



AVON TENNIS

**AVON TENNIS COUNTY
SAFEGUARDING POLICY
STATEMENT**

SEPTEMBER 2023

PURPOSE AND SCOPE

Avon Tennis recognises our moral and statutory responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children (anyone under 18) and adults at risk. We are committed to ensuring our safeguarding practice reflects statutory responsibilities, government guidance and with LTA standards.

We are committed to prioritising the well-being of children and adults at risk and providing a safe and welcoming environment where they are respected and valued. We are alert to the signs of abuse and neglect and follow our procedures to ensure that children and adults at risk receive effective support and protection.

A copy of our full safeguarding policy is available online and can also be located or requested from Avon Tennis through our [contact form](#).

The purpose of this policy statement is to:

- Protect children and adults at risk (including children of adults who use our services) from harm
- Provide the necessary information to enable people to meet their safeguarding responsibilities
- Deliver good practice and high safeguarding standards
- Outline our commitment to safeguarding children and adults at risk

This policy applies to all staff, coaches, volunteers, players, parents/carers and any other individuals associated with Avon Tennis.

RAISING A SAFEGUARDING CONCERN

Safeguarding concerns about county activities must be raised with the LTA Safeguarding Team directly via <https://safeguardingconcern.lta.org.uk/>. The LTA will share concerns with the County Safeguarding Officer on a need-to-know basis.

THE COUNTY SAFEGUARDING OFFICERS

Ian Alexander and Claire Callaghan (Phone: 07913 233 344) - safeguarding@avontennis.org.uk

County Safeguarding Officers are not formally part of the Reporting a Safeguarding Concern pathway. This means that safeguarding concerns about county activities must be raised with the LTA Safeguarding Team directly via <https://safeguardingconcern.lta.org.uk/>. The LTA will share concerns with the County Safeguarding Officer on a need-to-know basis.

WE RECOGNISE THAT

- the welfare of children and adults at risk is paramount
- working in partnership with children, their parents/carers and adults at risk is essential in promoting their welfare
- all children and adults at risk, regardless of age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex, or sexual orientation have an equal right to protection from all types of harm or abuse
- some children and adults at risk, including those who are LGBTQ+, are disabled or from ethnic minority communities, can be particularly vulnerable to abuse and additional measures and safeguards may be needed to ensure their welfare.

WE WILL SEEK TO KEEP CHILDREN AND ADULTS AT RISK SAFE BY

- promoting and prioritising their safety and well-being
- appointing a County Safeguarding Officer with responsibility for safeguarding in county activities
- ensure everyone understands their roles and responsibilities in respect of safeguarding and is provided with appropriate induction and learning opportunities to recognise, identify and respond to signs of abuse, neglect and other safeguarding concerns relating to children and adults at risk
- safely recruiting and selecting staff, coaches and volunteers
- promoting and maintaining a positive safeguarding culture where people feel able to raise a genuine concern and are confident they will be taken seriously
- ensure appropriate action is taken in the event of incidents/concerns of abuse and support provided to the individual/s who raise or disclose the concern
- ensure that confidential, detailed and accurate records of all safeguarding concerns are maintained and securely stored
- prevent the employment/deployment of unsuitable individuals
- ensuring that we have a process to deal with complaints and whistleblowing measures in place
- ensure robust safeguarding arrangements and procedures are in place for other activities, including coaching, competitions, holiday camps, social activities, online activity and social media, transportation and supervision

This policy was last reviewed in September 2023 and will be reviewed every two years (or earlier if there is a change in national legislation).

Chairperson: Tony Barker

County Safeguarding Officers: Ian Alexander and Claire Callaghan.

Date: September 2023