



## BULLYING

Adapted from Tennis Ireland Child Protection Fact Sheet 7

[http://www.tennisireland.ie/clubs/child\\_protection](http://www.tennisireland.ie/clubs/child_protection)

### Types of Bullying

Bullying can occur:

- child to child - includes physical aggression, verbal bullying, intimidation, damage to property and isolation
- adult to child - includes the use of repeated gestures or expressions of a threatening or intimidatory nature, or any comment intended to degrade the child
- child to adult – includes the use of repeated gestures or expressions of a threatening or intimidatory nature by an individual child or a group of children

### The Individual

- Respect every child's need for, and rights to, a play environment where safety, security, praise, recognition and opportunity for taking responsibility are available
- Respect for every individual's feelings and views
- Recognise that everyone is important and that our differences make each of us special
- Show appreciation of others by acknowledging individual qualities, contributions and progress
- Ensure safety by having rules and practices carefully explained and displayed for all to see

### Bullying

- Bullying will not be accepted or condoned. All forms of bullying will be addressed. Bullying can include:
  - physical pushing, kicking, hitting, pinching etc
  - name calling, sarcasm, spreading rumours, persistent teasing and emotional torment through ridicule, humiliation and the continual ignoring of individuals
  - sectarian/racial taunts, graffiti, gestures
  - sexual comments and /or suggestions
  - unwanted physical contact
- Children from ethnic minorities, disabled children, young people who are gay or lesbian, or those with learning difficulties are more vulnerable to this form of abuse and may well be targeted.

- Everybody has the responsibility to work together to stop bullying – the child, the parent, the coach, the youth officer, the sport's official and all Committee Members
- Appropriate forums are available within the club, including children, parents, youth and child protection officers, junior and executive committees etc. to address, monitor and stop bullying
- The club is Committed to the early identification of bullying and prompt, collective action to deal with it
- Children are encouraged to take a role in preventing or stopping bullying in the club
- Club Policy and practice will be reviewed regularly in the light of changing needs and changes adopted by other agencies (e.g. schools)

### **Support to the Child**

- Support is available to children through the Club Child Protection Officers, the Junior Officer and Committee, or any committee member
- Any advice and assistance will be given by an appropriately trained and experienced worker
- Children should be told what is being recorded, in what context and why
- **Systems have been established** to open the door to children wishing to talk about bullying or any other issue that affects them. Barriers to talking need to be broken down to enable children to approach adults
- Anyone who reports an incident of bullying will be listened to carefully and be supported, whether the child being bullied or the child who is bullying
- Any reported incident of bullying will be investigated objectively and will involve listening carefully to all those involved
- Children being bullied will be supported and assistance given to uphold their right to play and in a safe environment which allows their healthy development
- Those who bully will be supported and encouraged to stop bullying
- Sanctions involving long periods of isolation, or which diminish and make individuals look or feel foolish in front of others, will be avoided

### **Support to the Parents/Guardians**

- Parents/Guardians can access advice on club policy and practice about bullying through the club Child Protection Officers, any Committee Member, Coach or Sport Leader
- Any incident of bullying will be discussed with the child's parents / guardians

- Parental/Guardian advice on action will be sought and agreements made as to what action should be taken
- Information and advice on coping with bullying will be given

Support is available to parents / Guardians including information on other agencies or support lines.

## **CHILD PROTECTION OFFICERS**

The Child Protection Officers within Templeogue Tennis Club are:

	<b>Name</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Telephone/ Mobile</b>
1.	Mary Pat Prendergast <b>(Club Youth Officer on the Executive Committee)</b>	C/O Club Office	087 614 7402
2.	John Hammond	C/O Club Office	01 492 6159

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