

The AceWay Tennis Academy

Safeguarding Policy

Introduction

At Aceway Tennis Academy, the safety and well-being of all our players, especially minors, are our top priority. We are committed to creating a safe and supportive environment for all individuals, where they can participate in tennis activities with confidence and enjoyment. This Safeguarding Policy outlines our commitment to safeguarding and protecting the welfare of all children, young people, and vulnerable adults involved in our Academy, ensuring that they are treated with respect, dignity, and care at all times.

This policy applies to all coaches, staff, volunteers, players, and anyone else associated with Aceway Tennis Academy. We aim to ensure a consistent and effective approach to safeguarding across all activities within the Academy.

1. Safeguarding Commitment

- **Protecting Children and Vulnerable Adults:** We are committed to ensuring that children and vulnerable adults have a safe environment to learn, train, and compete. We will act promptly and responsibly if any safeguarding concerns arise.
- **Preventing Abuse:** Aceway Tennis Academy takes a zero-tolerance approach to any form of abuse, neglect, or exploitation, including physical, emotional, sexual abuse, and neglect.
- **Respecting Rights:** All children and vulnerable adults should be treated equally and with respect, regardless of age, gender, race, religion, or ability. Everyone has the right to participate in activities that are free from harm and discrimination.

2. Responsibilities and Reporting

- **Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL):** The Academy has appointed a designated safeguarding lead (DSL) responsible for overseeing safeguarding matters. The DSL will ensure that appropriate policies and procedures are in place and followed, as well as managing any concerns or incidents related to safeguarding.
- **All Staff and Coaches:** All coaches, staff members, and volunteers at the Academy are responsible for the safety of children and vulnerable adults in their care. They must ensure that they uphold the safeguarding principles outlined in this policy.
 - They are required to report any safeguarding concerns immediately to the DSL or other designated staff members.
 - Staff will also receive regular safeguarding training to ensure that they are equipped to identify signs of abuse and know how to act appropriately.

3. Safer Recruitment Practices

Aceway Tennis Academy ensures that all staff, coaches, and volunteers are recruited with the highest standards of safety in mind:

- **Enhanced DBS Checks:** All staff and volunteers working with children and vulnerable adults will undergo enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks to ensure they are suitable for working with young people.
- **References:** We will check the references of all potential staff members and volunteers to ensure their suitability to work with children.
- **Training and Induction:** All new staff and volunteers will undergo safeguarding training as part of their induction process, and ongoing safeguarding training will be provided regularly.

4. Code of Conduct

- **Appropriate Behaviour:** All staff, coaches, players, and visitors are expected to behave professionally and respectfully at all times. We have a clear code of conduct which includes:
 - Ensuring appropriate physical boundaries are respected.
 - No inappropriate or harmful language, gestures, or behaviour should be used in the presence of players.
 - Coaches should not engage in personal, non-professional relationships with players or families.
- **Positive Role Modelling:** Staff are expected to be positive role models and uphold the values of the Academy, setting an example of good sportsmanship, kindness, and fairness.

5. Reporting Concerns

- **Reporting Procedures:** If you are concerned about the welfare of any individual or suspect that abuse or neglect may have occurred, it is important to report it immediately to the DSL or the Academy's designated safeguarding team.
 - All concerns will be taken seriously, and appropriate action will be taken to investigate the matter.
 - If necessary, the relevant authorities (e.g., local safeguarding boards, police, or social services) will be notified.
- **Whistleblowing:** If anyone feels uncomfortable reporting a concern within the Academy, they are encouraged to use the whistleblowing procedures to raise the matter confidentially and without fear of retribution.

6. Parental and Player Involvement

- **Parent/Guardian Consent:** For all players under the age of 18, parents or guardians will be asked to provide written consent for participation in Academy activities, including training sessions, tournaments, and travel (if applicable). Parents/guardians will also be

asked to provide emergency contact information and details of any health concerns or medical conditions.

- **Parent/Guardian Engagement:** We encourage parents/guardians to be actively involved in their child's tennis experience and to maintain open communication with the Academy. Parents are invited to attend meetings, tournaments, and other events to stay informed about their child's welfare.
- **Monitoring Behaviour:** We also ask that parents and guardians promote the importance of positive behaviour both on and off the court, ensuring that players understand the importance of respect for others and good sportsmanship.

7. Safe Physical Environment

- **Safe Facilities:** Aceway Tennis Academy ensures that all facilities, including courts, changing rooms, and common areas, are safe, clean, and well-maintained. Regular risk assessments will be carried out to ensure safety standards are upheld.
- **First Aid:** The Academy will ensure that first aid kits are readily available, and that there are trained first aid personnel present during all activities, especially for events or tournaments. In case of an emergency, we will ensure swift access to medical help.

8. Online Safety

- **Social Media:** We ensure that all online content associated with the Academy, including social media, is appropriate, positive, and safe. Coaches and staff must avoid interacting with players on personal social media accounts. Parents and guardians are encouraged to monitor their children's online activities and ensure that they are safe when engaging with others online.
- **Photographs and Videos:** Any photography or video recordings taken at the Academy must adhere to our *Photography and Video Policy*, ensuring that appropriate consent is obtained and that no images or footage are shared without the approval of the relevant individuals or guardians.

9. Confidentiality

Aceway Tennis Academy respects the confidentiality of any safeguarding issues that may arise. Information will only be shared with relevant individuals or agencies when it is necessary to protect a person's safety or well-being. This will always be done in compliance with legal requirements and in the best interests of the individual concerned.

10. Review and Monitoring

This Safeguarding Policy will be regularly reviewed to ensure it remains up to date and effective. We will evaluate the policy's implementation, monitor compliance, and make improvements where necessary to ensure the continued protection of all individuals involved with Aceway Tennis Academy.

Acknowledgement

By participating in activities at Aceway Tennis Academy, all players, coaches, staff, and visitors acknowledge and agree to adhere to this Safeguarding Policy. We are committed to maintaining a safe and supportive environment for all involved and will take appropriate action to ensure the safety and well-being of everyone in our Academy.

Thank you for your cooperation and support in safeguarding the welfare of all individuals at Aceway Tennis Academy.