

# Child Safeguarding Policy

## 1. Purpose and Aim

The Derby Community Table Tennis Club (DCTTC) is deeply committed to safeguarding the welfare of all children in our care. We acknowledge our duty of care to protect and promote the safety of children and are dedicated to ensuring good practice throughout the entire organisation. We aim to ensure that regardless of age, gender, religion or beliefs, ethnicity, disability, sexual orientation or socio-economic background, all children have a positive, enjoyable, and safe experience of sport at DCTTC.

## 2. Scope

This policy applies to all individuals involved in DCTTC, including children, parents, staff, volunteers, coaches, and anyone working on behalf of the club.

## 3. Definitions

Child: Any person under the age of 18 years.

Child Abuse: Physical, sexual, emotional harm, or neglect of a child.

Neglect: The persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs.

## 4. Policy Statements

DCTTC is committed to:

- Recognising that the welfare of the child is paramount.
- Promoting a child-centred environment that enables a positive and enjoyable experience for all.
- Having a zero-tolerance policy towards child abuse and neglect.
- Abiding by the principles, guidance, and applicable laws of our local jurisdiction in relation to child protection.

## 5. Responsibilities

Everyone involved in DCTTC shares the responsibility of promoting the welfare of children and ensuring their safety. It is everyone's duty to act upon any concerns or allegations about child welfare or safety.

## 6. Prevention of Abuse

DCTTC is dedicated to implementing practices that protect children from harm. To achieve this, we have established the following measures:

- Background checks are mandatory for all coaches before their engagement with the club, ensuring they have a suitable history for working with children.
- All our coaches are required to complete the "Safeguarding & Protecting Children" workshop. This training is renewed upon expiration to ensure our coaches are always equipped with the most current knowledge and best practices for child safety and protection.
- The club continually promotes awareness and understanding of the club's safeguarding guidelines among all its members to foster a consistently safe environment for our children.

## 7. Recognition of Abuse

Our coaches, having participated in the 'Safeguarding & Protecting Children' workshop, are informed about key aspects of child protection, which includes some understanding of potential signs of abuse. However, these signs can vary depending on the child's age, situation, and the type and frequency of maltreatment.

If any concerns arise, these should be promptly reported following the procedures outlined in this policy.

## 8. Reporting Procedures

Concerns about a child's welfare should be reported to the DCTTC's Child Protection Officer, who serves independently from coaching roles to ensure impartiality and effectiveness in managing these concerns.

Reports of concerns will be dealt with promptly, sensitively, and effectively, ensuring all appropriate action is taken. Anyone who, in good faith, reports their concerns will be supported by DCTTC.

## 9. Managing Allegations

All allegations of child abuse will be taken seriously and treated with the utmost priority. DCTTC will:

- Cooperate fully with any investigations.
- Ensure that all allegations are thoroughly investigated in a fair and transparent manner.
- Ensure processes for dealing with all complaints and allegations are fair and open to challenge through the appeals process.

## 10. Training and Support

DCTTC is committed to promoting a robust understanding of child safeguarding among its members. To achieve this, we will:

- Expect all staff, volunteers and club members to follow the guidelines laid out in this policy. While not all roles may receive formal training, everyone involved in DCTTC is required to familiarise themselves with these guidelines and act accordingly to ensure the welfare of children in our care.
- Implement appropriate support mechanisms for anyone involved in table tennis within our club, enhancing their ability to protect children and adults at risk effectively.

## 11. Codes of Conduct

All club members are expected to:

- Follow a code of conduct, which includes showing respect for children, adhering to the club's guidelines, and promoting the welfare of children.
- Adopt and abide by DCTTC's Safeguarding Guidelines.

## 12. Policy Review and Updates

This policy will be reviewed every two years unless there are changes in legislation, government guidance, or as a result of any other significant change or event. In drawing up this policy, DCTTC has taken into account the relevant legislation governing child protection and safeguarding measures.

## 13. Contact Information

If you have any concerns about a child's welfare, please contact the Club's Child Protection Officer at [welfare@dcttc.org.uk](mailto:welfare@dcttc.org.uk). If you believe a child is in immediate danger, please contact the police.

## 14. Confidentiality

DCTTC is committed to maintaining confidentiality and will always aim to protect and respect the privacy of all children and members involved. Personal information will be treated in strict confidence within the confines of the law. It is important to note that if a child is considered at serious risk, it may be necessary to disclose information to the appropriate authorities to ensure the child's safety.

## 15. Use of Photos and Videos

Images and videos of children participating in our club activities must be used responsibly. Explicit consent must be obtained from the child's parent or guardian before any photograph or video can be taken and used, for instance, in promotional materials, on social media or on the club's website. Everyone involved in DCTTC must respect this guideline.

## 16. First Aid and Medical Treatment

Appropriate first aid provisions will be made available during all club activities. In the event of an accident or illness, parental consent will be sought for any necessary medical treatment that needs to be administered. In emergencies, the child's safety will be prioritised, and medical treatment may be given before parental consent can be obtained.

## 17. Bullying

DCTTC will not tolerate any form of bullying. All club members, parents, staff and volunteers should watch out for signs of bullying, and any suspicions should be reported immediately to the Club's Child Protection Officer. All complaints will be treated seriously and action will be taken where necessary.

## 18. Parental Involvement

Parents and guardians play a crucial role in maintaining the safety of the children. We welcome and encourage their involvement in our activities wherever appropriate. However, their involvement must always align with our club's guidelines to ensure the welfare of all children.

## Final Note

DCTTC strongly believes that the welfare and safety of children is everyone's responsibility. With your cooperation and commitment, we can ensure that our club remains a safe, positive, and rewarding environment for all children.