture of dependence on one individual for safeguarding
- Children’s voices are not heard
- Absence of clear ways to raise or discuss concerns
How can venues deter grooming?

Use the chat box to feedback your ideas.

✓ Establish and promote clear codes of conduct
✓ Have robust safeguarding policy
✓ Have clear procedures in place at your venue, e.g. transport, communication, supervision (ratios), complaints, disciplinary, management of volunteers/staff.
✓ Encourage child focused and open environments where concerns can be raised
✓ Have clear processes for reporting concerns and ensure all members are aware of this
✓ Safeguarding training for key staff and volunteers
✓ Follow safe recruitment processes
Resources and support

www.lta.org.uk/safeguarding
www.nspcc.org.uk
www.staysafeonline.org

Thank you for attending!

Contact us
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