

FRINTON-ON-SEA LAWN TENNIS CLUB

Digital Safety Policy

Digital Safety Policy

1. Policy statement

This Digital Safety Policy sets out the roles, responsibilities and procedures for the acceptable, safe, and responsible use of all digital and communication technologies, including the use of the internet, email, instant messaging and other social networking technologies and mobile phones and games, to safeguard adults and pupils. It details how FRINTON-ON-SEA LAWN TENNIS CLUB will provide support and guidance to parents and the wider community (where appropriate) for the safe and responsible use of these technologies. It also explains procedures for any unacceptable use or misuse of these technologies by adults or children.

2. What risks do children face online?

- Inappropriate content (pornography, child abuse images, violence, self-harm, etc.)
- Cyber-bullying
- Self-generated child sexual abuse images (nude selfies)
- Online grooming
- Using inappropriate/offensive language

3. What are the signs and indicators of online abuse?

Obsessive behaviour
Withdrawn or upset after using the internet
Suddenly behaves differently
Secretive
Aggressive
Self-harms
Depressed or anxious after using the internet
Miss coaching sessions

4. What we can do to help keep children safe online

- Let them know who they can talk to if they have a concern
- Role model appropriate behaviours
- Respond to any concerns raised or spotted
- Put measures in place at your venue to limit/control internet access
- Know what to do if they do talk to you

Contact the Welfare Officer:

Clare Young- clare.young26.2@icloud.com

Mobile: 07799118109

5. Making social media safer

When using social media (either as a club or a coach), we need to consider:

- Safe recruitment and selection for those managing social media
- Best tool to use to present information
- The type of content to upload e.g. photos, discussion groups
- How communication takes place in an appropriate manner
- Role model positive behaviours online (and offline)
- Clear reporting lines for concerns

6. Grooming

Grooming is an exploitative process which acts as preparation for sexual abuse or sexual exploitation. Grooming develops an emotional connection with a child and helps to:

- Gain the child's trust
- Creates opportunities to abuse
- Reduces the risk of detection
- Increases vulnerability of child
- Increases the child's compliance

Online grooming

Social media offers potential abusers:

- Access to a lot of children
- Anonymity
- Ability to develop relationships more quickly
- Relatively safe opportunities to develop trust

It can involve:

- Inappropriate online behaviour
- Indecent media
- Arranging to meet children off-line

Indicators of grooming

The player:

- Social vulnerability/low self esteem
- Desire to excel at something
- Special friend
- Isolating activities/messages
- Gifts/secrets
- Social media
- One to one contact
- Lifts to/from sessions

The carer:

- Developed relationship with carer
- Assumed a wider role – almost a parental role
- Befriending
- Secured carer's permission/support for gift-giving and practical support
- Carer values contribution trusted adult makes to player's esteem

How can venues deter grooming?

- Establish and promote clear codes of conduct
- Have robust safeguarding policy
- Have clear procedures in place at your venue, e.g. transport, communication, supervision (ratios), complaints, disciplinary, management of volunteers/staff.
- Encourage child focused and open environments where concerns can be raised
- Have clear processes for reporting concerns and ensure all members are aware of this
- Safeguarding training for key staff and volunteers
- Follow safe recruitment processes

The Changing Room Policy states that Mobile phones and other electronic devices must NOT be used in changing rooms.

**Grooming as an offence
Sexual Offences Act 2003**

Criminal offence to befriend a child in person or online and meet or intend to meet with the intention of abusing them

Maximum sentence is 10 years imprisonment

Legal restrictions can be put in place to prohibit adult from engaging in inappropriate behaviours with children on-line

What to do if you have a concern

If you have a concern about a young person's online activity, you can contact:

The Welfare Officer:

Clare Young- clare.young26.2@icloud.com

Mobile: 07799118109

LTA Safe and Inclusive Tennis Team: 0208 487 7000

NSPCC: 0808 800 5000

Police: 999 (emergency) / 101 (non-emergency)

Resources and support

www.lta.org.uk/safeguarding

www.nspcc.org.uk

www.staysafeonline.org

The Committee, Chairman and Welfare Officer are responsible for the implementation of this policy and for reviewing yearly to evaluate its implementation and impact.