

# Larkspur Park Jnr Tennis Code of Ethics for Safeguarding of Children

## CODE OF CONDUCT

Larkspur Park as part of the Tennis Ireland Safeguarding Code supports the view that all children's sport should be conducted in an atmosphere of fair play. In this context the NGB undertakes to adopt the definition of fair play as set out in the European Sports Charter and Code of Ethics, Council of Europe (1993).

“Fair play is much more than playing within the rules. It incorporates the concepts of friendship, respect for others and always playing within the right spirit. Fair play is defined as a way of thinking, not just a way of behaving. It incorporates issues concerned with the elimination of cheating, gamesmanship, doping, violence (both physical and verbal), exploitation, unequal opportunities, excessive commercialism and corruption.”

In order to promote the best practice in children's sport, Larkspur has adopted and implemented the guidelines as set out in Section 2.7 of the Code of Ethics and Good Practice for Children's Sport as follows:

[http://www.irishsportsCouncil.ie/Participation/Code\\_of\\_Ethics/Downloads/people.pdf](http://www.irishsportsCouncil.ie/Participation/Code_of_Ethics/Downloads/people.pdf)

## EQUALITY STATEMENT

All children should be valued and treated in an equitable and fair manner regardless of ability, age, sex, religion, social and ethnic background or political persuasion. Children, irrespective of ability or disability should be involved in sports activities in an integrated and inclusive way, whenever possible, thus allowing them to participate to their full potential alongside other children (Code of Ethics and Good Practice for Children's Sport 2000)

[http://www.irishsportsCouncil.ie/Participation/Code\\_of\\_Ethics/Downloads/principles.pdf](http://www.irishsportsCouncil.ie/Participation/Code_of_Ethics/Downloads/principles.pdf)  
[see 1.7](#)

*Larkspur Park TC 's* Child Safeguarding Statement has been developed in line with requirements under the Children First Act 2015, (the Children First: National Guidance and Tusla's Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice) and Gateway Northern Ireland.

*Larkspur Park TC 's* has the following procedures in place as part of the Tennis Ireland Safeguarding Code that support our intention to safeguard children while they are availing of our services.

- Procedures for the management of allegations of abuse or misconduct by staff or volunteers against a child availing of our activities
- Procedures for the safe recruitment of staff and volunteers to work with children in our activities
- Procedures for access to child safeguarding training and information, including the identification of the occurrence of harm
- Procedure for the reporting of child protection or welfare concerns to the Statutory Authorities.

## Child Welfare Contacts

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National Children's Officer Tennis Ireland: Roger Geraghty  
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# Child Safeguarding Helpful Guidelines for Children, Parents and Coaches

## Children should

- Play fairly, do their best and have fun
- Shake hands after a match, whoever wins - and mean it
- Respect officials and accept their decisions with grace, not a grudge
- Respect fellow team members; give them full support both when they do well and when things go wrong
- Respect opponents, they are not enemies, they are partners in a sporting event
- Give opponents a hand if they are injured or have problems with equipment
- Accept apologies from opponents when they are offered
- Exercise self-control and tolerance for others, even if others do not be modest in victory and be gracious in defeat
- Show appropriate loyalty to their sport and all its participants
- Make high standards of fair play the example others want to follow

## Children should not:

- Cheat
- Use violence, using physical contact only when it is allowed within the rules
- Shout at, or argue with, the referee, officials, team mates or opponents
- Bully or use bullying tactics to isolate another player
- Use unfair or bullying tactics to gain advantage
- Harm team mates, opponents or their property
- Tell lies or spread rumours about adults or other children
- Keep secrets about any person who may have caused them harm

## Parents/guardians should

- Remember that children learn best by example.
- Be aware of the relevant Sports Leaders and their role within the club
- Show appreciation of and respect for Coaches and their decisions
- Encourage their child to play by the rules
- Behave responsibly on the sideline
- Focus on their child's efforts rather than performance
- Focus on the fun and participation of the child in the activity
- Liaise with Coaches in relation to the times/locations of training sessions, medical conditions of their children and any requirement for their child's safety

## Parents/guardians should not:

- Ignore or dismiss complaints or concerns expressed by a child which relate to his/her involvement in sport
- Ridicule or yell at a child for making a mistake or losing a game
- Put undue pressure on their child to please or perform well, including forcing a child to participate when ill
- Take safety for granted
- Treat the club as a child-minding service

## Coaches should:

- Be positive, praise and encourage effort as well as results
- Put the welfare of young people first, strike a balance between this and winning
- Encourage fair play and treat participants equally
- Understand developmental needs of young people
- Inform parents if their child sustained an injury during sporting activities
- Inform parents of problems or concerns relating to their children.
- Inform parents in advance and have their consent sought in relation to matters regarding away trips, camps or specially organised activities
- Maintain confidentiality about sensitive information

## Coaches should Not:

- Allow any rough or dangerous play, bullying, or the use of bad language or inappropriate behaviour.
- Let any allegations of abuse of any kind to go unchallenged or unrecorded if appropriate. Incidents and accidents to be recorded in the club incident/accident book. Parents will be informed.
- Never ask anyone to keep secrets of any kind.
- Not abuse members physically, emotionally or sexually
- Allow the use of alcohol and illegal substances before coaching, during events, while supervising trips with young players and providing a duty to care.