



## Child Safeguarding Statement

February 2024

### Section 1 – Lombardstown Tennis Club information

- **Name:** Lombardstown Tennis Club
- **Sport:** Tennis
- **NGB (National Governing Body):** Tennis Ireland
- **Location:** Lombardstown, Co. Cork
- **Activities:** Lombardstown Tennis Club provides tennis activities and opportunities for children and young people to take part safely in coaching sessions, camps, competitions and social events. All our committee members, volunteers and staff work under the guidance of our NGB Safeguarding policies and seek to create a fun and safe environment for children and young people to participate in Tennis.

### Section 2 - Principles to safeguard children from harm

**Lombardstown Tennis Club** is committed to safeguarding children and by working under the guidance of our NGB Safeguarding Policies our staff, both volunteers and employed, working with young people (YP), throughout the club, seek to create a safe environment for them to grow and develop within sport. The following set of principles should be adhered to:

- **Importance of childhood** - The importance of childhood should be understood and valued by everyone involved in tennis.
- **Needs of the child** - All children's sport experiences should be guided by what is best for children. This means that adults should have a basic understanding of the emotional, physical, and personal needs of young people.
- **Integrity in relationships** - Adults interacting with children in tennis are in a position of trust and influence. They should always ensure that children are treated with integrity and respect, and the self-esteem of young people is enhanced.
- **Fair Play** - All children's sport should be conducted in an atmosphere of fair play. The principles of fair play should always be emphasised, and organisers should give clear guidelines regarding acceptable standards of behaviour.
- **Quality atmosphere & ethos** - Children's sport should be conducted in a safe, positive, and encouraging atmosphere.
- **Competition** – Competition/organised play is an essential element of tennis and should be encouraged in an age and level appropriate manner. A child centred ethos will help to ensure that competition and specialisation are kept in their appropriate place.

- **Equality** - All children and adults should be valued and treated in an equitable and fair manner regardless of ability, age, gender, religion, social and ethnic background, or political persuasion.

### **Section 3 - Risk Assessment**

This **Lombardstown Tennis Club** written Risk Assessment document indicates the areas of potential risk of harm, the likelihood of the risk occurring, and gives the required policy, guidance or process documents require to alleviate these risks. The list of risks identified and procedures to manage these risks are contained in the following categories:

Potential risk identified	Likelihood of harm happening: L / M / H	Required Policy, Guidance and Procedure document	Club, Regional, National	Further action required...
<b>CLUB AND COACHING PRACTICES</b>				
Lack of coaching qualifications	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coach Education Policy</li> <li>• Recruitment Policy</li> </ul>		<i>Proof of qualification TBC</i>
Supervision issues	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supervision Policy</li> <li>• Coach Education Policy</li> </ul>		<i>ongoing review</i>
Unauthorised photography and recording activities	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Photography and Use of Images Policy</li> </ul>		<i>ongoing review</i>
Behavioural issues	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Code of Conduct</li> <li>• Safeguarding Level 1(min)</li> <li>• Complaints and Disciplinary Policy</li> </ul>		<i>ongoing review</i>
Lack of gender balance amongst coaches	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coach Education Policy</li> <li>• Supervision Policy</li> </ul>		<i>ongoing review</i>
No guidance for travelling and away trips	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Travel/Away Trip Policy</li> <li>• Child Safeguarding Training</li> </ul>		<i>ongoing review</i>
Lack of adherence with miscellaneous procedures in Safeguarding policy (i.e. mobile, photography, transport)	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Safeguarding Policy</li> <li>• Complaints and Disciplinary Policy</li> </ul>		<i>ongoing review</i>
<b>COMPLAINTS &amp; DISCIPLINE</b>				
Lack of awareness of a Complaints and Disciplinary Policy	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complaints and Disciplinary Procedure/Policy</li> <li>• Communications Procedure</li> </ul>	LTC	<i>Immediate action needed. Greater communication required</i>
Difficulty in raising an issue by child and or a parent Reason: Covered above	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complaints and Disciplinary Procedure/ Policy</li> <li>• Communications Procedure</li> </ul>		<i>Review the communication / responsibilities of the procedures / policies as required</i>
Complaints not being dealt with seriously	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complaints and Disciplinary Procedure/Policy</li> </ul>		<i>ongoing review</i>

## REPORTING PROCEDURES

Lack of knowledge of organisational and statutory reporting procedures	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reporting procedures/policy</li> <li>Coach Education Policy</li> <li>Code of conduct</li> </ul>	NGB DLP MP	<i>Make policies and procedures available</i>
No mandated person	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reporting Procedures/Policy</li> </ul>	NGB MP	<i>Train all MPs in their role</i>
No DLP appointed	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reporting Procedures/Policy</li> </ul>	NGB LTC	<i>Train DLP in their role</i>
Concerns of abuse or harm not reported	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reporting Procedures/Policy</li> <li>Child Safeguarding Training-Level 1</li> </ul>	DLP CCO MP	<i>Publicise names of DLPs, CCOs and MPs</i>
Not clear who YP should talk to or report to	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Post the names of DLP, CCOs, MPs</li> </ul>	CCO DLP	<i>Communicate in Club</i>

