

Whistleblowing Policy

Date: July 2026

1. Introduction

Whistleblowing is when someone raises a concern about a dangerous or illegal activity or any wrongdoing within the local authority areas covered by Avon Tennis.

2. How to Raise a Concern

Any concerns about a child or allegations about an adult who works with children should be raised with the County Safeguarding Officer. If the allegation is about the County Safeguarding Officer, the Avon Tennis Executive Committee Chair should be informed (contract details in Section X).

3. How the County will respond

- a) If the concern is that a member of staff or volunteer has or may have:
- Behaved in a way that has harmed a child or may have harmed a child.
 - Possibly committed a criminal offence against or related to a child.
 - Behaved towards a child or children in a way that indicates that he / she would pose a risk of harm to children

The Avon Tennis Safeguarding Officer (or Avon Tennis chair) will contact the LTA and Local Authority Designated Officer to discuss how the allegation should be investigated.

- b) If the concern does not match any of these criteria or, after consideration with the Local Authority Designated Officer or other appropriate agencies, it is agreed that the matter should be dealt with by internal processes the County will consult the LTA to determine the most appropriate action.
- c) If the concern is that the County has not followed appropriate safeguarding procedures or has not pressed other agencies when concerns about a child persists, the Avon Tennis Safeguarding Officer should be approached to seek assurances that appropriate action will be taken.

If in either case the member still has concerns that a child or children are at risk or that appropriate procedures have not been followed the member should contact the LTA and the Local Authority Designated Officer or, in situations where children are thought to be in immediate danger or risk of harm, the police by contacting 999.

4. Confidentiality & Support

All concerns will be treated in strictest confidence by all concerned. Avon Tennis will protect the identify of whistleblowers as much as possible.

However particularly in the context of safeguarding concerns it may be that an investigation process may reveal the source of the information, even if the identity of the whistleblower is kept anonymous.

All staff/volunteers involved in any related investigations must maintain confidentiality during and after the conclusion.

Avon Tennis will take steps to minimise any difficulties and provide appropriate support and advice to staff/volunteers passing on concerns.

Depending on the nature of the concerns and the subsequent type of investigation the whistleblower will be updated appropriately.

All involved will attempt to ensure that any allegation is dealt with fairly, quickly, proportionately and consistently in a way that provides effective protection for the child and at the same time supports the person who is subject to the allegation and the person bringing the concern to the attention of the club.

5. Organisations who can provide support include:

- Samaritans - <https://www.samaritans.org/>
- Mind - <https://www.mind.org.uk>
- Sporting Chance - <https://www.sportingchanceclinic.com>
- Avon Tennis County Safeguarding Officers i. Ian Alexander – 07801 910829 - safeguarding@avontennis.org.uk
- Local Authority
- General Practitioner (GP)

6. Contact Us

Our contact details are as follows:

Post: Coombe Dingle Sports Complex, Coombe Lane, Bristol BS9 2BJ

Email: tennis@avontennis.org.uk

7. Policy Review

This policy is reviewed every three years (or earlier if there is a change in national legislation).

Chair	Carol Weeks		Date: 03/09/2026
Safeguarding Officer	Emily Churchill		Date: 03/09/2026
Next review due by September 2029			