



Confidentiality - Who Needs To Know What?

Adapted from Tennis Ireland Child Protection Fact Sheet 11

http://www.tennisireland.ie/clubs/child_protection

Templeogue Tennis Club has a clear statement about confidentiality and how this is to be respected. This statement covers much broader issues than child protection. We insist that families and children in contact with our organisation are sure, for example, that personal and sensitive details which they have confided about their lives or their family situations will not be talked about or passed onto others without their consent.

However, the legal principle that the welfare of the child is paramount means that consideration of confidentiality should not be allowed to override the right of children to be protected from harm. Everyone in our organisation, including children, must be aware that they can never promise to keep secrets. However, information of a confidential nature will only be communicated on a 'need to know' basis. The Club statement of confidentiality makes this clear.

Templeogue Tennis Club Confidentiality Statement

In any situation where there is an allegation of suspicion or abuse, it is important that the rights of both the victim and the alleged perpetrator are protected by ensuring that only those who need to know are given the relevant information.

This will mean, at the very least, informing:

- The Club Child Protection Officer(s);
- where relevant, a statutory child protection agency;
- the parent of the child;
- the alleged perpetrator.

Parents will be informed unless doing so would endanger the child. Informing the parent of the child about whom you are concerned will be handled in a sensitive way and may be undertaken in consultation with a statutory agency.

Any individual under suspicion whether or not s/he is a staff or club member or volunteer within the club has a right to be notified of the cause of the concern unless to do so would place a child at risk. This matter will be given careful consideration and will only be undertaken in consultation with the Club Child Protection Officer(s), a statutory agency or Tennis Ireland Children's Officer.

Depending on the outcome of our initial inquiries, staff and other agencies who have contact with either the child concerned or the alleged perpetrator may need to be given brief details of the incident and subsequent action. Instruction and advice from a relevant statutory agency will be

sought about who needs to be told, when they should be told, and the kind of information which is appropriate to be communicated.

All information of a personal nature will be stored in a safe and secure setting. Those who may be given access to this information will be;

- Club children's officer(s)
- Club secretary or office administrator for mailing purposes etc.
- Club coaches for information relating to a child's ability to participate in an activity

CHILD PROTECTION OFFICERS

The Child Protection Officers within Templeogue Tennis Club are:

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

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