## FACILITIES

Unauthorised access to designated children's play and practice areas and to changing rooms, showers, toilets etc.	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supervision Policy</li> <li>Coach Education</li> </ul>	NGB LTC	Clarify responsibilities before session starts
Unauthorised exit from children's areas	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supervision Policy</li> <li>Coach Education</li> </ul>		Clarify responsibilities before session starts
Photography, filming or recording in prohibited areas.	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Photography &amp; Use of Images policy</li> </ul>		Enforce policy in private changing and wet areas
Missing or found child on site.	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Missing or found child policy.</li> </ul>		Refer to policy and inform Gardai
Children sharing facilities with adults e.g., dressing room, showers etc	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supervision/Safeguarding policy.</li> </ul>		Plan with facilities management to create a suitable child centred environment in shared facilities

## RECRUITMENT

Recruitment of inappropriate people.	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recruitment policy</li> </ul>	NGB LTC CCOs	<i>ongoing review</i>
Lack of clarity on roles.	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recruitment policy/Roles document</li> </ul>	LTC	Check job description Put supervision in place
Unqualified or untrained people in role.	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recruitment policy</li> </ul>	LTC	Check qualification Ongoing review

## COMMUNICATIONS AND SOCIAL MEDIA

Lack of awareness of 'risk of harm' with members and visitors.	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Child Safeguarding Statement / Training.</li> </ul>	NGB LTC DLP CCOs	Communicate Child Safeguarding Statement
No communication of Child Safeguarding Statement of Code of conduct to members of visitors	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Child Safeguarding Statement</li> <li>Code of conduct</li> </ul>	LTC	Child Safeguarding Statement and Code of conduct or Sections as appropriate on display in club house and on website
Unauthorised photography & recording of activities	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Photography &amp; Use of Images policy</li> </ul>	LTC	<i>ongoing review</i>
Inappropriate use of social media & communications by under 18's	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Best Practice / Code of conduct</li> </ul>		<i>ongoing review</i>
Inappropriate use of social media & communications with under 18's.	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Best Practice / Code of conduct</li> </ul>		<i>ongoing review</i>

## GENERAL RISK OF HARM

Harm not being recognised	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Safeguarding policy</li> <li>Child Safeguarding Training.</li> </ul>		<i>ongoing review</i>
Harm caused by: Child to Child. Coach to Child. Volunteer to Child. Member to Child. Visitor to Child	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Safeguarding policy</li> <li>Child Safeguarding Training.</li> </ul>		<i>ongoing review</i>
General behavioural issues.	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Code of conduct</li> </ul>		Take disciplinary action where necessary Agree to behave according to code of conduct
Issues of Bullying.	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Anti-Bullying Guide.</li> </ul>		<i>ongoing review</i>
Vetting of staff/volunteers.	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recruitment policy / Vetting policy.</li> </ul>		<i>ongoing review</i>
Issues of Online Safety	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Social media / Online Safety policy.</li> </ul>		<i>ongoing review</i>

### Explanation of terms used:

- **Potential risk of harm to children** – identified risks of harm to children whilst accessing activities in the Club / Province / NGB.
- **Likelihood of harm happening** – the likelihood of the risk occurring in the club measured by you as Low (L), Medium or High.
- **Required Policy, Guidance and Procedure document** – indication of the policy required to alleviate the risk.
- **Responsibility** – provider should indicate where the responsibility for alleviating the risk lies.
- **Further action...** - indicates further action that might be necessary to alleviate any risk ongoing.

## Section 4 – Procedures

Our 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). In addition to our Risk Assessment document described above, there are further procedures that support our intention to safeguard children while they are availing of our activities.

**Lombardstown Tennis Club** has the following procedures in place as part of our Safeguarding Policies:

- 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 reporting of child protection or welfare concerns to Statutory Authorities.
- Procedure for maintaining a list of the persons (if any) in the relevant service who are mandated persons.
- Procedure for appointing a relevant person.
- Procedures for managing trips away and hosting children.

## Section 5 – Implementation

We recognise that implementation is an ongoing process. Our Governing Body is committed to the implementation of this Child Safeguarding Statement and the procedures that support our intention to keep children safe from harm while availing of our activities. Please note the following:

- This statement is available to staff, parents/guardians, the Agency and members of the public on request.
- This statement will be displayed in a prominent place by Lombardstown Tennis Club.

This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed on **2<sup>nd</sup> May 2026**

**Signed on behalf of Lombardstown Tennis Club – Date: 01/05/24**



Name: Loïc Labat

Lombardstown Tennis Club Chairman

*For queries on this Child Safeguarding Statement, please contact our*

### **Designated Liaison Person**

Loïc Labat – (085) 153 5990

### **Deputy Designated Liaison Person**

Elaine Regan – (087) 922 8874

### **Female Club Children’s Officer**

Agnieszka Kucharska – (085) 714 2915

### **Male Club Children’s Officer**

Andre Riemens – (085) 714 2915